



2023 UN COUNTRY TEAM ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT VIET NAM

March 2024



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FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR

“Leave no one behind” is a shared promise by every country to work together to secure the rights and well-being of everyone on a healthy, thriving planet. But halfway to 2030, that promise is in peril. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are disappearing in the rear-view mirror, as is the hope and rights of current and future generations. A fundamental shift is needed – in commitment, solidarity, financing, and action – to put the world on a better path. And it is needed now.

Rescuing the SDGs was the clarion call that mobilized the focus and priorities of the United Nations (UN) in Viet Nam in the second implementation year of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2022-2026).

Viet Nam’s ambitious National Commitments for SDG acceleration by 2030 is a testament to the country’s unwavering support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. These commitments provide concrete pathways for the Government of Viet Nam and various stakeholders to rescue the SDGs.

Globally, just 12 percent of the assessable SDG targets are on track. Hence the urgent need to change course and to secure the breakthroughs needed to achieve the Goals by 2030.

Viet Nam is no exception. The Voluntary National Review (VNR) presented by Viet Nam at the 2023 High-Level Political Forum shows some progress towards Goals 1, 6, 9, 10, 16, and 17. However, Viet Nam still needs to accelerate implementation and investments to bring all SDGs back on track in order to achieve the 2030 targets. We have less than seven years left.

Together, we can turn things around. Although the overall picture is deeply concerning, the data also offers a glimpse of what is possible. It shows progress in several key areas – from energy to internet access and more. There is also ample evidence that the transformation demanded by the Goals is one of immense opportunity.

In Viet Nam, the UN believes that challenges can be turned into opportunities to transform the country’s socioeconomic development model to be more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient, where no one is left behind.

Viet Nam’s own priorities for SDG acceleration point the way forward, with people at the centre of every decision, policy, and action. Investments in human capital development, science, technology, and innovation are levers for successful SDG implementation. Commitment to strengthening the management and efficient use of resources for environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation, natural disaster prevention and mitigation, and green and circular economy development will ensure planetary well-being.

Dedicated attention to mobilizing financing and strengthening data capabilities provide the means for implementing the SDGs.

The Goals remain a truly inspiring and unifying compass. Our generation is equipped with knowledge, technologies, and resources unprecedented in history and can draw on a wide range of normative frameworks. Breaking through to a better future for all demands that we put this advantage to use to lift people out of poverty, advance gender equality, put our world on a low-emissions pathway by 2030, and secure human rights for all.

The UN is steadfast in its commitment to support the Government and people of Viet Nam to achieve the SDGs by 2030, high-income country aspirations by 2045, and net-zero targets by 2050. Our 2023 Annual Results Report demonstrates our partnership in action. Together, we can build a better future for all.

Pauline Tamesis
UN Resident Coordinator
March 2024



UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM IN VIET NAM

UN Resident Agencies

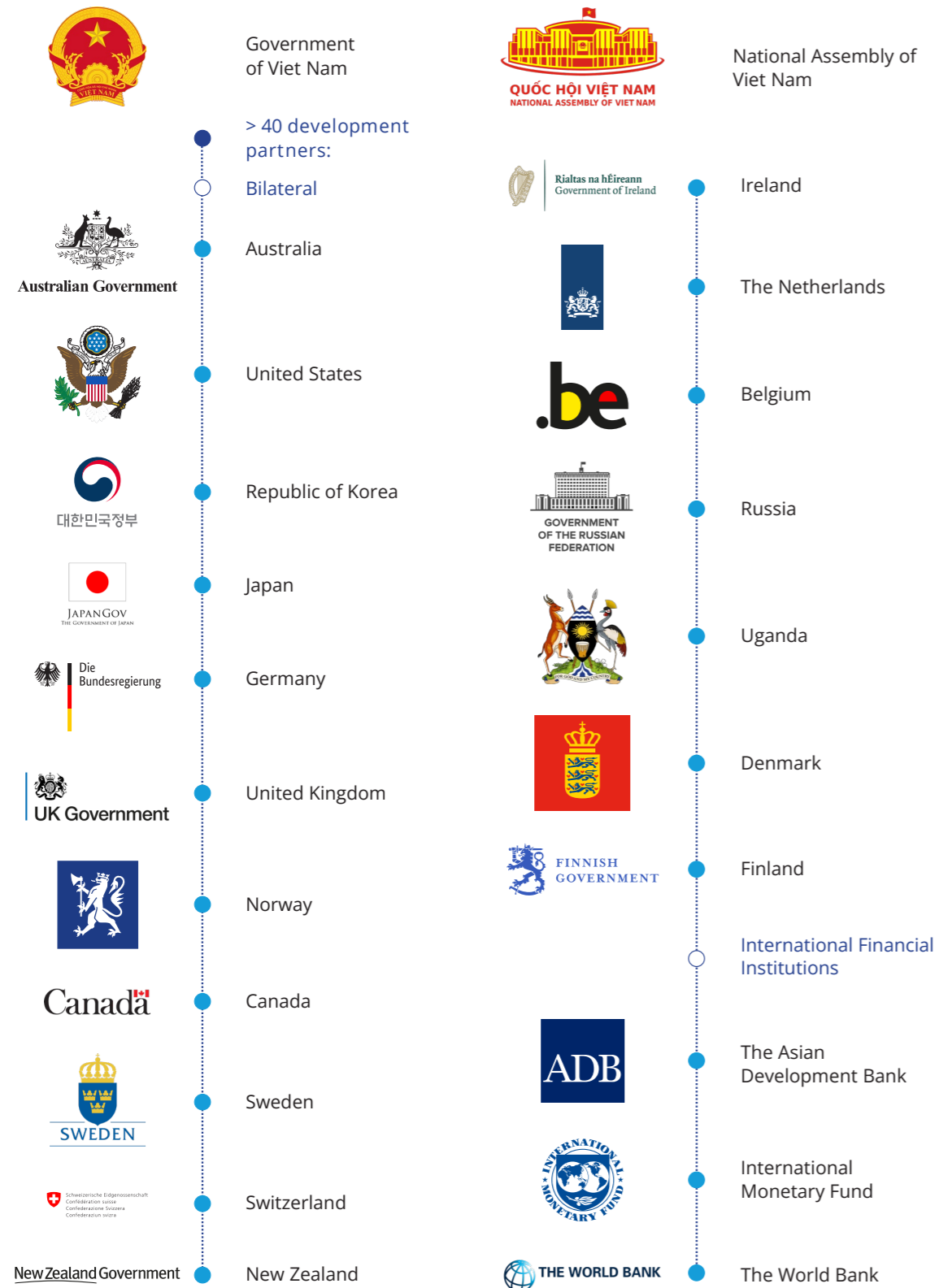


UN Non-Resident Agencies



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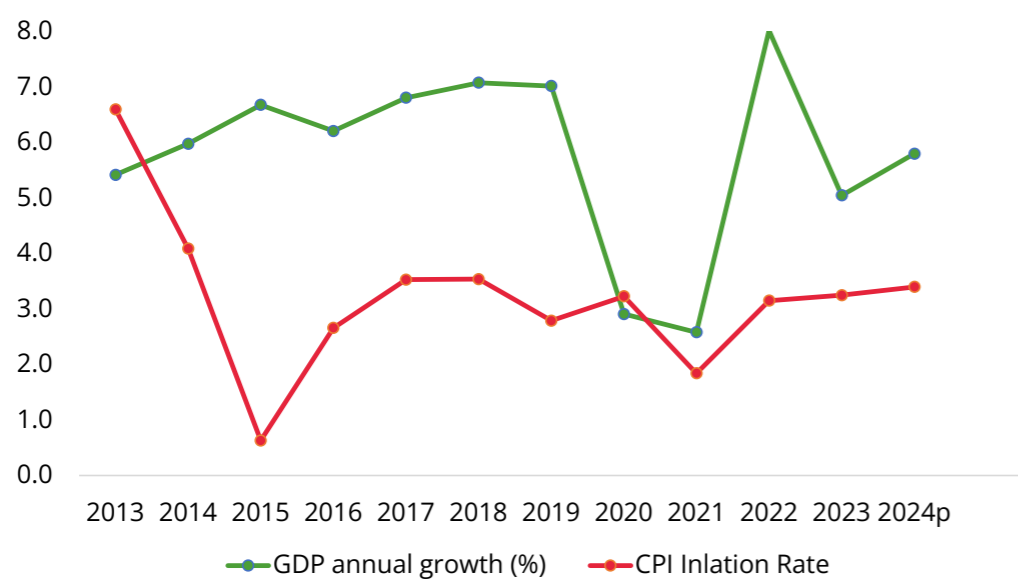
KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN VIET NAM







CHAPTER 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN VIET NAM



Figure 1. Key socio-economic and environmental indicators in 2023



KEY INDICATORS IN 2023

 <p>POPULATIONS: 100.3 MILLION</p>	 <p>GDP PER CAPITA: USD 4,284.5</p>
 <p>GNI PER CAPITA: USD 4,010 (2022)</p>	 <p>HDI: 0.703 (2021)</p>
 <p>GINI COEFFICIENT INDEX: 0.4 (2021)</p>	 <p>GII: 0.296 (2021)</p>
 <p>MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY RATE: 3.2%</p>	 <p>CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX: 41/100 (RANKED 83RD OUT OF 180 COUNTRIES)</p>

Viet Nam reached a monumental demographic milestone in 2023 as its total population increased to 100.3 million – making it the 15th most populous country globally and the third most populous in Southeast Asia after Indonesia and the Philippines. With advancements in income, education, and health, Viet Nam achieved high human development status in 2019, with its Human Development Index (HDI) reaching 0.726 in 2022. Viet Nam has demonstrated notable resilience and robust recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, achieving a gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of 8.02 percent in 2022, positioning it well for 2023 amidst global economic slowdown, tightened financial conditions, and rising geopolitical tensions.

Even in this challenging external environment, Viet Nam’s economy achieved an estimated growth rate of 5.05 percent in 2023, ranking among the top performers in the region. GDP per capita grew to US\$4,284.50 in 2023, and gross national income (GNI) per capita increased to US\$4,010 in 2022. The tourism, processing, manufacturing, and service sectors were key contributors to GDP growth, supported by robust domestic consumption, which accounted for 41 percent of overall GDP growth. Expansionary fiscal policy also bolstered economic growth, with public expenditure reaching VND 625.3 trillion (approximately US\$26.05 billion), marking a 21 percent increase from the previous year. Viet Nam further managed to achieve low and stable consumer prices, which were helpful for improving living standards and supporting overall economic development. The country’s inflation rate of 3.25 percent was below the target of 3.5 percent, supported by exchange rate stability, maintaining the purchasing power of the Vietnamese dong.

On social dimensions, Viet Nam made strides in reducing multidimensional poverty, with the Multidimensional Poverty Index declining from 9.2 percent in 2016 to 3.2 percent in 2023. Additionally, significant achievements were observed in education and healthcare, with high net enrollment rates in primary and secondary schools and increased health insurance coverage (95 percent), nearing the target of universal health insurance. The Party Resolution on Social Policies to renovate and improve the quality of social policies was adopted in November 2023. However, challenges persist, especially for the most vulnerable groups, including high rates of malnutrition among ethnic minority children, disparities in access to essential healthcare, and concerning levels of traffic accidents causing fatalities and injuries.

Income inequality remains a further challenge, especially between regions and population groups. The Gini coefficient index was 0.4 in 2021, which was unchanged from 2014. Progress in gender equality has also stalled, with persistent issues such as violence against women, child marriage, and the disproportionate burden of women’s unpaid housework and care work in a gender inequality index (GII) of 0.296 in 2021 – almost unchanged from 2006 (0.299).

Furthermore, bottlenecks in public financial management hindered the efficiency and effectiveness of implementing public investment projects and utilizing financial resources, including official development assistance (ODA). Lengthy and cumbersome ODA management procedures led to delays in ODA-funded projects and the return of funds to donors. This poses a significant setback to Viet Nam’s development efforts, depriving vulnerable groups of essential support and risking missed development opportunities, particularly for time-sensitive projects, with compounding impacts and increased costs in the long term.

With a strong resolve to improve good governance, Viet Nam’s anti-corruption campaign has been sustained at the highest level since 2022. While maintaining political stability, the campaign has instilled a cautious atmosphere within the public sector. Although it has potentially reduced informal business costs and improved competition, it appears to have also resulted in bureaucratic delays and slowed public service delivery, such as healthcare and vehicle registration.

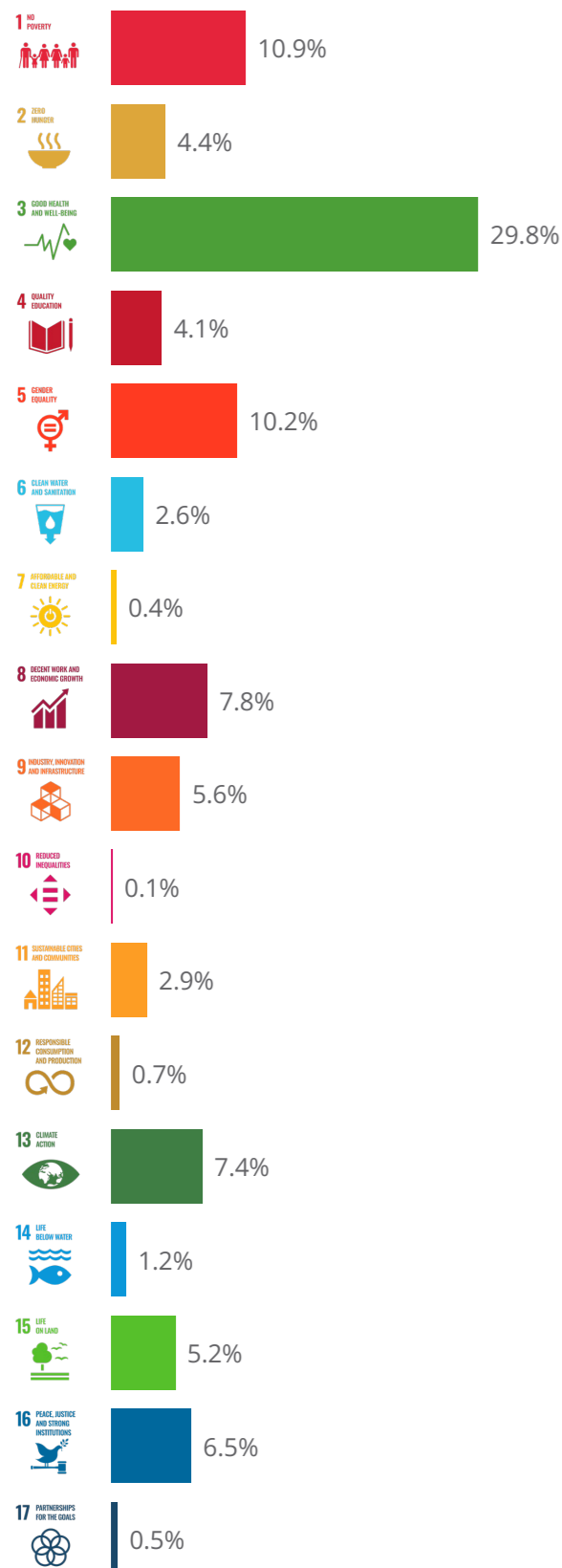
Viet Nam also continues to face critical climate challenges, including biodiversity loss, natural resource depletion, water scarcity, serious air pollution in large cities, and increasing vulnerability to climate change. With a rapidly growing economy fueled by fossil fuels, the country ranks among the top 20 greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting nations. However, Viet Nam is committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, as evidenced by the adoption of the eighth Power Development Plan (PDP8) in May 2023. The PDP8 aims to increase renewable energy production to 30.9-39.2 percent by 2030 and to 67.5-71.5 percent by 2050. Additionally, Viet Nam announced a resource mobilization plan at COP28, outlining strategies to implement the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP).

An aerial photograph of a vast, terraced tea plantation in Vietnam. The tea bushes are arranged in neat, curved rows that follow the contours of the hills. A dirt path winds through the center of the plantation. In the middle of the path, a group of people, including children, are walking. The overall scene is lush green and well-maintained.

CHAPTER 2: UN IN VIET NAM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

2.1. OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS

Available Resources US\$103.5 million



The UN in Viet Nam marked its second year of implementing the UNSDCF 2022-2026 in 2023. Led by the UN Resident Coordinator, UN agencies collectively supported the Government of Viet Nam in preparing its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) and participating in the SDG Summit. With UN support, Viet Nam's National Commitments for SDG Transformation were submitted to the SDG Summit and presented by the Prime Minister at the UN General Assembly. The UN also played a crucial role in supporting the implementation of the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP).

In 2023, the UN undertook 180 interventions across all 17 SDGs, contributing to the four priority UNSDCF outcomes outlined in this report. Assessing progress against 46 outcome indicators, 58.7 percent of targets were achieved or showed considerable advancement, surpassing the performance of 2022. However, challenges persisted, with 23.9 percent of indicators indicating no progress, or even regression. These setbacks were notably observed in areas such as reducing HIV/AIDS cases, traffic accidents, reproductive health issues, disaster-affected populations, informal employment, early marriage, child labour, corruption, and public administration inefficiencies (refer to Annex 1).

The UN demonstrated commendable success in mobilizing financial resources, securing US\$103.5 million, which accounts for 94 percent of the total estimated budget for 2023. This achievement reflects the concerted efforts of the UN Country Team. The UN also coalesced to unlock the catalytic potential of ODA in Viet Nam despite facing substantial hurdles in project approval and implementation due to complex ODA regulations. As of the end of 2023, 27 UN projects worth US\$122 million (US\$58 million in grants and US\$64 million in loans) were awaiting approval. The UN's programme delivery improved to 75 percent in 2023 compared to 68 percent in 2022, due to efforts and innovative approaches by UN agencies, including direct implementation efforts in the interim (refer to Section 2.3 for details). Nevertheless, remedial efforts, such as direct implementation by UN agencies, are not sustainable in the medium to long term. UN agencies continue to face significant delays and obstacles in implementing programme interventions, and some UN

agencies could achieve only a 40 percent delivery rate. This put a heavy toll on existing UN staff capacity, and, more importantly, potentially risks diminishing national ownership and Government engagement in SDG implementation facilitated by the UNSDCF.

The UN in Viet Nam remained committed to prioritizing and enhancing joint efforts, with over one-third (37 percent) of its interventions jointly implemented. This collaborative approach included the implementation of 11 joint programmes. Throughout the year, UN joint work focused on leaving no one behind (LNOB) through inclusive social policies and

expanded economic opportunities, along with strengthening human rights and gender equality as cross-cutting priorities. This meant efforts were concentrated on advocating for the rights of the most vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, LGBTQI+ individuals, migrants, women, children, older persons, informal workers, and youth. Additional areas of focus included action against gender-based violence, addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine on agricultural value chains, and tackling the climate emergency.


















2.2. UNSDCF PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES, AND OUTPUTS

OUTCOME 1. INCLUSIVE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Outcome statement: 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.

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

OUTCOME INDICATORS

	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)	progressed		Proportion of married women aged 15–49 years who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (VSDG 3.6.1)	regressed
	Percentage of schools which provide basic education programmes about sex education, violence prevention, abuse prevention, and HIV-related knowledge (VSDG 4.7.2)	progressed		Viet Nam Human Development Index	achieved
	Prevalence of stunting among children under five, disaggregated by ethnicity (VSDG 2.2.1)	progressed		Multi-dimensional poverty rate by national standard (VSDG 1.1.1)	progressed
	Infant mortality rate (IMR) by sex (VSDG 3.1.5)	achieved		Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems (SDG indicator 1.3.1)	progressed
	Number of deaths from traffic accidents (VSDG 3.5.1)	regressed		Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (VSDG 5.4.1)	progressed
	Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected people, by sex, age, and key populations (VSDG indicator 3.2.1)	regressed		Maternal mortality ratio (VSDG 3.1.1)	no data
	Proportion of rural population using safely managed water service (SDG 6.1.1)	achieved		Adolescent birth rate among women aged 15–19 years per 1,000 women in that age group (adjusted VSDG 3.6.2)	no data
				Multi-dimensional child poverty rate (total, sex, residence, ethnicity, and disability status) (VSDG 1.1.3)	no data

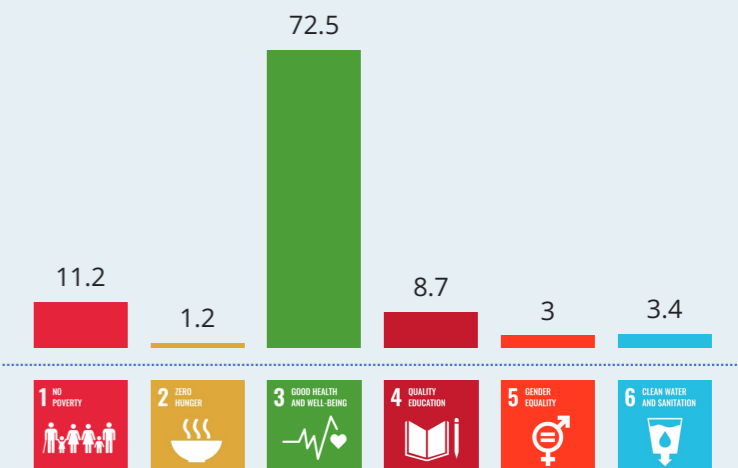
Outcome 1 Budget by SDG (%)

Total required budget:
US\$43,899,491

Available budget:
US\$40,828,801

Expenditure:
US\$31,327,257

Delivery:
76.7%



Output 1.1:

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

Viet Nam has made significant progress and is on track towards achieving SDG 4 on quality education. Nevertheless, the recent VNR 2023 recognizes existing limitations regarding quality, access, conditions, and services in the education system. This is especially the case for the most vulnerable populations, including ethnic minorities, people living in mountainous and remote areas, and persons with disabilities.

In response to these challenges, the UN worked in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), to improve social and emotional learning, transferable skills, green skills, digital literacy, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) learning, and gender equality for more than a million teachers, 21 million Vietnamese children at all school levels by implementing **competency-based education and learning**. For example,

UNICEF, in partnership with STEAM for Viet Nam and the American Centres, raised awareness and understanding of STEAM for over 1,000 children and parents in three provinces (Ha Noi, Lao Cai, and Soc Trang). UNICEF also promoted inclusive education and equal access to educational services by developing a STEAM booklet for children with disabilities at the preschool and primary school level and providing training to teachers. As a result, more than one million teachers in regular schools and in provincial Inclusive Education Resource Centres enhanced their capacity for inclusive education, benefiting approximately 60,000 children with disabilities nationwide.

Quality **inclusive education for ethnic minority students** was improved by the UN through the development and introduction of materials on Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education (MTBBE) for Hmong, J'rai, and Khmer children. These materials helped to remove language barriers and enhance teachers' capacity for teaching ethnic minority students and delivering comprehensive sexual education in school. UNESCO's "We Are ABLE" project further strengthened capacity for experiential learning and addressing gender issues among hundreds of teachers and school managers in targeted rural schools.



Promoting green skills, climate-smart schools, and gender-transformative environmental education for adolescents and educators via the quiz game 'Ring the Golden Bell Challenge' © UNICEF Viet Nam

The UN also pioneered the **transformative green education movement** in Viet Nam by promoting green skills, climate-smart schools, and gender-transformative environmental education. Notably, UNICEF organized campaigns that engaged 200 adolescents and educators nationwide in initiatives such as the U-Report platform, which addressed air pollution in preschools, the promotion of climate-smart practices, and the fostering of green habits and resilience. UNICEF additionally provided 450,000 students and 4,500 parents with mental health and psychosocial support through a digital platform and supported the rollout of the National Climate-Smart School Framework in Soc Trang province. This included surveying 33 secondary schools to explore the potential of applying solar power in schools.

The ILO has supported enhancing Vietnam's **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)** system to match labor demands. To aid the TVET Development Strategy implementation, the ILO provided recommendations for better education-TVET coordination and highlighted digital, green, transferable skills, lifelong learning, and institute-enterprise collaboration. Importantly, the ILO guided including Sector Skills Councils in the draft Employment Law to legally establish education-industry partnerships.

To enhance **educational policy frameworks** that address the education system's current limitations, the UN continued to support the Government's finalization of the Education Strategic Development Plan (ESDP) for 2021–2030, vision to 2045, which had been delayed and is now expected to be released in early 2024.



Children, young people, parents and teachers gather in STEAM Festival to exchange advanced knowledge of STEAM and mobilize forces for girls' access and participation in STEAM education © UNICEF Viet Nam



Mai Thi Cam Ngan (left) and Lam Nha Doan (right) 8 years old, Khmer students from Long Phu C primary school (Long Phu district, Soc Trang province, Viet Nam) are happily experiencing a digital book. © UNICEF Viet Nam\Truong Viet Hung

Breaking barriers to education in remote Viet Nam: The Global Digital Library transforms learning for disadvantaged children

UNICEF has collaborated with the Global Digital Library (GDL) and the Viet Nam National Institute of Educational Sciences (VNIES) to localize and provide free, high-quality, and digital early-grade reading books. The initiative has provided access to 1,400 new reading resources in Vietnamese and in eight underserved ethnic minority languages, as well as sign language videos. Teachers using the GDL have been given access to all GDL online materials, including 6,000 books and education games/resources in 82 global languages. Beneficiaries were involved in both the design and production of the books and in the design of the app content and interface. UNICEF introduced the GDL into primary and secondary schools in Soc Trang, a Mekong Delta province of Viet Nam.

The integration of GDL into the educational system has shown exceptional initial results in enhancing access to quality, early-grade reading resources for students, particularly those from disadvantaged groups. Ten-year-old Kim Yen Nhi is one of the students who was introduced to the Global Digital Library. *"I am so excited. This is the first time I saw an iPad. It's a lot of fun to 'play' with it. I love the reading class. We don't actually have to read; we just listen to it, and we can even switch between Vietnamese and Khmer languages. It's amazing!"* shared the fourth grader. Her friend, Lam Thi Diem Nhu, also enjoys the GDL art class. Both students have expressed their desire to have more classes like this.

Ms. Lam Thi Thanh Thuy, a teacher at Long Phu C Satellite Primary School in a remote and rural ethnic minority village, has been incorporating GDL resources into her daily teaching since 2023. Thuy emphasized how the initiative aligns with the new curriculum, generating excitement and engagement among students, and empowers teachers with the skills needed to seamlessly integrate technology into their teaching methods. *"The inclusion of both text and audio in each book caters to different learning preferences, allowing students to choose between reading or listening, and transforming passive learners into active participants. Switching between languages helps students learn multiple languages – Vietnamese, Khmer, and English – simultaneously, a significant benefit for our school, where [the] majority of students are Khmer,"* said Thuy.









Ms. Tong Ta Kieu teaches special education for children with hearing impairments and has found that the digital library has been invaluable for children using sign language. *"The diverse topics have helped expand sign language vocabulary and enhance conversation skills,"* My observed. *"With less time spent explaining, the workload lightened, allowing for more focused support and group activities."*

Moving forward, UNICEF will increase parental involvement in fostering reading habits among children and will expand the intervention to other provinces to continue to break barriers to education in remote areas.

Output 1.2:

Improved national and subnational capacity to promote healthier populations, including immunization, nutrition, sexual reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and mental health

UN CONTRIBUTION TO IMMUNIZATION

-  **963,928** children under one-year-old received full vaccination
-  **8,131,709** children aged 5-17 were vaccinated with two doses and/or one booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine
-  **676,300** doses of DTP-HepB-Hib vaccines and **432,000** Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines were procured
-  **3,290** immunization officials improved their skills for immunization and cold chain management
-  **9,854** people in hard-to-reach areas gained better knowledge on COVID-19 and routine vaccination
-  **1,500** refrigerators to store vaccines and **1,500** auto temperature monitoring devices were bought at the community level
-  A digital inventory tool (IGA) for effective management of cold chain equipment was adapted and rolled out
-  The "Plan for Control and Sustainable Management of the COVID-19 Epidemic for the Period of 2023-2025" and "Guidelines for COVID-19 Surveillance, Prevention and Control" were issued

From 1993-2020, Viet Nam was known for its impressive results on **immunization**, maintaining its full vaccination rate of children under the age of one at above 90 percent. Nevertheless, this progress backslid due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the bottleneck in procurement and supply of routine vaccine doses, resulting in a sharp drop of the full vaccination rate to about 70 percent by the end of 2023.

In response, the UN, led by UNICEF and WHO and with support from the Government of Australia, assisted the Government in vaccine procurement and provided high-level advocacy and advice to the Prime Minister and the National Assembly on inclusive vaccine supply policy decision-making and programme planning. This led to the reversal of the Government's

decision to decentralize procurement of vaccines. The UN also strengthened the capacity of health officials, improved infrastructure, and enhanced digitalization to improve both routine and COVID-19 immunization. The sustainable management of COVID-19 and outbreaks of diphtheria, dengue, hand-food-mouth, botulism, and anthrax was also supported by the UN with a focus on marginalized populations. At the same time, the UN, led by UNFPA, supported vaccination for human papillomavirus (HPV) and early screening of cervical cancer. All of these efforts led to the significant results detailed in the figure above on the UN's contribution to immunization. However, despite the results achieved, procurement bottlenecks due to Government institutional reforms remained and will be a top priority for the UN to address in 2024.



The UN also contributed to **nutrition** results in Viet Nam, with its work supporting the constant, but still low, reduction of malnutrition, specifically to 18.9 percent in the stunting rate. The UN helped to increase public awareness and build capacity for Government officials on breastfeeding, and to provide nutrition monitoring tools (e.g., weigh scales). The Ministry of Health (MOH) Nutrition Labelling Circular was also issued with technical support from WHO and other partners. In the provinces of Daklak and Daknong, WHO built capacity for the management, treatment, and monitoring of children with acute and severe malnutrition in the community, including through the procurement of weigh scales for all community health centres (CHCs). During Breastfeeding Week 2024, the UN, through a joint effort by WHO and UNICEF, organized workshops and livestream talk shows and disseminated the Global Report on Breastmilk Substitute Marketing Studies. These efforts significantly increased public awareness and collaboration among the public, the Government (in particular, MOH and the Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs (MOLISA)), and the National Assembly in the area of nutrition.

In line with the Government's health strategy, the UN prioritized increasing access to **essential maternal, newborn, and child health** services, particularly in rural and remote areas. In 2023, 673 health workers and ethnic minority village midwives had improved capacity to deliver early essential newborn care and Kangaroo Mother Care services under UNICEF's support. UNICEF and WHO further collaborated to conduct the National Assessment for Early Essential Newborn Care 2023 in 15 provinces. They also supported MOH in the issuance of a Circular to improve the quality of medical examination and treatment by village health workers and midwives. This

resulted in 690,800 newborns and their mothers nationwide receiving these services. Additionally, the UN enhanced the use of information technology in maternal and child health and reproductive health management, through UNICEF's provision of 158 laptops, 803 desktops, and 187 barcode readers to several departments of MOH and seven provinces. At the outcome level, the UN contributed to the reduction of the infant mortality rate (IMR) to 12.1 per 1,000 live births by the end of 2022, surpassing the national SDG roadmap target of 12.5 by 2025.











The advancement of Viet Nam's **HIV response** to achieve SDG target 3.3 and related SDGs continued in 2023 with policy and technical support from the UN. In supporting Viet Nam's implementation of the amended HIV Law, the UN, with UNAIDS playing a key role, contributed to the inclusive development of a new HIV Decree guiding the Law's implementation towards comprehensive prevention and harm reduction for people at higher risk of HIV infection. UNAIDS and UNODC supported the drafting of a standard training curriculum for community-based organization interventions for people engaging in chemsex, to be institutionalized in 2024. The UN also enabled greater sustainability of the national HIV response by piloting the social contracting of HIV prevention services, sharing international good practices and UN recommendations on advocacy for domestic resources to sustain HIV prevention services, and promoting innovative service delivery. Innovative service delivery included the distribution of HIV self-tests (HIVST) and integrated HCV RNA testing using the GeneXpert system at district health facility. Despite these interventions, however, Viet Nam observed an increased number of new HIV infections, reaching 6,200 cases in 2022 due to

various obstacles which require greater efforts and political will to address. Such obstacles include, but are not limited to, tightened national regulations on ODA management, an increase in new infections through sexual transmission among young men who have sex with men (MSM), uncertain financial sustainability, and limited will to introduce HIV prevention services

in closed settings and for the rollout of community-based drug use disorders treatment.

In recognition of the growing burden of **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** in Viet Nam, the UN, through WHO and UNICEF, tackled leading NCD risk factors using policy advocacy and support, as detailed in the figure below.

UN CONTRIBUTION TO TACKLING NCDs

-  Issuance of the new Tobacco Control Strategy to 2030
-  Revision of the Excise Tax Law
-  Pilot of NCD screening in routine immunization in the hardest-to-reach and ethnic minority communities
-  Improvement of online NCD reporting system
-  Issuance of National Strategy on Rehabilitation
-  Draft of Law on Roads
-  Draft of Law on Road Traffic and Safety and action plans
-  Draft of MOH mental health policy with a focus on children and adolescents
-  Drafts of MOET and MOH Circulars on guidance to the social service workforce for improving child protection, mental health care, and psychosocial support
-  Approval of Decree and Circular to implement the revised Law on Examination and Treatment (inputs to the strengthening of psychotherapy)

The Quadripartite (WHO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), FAO, and UNEP), USAID, and AusAID supported Viet Nam's first IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshop, which reviewed gaps and developed a roadmap to enhance collaboration at the **animal-human-environment** interface. FAO and WHO also

assisted the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and MOH in organizing risk assessments for zoonoses and awareness-raising activities. These efforts increased public awareness and coordination against infectious diseases, health emergencies, and antimicrobial resistance.



Output 1.3:

Government and relevant partners have innovative solutions, initiatives, and evidence-based policies to reduce vulnerabilities in health, including sexual and reproductive health, focusing on migrant, ethnic minority, adolescent/youth, people with disability populations

For many decades, Viet Nam has achieved strong results in terms of its health outcomes. Yet inequalities in healthcare continue to exist and pose challenges for the country to accelerate SDG 3 and national health-related goals. Reaching disadvantaged groups is critical, and is therefore a priority area of the UN's efforts in Viet Nam.

Ethnic minorities are among the most disadvantaged groups and are thus at the centre of UN support, especially in the areas of maternal and child healthcare. Led by UNFPA, the UN therefore scaled up sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) interventions in six ethnic minority provinces, raising awareness and knowledge of maternal health and family planning through behaviour change communication (BCC) activities, and enhancing the capacity of health workers on skilled birth attendance and safe motherhood through trainings. UNFPA also provided UHD LED TVs, portable sound systems, and MCH247 telehealth packages to disseminate audio-visual BCC materials on maternal health and family planning to clients and communities, including in ethnic minority languages. Furthermore, UNFPA supported the development of the national guidelines on SRHR for **persons with disabilities**.

The health of **women living with and affected by HIV** was also improved thanks to UN support in 2023. UNAIDS and UN Women jointly assessed women's needs and organized policy advocacy events to design relevant, inclusive, and sustainable support for women. The right to health of **transgender persons** was additionally improved through joint UN policy and public advocacy, as well as support to the development of a Gender Affirmation Law.

Migrant health is one of top priorities under the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda, particularly the ASEAN Health Cluster 3 (Strengthening Health Systems and Access to Care). To support Viet Nam in this area, the UN, through IOM, helped to establish the District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2) cross-border referral system and cross-border TB/HIV taskforces along the Viet Nam and Cambodia border, enhancing information exchange and

referring TB patients between the two countries. IOM improved the technical skills of 53 TB doctors (including 12 women) to handle the DHIS2 system. IOM also strengthened national capacity to address the challenges facing migrants and mobile populations in TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment through drafting the Policy Framework for Tuberculosis Elimination Among Migrants (TEAM) in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region countries. Moreover, the UN supported the Migrant Health Working Group (MHWG), an inter-ministerial group chaired by MOH with IOM support, to continue improving the health of Vietnamese migrant workers, including those in Japan and the Republic of Korea, through international workshops and the dissemination of online and offline public health information.

The UN also made strides to support comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), and sexual and reproductive healthcare for young people, particularly **vulnerable youth**. With UNFPA and UNAIDS taking a leading role, the UN successfully advocated for the inclusion of specific recommendations on youth development related to CSE in the final draft of the National Report on Youth 2019–2022. Various UN-supported trainings helped increase the capacity of hundreds of peer educators of young people who were at risk of participating in sex work, and provincial trainers in teaching CSE and life skills education (LSE) at secondary schools with a component on disabilities. The UN further strengthened the capacity of 90 health, education, and youth officials in three provinces (An Giang, Dong Thap, and Lam Dong) on using information, education, and communications (IEC) for CSE to prevent HIV among young people. The UN's initiatives in effective stigma reduction – by having community representatives as training facilitators and creating innovative partnerships of communities and provincial authorities – have resulted in further requests for UN support by provinces that are facing increasing HIV infections through sexual transmission among young persons.



Workshop on Migration and Health for Migrants in ASEAN, which was organized by the Migrant Health Working Group and ASEAN Senior Officials with IOM and WHO support. About 190 delegates from the Government of Viet Nam, ASEAN member states, UN agencies, and others attended. © IOM

The road to change: The journey of Hnhach, an ethnic minority village-based birth attendant

Hnhach, a woman of Ba Na ethnicity, calls De Ar commune in Gia Lai province her home. Her life has always been deeply entwined with the traditions of her community, but she could have never envisioned the transformative role she would play in shaping their future.

De Ar commune, like many ethnic minority remote areas, struggles with limited access to healthcare services, particularly for expectant mothers. Cultural norms favour home births over hospital deliveries, leading to a maternal mortality rate that is two to three times higher than the national average. Due to socioeconomic conditions and language barriers, this region faces additional challenges. Finding qualified people to enroll in formal midwifery training programmes at medical schools is incredibly difficult.

To address this critical shortage of sexual and reproductive health resources, the Ministry of Health, with technical and financial support from UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO, developed village-based attendant (VBA) training programmes tailored to remote ethnic minority communities.

Hnhach, one of two VBAs in De Ar who received VBA training, knew that changing deeply ingrained cultural norms would be no small task. She began engaging expectant mothers in conversations about the benefits of facility-based deliveries. Breaking with tradition also entailed engaging in conversations with husbands, mothers-in-law, local authorities, and village influencers, including village chiefs and elderly community members. In 2022 alone, Hnhach assisted in 24 home births.

Pregnant women in De Ar commune slowly started embracing the idea of hospital deliveries. The women assisted have since expressed their profound gratitude. *"I am very grateful to Ms. Hnhach, a village-based birth attendant, for providing advice on healthcare, nutrition, and work. She advised me to reduce my workload, allocate more time for rest, and prioritize my health,"* said Ms. Bloy. As Hnhach continues to educate and inspire, she serves as living proof that anyone, regardless of their background, can make a profound difference in the lives of those they serve.

To date, over 2,000 VBAs have been trained through these programmes, with the majority returning to serve their communities. The Government also introduced policies and programmes to facilitate the work of VBAs, ensuring they can provide high-quality sexual and reproductive health services to underserved communities. These combined efforts have contributed to a reduction in maternal mortality and morbidity rates in the mountainous and ethnic minority regions of the country.



Hnhach with expectant mothers at De Ar Commune Health Centre. © UNFPA Viet Nam

UNICEF staff monitoring the installment of the first-ever Net-zero Aquonic toilet in Viet Nam powered by solar energy in one of Soc Trang schools! This cutting-edge technology addresses drought and saltwater intrusion, converting wastewater into clean and germ-free water for toilet flushing. © UNICEF Viet Nam



Inspiring a generation of water, sanitation, and hygiene change agents in mountainous northern Viet Nam

In the picturesque hilltop village of Ta Te, nestled in the remote reaches of Dien Bien province, Lau Minh Chau beams with joy as she shares her excitement, “We love the new school toilet! Now we never have to worry about running out of water when we use it.”

For Chau and her H’mong ethnicity farming community, access to adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities was once a distant dream. But thanks to collaborative efforts by UNICEF and its partners, they are part of a new generation of WASH change agents, committed to transforming their schools, homes, and communities.

Previously, life in Ta Te was different, marked by the absence of toilets in most households and schools, together with water shortages, contamination, and open defecation. Their situation is not unique in Viet Nam, where 7.7 million children attend schools lacking basic WASH facilities, and nearly five million people still practice open defecation, posing grave health risks and increasing vulnerabilities, especially for girls.

In response, the Promoting Hygiene and Sanitation with Children as Change Agents in Hard-to-Reach Areas of Viet Nam project, supported by UNICEF, aims to inspire meaningful change. Through comprehensive training for teachers and students, advocacy for healthy WASH practices, provision of essential infrastructure like toilets, and fostering community engagement, the project is paving the way for improved WASH outcomes that uphold health, dignity, and well-being.

Local authorities have embraced the project’s effectiveness. “The climate-smart WASH project supported by UNICEF is very effective,” commended Dr. Luong Van Kien, Deputy Director of Dien Bien Provincial Department of Health. The provincial Government’s approval of a VND 2.88 billion action plan to expand sanitation promotion and communication efforts in four districts underscores the project’s success and sets the stage for further transformative change in the region.

Output 1.4:

Development and implementation of environmental health policies, including safely-managed water and sanitation, is strengthened.

In 2023, the UN in Viet Nam significantly contributed to the advancement of the Government of Viet Nam’s commitment to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 by addressing the health impacts of climate change, including through enhancing resilience and reducing the carbon footprint of the health sector.

The UN, through WHO, UNICEF, and UNDP, supported improvements to the **climate resilience and environmental sustainability** of Viet Nam’s health system. Through a partnership with the National Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health (NIOEH) and the Viet Nam Health Environment Management Agency (VIHEMA), WHO piloted the climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable healthcare facilities (CRESHCFs) model at the district level, which will be scaled up throughout the country. Continuous and effective UN advocacy has led to stronger Government commitment and priority towards protecting human health from climate change and environmental degradation. This is reflected in MOH recently joining the WHO-led Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), VIHEMA officially engaging in the global Children’s Environmental Health Collaborative led by UNICEF, and a dedicated COP28 side event that was held on building a climate-resilient health system in Viet Nam, which was jointly hosted by VIHEMA, UNDP, and WHO. A roadmap for the development of the Children’s Environmental Health Country Assessment was also drafted with UN support.

Confronting the high risk and impact of **outdoor and indoor air pollution** in Viet Nam, UNICEF supported the finalization of air pollution guidelines for mothers and children. This will guide appropriate interventions for educating and preventing exposure of mothers and children to air pollution in the future.

The UN also supported **safe water and sanitation** efforts, contributing to the early achievement of the related Viet Nam SDG (VSDG) target. In 2023, 69.3 percent of the rural population was using safely managed water services, which exceeded the target of 55 percent by 2025. As part of these efforts, UNICEF’s technical support and advocacy resulted in the development of two MARD Circulars on private sector engagement and socialization for rural water supply and operation and maintenance. The UN also strongly promoted clean energy and energy efficiency with various actions, including the UNICEF-supported national assessment on clean energy and energy efficient solutions for rural water supply. WHO supported in setting up an auditing water safety plan, as well as in improving the understanding of risk management and water quality surveillance as inputs to the upcoming development of the law on drinking water and drainage.

With its focus on the most vulnerable populations, the UN strived to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) for women and children. As a result of UNICEF support, more than 102,026 individuals (64,230 children) had increased WASH service access through applications of climate-resilient technologies (e.g., solar panels and net-zero toilets). UNICEF also supported the development of two National Action Plans and three Provincial Action Plans on WASH for the most vulnerable women and children, which were issued by the Viet Nam Women’s Union, MOET, and the provinces of Dien Bien, Soc Trang, and Thai Nguyen.



Hang Nisa - G - YOB 2013 and her friend at her school, Pu Nhi Elementary School, Pu Nhi commune, Dien Bien Dong District, Dien Bien Province, Northern Mountains Viet Nam. With the support of UNICEF and partners, the school has access to water, hygiene and sanitation facilities for the children and teachers. © UNICEF Viet Nam

Output 1.5:

Social protection system is life cycle base approached, integrated, inclusive of ethnic minorities and people with disabilities, shock-responsive and gender-transformative

KEY OUTCOME INDICATORS ON SOCIAL PROTECTION (%)

	2022	2023
Labour force participating in social insurance	38.0	39.3
Health insurance coverage	92.0	93.4
Unemployment insurance coverage	31.2	31.6
Population with monthly social allowances	3.3	3.5
Older persons with social insurance allowances and social pension	42.8	43.5

Source: VSS/MOLISA





In 2023, progress was observed in social protection outcomes in Viet Nam across all indicators. The year also saw significant transformations in Viet Nam’s legal and policy framework for inclusive, equal, and effective social protection reform in the country, with essential support by a consortium of UN agencies, particularly the ILO, UNICEF, and UN Women.

On October 8, 2023, at the highest political level in Viet Nam, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam endorsed the new Party’s Resolution 42-NQ/TW (Res. 42) on reforming social policies for the 2023-2030 period, vision to 2045, with significant contributions by the UN. This resolution outlines a strategic direction for establishing a comprehensive social policy framework in Viet Nam, aiming for **universal social protection** coverage and increased integration between social protection branches and employment policies. Res. 42 includes an emphasis on addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, including women, persons with disabilities, and ethnic minorities. Effective UN support resulted in the Government of Viet Nam’s request for the ILO to further assist in developing the Government’s action plan to implement the resolution.



Worker/s at the Garment 10 Factory in Hanoi. © ILO Viet Nam

In line with the Party’s direction, the UN contributed to substantial reforms in the **social insurance** system through its support to the revision of the Social Insurance Law. A draft revision was ready for public consultation and the National Assembly discussion in 2023, proposing substantial reforms, including: expanded coverage to include new groups like household businesses and cooperatives; a multi-tier pension system to address the “missing middle” issue in pension expansion; a decrease of age thresholds for social pension beneficiaries from 80+ to 75+ with an increased monthly pension level; and an end for lump-sum social insurance withdrawal options. Among expected results, the revision will potentially add over four million workers to the mandatory social insurance scheme. As part of the support process, the ILO helped increase the capacity of over 200 National Assembly deputies and Provincial People’s Committee members to apply International Labour Standards (ILS) on social protection.

-  **355** officers and practitioners have improved capacity to support migrants in vulnerable situations
-  **769** migrant women received counselling on safe migration and available support services through five One-Stop Service Offices
-  Through DOLISA Migrant Worker Resource Centres (MRCs):
 - 3,482 people (1,880 men; 1,602 women) received counselling
 - 181 people (116 men, 65 women) received legal assistance
 - 496 people (307 men, 189 women) received information, education, or training
-  **US\$187,536** was awarded to migrant workers in compensation for labour-rights related abuses

The UN additionally supported improvements to the **social assistance** system – an important pillar of social protection – towards a more inclusive, gender-sensitive, and shock-responsive model. UNFPA, UNICEF, and ILO jointly supported MOLISA in reviewing Decree 20 on social assistance. Through the process, the UN provided timely policy suggestions on mainstreaming gender-responsive approaches into social protection reform policies, as well as on improving social assistance for three vulnerable groups including People with disabilities, women during maternity period, and ethnic minority workers. UNICEF also helped reduce child protection risks and deliver social protection in emergencies through a pilot child-sensitive and gender-responsive cash plus model in Danang City and the development of a procedure for delivering humanitarian cash transfers.

Through its support to the revision of the Employment Law, the UN improved **social protection for labourers, with a focus on the most vulnerable**, and helped to bring the national legislation framework on unemployment insurance further in line with international labour standards. As a result, in December 2023, the first draft Employment Law was developed. It includes new policy options to expand coverage of the unemployment insurance system to groups insufficiently covered or at risk of being left behind, such as workers with one-month contracts, persons with disabilities, and ethnic minority groups, and the promotion and strengthening of the active component of the unemployment scheme.

The UN also supported meaningful progress in Viet Nam in other areas of social protection. Progress has been made towards Viet Nam's ratification of the ILO's Social Security Convention (minimum standards) Convention No.102 with technical support from the ILO. This is evidenced by the Government's assessment of the compatibility of its social protection legal system with Convention No.102, with recommendations and a roadmap for the future ratification of Convention No.102.

The ILO also helped strengthen the national capacity for more participatory policy discussions on promoting **gender equality** through the issuance of a Gender Training Package for Policy Advocacy in Social Protection, giving access to thousands of Women's Union and Government staff, students, and researchers. The ILO and UN Women jointly increased evidence-based knowledge and

provided policy recommendations to address the gaps in ensuring a universal maternity benefit system (e.g., through a survey on access to cash maternity benefits). Moreover, IOM supported MOLISA, the National Hotline (through One-Stop Service Offices in five key localities) to strengthen local protection capacities and support for returning migrants in vulnerable situations, especially women and children. To enable timely and effective referrals for protection services, an e-Directory developed in 2023 contains contact information for Government and non-government service providers in each location.



Leaving the cold behind: Maternity benefits for the protection of uninsured women

Meet Huong, a hardworking 36-year-old mother from Thanh Hoa city, Viet Nam. Every day, she braved the freezing temperatures of a -20° Celsius storage room, arranging ice cream pints into foam boxes for her job in a small business. It was a tough job, especially considering that just one month prior she gave birth to her first child.

Despite her mother's concerns about exposing herself to the cold postpartum, Huong had no choice but to continue working to provide for her newborn son. *"Taking leave would mean my son would go hungry,"* she explained, highlighting the lack of maternity benefits for uninsured women like herself. This struggle took a toll on her health, leading to continuous sinus issues, allergies, and multiple miscarriages before she could afford costly treatment to successfully have her second child.

Sadly, Huong's story is not unique. Many Vietnamese women face similar challenges due to the limited coverage of the compulsory social insurance scheme. In 2021, only 39 percent of over 1.5 million Vietnamese women who gave birth were entitled to maternity benefits, according to the ILO¹.

Recognizing this issue, the ILO and the Viet Nam Women's Union, along with other stakeholders, are advocating for the adoption of a multi-tiered maternity benefit system. This system would include a state-funded maternity benefit to complement the existing social insurance maternity benefit – ensuring that maternity protection becomes a right for all women in Viet Nam, regardless of their employment status.

Various options for the new, non-contributory maternity benefit have been studied and discussed, with preliminary estimates showing that the cost could be as low as 0.04 percent of GDP in 2020, declining to 0.02 percent of GDP in 2030^{2,3}. These options are currently under consideration by the Government as part of the revision of Government Decree 20 on Social Assistance, with support from the ILO and other UN agencies.

If implemented, this maternity benefit could provide much-needed support to mothers like Huong, allowing them to take time off for rest and recovery after childbirth. This not only ensures better long-term health for mothers but also promotes the well-being of their families.

¹ ILO and Viet Nam Women's Union (Forthcoming), Expanding Maternity Benefits in Viet Nam Social Security.
² ILO (2019), McClanahan, Shea, Bjorn Gelders and Betina Ramirez López. A focus in families: A short-term benefit package for the extension of multi-tiered social security coverage in Viet Nam. Ha Noi.
³ ILO (2019), (unpublished), Technical Note on Maternity Benefits in Viet Nam. Ha Noi: ILO.



Output 1.6:

The comprehensive and integrated social care system is responsive to individual needs of the most vulnerable groups.

In 2023, the UN strengthened social care services focusing on **child protection** in close collaboration with the welfare, health, education, and justice sectors. Policy advocacy and capacity-building actions supported by UNICEF to MOLISA, MOH, MOET, MOH, and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) resulted in significant results. These included enhancing the capacity of 23,358 officers to provide better quality child protection and social care services for vulnerable children and child victims, reaching 2,827 children who had experienced violence, neglect, abuse, and child labour with social work and justice services. In addition, 21,000 teachers and education staff were provided with guidance materials on the prevention of abuse, violence, exploitation, and trafficking, and on child online protection, social work, and counselling skills. Support was also provided for the development of MOH's national guideline on child labour case management and many other guidelines, standards, and pilots for child protection units/multidisciplinary child protection teams at hospitals, medical forensic examination officers, and social workers in hospitals. A service model was additionally developed for MOJ to enhance domestic adoption services. Finally, the knowledge and skills of 180 health, education, social affairs, justice sector, and NGO personnel were enhanced to effectively support children with disabilities and training was provided to 30 social workers from social work and social protection centres on the identification of children with mental health challenges and the provision of services to meet their needs.

Output 1.7:

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

The multidimensional poverty rate continued to decline to 3.2 percent in 2023 with contributions from all UN entities in Viet Nam. Nevertheless, the reduction is minimal and has not reached Viet Nam's SDG roadmap targeted decrease of 1-1.5 percentage points annually.

To address multidimensional poverty, the UN continued its support to the implementation of the National Targeted Programme (NTP) on Socio-Economic Development in Ethnic Minority Areas (SEDEMA), which benefited around 15 million ethnic minority people. As part of these efforts, UNDP supported in updating the digital NTP manual and guidelines, and promoted e-services for ethnic minorities. For the first time,

the NTP has a comprehensive communication strategy for more accessible, applicable, and accountable services to beneficiaries, which is expected to benefit 100 percent of officers and 80 percent of beneficiaries. UNDP also fostered social impact businesses (SIB) by providing technical and financial support, aiming at building the capacity of businesses led by ethnic minorities and other vulnerable people, generating employment opportunities for vulnerable and marginalized communities, and increasing their income. Furthermore, UNICEF collaborated with the General Statistics Office (GSO) to update the multidimensional child poverty rate in Viet Nam using data from the Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey (VHLSS) 2020 and SDG Survey on Children and Women 2021. This initiative showed that the multidimensional child poverty rate remained high at 10.7 percent and was particularly high among disadvantaged groups including certain ethnic minorities (33.1 percent) and rural populations (13 percent).

Fostering social impact businesses to benefit women and vulnerable peoples

6,000 jobs are created and sustained through innovation

Under UNDP support, 30 social impact businesses (SIBs) received seed funding and six months of 1:1 coaching to develop new products and services to adapt to the "new normal" in a post-COVID-19 world. The SIBs all increased their revenue – some by more than 19 times compared to 2021. At least two SIBs managed to secure new financial resources from investors, with a total value of US\$800,000, and three SIBs expanded their business activities and began exporting products to new domestic and international markets. A further 300 SIBs were mentored through an innovation coaching programme and the SIB Hub was established to support SIBs to operate and expand. This resulted in the creation and preservation of 6,000 jobs, primarily benefiting women and vulnerable peoples.



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OUTCOME 2. CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE, DISASTER RESILIENCE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

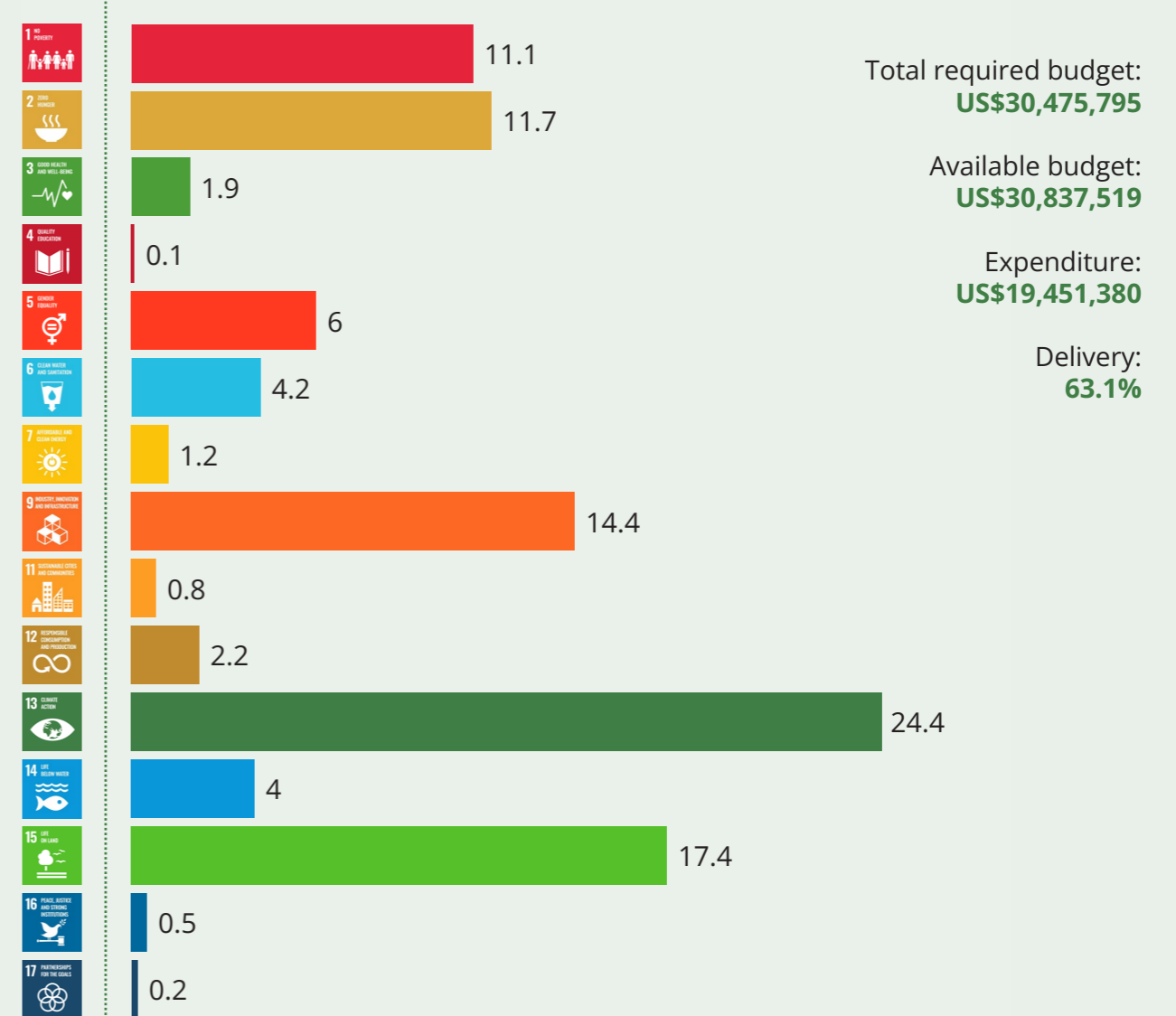
Outcome statement: By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a safer and cleaner environment resulting from Viet Nam’s effective mitigation and adaptation to climate change, disaster-risk reduction and resilience building, promotion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

Contributing UN agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNV, UN WOMEN, and WHO

OUTCOME INDICATORS

	Carbon dioxide emitted	progressed
	Forest coverage	achieved
	Area of marine protected areas and special-use forest	progressed
	Number of deaths, missing persons, and injuries attributed to disasters	regressed
	Renewable energy (solar, onshore and offshore wind) share of total final energy consumption	achieved
	Total final energy consumption/GDP	no data
	Number of destroyed or damaged health and educational facilities attributed to disasters	no data

Outcome 2 Budget by SDG (%)



Output 2.1:

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

Viet Nam is the 13th most affected country by natural disasters and climate change due to its geographic features and concentration of population and economic operations in regions highly prone to climate-related risks. The most vulnerable groups to these impacts include poor and near-poor households, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and women. Adaptation to climate change, including both rapid and slow onset events, remains a top priority for Viet Nam that was reaffirmed at COP28.

In this context, **anticipatory action** is becoming an increasingly important agenda in Viet Nam. Reflecting this priority, the UN supported Viet Nam in its chair role of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) in 2023. Through support from FAO, Viet Nam showcased its anticipatory action at the 42nd ACDM annual meeting in Da Nang, and the Ha Long Ministerial Statement on the Strengthening of ASEAN Anticipatory Actions in Disaster Management was adopted in 2023. As further UN support to translate Viet Nam's commitment into action, FAO helped produce the Provincial Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for Anticipatory Action and strengthened

the capacity of 490 provincial disaster risk management (DRM) officials. At the same time, FAO assisted MOLISA to develop a pilot model for linking anticipatory action with the existing provincial social protection programme. This showed high potential to increase the efficiency of anticipatory and humanitarian actions.

To enhance **disaster risk management**, the UN supported the development of various DRM-related guidelines, capacity building, and review of policy frameworks. This included the Viet Nam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority (VDDMA)'s child-focused Guidance for Monitoring and Evaluating the DRM National Plan, the National Guideline for Child-Centred Disaster Drills, and the Guideline for Assessment of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Viet Nam. As a result of UNICEF's support, the capacity of 150 core VDDMA officials across all 63 provinces was enhanced to integrate children and vulnerable persons into DRM regulations and practices. Moreover, the Viet Nam Disaster Monitoring System (VNDMS) was reviewed to enhance its display and analysis functions to better assist populations affected by floods and droughts. Under UNICEF's communication campaigns, such as "For a safe, clean, and green ASEAN for every child" and the "1-minute green" video challenge, the UN raised awareness of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate action among four million people and sent green messages to COP28 leaders.

The UN also contributed to the mainstreaming of gender and gender-based violence issues into **disaster risk reduction** policymaking – in particular in the annual and five-year DRR plans. UN Women, in collaboration with VDDMA, supported the development of a mainstreaming guideline which incorporates a community-based disaster risk assessment. Six relevant trainings were provided to 80 authorities at local levels and the guideline was piloted in two provinces for application at a larger scale in the coming years.

and agricultural support. 1,640 poor ethnic minority people benefited from climate-resilient ponds across 1,360 hectares. UNDP's initiatives improved disaster preparedness through online community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) lessons, early warning systems, and a model for climate-resilient commune health stations with the "Doctor for Everyone" software installed, along with solar power and telehealth capabilities in three central coastal provinces. Additionally, UN Women empowered 1,443 vulnerable rural women in Tien Giang by providing cash assistance, livelihood support, entrepreneurship training, and knowledge on economic management and ending violence against women. This work benefited women with disabilities, women-headed households, and other marginalized groups.

Finally, it is noteworthy that the UN Resident Coordinator was elected in late 2023 as a Co-Chair of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Partnership. This appointment is expected to pave the way to closer collaboration between the UN system and the Government, especially VDDMA, in 2024 and beyond.

UN support for the flood response in Thua Thien Hue



577 vulnerable families (401 men and 780 women) provided with unconditional cash transfers



285,377 people benefited from 340 ultrafiltration membrane water filters provided to schools, health centres, and evacuation centres

The UN also actively supported Viet Nam in **disaster response**. FAO and UNICEF joined forces with VDDMA to support people affected by a severe flooding in Thua Thien Hue province. UNICEF additionally addressed challenges in accessing safe water caused by annual salinity intrusion with 220 water filters distributed in Soc Trang, Bac Lieu, and Ca Mau provinces, benefiting thousands of people. With UNDP and UN-Habitat support, MONRE issued Circular 06/2023/TT-BTNMT, guiding the integration of climate change response into strategies and plans at all levels and in all sectors. To support Viet Nam's efforts in strengthening the legal framework relating to sustainability, climate change response, and disaster risk management, UN-Habitat contributed to the ongoing revision of the Urban Law. The law supports building green cities, sustainable urban planning, climate change adaptation, and resilience in urban settings.

In addition to response measures, the UN strengthened **resilience** against the impacts of climate change and disasters. Over 130,000 vulnerable people benefited from resilience-building initiatives led by UNDP, including access to climate-resilient housing, healthcare facilities,

"For a safe, clean, and green ASEAN for every child": Viral flash mob dance competition on disaster risk reduction draws in an online crowd

Two young winners of the National English-Speaking Contest, representing Vietnamese youth, delivered strong messages and call on the leaders at the 11th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management to act urgently for a safe, clean and green ASEAN for every child

© UNICEF Viet Nam





A viral Flash Mob Dance Competition on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) generated 1,796 videos and the participation of 63,659 children, including 6,463 students from disadvantaged groups. The video attracted nearly one million views on official social media platforms. A national English-speaking contest among students further generated 3,000 videos with two winners chosen from An Giang province.


Output 2.2:

Accelerated implementation of policies and enhance the awareness of stakeholders for low-carbon development, the circular economy and environmental protection

 Emissions restrained to **550** million tonnes CO2 equivalent

 More than **1,600** people have improved capacity for greening production

 **41.5** hectares of agricultural land was transformed to use energy-efficient technologies

 **550** government officials have enhanced capacity on circular economy practices

The detrimental effects of **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** and anthropogenic climate change are causing significant negative repercussions throughout Viet Nam. In response, Viet Nam is dedicated to shifting its development trajectory towards one that is green, sustainable, and equitable. In 2023, the UN conducted various initiatives to support this commitment, which contributed to Viet Nam's 2023 progress of restraining CO2 emissions to 550 million tonnes CO2 equivalent – less than the national target by 2025.

Among these efforts, FAO developed a remote-sensing tool for measuring methane emissions from the rice value chain, contributing to the Government's development of the monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) system for the Government's Sustainable Development Project on One Million Hectares of High-Quality and Low-Emission Rice Cultivation in the Mekong River Delta Region.

UNDP also teamed up with MARD and the provinces of Binh Thuan and Bac Lieu to work on greening the entire provincial supply chains for dragon fruit and shrimp, respectively, from farm to table. Through the initiative, more than 1,600 beneficiaries have improved their capacity to green production practices, two solar-powered rooftops were installed for processing facilities, and 41.5 hectares of

agricultural land was transformed to use energy-efficient technologies. UNDP also handed over electric trucks to Hue City for waste collection, collaborated with the city and Selex Motors to introduce electric vehicles for delivery service, and established a Material Recovery Facility for plastic waste collection.

Prioritizing the swift implementation of the **Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP)**, established with the International Partners Group (IPG) in December 2022, also emerged as a top national agenda in Viet Nam and one of the UN focus areas led by the Resident Coordinator. UNDP, as part of the JETP Secretariat, supported the development of the Government scheme to codify the JETP Political Declaration and the launch of the Resource Mobilization Plan for the implementation of the JETP at COP28. The UN further improved energy efficiency, as evidenced through UNDP's active role as co-chair of Technical Working Group 4 of the Viet Nam Energy Partnership Group (VEPG) with the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) and its support for a set of recommendations for improving energy efficiency in the buildings/construction sector in Viet Nam. UNIDO accelerated energy efficiency in large industries by organizing awareness-raising workshops and disseminating the Vietnamese national standards on energy management systems (TCVN ISO50001:2029 and TCVN ISO 50003:2023).

Transitioning to a **circular economy** was another key priority for the UN to support advancements in Viet Nam's climate objectives and to accelerate progress towards achieving net-zero emissions targets. UNDP therefore supported the Government in formulating the Circular Economy National Action Plan (NAP) and strengthening the Circular Economy Hub operated by UNDP and the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE).



Accelerating the transition and mobilizing collective action for a circular economy in Viet Nam

In 2023, Viet Nam experienced a rapid shift towards a green and circular economy (CE) due to increasing industrialization and urbanization. UNDP has actively supported the Government in this transition, assisting in formulating the Circular Economy National Action Plan and expanding the Viet Nam Circular Economy Hub's scope and partnerships. The Hub attracted 2,000 monthly visitors to its website, conducted webinars, and trained over 550 participants in circular measurement, design, sustainable agricultural practices, extended producer responsibility (EPR), circular wastewater management, and refill and reuse models to reduce plastic waste.

Interest in the CE Hub has led to increased resource mobilization for CE projects, including a US\$1.77 million initiative funded by the Netherlands, a pilot project on responsible sourcing in the recycled plastic value chain funded by The Circulate Initiative, and a secondary material marketplace initiative funded by GIZ. Efforts to combat plastic pollution have reduced over 250 tonnes of plastic leakage into the environment. The establishment of an Informal Waste Workers (IWW) Club in Quy Nhon City has also enhanced waste management capacity.

UNDP's Ending Plastic Pollution Innovation Challenge (EPPIC) project sourced over 100 innovative solutions from ASEAN countries to address plastic pollution in Cambodia and Lao PDR. Viet Nam facilitated exchanges among six target ASEAN countries to strengthen policies on plastic pollution. The country's transition to a green and circular economy, with support from UNDP and other partners, has made significant strides through an increase in sustainable practices and reduction in plastic pollution.



2,000 EIP officials (39 percent women) trained on EIP management



68 companies in industrial parks implemented resource-efficient and cleaner production (RECP), resulting in:

- Savings of
 - » **10,553** MWh/year of electricity
 - » **9,737** GJ/year of fossil fuels
 - » **269,360** m³/year of water
- A reduction of **92,241** tonnes of CO₂ equivalent/year
- Economic benefits of approximately **US\$2.3** million/year

UN support for **environmental protection** was highlighted by

UNIDO's important results for eco-industrial parks (EIPs). To improve the EIP-related legal framework, UNIDO contributed to the development of a Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) Circular to operationalize Decree 35/2022/ND-CP on EIP management, the amended Law on Water Resources, MPI's proposal for the development of a new Law on Industrial Park and Economic Zone Management, the revision of MONRE Circular No. 02/2022/TT-BTNMT guiding the Law on Environmental Protection, and various guidelines (e.g., on EIP inventories and the reuse of solid waste). UNIDO further transformed legal documents and guidelines into action through its support to four industrial parks in Hai Phong, Da Nang, Dong Nai, and Ho Chi Minh City to demonstrate the EIP model and trainings to thousands of technical and management officials.

Output 2.3:

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



Forest coverage:

42%



Marine protected areas:

213,000 hectares



Special-use forest areas:

2,198,086 hectares

UN support in 2023 continued contributing to Viet Nam's achievement and progress on key environmental indicators, including forest coverage, marine protected areas, and special-use forest areas. UNDP restored 247,768 hectares of **forest and marine protected areas** and benefited approximately 110,000 women and men through multiple sustainability initiatives. The Biodiversity Financing Initiative (BIOFIN), with its two financial solutions, helped ensure effective financial planning for the conservation of fishery resources in Ham Thuan Nam, Binh Thuan, as well as to develop a new financial mechanism whereby 15 percent of revenue from community-based tourism is channeled towards coral ecosystem protection in Hon Yen, Phu Yen.

In parallel, the UN advocated for policy improvement and systemic support for the co-management of fisheries resource protection. This was led by UNDP's collaboration with MARD and the Viet Nam Fisheries Association. As a result, the MARD Minister engaged in dialogue with local fishermen and practitioners on co-management, confirmed MARD's continued commitment to the co-management policy, and declared 2024 to be the "year for co-management".

The UN maintained its support for enhancing the effectiveness of **Biosphere Reserve management and operation**. In 2023, UNDP supported the Viet Nam National Committee on the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB Viet Nam) and MONRE's Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Agency (NBCA) to finalize the Guidelines on Development of Management Plan for Biosphere Reserves in Viet Nam through the pilot biosphere reserves plans.

UNDP, UNEP, and UNESCO led the **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services** Network (BES-Net) to convene a Triologue in Ha Noi, bringing together policymakers, scientists, and practitioners from Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, and Viet Nam to exchange insights on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Under the BES-Net, UNDP also supported the finalization of the Dossier on the establishment of the Viet Nam Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Partnership Forum (VBPF), expected to be issued in 2024, for convening different stakeholders to improve information exchange and policy orientation and formulation. The establishment of the Forum is one of the tasks set in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). UNDP also continued supporting MONRE in aligning national targets with the global biodiversity targets, as set out in the KMGBF, through which the guidelines for NBSAP implementation at the provincial level were developed in 2023.

The UN promoted a deforestation-free jurisdictional approach through UNDP collaboration with MARD and Lam Dong and Dak Nong provinces, which achieved several key results. These included enhanced capacity of provincial **forest protection** departments and forest-holders in using the early warning system (Terra-I), fostered financial flows in sustainable, climate-smart land use practices in Lam Dong and Dak Nong provinces, and facilitated dialogues through two side events on the European Union Delegation Report (EUDR) at the Global Conference on Sustainable Food Systems and at COP28.

Viet Nam received its first **REDD+ results-based payments** under the FCPF Carbon Fund Emissions Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) in 2023, marking a significant milestone for Viet Nam and its REDD+ process, which started over ten years ago. This is creating positive momentum for further forest carbon initiatives, including for the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Jurisdictional Emission Reduction Programme. For this programme, the TREES Registration Document (TRD) and Initial Monitoring Report (IMR) have been compiled and submitted to the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Secretariat in December 2023 with technical support from FAO and UNEP through the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD).

Output 2.4:

Improved capacity to reduce adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation on human development

In 2023, UNDP and the Ministry of Health continued their partnership to pilot the “Doctor for Everyone” Grassroots Telehealth Programme. This telemedicine initiative utilizes a smartphone application and digital platform to enhance medical examinations and treatments at the grassroots level. The programme is improving access to high-quality healthcare services for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in Viet Nam.

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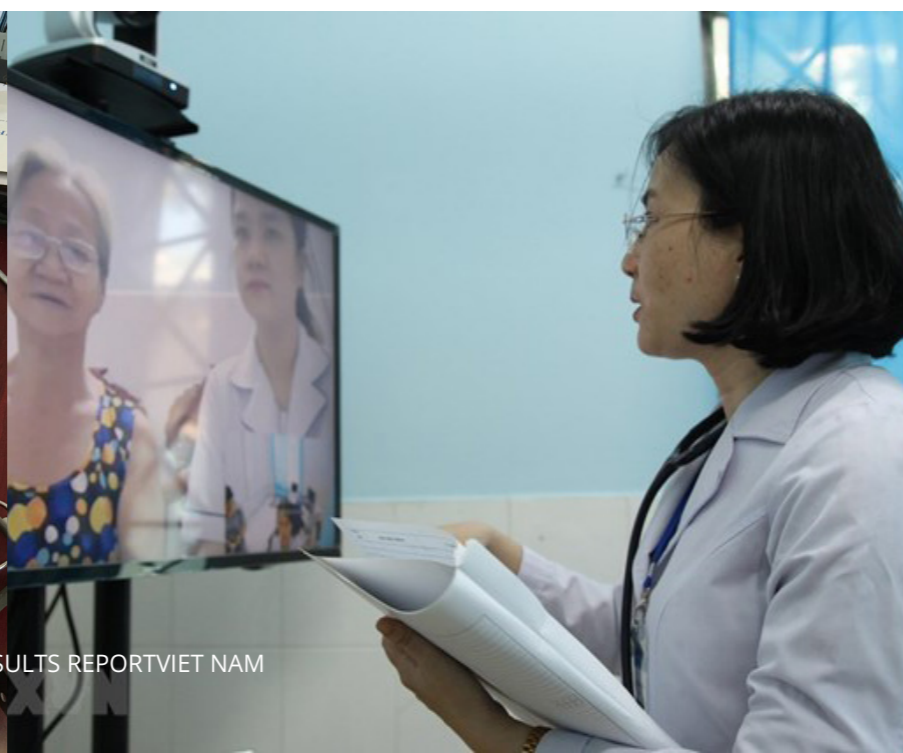
1.3 million people have “Doctor for Everyone” telehealth accounts



70,000 telehealth-assisted medical consultations conducted



3,000 healthcare workers trained on the “Doctor for Everyone” telehealth system










OUTCOME 3. SHARED PROSPERITY THROUGH ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

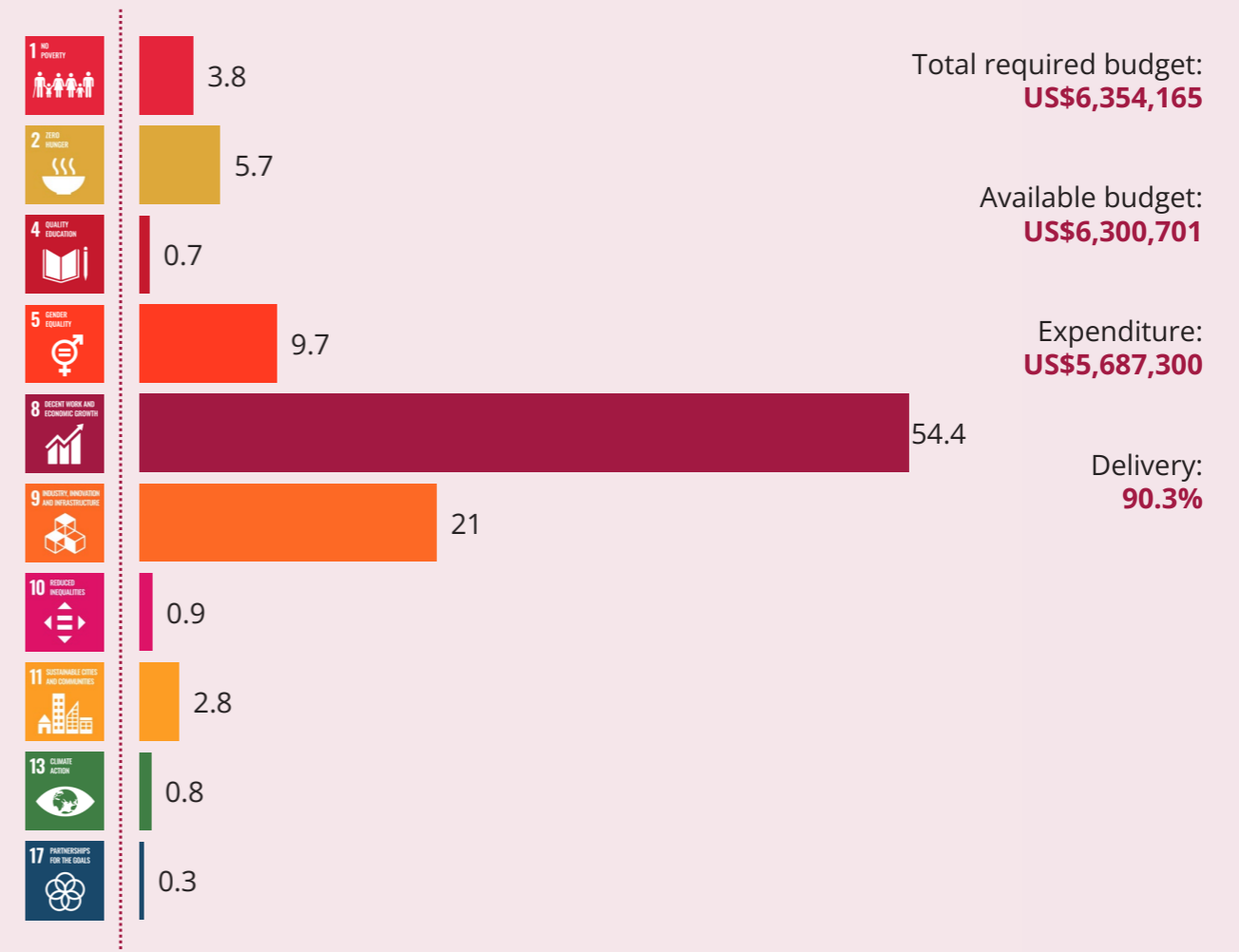
Outcome statement: By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will contribute to and benefit equitably from more sustainable, inclusive, and gender-responsive economic transformation based on innovation, entrepreneurship, enhanced productivity, competitiveness, and decent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

Contributing UN agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UN WOMEN, and WHO

OUTCOME INDICATORS

	GDP per capita	achieved
	Proportion of informal employment	regressed
	Unemployment rate	achieved
	Labour productivity	progressed
	Proportion of women directors/ owners of enterprises and cooperatives	progressed
	Proportion of population using the internet	progressed
	Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries	no data

Outcome 3 Budget by SDG (%)





Output 3.1:

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

In 2023, Viet Nam managed to keep the unemployment rate under 3 percent. It held at 2.28 percent, which is lower than the 2022 rate. Nevertheless, the majority of employment was informal (64.9 percent in 2023). An uneven understanding of and lack of coordination on informality among policymakers is a challenge that still limits the country's policy response. At the same time, social protection coverage remains low, covering only 39.3 percent of the labour force.

The UN, particularly through the ILO, focused on promoting good **governance in Viet Nam's labour market** in 2023. Initiatives included strengthening employment and labour legal frameworks, such as preparations for ratifying Convention 87 on the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, Cooperative Law adopted by the National Assembly in June 2023, and reviewing the ten-year implementation of occupational safety and health (OSH) policy, providing recommendations for consideration in the upcoming OSH Law revision in 2025. The ILO's direct support for amending the Employment Law contributed to its inclusion in the National Assembly's 2024 law amendment agenda. In addition, the ILO also provided its technical support for the development of Government Decree 06 on the development of a modern, flexible and sustainable market.

 **758,000** workers from **495** garment, footwear, and electronics factories and **67,000** workers from **38** electronics factories with improved working conditions

Through programmes like the ILO's Better Work Viet Nam and the Electronics Advisory Programme, the UN supported efforts to improve **compliance with national labour laws and international standards**, benefiting nearly one million workers. Through the ILO's Vision Zero Fund, the UN helped build occupational safety and health (OSH) capacity among coffee producers, with training benefitting over 50,000 farmers in the Central Highlands. Additionally, the ILO contributed to raising awareness of the UN Resolution on Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and to enhancing the capacity of tripartite partners to participate in collective bargaining. Furthermore, the ILO promoted inclusive and equitable industrial relations through social dialogue, worker rights advocacy, assistance to establish labor dispute resolution mechanisms, and supports for implementation of labour laws.

Furthermore, the UN facilitated efforts towards the **transition of employment from informality to formality**. This included the ILO's support in establishing a National Advisory Taskforce on the formalization of the informal economy, endorsing a theory of change for transitioning to a formal economy, and drafting government decrees on household business registration and cooperative-related registration. The ILO's efforts contributed to the publication of Viet Nam's first National Wage Report in 2023, an increase of six percent in the minimum wage, and the Government's drafting of dossier for ratification of the ILO Convention 131 on minimum Wage Fixing. The National Labour Productivity Programme was developed through the ILO's collaboration with MPI and was adopted in November 2023, aiming to boost productivity and competitiveness. Additionally, the ILO supported Viet Nam for developing the Skilling-Up Master Plan and assessed reskilling needs in key sectors like textiles and automobiles, building capacity for sector-specific skills strategies.

Output 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.

The UN collaborated with government stakeholders, the private sector, and community-based actors to develop and implement legal and regulatory frameworks for **labour and migrant worker protection**. Specifically, the ILO and IOM jointly supported the implementation of Law 69 on Contract-Based Vietnamese Overseas Workers to protect Vietnamese migrant workers. The ILO also contributed to the review and issuance of Directive 20-CT/TW, strengthening the leadership of the Communist Party in sending Vietnamese workers abroad. Furthermore, ILO enhanced the employability skills of women migrant workers and developed an e-commerce training manual based on international best practices.

In response to the Government's plan to invest in semiconductor industries, UNDP provided policy recommendations through multiple channels including through the National Assembly and Party's Central Economic Commission (CEC) Annual Socio-economic Forum, and the Viet Nam Economic Pulse – a UNDP flagship event – titled "Leveraging Technology to Foster Prosperity."

At the local level, UN support focused on **implementing Law 69** through capacity-building initiatives. IOM collaborated with the Department of Overseas Labour (DOLAB) under MOLISA to strengthen the capacity of 189 persons (81 men, 108 women) from Employment Service Centres and service enterprises responsible for the recruitment and deployment of migrant workers to ensure migrant worker protection provisions under Law

69 and its sub-laws are promoted and adhered to. Additionally, the ILO partnered with the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Ho Chi Minh City branch (VCCI-HCM) to conduct a study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on internal migrant workers' employment, providing valuable insights into labour shortages and migrant workers' realities in the apparel and electronics sectors.

IOM published a policy brief titled "[Building Resilience for a Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery for Vietnamese International Migrant Workers](#)" and a regional report titled "[Accelerating Access To Remedy](#)". These publications offer insights and recommendations to support the resilience and well-being of migrant workers during and beyond the pandemic and address access to remedy in the region.

A collective effort by multiple UN agencies contributed to the Prime Minister's endorsement of the National Action Plan on Food Systems Transformation toward Transparency, Responsibility, and Sustainability in Viet Nam by 2030. This transformative initiative is expected to align with all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, contributing to sustainable development and food security in Viet Nam.

UN intervention improved the awareness and capacities of the Trade Union - Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL) and its affiliates in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, raising worker awareness and community networking on Just Transition.

Output 3.3:


Sustainable, inclusive, and responsible business models and practices including micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives are promoted to increase productivity, trade development, and innovation, and improve working conditions and compliance, with special focus on the economic empowerment of poor people, ethnic minorities, and women.

The UN jointly contributed to the promulgation and implementation of the **National Action Plan (NAP) on Responsible Business Practices** in July 2023 to strengthen policy frameworks and practice on responsible business in Viet Nam. This included UNICEF's provision of technical input to emphasize children's rights within the NAP. UNDP also aided the NAP's inter-ministerial technical working group and trained 181 companies on human rights due diligence, adding to the 96 trained in 2022. In addition, UNDP collaborated with Viet Nam's top universities to provide responsible business education, emphasizing future private sector leadership, and conducted training sessions to boost the capacity of civil society organizations to support responsible business practices.

Policy improvements for women's empowerment at work resulted in:

 **523,124** women-owned enterprises and women entrepreneurs benefited from policies

 **34** companies committed to Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs)

 **504** enterprises with enhanced awareness and capacity raised on promoting gender equality

 **450** women entrepreneurs with increased capacity to build more resilient and inclusive business models and to better access markets

The UN, particularly through UNIDO, has been instrumental in promoting sustainable, inclusive, and responsible **business models** in Viet Nam. Initiatives such as the adoption of the Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) and the introduction

of new technology to enhance anti-fungal efficacy and coating technology to replace PVC film in the mango and pomelo fruit value chains have significantly boosted exports, with a notable increase of 41.4 percent in mango exports and 151.2 percent in pomelo exports. Additionally, UNIDO supported MARD in reviewing the legal framework of pesticide registration procedures to align with international practices. At the same time, UNIDO launched the Standards Compliance Analytics report, providing insights into Viet Nam's challenges in complying with quality and safety standards in agri-food trade, as well as offering policy recommendations for strengthening the Quality Infrastructure System, enhancing industry compliance and competitiveness, and promoting a conducive policy environment for quality. In addition, the ILO in collaboration with the Vietnam National Productivity Institute (VNPI) provided capacity building for 16 trainers and 4 enterprises on green productivity per the ILO standards.

The UN promoted **women's empowerment principles in business practices**, with notable policies adopted in 2023. Initiatives such as the Ministry of Finance (MOF) Circular 52 and Ha Noi People's Committee Office's Decision 4120, mainly supported by UN Women, provide preferential support for women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises and those employing women workers. These policies positively impact over 523,124 women-owned enterprises and entrepreneurs. FAO's Country Assessment on Gender in Agriculture and Rural Development 2018-2023 also contributed to monitoring SDG implementation and addressing gender equality issues in agriculture.

UN efforts to combat **child labour and exploitation** were bolstered by UNICEF and the ILO support. Through initiatives like the GSO's Labour Force Survey and engagement with business stakeholders, progress has been made in reporting and addressing child labour. Collaborations with the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL) have focused on child labour prevention, young worker management, and upskilling. UNICEF's integrated early childhood development parenting skill programme was also rolled out to over 2,000 working parents, improving their mental health and capacity for childcare and education.

The UN also promoted **responsible recruitment practices** through IOM's leadership. Training workshops and partnerships with private sector entities and

associations like the Viet Nam Association of Manpower and Supply (VAMAS) facilitated the monitoring and improvement of recruitment practices against the VAMAS Code of Conduct. Collaborations with the Centre of Law Consultancy and Human Resource Development through training activities supported the implementation of responsible business practices as outlined in Decision 843/QD-TTg on the National Action Plan on Improving Laws and Policies on Responsible Business Practices, period of 2023-2027.

UNIDO's Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development (QI4SD) Index additionally provided

a comprehensive framework for assessing a country's readiness to support the SDGs. Viet Nam's QI4SD Index score of 37.4 reflects its 62nd position among assessed countries. UNIDO has also supported Standards, Metrology, and Quality (STAMEQ) in monitoring Viet Nam's QI4SD Index.

Highlighting the importance of international cooperation in addressing global challenges, UN agencies including IFAD, UNIDO, and FAO collaborated with MARD to assess the socioeconomic impacts of the war in Ukraine on Viet Nam's agriculture and rural development sector.

Mangoes reach new markets: Improving fruit quality and disease management in Long An

Hoang Phat Fruit Co., Ltd, established in 2012 in Long An province, is a major fresh fruit exporter in Viet Nam, shipping to markets worldwide. Supported by the Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP) in Viet Nam, the company has addressed issues in fungicide treatment, temperature management, and post-harvest loss rates, ensuring consistent quality in its exported mangoes.

Efforts to enhance quality included training for value chain actors, guidance for collectors on harvesting and quality maintenance, and the introduction of new technologies to manage temperature and reduce post-harvest losses. Through these efforts, Hoang Phat's mangoes have secured placements in over five supermarket chains in the Republic of Korea and Japan, increasing revenue by 25 percent and reducing post-harvest loss rates from 10 percent to less than 5 percent. Additionally, the company invested VND 90 billion in expanding its packing house and establishing a new factory. Ms. Nguyen Nam Phuong Thao, Sales Director at Hoang Phat, has reaffirmed the company's commitment to collaborating with GQSP for technical support in exporting quality Vietnamese fresh fruits worldwide.

The GQSP is a joint initiative by UNIDO and MARD, funded by Switzerland, that aims to enhance the quality and standards compliance capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises like Hoang Phat to facilitate market access.



Mango sanitization is performed at the Hoang Phat Fruit Co. Packing House. © UNIDO

Output 3.4:

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

Under the leadership of UNESCO and supported by UNIDO and UN-Habitat, the “Ha Noi Rethink” flagship project focused on youth-related policies and mobilizing civic engagement to revitalize the city’s **cultural heritage assets**. Contemporary designs were created to reflect and inspire Ha Noi’s significant cultural heritage. Additionally, UN agencies collaborated to support Ha Noi in organizing an annual Creative Festival in 2023, consisting of over 80 serial events across the city.

UNESCO’s one-year support facilitated Da Lat and Hoi An in successfully joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in **Music and Craft/Folk Arts** in 2023. These achievements were recognized among the top ten highlights in culture and creativity nationally in 2023, as voted by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

Output 3.5:

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

The UN played a crucial role in providing evidence-based recommendations and policy support to the Government on **public finance for achieving the gender equality agenda** under the SDGs. This included UN Women’s collaboration with MOLISA to conduct a review on financial reporting in public organizations from a gender-responsive budgeting perspective, to ensure that budget allocations and financial reporting mechanisms take into account gender considerations, thereby promoting gender equality in resource allocation and utilization. UN Women also provided evidence and analysis on the costs of gender-based violence (GBV) services at the Peace House Shelters, advocating for heightened political commitment and increased allocation of resources for the effective implementation of laws and policies addressing GBV, violence against women (VAW), and violence against children (VAC). By highlighting the financial implications of GBV services, UN Women sought to underscore the importance of adequate funding to address this critical issue.

Output 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).

In 2023, the UN facilitated access to appropriate technologies, digital tools, and platforms relevant to the transition to the fourth industrial revolution. The proportion of the population using the internet, one of the UNSDCF outcome indicators, reached 79 percent in 2023 – very close to the national target of 80 percent by 2025, which demonstrates the important contribution of UN interventions.

In particular, the UN paid special attention to facilitating access to appropriate technologies, digital tools, and platforms for **migrant workers**, their families, organizations, and communities. With the ILO’s technical support, the employability skills of women migrant workers were enhanced through the development of an e-commerce training manual, which synthesized international best practices. The manual was introduced to 210 women migrant workers, equipping them with knowledge to minimize the risk of violence in cyberspace – an emerging concern in Viet Nam.

IOM also launched an e-learning platform offering 22 self-paced courses covering digital literacy, soft skills, entrepreneurship, and job application skills. By January 2024, the platform had trained a total of 20,058 users (9,994 men, 9,094 women, and 970 not disclosed) from 63 provinces in Viet Nam. These users comprised both men and women, including individuals under 18 and those aged between 18 and 50. The platform has provided valuable skill development opportunities to migrant workers, contributing to their socioeconomic empowerment.



OUTCOME 4. GOVERNANCE AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Outcome statement: By 2026, people in Viet Nam, 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.

Contributing UN agencies: FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV, and UN WOMEN

OUTCOME INDICATORS

	Rate of women deputies in elected bodies	achieved		Rate of crimes detected, investigated, and prosecuted	regressed
	Sex ratio at birth	progressed		Number of new or amended legal documents on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities supported by the UN	progressed
	Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before the age of 18	regressed		Youth Development Index	achieved
	Proportion of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour	regressed		Number of country visits by special procedures accepted by Viet Nam	progressed
	Level of national compliance with core labour rights	progressed		Number of reports to treaty bodies submitted by Viet Nam	progressed
	Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience with public services	regressed		Number of new population surveys/ research conducted for use in decision making and SDG monitoring	progressed
	Proportion of people who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by a public official, during the previous 12 months	regressed		Percentage of GBV victims seeking assistance from any supporting services	no data
	Corruption Perception Index	regressed		Percentage of recommendations agreed on by Viet Nam from the Third Cycle Universal Periodic Review implemented	no data
	Number of social-order and safety-related crime offences	achieved			

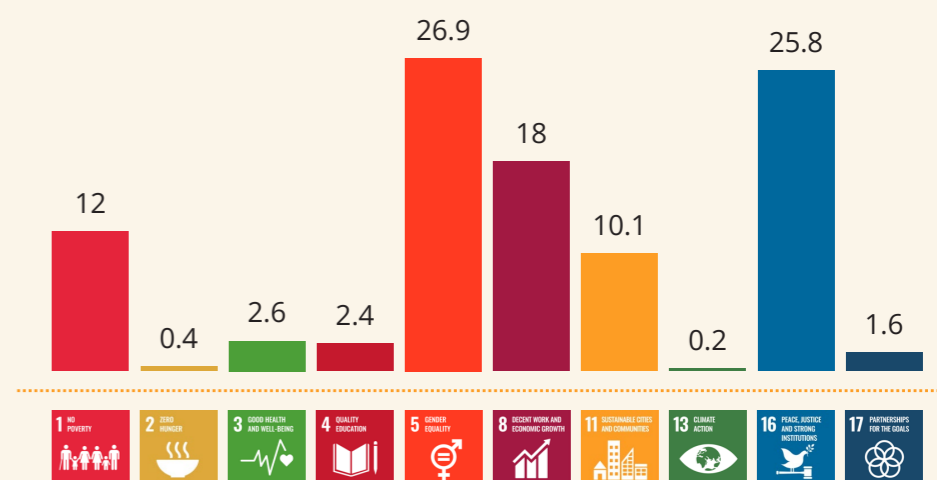
Outcome 4 Budget by SDG (%)

Total required budget:
US\$29,117,7084

Available budget:
US\$25,519,858

Expenditure:
US\$21,400,797

Delivery:
83.9%



Output 4.1:

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

The UN, through the collaborative efforts of UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNDP, made noteworthy gains in creating an enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable development in Viet Nam.

With a focus on **early childhood development**, the UN enhanced access to essential social services for children and equitable public resource allocation within provincial plans and budgets, as outlined in the new Communist Party Politburo Directive (2023-2030). UNICEF facilitated the endorsement of holistic parenting skills guidelines and a roadmap for universal child cash transfer benefits. At the subnational level, UNICEF's advocacy led to increased local resource allocation in Gia Lai and Dien Bien provinces, while fostering inclusive platforms for children's voices through the National Children's Forum and creative initiatives in Da Nang.

In addition to children, **women and persons with disabilities** are considered vulnerable groups who received UN support to engage in development processes. UNDP advocacy led to Viet Nam's Marrakesh Treaty accession in January 2023 to facilitate access to published works for people with visual impairment or print disabilities, as well as the drafting of two Government decrees to guide the Treaty's implementation and specify administrative sanctions against copyright infringements. UNDP also focused on promoting the participation of persons with disabilities in local governance. This included publishing the "Pilot assessment of disability inclusion in local governance in 2022," training 89 persons with disabilities on promoting their political rights,

and supporting MOLISA in drafting responses to the International Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UNFPA, in partnership with the Action to the Community Development Centre, conducted an accessibility audit and provided disability inclusion training, resulting in improved infrastructure and accessible information, education, and communication (IEC) materials. These efforts facilitated access to crucial services for 30 women with disabilities through the Anh Duong Houses and the GBV hotline of the Viet Nam Farmers' Union in 2023.

Leveraging data from the Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI), the UN noted a decline in **citizens accessing e-government services** from 2021 to 2022 (2.4 percent to 1.6 percent). In response, UNDP spearheaded advancements in digital governance in 2023, strengthening or launching e-service platforms in Ha Giang, Tay Ninh, and Quang Tri provinces. In Ha Giang, the number of requests for online public services rose by 34.6 percent compared to the previous year, providing services such as registration of vital events and health insurance applications for children under six. UNDP also provided technical advice on personal data protection and shared the 2022 PAPI results, emphasizing the inclusion of LGBTQI+ persons and persons with disabilities in local governance and prompting over 20 provinces to issue action plans and directives.

Other UN contributions can be recognized in strengthened civil society engagement through UNDP's role as Fund Recipient of the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) and increased social accountability in the health sector through UNDP's training to 57 NGO staff and community workers. The UN also facilitated Viet Nam's accession to the Marrakesh Treaty in January 2023 and provided support to the Government in drafting decrees to guide treaty implementation and specify administrative sanctions against copyright infringements.

Output 4.2:

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



7,020 child offenders and survivors of violence have improved access to justice



1,295 legal officers and 166 law students trained on gender equality



87 prosecutorial officers improved their trial skills



291 officers enhanced their knowledge of effective prevention, investigation, and adjudication of violence against girls



200 officers trained to initiate telehealth services in prisons and address HIV service continuity

In 2023, concerted efforts were made to strengthen the rule of law, expand access to justice, and combat discrimination in Viet Nam. Collaborating with the Ministry of Public Security (MOPS) and MOJ, UNDP facilitated the establishment of a Coordination Programme on Legal Aid Providers on Duty. This initiative aimed to provide first-stop legal guidance for legal aid beneficiaries, further bolstering **access to justice**. Additionally, UNDP contributed to advancing the implementation of the Government's Rule of Law Strategy. As a member state of the ILO-led Global Coalition for Social Justice, Vietnam's tripartite constituents and key stakeholders are expressing interest in joining this Global Coalition.

The UN, led by UNAIDS, supported the Government to **strengthen the rule of law and access to justice for people living with HIV** and key populations, resulting in a new Decree detailing the implementation of the Law on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control. Through collaboration between UNAIDS and UNODC, the UN also strengthened capacity for health authorities and community organizations on stigma-free harm reduction for marginalized groups.

In the realm of **child justice**, UNICEF enhanced the capacity of legal professionals. By providing training to 1,969 judges, lawyers, and law enforcement officers, UNICEF facilitated the establishment of specialist judges in Family and Juvenile Courts at the district level. Moreover, UNICEF's initiative to institutionalize Police Child-Friendly Investigation Rooms led to the establishment of 11 new child-friendly spaces, ensuring improved access to justice for 7,020 child offenders and survivors of violence.

In **criminal justice**, the UN, particularly through UNODC, supported the review of the Criminal Procedure Code and the Law on the Organization of People's Procuracy and reinforced capacities in national institutions. Efforts focused on enhancing access to justice for victims of violence against women and girls by developing guidelines in collaboration with the Supreme People's Court. Additionally, UNODC aided the National Legal Research Group on Child Sexual Exploitation and improved prison management, introduced telehealth services, and ensured HIV service continuity. Anti-discrimination measures included a review of the National Methadone Treatment Programme and stigma-free harm reduction for men engaging in chemsex, in collaboration with UNAIDS. These initiatives underscore the UN's commitment to upholding human rights standards.

The UN also played a pivotal role in advocating for **responsible business practices** through UNDP's support to MOJ, resulting in the Prime Minister's adoption of a National Action Plan (NAP). This plan, spanning 2023-2027, is a significant step forward in establishing a robust policy framework for responsible business in Viet Nam. Additionally, UNDP provided essential training to 139 private companies on human rights due diligence to promote ethical business practices.

National capacity was strengthened for implementing the UN Convention Against **Corruption** (UNCAC) in 2023 with contributions from the UN. A novel software was developed by UNDP for MOH to enhance transparency and efficiency in the centralized medicine procurement process, creating a potential reduction in the procurement time from two months to less than one day. UNDP also supported the Public Procurement Law (PPL) revision process. Handbooks and infographics detailing the revised PPL were created with VCCI, garnering 3,997 downloads by businesses by the end of 2023. Additionally, a report on legal recommendations for mutual legal assistance in asset recovery and anti-money laundering was developed with the Supreme People's Procuracy



(SPP). The report will inform the implementation of relevant UNCAC 2nd Cycle Review Report recommendations.

Joint efforts by UN entities supported development of the Government's State Report for the 4th **Universal Periodic Review** Cycle and country implementation reports for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (**CRPD**) and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (**ICCPR**). The report development processes were consultative with UNDP's facilitation. For example, 150 representatives from civil society, communities, academia, and diverse vulnerable groups were consulted during the development of the State Report. Methodologies and best practices relating to these reports were also shared by the UN to support their development.

The UN also contributed significantly to **civil registration and statelessness prevention** efforts. Through UNHCR's facilitation of regional collaboration and support of legislative reforms, the UN played an essential role in ensuring national identification for stateless individuals and those of undetermined nationality, aligning with the country's commitment to "get everyone in the picture" in Asia and the Pacific.

Output 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.

The UN played a pivotal role in advancing **women's empowerment and participation** in Viet Nam in 2023, contributing to several significant achievements. With women constituting 30 percent of the National Assembly and People's Councils, alongside a growing number of women business owners, Viet Nam demonstrated notable progress in gender representation. However, existing social, institutional, and legal barriers are preventing further advancement in women's participation, particularly for the most vulnerable groups.

In response, the UN provided comprehensive support, including policy recommendations to implement the National Strategy on Gender Equality, fostering women's participation across society. UNDP focused on enhancing women's political participation, while UN Women



collaborated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, to promote women's roles in peacekeeping and security. This resulted in the development of Viet Nam's inaugural National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), promoting women's full participation in politics, defence, and security while prioritizing gender equality in relief efforts and enhancing international cooperation in WPS. Innovative initiatives like UN Women's "Read and Rise" book festival and poetry competitions reshaped societal norms, fostering gender equality and women's engagement in social and public spheres. FAO and MARD's Country Gender Assessment of the Agriculture and Rural Sector (CGA-ARS) informed national planning and programming, contributing to SDG implementation and Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reports on rural women.

Additionally, the UN supported efforts to **combat all forms of discrimination** against women. In 2023, four key policy recommendations jointly developed by UNICEF, UNFPA, and UN Women, were reflected in national policies and programmes on eliminating violence against women and children, including the Decree on the Domestic Violence Prevention Law. The UN raised capacity among the media and organized impactful campaigns like the 16 Days of Activism and National Action Month on Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence Against Women.

These campaigns reached 87,489 individuals online, amplifying advocacy against gender-based violence. Collaborative efforts between UN Women, UNDP, and other UN agencies also facilitated dialogues and technical assistance for the Gender Affirmation Law (GAL), giving a voice to transgender persons and advocating for LGBTQI+ rights through the 2023 UN Free and Equal Campaign. At the same time, UNDP's partnership with the Viet Nam Journalist Association (VJA) resulted in a handbook that empowers journalists to combat discrimination against vulnerable groups. Joint UN Women-UNAIDS actions bolstered the capacity of representatives from key HIV-affected populations, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts from all stakeholders and addressing crucial issues faced by women living with and affected by HIV. The ILO promoted gender equality at the workplace through the development of the Fast Answers and Questions (FAQs) on the Labour Code 2019 in English and Vietnamese, mainstreaming gender equality into the labour policies of enterprises, and providing strengthened capacity on gender equality to 661 enterprise workers and leaders.

Output 4.4:

Sociocultural 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.

In 2023, the UN in Viet Nam made contributions to transform sociocultural attitudes, enhance accountability, and improve legal and policy frameworks to combat gender-based violence and all forms of discrimination.

Accountability and legal frameworks were strengthened with UN support, resulting in **legislative improvements**. Notable outcomes included the endorsement of intersectoral regulations by the social welfare, police, health, and education sectors, enhancing clarity in roles and responsibilities. Circulars were also issued by MOET and MOH with the aim of strengthening workforce capabilities, including on social work, to improve child protection and mental health care. Guidelines and training materials on the prevention of abuse, violence, exploitation, and trafficking, and on online child protection, social work, and counselling skills endorsed by MOET with UNICEF's support reached over 21,000 education staff nationwide.

Support for **survivors of domestic violence** was bolstered through UNFPA's assistance to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MOCST) and MOLISA, resulting in the issuance of Decree 76/2023/ND-CP and Decision 1512/QĐ-LĐTBXH. These will provide effective intervention tools for intervention and support for individuals dealing with domestic violence, as well as comprehensive training for social services for GBV survivors.


The UN further **transformed sociocultural attitudes** through community capacity building and advocacy events. The UN enhanced provincial capacity in comprehensive sexual education for HIV prevention among youth in three provinces (An Giang, Dong Thap, and Lam Dong) with joint UNAIDS-UNFPA support. Community leaders provided training and post-training support, resulting in reduced stigma. The UN also enhanced parents' knowledge and skills in holistic nurturing, care, and child development through UNICEF's Holistic Parenting Programme, benefiting 2,164 parents and caregivers (1,950 women and 214 men) of children aged 0-8 years as of January 2024.


Collaborating with other UN agencies, UNAIDS also conducted impactful initiatives such as a national advocacy event on World AIDS Day, an advocacy event led by **people living with HIV** focusing on transgender persons, and a social media campaign for 2023 Zero Discrimination Day, reaching thousands and addressing the human rights issues facing people living with HIV and key populations.

- 7 million people gained access to vital information on GBV

- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for coordinated victim support services introduced to:

-  **30** hotline staff

-  **200** criminal police officials

-  **480** women's union staff

With support from UNICEF, MOH held a training programme for 100 medical forensic examination officers on child-friendly and gender-sensitive protection and support for **child victims of abuse and violence**. The UN also enhanced institutional capacity to address **gender-based violence** through UNFPA's support and partnerships with nine government and civil society organization (CSO) institutions working against GBV to help them align with new international GBV guidance and to address emerging forms of violence such as technology-facilitated GBV. UNFPA's Fatherhood Programme was expanded to Da Nang, Bac Ninh, and Lam Dong provinces, establishing 15 Responsive Father Clubs and engaging 900 men participants to prevent violence against women and children. Communication initiatives, including dialogues, races, and side events, reached nearly seven million people nationwide, providing vital information on GBV regardless of geographical or demographic barriers.

UN Women strengthened services for **women migrant workers facing violence** with relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for coordinated victim support services developed and introduced in 14 provinces. These resulted in improved skills and knowledge among service providers. The Quito Declaration – a global commitment to accelerate action on safe cities and safe public spaces with and for women and girls – was adopted by Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City's People's Committee. Additionally, the launch of the "one-stop" model at Hung Vuong Hospital has contributed to a more just, safe, and inclusive society by providing survivors of violence and abuse with essential services in one place.

Importantly, the UN continued to make an impact in its convening role through UNDP's lead position in the taskforce on gender in mine action of Viet Nam's Mine Action Working Group (MAWG). This leadership has enhanced **gender mainstreaming in mine action programming**, taking into account the specific risks and vulnerabilities of women victims of explosive ordnance.



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Chau's journey: From bystander to changemaker – Fatherhood Programme combats gender inequality in Bac Giang

Chau, a dedicated father of two daughters in Bac Giang province, embarked on a transformative path through his participation in the Responsible Fatherhood Club, thanks to the collaborative efforts of UNFPA and the Viet Nam Farmer Union in challenging societal norms.

"Be it a boy or a girl, everyone is valuable. It is important to understand that. I now share household work with my wife, and actively work to ensure a safe environment for my children. I am proud of having two daughters!" said Chau, reflecting on his transformed perspective. Echoing his sentiments, Chau's wife, Huong, expressed profound pride in her husband's growth, underscoring the importance of mutual support.

In Bac Giang, entrenched traditional beliefs often undervalued women and girls, perpetuating gender inequality and domestic violence. Alarming statistics revealed that nearly two-thirds of women reported experiencing violence at the hands of their partners. Moreover, the skewed sex ratio at birth in Bac Giang served as a stark reminder of the ongoing undervaluation of women and girls.

The Fatherhood Programme provided a nurturing space for Chau and fellow fathers to learn, share experiences, and challenge ingrained biases. Through a blend of educational sessions, hands-on activities promoting "responsible fatherhood," and impactful communication campaigns, the programme sought to redefine outdated norms and foster positive change.

Chau's personal journey stands as a testament to the transformative power of engagement. His transition from perpetuating gender stereotypes to actively championing equality represents hope for families in Bac Giang and beyond.

Breaking the cycle of silence: The Dandelion Centre offers a safe space for women and children survivors of violence

In the heart of Ho Chi Minh City, lies the Dandelion Centre, a beacon of hope and healing for women and children who have endured physical and sexual violence and abuse. Established by the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City in partnership with UN Women and the Government of Australia, this one-stop shop model offers a lifeline to survivors, providing essential services free of charge.

In 2019, alarming statistics revealed that two out of every three Vietnamese women have faced abuse from their partners. Yet a staggering 90 percent of these women suffer in silence, never seeking help. The Dandelion Centre, nestled within Hung Vuong Hospital, streamlines services for survivors, ensuring they receive medical care, psychological support, and legal counselling all in one place.

"Our social workers are dedicated to guiding survivors through their journey to healing," shared Dr. Pham Quoc Hung, leader of the hospital's Social Department. *"Whether it's medical care, psychological support, or legal counsel, we're here every step of the way."*

Le Van Thinh, the visionary Director of the Department of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs of Ho Chi Minh City, recognizes the profound impact of the Dandelion Centre, calling it a symbol of progress and compassion.

"By aligning with national laws and providing a lifeline for survivors, the Dandelion Centre is truly making a difference in Ho Chi Minh City and beyond," said Caroline Nyamayemombe, UN Women Representative in Viet Nam, applauding the centre's commitment to breaking the cycle of silence.

In 2023, the Dandelion Centre received the Second Prize for Innovation in State Management at the Ho Chi Minh City Innovation Awards, a testament to its effectiveness in addressing gender-based violence.



Dr. Pham Quoc Hung (right) explains the operational procedure of The Dandelion Center to donors during a visit in November 2023. © UN Women/Thao Hoang



Associate Professor, Dr. Hoang Thi Diem Tuyet (left) and Sarah Hooper, Australian Consul-General in Ho Chi Minh City, inaugurated the Dandelion Centre to support women suffering from violence at Hung Vuong Hospital. © UN Women/Thao Hoang

Output 4.5:

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

The UN, represented by IOM, UNODC, and UNDP, collectively supported the consultative revision of the 2011 Law on **Human Trafficking Prevention and Combat**. With UN assistance, extensive consultations were conducted, along with an evaluation of the law's implementation. As a result, the draft of the revised law now demonstrates heightened awareness of emerging criminal trends, including cases identified overseas and the convergence of material and virtual criminal activities. This revised version has been integrated into the 2024 national legislative agenda, with implementation anticipated by 2025 at the earliest. Additionally, a roadmap for centralized trafficking in persons (TIP) data collection and reporting is under development with IOM's support, aligning with the National Programme for Human Trafficking Prevention and Combat 2021-2025 and contributing to the objectives outlined by the National Steering Committee 138.

Another significant legislative achievement supported by the UN was the issuance of Decree 43/2023/ND-CP, outlining measures to implement the Inspection Law, which represents a crucial step forward in **anti-corruption** efforts. UNODC played a pivotal role by providing expertise and facilitating consultations during the decree's formulation, aligning closely with the 2022 Inspection Law. This decree serves to empower inspectors and anti-corruption officials, thereby strengthening the efficacy of inspection activities in combating corruption. At the same time, UNODC strengthened the capacity of over 280 relevant officers from law enforcement, prosecution, justice, and anti-corruption agencies on enhanced transparency, corruption prevention, and anti-money laundering measures.

In 2023, IOM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), conducted capacity-building sessions that benefited over 500 law enforcement officers and protection practitioners, focusing on **combating trafficking in persons (TIP)**. This included

addressing forced criminality in online scams and forced labour in fisheries. Additionally, through collaboration with civil society organizations and non-governmental partners, IOM provided support to 261 victims of trafficking and return migrants (64 women, 177 men, 11 girls, and 9 boys) in vulnerable situations. Notably, 209 of these individuals had returned from online scam compounds, highlighting the alarming rise in this emerging form of TIP. IOM continued raising awareness among Vietnamese citizens about the risks of human trafficking and people smuggling, fostering safe migration practices. A national campaign called "Reach Every Victim of Trafficking, Leave No One Behind" was organized to mark the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons and the National Day Against Trafficking in Persons (NDATiP), successfully reaching over one million people. UNODC also strengthened capacity for 140 Government officers to implement the National Programme for Human Trafficking Prevention and Combat 2021-2025 through training workshops and the finalization of the Guide on Inter-Agency Coordination in Referral of Trafficked Victims. The ILO and UN Women jointly supported 210 female migrant workers who were severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to be better aware of how to minimize risks of violence in cyberspace.

Contributing to Viet Nam's efforts to combat trafficking and transnational organized crime, UNODC initiated several key initiatives. These included establishing a new multi-agency Border Liaison Office (BLO) to enhance border security and providing capacity-building training to over 500 customs officers and 185 border officials. 566 frontline investigators and prosecutors were also equipped to address various forms of organized crime and cybercrime. UNODC, in collaboration with the Supreme People's Procuracy, published the Prosecutors' Manual on Searching, Collecting, and Utilizing Electronic Evidence in Settling Criminal Cases, distributed among procuracies nationwide. Cross-border cooperation was additionally strengthened through network formation and engagement in regional policy dialogues within ASEAN.

has endured both hardship and exploitation. Raised in a traditional H'mong family, she was denied education and spent her days toiling in maize fields, unaware of the world beyond her home. At 22, she fell victim to a trafficker's deceitful promise of a better life and was transported to China, enduring two years of enslavement, torture, and dehumanization. Rescued in 2019, she faced societal stigma and potential marriage dissolution upon her return home.

Struggling with financial responsibilities and hindered by her inability to speak Vietnamese, Mi faced limited job opportunities. However, with backing from the United Kingdom Government through the Tackling Modern Slavery in Viet Nam project, IOM provided crucial assistance to Mi based on IOM's globally recognized Framework for Sustainable Reintegration across Economic, Social, and Psychosocial Dimensions. The framework has been adapted to the Vietnamese context and endorsed by national partners, including MOLISA's Central Department of Social Vice Prevention.

In an effort to support Mi's economic stability, IOM, in consultation with local social affairs officers, made an in-kind contribution of three female goats. These goats, efficient at weed control and requiring minimal maintenance, naturally clear unwanted vegetation and remove the need for harmful herbicides. Within seven months, her goats can reproduce, providing Mi with offspring she can sell for supplementary income. Moreover, the goats offer Mi and her family a source of milk, further bolstering their self-sufficiency.

Mi expressed gratitude for having her story heard and her desires considered, as she embarks on a new journey. Previously feeling alone and isolated, she now smiles and embraces the opportunity to lead her life in the full light.

Mi holds one of the goats she raised with IOM support in Yen Bai province. © IOM Viet Nam



Output 4.6:

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

Under the coordination of the UN Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Working Group, several UN agencies collaborated to enhance data production, analysis, and utilization in 2023. These efforts aimed to inform evidence-based and rights-based policies, planning, and budgeting in Viet Nam.

UNAIDS led UN efforts in **HIV/AIDS monitoring and programming** by providing technical assistance to the national AIDS authority. This enabled the use of AIDS Epidemic Models (AEM) and Spectrum modelling to generate annual HIV estimates, which is crucial for tracking progress towards the SDG target of ending AIDS by 2030 and informing evidence-based policies. UNAIDS also facilitated national HIV reporting through the 2023 Global AIDS Monitoring (GAM) tool, ensuring accurate data submission to the UN. Additionally, Viet Nam conducted its first AEM modelling on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), enhancing understanding of the path to ending AIDS by 2030. UNAIDS further supported the exploration of a platform to track HIV investments, laying the foundation for efficient planning and budgeting at various levels and potentially institutionalizing the HIV Resource Tracking tool for enhanced planning capabilities.

To strengthen Viet Nam's **demographic data**, UNFPA supported the General Statistics Office (GSO) to conduct Viet Nam's first National Transfer Accounts (NTA) analysis, highlighting the country's shift from the first to the second demographic dividend. This emphasizes the necessity for enhanced policies, including on increased labour productivity by 2040. Additionally, in partnership with the Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs (ILSSA), UNFPA conducted a Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) study on Vietnamese youths' financial preparation for old age, offering recommendations for their financial future readiness.

Recognizing the data gap for monitoring SDG 16 on **governance and access to justice**, UNDP distributed 2022 PAPI results to over 5,000 officials, prompting action plans from 20+ provinces. Additionally, UNDP reviewed the user-friendliness of 63 provincial e-service portals, provided recommendations for

improvement, and produced research papers on ethnic minority inclusion (in local governance for Dien Bien, Ninh Thuan, and Binh Phuoc provinces) and corruption in health, education, and asset recovery.

UNICEF conducted research on **ethnic minority children** in Vietnamese boarding schools, aligning with international rights conventions. The study assessed educational strategies, policies, curricula, and outcomes, emphasizing a rights-based perspective. Collaborating with Insight in three provinces, it examined 18 schools from primary to secondary levels. The final report, expected in Quarter 1, 2024, will offer valuable insights for informed decision-making and UNICEF's 2022-2026 education programme adjustments.

The UN through the ILO continued supporting Viet Nam's **employment statistics** areas, particularly automating, digitalizing, and standardizing data collection in the Labour Force Survey (LSF) and the national Enterprise Survey. Particularly, in 2023, a module on children in economic activities was integrated into the monthly Labour Force Survey in the effort to better understand child labour.

Finally, **information on the fisheries value chain** was bolstered thanks to UNODC's comprehensive analysis, systematically evaluating vulnerabilities and risks associated with corruption, illicit activities, waste, wildlife crimes, drug trafficking, and TIP. The findings generated valuable insights and recommendations aimed at enhancing the legal and management framework within the fisheries industry.

2.3. ODA REGULATION ISSUES AND CHALLENGES TO UN OPERATION IN VIET NAM



In 2023, the UN Country Team in Viet Nam continued to face significant challenges in the approval and implementation of ODA projects due to a cumbersome ODA legal framework and practices. These challenges included lengthy delays, complex procedures, and a legal context that has affected the UN's ability to efficiently and effectively support Viet Nam's development priorities.

Given existing ODA challenges, the approval process for UN projects in Viet Nam takes on average one to two years. By the end of 2023, 27 UN projects valued at US\$122 million (US\$58 million in grants and US\$64 million in loans) were pending approval. The UN's programme delivery in 2022 hit a decade-low of 67.9 percent. The increase of the delivery rate to 75 percent in 2023 can be primarily attributed to the adoption of direct implementation modalities and a surge in project approvals towards the end of 2023, as well as to the improved cooperation with MPI and implementing partners.

However, this shift exerted a heavy toll on existing UN staff capacity and, more importantly, potentially risks diminishing national ownership and government engagement in SDG implementation facilitated by the UNSDCF. Despite the remedial measures taken, some UN agencies continued to be challenged by ODA regulations and managed only around 40 percent delivery rates. Slow progress in implementation together with delayed approval processes have affected the UN's ability to efficiently and effectively deliver development cooperation programmes in Viet Nam. Notwithstanding, the situation is not unique to the UN, as many, if not all, development partners with ODA in Viet Nam face similar challenges and the UN has been leading collective efforts to simplify ODA mechanisms in order to catalyze the scale up of SDG financing.

The UN Resident Coordinator has co-led the UN Country Team and development partner efforts to address ODA challenges, steering advocacy for simplification of ODA management procedures with national authorities. The Resident Coordinator engaged with top political leaders in Viet Nam, including the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, in close coordination with Government Aid Coordination Agencies, primarily MPI, MOFA, and MOF, enabling the identification of issues and proposal of solutions. Additionally, as co-chair of both the Development Partners Group

(DPG) and the Informal Ambassadors Group on Development Cooperation (IAGDC), the Resident Coordinator led collective advocacy efforts to raise awareness of these challenges and propose solutions.

To ground efforts to find solutions, the UN is working closely with MPI in conducting an independent review of ODA issues. This review aims to provide realistic and practical recommendations for short, medium, and long-term actions. Addressing ODA-related challenges is crucial for Viet Nam's SDG acceleration efforts, particularly in unlocking the financing required to resource its ambitious development priorities.

Further details on ODA challenges and proposed solutions discussed with national counterparts and development partners are available.

2.4. LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND – HIGHLIGHTS

The UN in Viet Nam prioritizes leaving no one behind (LNOB) as a cornerstone of its development efforts due to its commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable growth. By focusing on LNOB, the UN ensures that marginalized groups, including women and children, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, youth, migrants, and those living in remote areas, are not overlooked in the country's development trajectory. This approach fosters equitable access to opportunities, essential services, and resources, ultimately contributing to building a more resilient and prosperous society for all Vietnamese citizens.



Towards gender equality and women's empowerment

In 2023, Viet Nam rose 11 places on the latest World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Gender Gap Index, reaching 72nd out of 146 countries. With women holding 30.3 percent of parliamentary seats, Viet Nam surpasses the global average of 25.5 percent. Viet Nam boasts women workforce participation of over 70 percent, though many women are employed in the informal sector and lack the necessary green and digital skills to compete in a circular economy.

To accelerate gender equality and women's empowerment, the UN, coordinated by the Gender Thematic Group (GTG), prioritized strengthening internal systems of accountability, capacity building on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), and joint advocacy efforts.

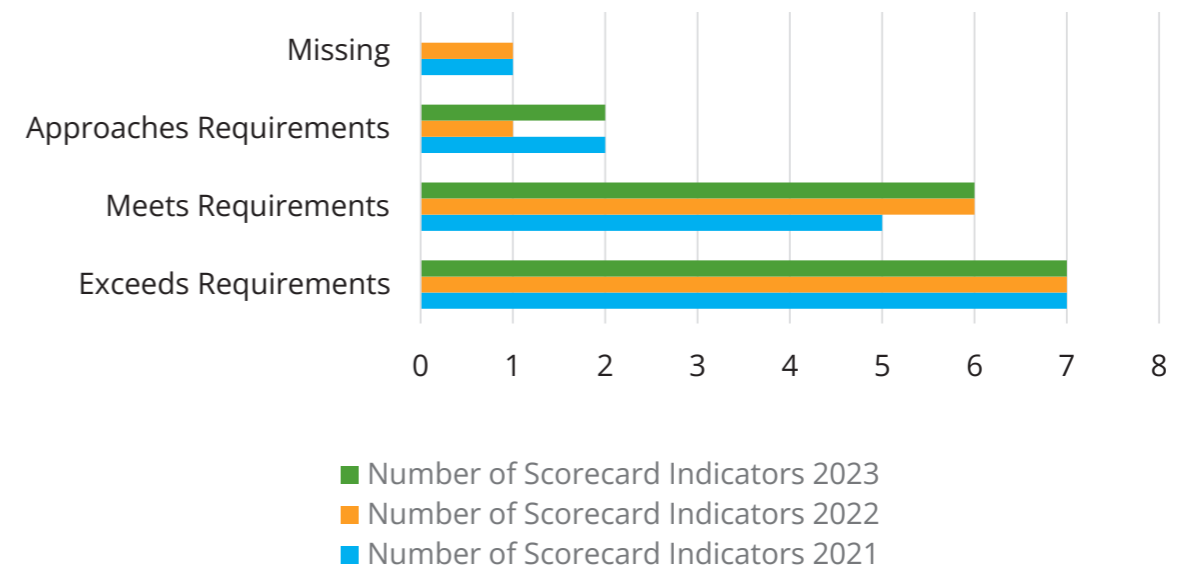
Efforts to enhance accountability and support for GEWE included developing a screening tool for gender mainstreaming in UN joint programmes, staff gender parity tracking, and training on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), the National Action Plan for WPS, and gender-responsive budgeting (GRB).

Advocacy efforts included producing a joint policy brief for International Women's Day, focusing on gender equality in the digital era, as well as engaging in joint advocacy campaigns during the 16 Days of Activism and the National Action Month on Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence Against Women. These efforts reached a wide audience through social media and offline events nationwide.

The UN also strengthened its capacity to prevent sexual misconduct, developing a fully costed action plan and organizing peer-to-peer learning sessions to address sexual harassment in the workplace.

The 2023 UN System-Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) Gender Equality Scorecard highlighted significant advancements, with 87 percent of indicators either exceeding or meeting minimum requirements, demonstrating the UN's active contributions to gender equality and women's empowerment in Viet Nam.

UN-SWAP GENDER EQUALITY SCORECARD



Advancing disability inclusion

In 2023, the UN in Viet Nam made significant strides in promoting disability inclusion across its operations.

Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN Country Team continued to improve accessibility of the Green One UN House (GOUNH) and services as measured by the 2023 UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) Scorecard. The UN adopted a comprehensive disability-inclusion accessibility plan for common premises and services, aligning with ISO 21542 standards. The maintenance of a Brailled path further solidified the UN's commitment to providing accessible infrastructure.

Communications efforts prominently featured persons with disabilities on the UN Country Team website, publications, and annual reports. The human rights of persons with disabilities were integrated into the UN Communication Group's annual workplan, enhancing visibility and awareness.

The UN Country Team has also actively participated in the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) International Campaign on Disability Inclusion. Through this campaign, various UN agencies

and organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) collaborated to address challenges faced by the community. Leadership from the UN Country Team established the Disability Inclusion Coordination Mechanism, facilitating initiatives in this area, while training sessions in November 2023 amplified the voices of staff with disabilities, resulting in actionable commitments.

Disability issues have moreover been integrated into key frameworks (i.e., the UNSDCF and its monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, annual results reports, and the Common Country Analysis), ensuring their priority across all UN work. Consultations with OPDs have led to initiatives like the Disability Inclusion Strategy and enhanced accessibility standards for UN events, with six persons with disabilities recruited as UN staff.

Moving forward, the UN in Viet Nam is committed to further enhancing disability inclusion in joint programmes and UN Country Team human resources practices, including the implementation of a common diversity, equity, and inclusion statement. Ongoing improvements in accessibility, such as reassessing emergency alarm systems and elevator button accessibility, demonstrate continued progress towards inclusivity and accessibility for all.

Promoting youth rights, engagement, and development

Youth policy in Viet Nam has improved with the updated Youth Law of 2020 and National Strategy on Youth Development 2021-2030. However, challenges persist, including limited access to skilled jobs and education, health risks like injuries, unhealthy lifestyles, and sexual/reproductive health issues. These are compounded by an unstable youth affairs management system, limited budgets, and limited understanding of engaging youth in decision-making. Consequently, in 2023 and beyond, the United Nations has prioritized further enhancing the efficiency of youth policies and expanding and diversifying avenues for meaningful youth engagement in policy development and decision-making across various levels.

In 2023, the Youth Thematic Group (YTG) led UN efforts to promote youth rights, engagement, and development. The UN organized campaigns and events with partners to amplify youth voices, build capacity, and enhance well-being. This included outreach to marginalized youth through education initiatives. Hundreds participated in training on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), healthy lifestyles, climate action, gender equality, and skills for future work like coding and digital design. The UN

also supported startup incubation programmes. On International Youth Day 2023, over 50 young people gathered at the GOUNH for a series of events on green skills for youth; and university and high school students from Hanoi presented solutions on key areas of SDG implementation at the #YouthLead Innovation Fair on UN Day.

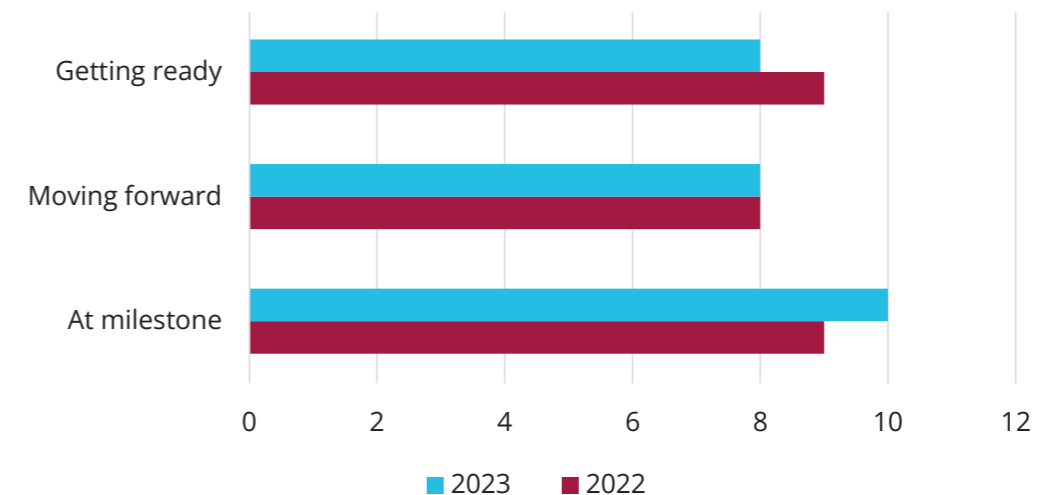
Additionally, the UN supported the development of Viet Nam's Youth Law and the National Strategy on Youth Development for 2021-2030, along with the introduction of additional youth policies in 2023. The UN also assisted the Government in adding the Youth Development Index (YDI) into national youth development statistics to increase accountability of the youth engagement policy.

For the UN in Viet Nam to "walk the talk," the UN Country Team took measures to ensure the strategic inclusion of youth in its workforce. Reforms were initiated in UN human resource policies to elevate the proportion of employees under 35 years old, while also augmenting the implementation of the Youth 2030 Scorecard by achieving an increase in progressing indicators in 2023. Financially, the UN Country Team mobilized over US\$1 million to invest in youth development. However, due to implementation challenges, primarily stemming from more stringent ODA regulations, the UN was only able to disburse slightly over half of the allocated funds.

UNDIS SCORECARD - NUMBER OF INDICATORS BY LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT



YOUTH 2030 SCORECARD INDICATORS



2023 UNSDCF budget for youth-related actions

Available: US\$1,134,900

Expenditure: US\$614,100 (54%)



Progressing the National Strategy to End HIV/AIDS

Led by the UN HIV Thematic Group, the UN in Viet Nam played a central role in advancing Viet Nam's HIV response towards achieving SDG target 3.3 and its related objectives.

The UN provided crucial support to ensure **political leadership and commitment** towards ending AIDS by 2030. This involved backing the Health Minister cum Vice Chair of the National Committee to deliver a keynote speech at a High-Level Action Event on Ending Inequalities, Ending AIDS at the UN General Assembly in September 2023.

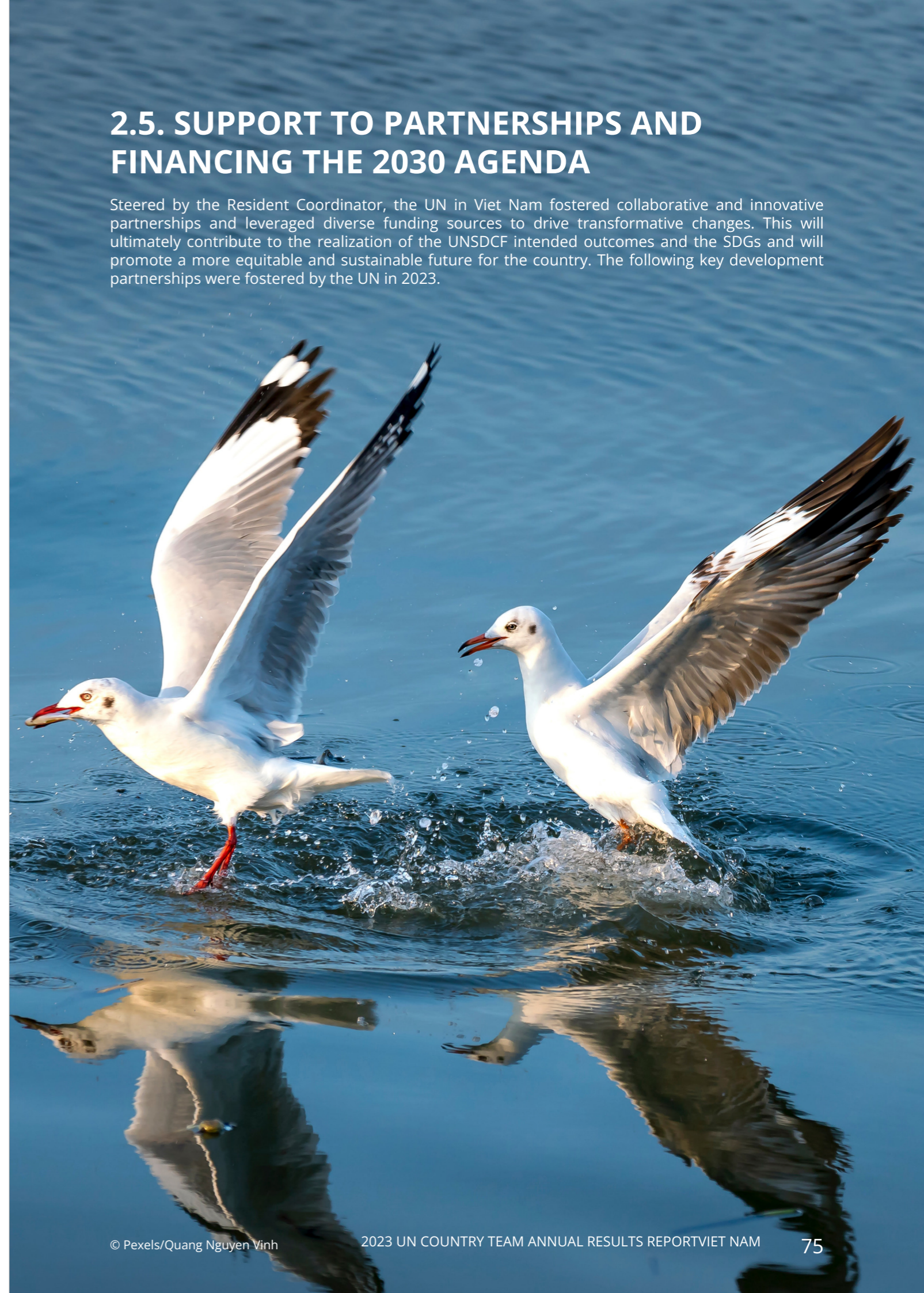
The UN further facilitated significant **policy changes**, such as institutionalizing take-home methadone doses through the development of a new HIV Decree and updated technical guidelines. Additionally, standard training packages for harm reduction services were developed, contributing to capacity enhancement among healthcare workers. Efforts were made to scale up **high-impact interventions**, including web-based HIV self-testing distribution, improved linkage to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), and community-led testing and linkage to treatment services. **Capacity enhancement** initiatives targeted healthcare workers in prisons and pre-trial centres, emphasizing HIV testing, care, and treatment in high-burden provinces.

Furthermore, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) was strengthened both inside and outside of school settings.

The UN also provided policy and technical support for the **sustainable financing of HIV prevention** services at both central and provincial levels, including support for external funding mobilization and optimization. Joint efforts were made with the UN Human Rights and Gender Thematic Groups to advocate for and contribute to **improved human rights and gender equality among key HIV populations**. Initiatives included social media campaigns, assessments of women's needs, advocacy for gender-affirming laws, and contributions to international human rights reporting mechanisms.

2.5. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

Steered by the Resident Coordinator, the UN in Viet Nam fostered collaborative and innovative partnerships and leveraged diverse funding sources to drive transformative changes. This will ultimately contribute to the realization of the UNSDCF intended outcomes and the SDGs and will promote a more equitable and sustainable future for the country. The following key development partnerships were fostered by the UN in 2023.



11 UN joint programmes focused on Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)

In alignment with the One UN approach, the UN in Viet Nam collaborated closely on 11 joint programmes (US\$31.6 million) under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator. These programmes underscore the significant efforts made to foster internal UN partnerships and to engage with diverse donors, including bilateral donors, international financial institutions, and UN and other global funds. These programmes address all four UNSDCF outcomes, with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable groups (e.g., women, children, people living with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities, migrants, and LGBTQI+ individuals) and promoting environmental protection and resilience to climate change.

No.	Title	Participating UN Agencies	Budget (US\$)
1	2022 UN Free & Equal Campaign In Viet Nam	UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Women	23,461
2	Joint United Nations Programme On HIV And AIDS	UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UNWomen, WHO, UNESCO	1,850,000
3	Empower-Women For Climate Resilient Societies Phase II	UNEP, UN Women	2,000,000
4	Integrated Sustainable Landscape Management Through Deforestation-Free Jurisdiction Project	UNDP, UNEP	5,957,500
5	UNREDD Programme	FAO, UNDP, UNEP	500,000
6	Enhancing Sustainability Off The Transboundary Cambodia-Mekong River Delta Aquifer	FAO, UNESCO	2,300,000
7	EU Justice And Legal Empowerment Programme (EU JULE), PAGoDA Mechanism	UNDP, UNICEF	9,140,305
8	SAFE And FAIR: Realizing Women Migrant Workers' Rights And Opportunities In The ASEAN Region	UN Women, ILO	2,300,000
9	The UN Partnership On The Rights Of Persons With Disabilities MPTF	UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF	700,000
10	Assessing The Socio-Economic Impacts Of The War In Ukraine On The Agriculture And Rural	IFAD, UNIDO, UNFPA, FAO	264,000
11	Development Sector Of Viet Nam	UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women	6,595,390
Ending Violence Against Women And Children In Viet Nam			31,630,656



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Partnership with the Government for the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP)

In 2023, the UN increased its collaboration with the Government of Viet Nam to prioritize the swift implementation of JETP, established with the IPG in December 2022. At COP28, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh introduced the Resource Mobilization Plan for JETP execution, highlighting its national significance. The Government officially launched the JETP Secretariat and its four Working Groups earlier in the year, which are overseen by key ministries. UNDP was designated as the official support agency of the JETP Secretariat, assisting in formalizing the JETP Political Declaration and the Resource Mobilization Plan. This initiative belongs to one of the UN's six transitions which aim to catalyze and multiply impacts across SDGs.

Partnership with the Government and UNESCAP for SDG acceleration

Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the UN collaborated with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) to assist the Government of Viet Nam in preparing its second Voluntary National Review (VNR), which assessed the country's progress towards the SDGs. The review was successfully presented at the High-Level Political Forum in New York in July 2023. Building on this, the UN in Viet Nam, alongside GIZ, organized a Policy Dialogue involving over 500 participants from various stakeholder groups (including central and local

government agencies, development partners, non-governmental organizations, think tanks, and media) to prepare for the SDG Summit 2023. With the valuable outcomes of the policy dialogue, the UN in Viet Nam provided technical support to the Government in formulating the National Commitments for SDG Transformation, which were submitted at the SDG Summit 2023 and presented by the Prime Minister at the UN General Assembly in September 2023.

In response to VNR recommendations and National Commitments, the Government has reviewed the National Action Plan for SDG acceleration with UN support, especially from UNDP and UNICEF, together with GIZ. The UN also collaborated with UNESCAP to support MPI in conducting a macroeconomic modelling study titled "Accelerate Sustainable Development in Viet Nam: Policy Options." The study helped inform the Government's policy choices by generating empirical evidence on the impact of government investments in national sustainable development priorities, such as renewable energy, and on economic, social, and environmental outcomes, as well as public debts.

This collaboration has strengthened the partnership between the UN in Viet Nam, UNESCAP, and MPI. As a result, MPI has requested more comprehensive support from the UN system in stepping up SDG implementation, including on revising Viet Nam's SDG indicators and enhancing data availability, monitoring and reporting on SDG progress, expanding SDG financing, and preparing for Viet Nam's participation in the Summit of the Future 2024.

Partnerships with the private sector

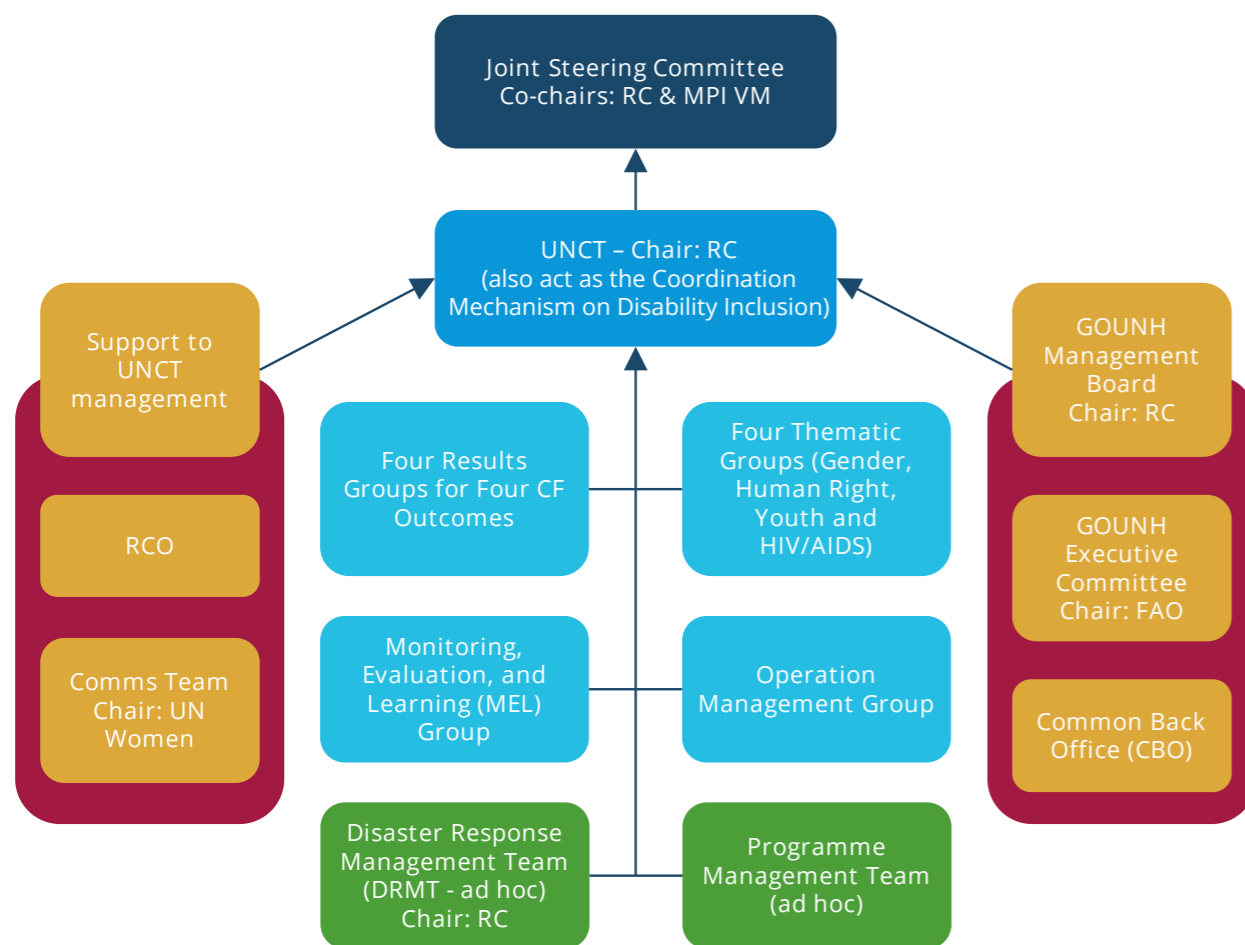
In recognition of the critical role of the private sector in sustainable development, the UN expanded its partnerships in this area. This included collaborations by UN Women with Viet Nam Airlines, TH Group, BAC A BANK, and the Vietnamese Stature Foundation (VSF) to promote the Women's Empowerment Principles. Additional partnerships included IOM's work with 27 enterprises to promote the application of the Viet Nam Association of Manpower Supply (VAMAS) Code of Conduct with the goal of protecting migrant workers. UNICEF also engaged over 100 businesses through Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) assessments to evaluate companies' ESG policies and performance, helping to identify potential risks and growth opportunities related to environmental, social, and ethical factors. In addition, UNICEF, through the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), engaged 40 businesses and associations to enhance policies on child labour prevention, young worker management, and upskilling. Notably, UNDP's collaboration with social impact businesses (SIBs) contributed to creating and preserving 6,000 jobs.

Partnerships to address ODA regulation barriers

The UN actively led development partner efforts to tackle challenges in the approval and implementation of ODA projects. Technical task teams were established between the UN and MPI and under the Development Partners Group (DPG) to identify issues and devise technical solutions. Importantly, through the UN Resident Coordinator's co-chair role, the Informal Ambassador Development Group (IADG), took up the matter to be addressed at a higher political level. The UN Country Team also engaged with the Regional Development Coordination Office (DCO) to inform the Regional Directors of UN agencies and entities on the evolving operational context in Viet Nam and its impact on UNSDCF implementation, seeking collective support in addressing ODA regulation barriers.

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





In the second year of implementing the UNSDCF 2022-2026, the UN Country Team made concerted efforts to enhance collaboration and provide unified support to Viet Nam in achieving key SDGs and national development priorities.

The **Joint Workplan for 2022-2023** underwent continuous updates, outlining the activities and contributions of individual agencies or joint efforts by multiple agencies aimed at realizing UNSDCF outcomes. The UN Info database saw significant improvements, encompassing both programmatic and financial data, and was made accessible through the UN Info public dashboard on the UN Country Team website.

Regular reviews of the **UNSDCF coordination architecture** were conducted by the UN Country Team to enhance coherence and foster collaboration. In 2023, plans were underway within the UN to propose changes to the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) working mechanism. These changes included facilitating more frequent interactions at both senior and technical levels to promptly identify issues and formulate solutions. The proposed changes, initially agreed upon by MPI, have been scheduled for discussion and approval in 2024.

In 2023, the **Green One UN House (GOUNH)** achieved a 100 percent occupancy rate, an annual cost avoidance of US\$833,000, and a reduction of per desk cost by 30 percent as compared with 2018 figures. Since 2015, through common premises in the GOUNH, the UN in Viet Nam avoided US\$2.9 million in costs. Client satisfaction remained high, scoring 4.87 out of a 5-point scale in 2023. Notably, the GOUNH has embraced digital transformation and emerged as an ecological front runner, consuming 25 percent less energy in 2023 compared to 2020 figures. Moreover, just over 16 percent of its power consumption was from green energy sources, surpassing the target of 13 percent. This resulted in emission reductions of 96.1 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and a cost avoidance of US\$9,470. Unused solar energy also generated a green revenue of US\$566 per year. The UN's efforts in optimizing the GOUNH equipment footprint also led to cost savings of US\$7,614 in 2023. These achievements position the GOUNH among the top green buildings nationally and internationally.

The GOUNH provides **accessibility to all UN staff and constituents with disabilities**, surpassing the requirements of the UN Disability

Inclusion Scorecard. A review conducted by the Common Back Office (CBO) identified areas for improvement in disability support, aligning with ISO 21542 standards. Additionally, a video showcasing best practices on accessibility was produced and shared with different audiences including Government and business partners, as well as other UN Country Teams, to advocate for disability inclusion. Based on these findings and best practices, an accessibility plan for common premises and services was adopted, implemented, and monitored, with ongoing feedback from staff with disabilities for continuous enhancement.

The UN in Viet Nam also serves as a **global pilot for the Service Now Delivery Platform**, integrating insights and innovations from the Viet Nam Common Back Office (CBO) model into the development of the 2.0 version of CBOs. Led by the Operations Management Team (OMT), the **Viet Nam Business Operations Strategy (BOS)** establishes a strategic framework for common business operations, aligning with the UNSDCF. The 2023 BOS Review follows DCO annual review methodology, focusing on monitoring and updating approaches to ensure efficient programme delivery, minimize duplication, and maximize economies of scale.

Working together for an inclusive future: Implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) through effective collaboration in Viet Nam

Through the Joint Programme on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) 2022-2024, the UN has played a key role in policy advocacy for a more CRPD-compliant legal framework in Viet Nam.

Delivering on the “engine room” actions for SDG acceleration, the UN in Viet Nam was instrumental in capacity enhancement and generating a policy shift on disability inclusion. The UN enhanced the capacity of around 400 members of organizations of persons with disabilities, Government officials, policymakers, and other stakeholders on disability inclusion. These strengthened skills have been utilized for the review of the Law on Persons with Disabilities (LPD) and policies on the rights to access information, inclusive education, and sexual and reproductive health. Recommendations to improve the legal framework in line with the CRPD are currently being formulated.

The UN's joint efforts also influenced Viet Nam's national development agenda through the integration of indicators for the second National Survey on Persons with Disabilities and recommendations for enhanced disability-disaggregated data to better monitor for LNOB. The programme has supported the review of a draft decree for the operationalization of the new intellectual property law, which includes provisions on copyright exceptions for persons with print disabilities.

A notable achievement of this joint work was Viet Nam's accession to the Marrakesh Treaty, which has widened access to a global body of knowledge for Vietnamese persons with disabilities. There is also heightened commitment among UN staff in Viet Nam to “walk the talk” by integrating disability inclusion as a priority cross-cutting issue in the current UNSDCF for 2022-2026.

2.7. ONE STRATEGIC PLAN (OSP) 2017-2021 EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSE ACTION PLANS

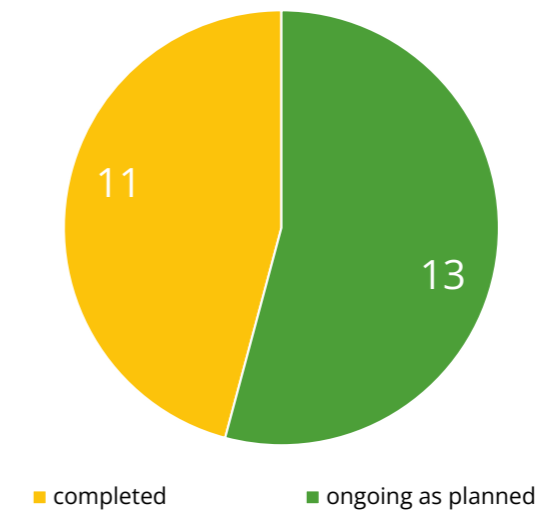
In 2021, the UN Country Team in Viet Nam concluded its final evaluation of the Operational Strategy Plan (OSP) for 2017-2021. The evaluation provided vital insights into enhancing programming and outcomes, particularly for shaping the UNSDCF for 2022-2026 and improving UN coordination. The management response, developed by the UN Country Team in collaboration with the Government, outlined 24 follow-up actions (refer to Annex 2).

As of the end of 2023, the UN Country Team had completed 13 of these actions, successfully executing ten actions as scheduled within the UNSDCF cycle. However, two actions remain ongoing, requiring continued attention.

Compared to 2022, notable progress has been made in addressing the evaluation's recommendations, particularly in:

- **Strengthening joint programming and joint programmes:** This is evidenced by the maintenance of 11 joint programmes across all UNSDCF outcomes. Additionally, a screening tool for gender mainstreaming in UN joint programmes has been developed, aiming to enhance accountability and support for gender equality and women's empowerment.
- **Enhancing the UNSDCF Joint Steering Committee (JSC) mechanism:** Efforts have been directed towards improving the functionality of the UNSDCF Joint Steering Committee, aiming for more frequent interaction at both senior and technical levels. This includes the ongoing revision of the JSC Terms of Reference (TOR), set for discussion and finalization in early 2024.

2023 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSE ACTION PLAN TO OSP EVALUATION (NUMBER OF ACTIONS)





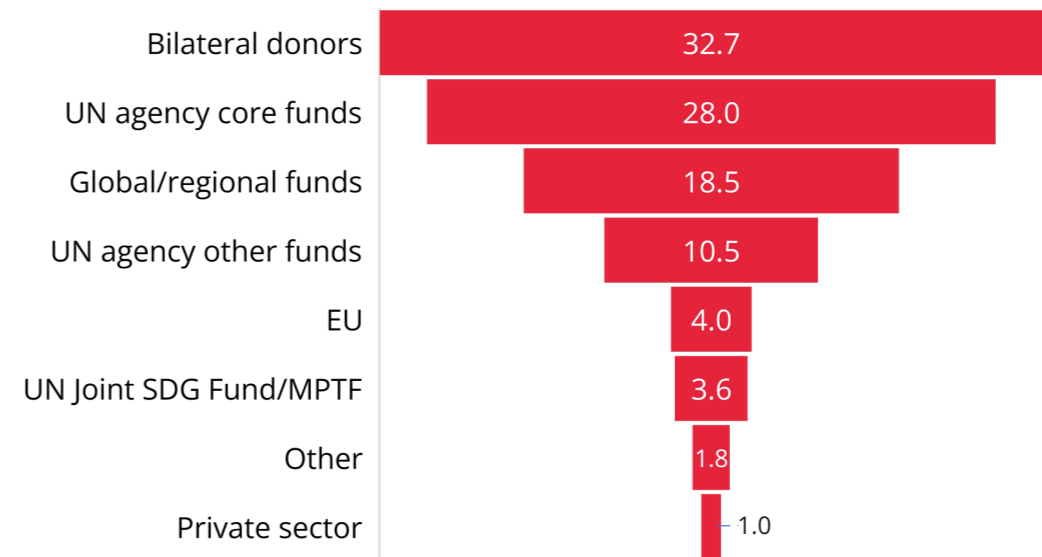
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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

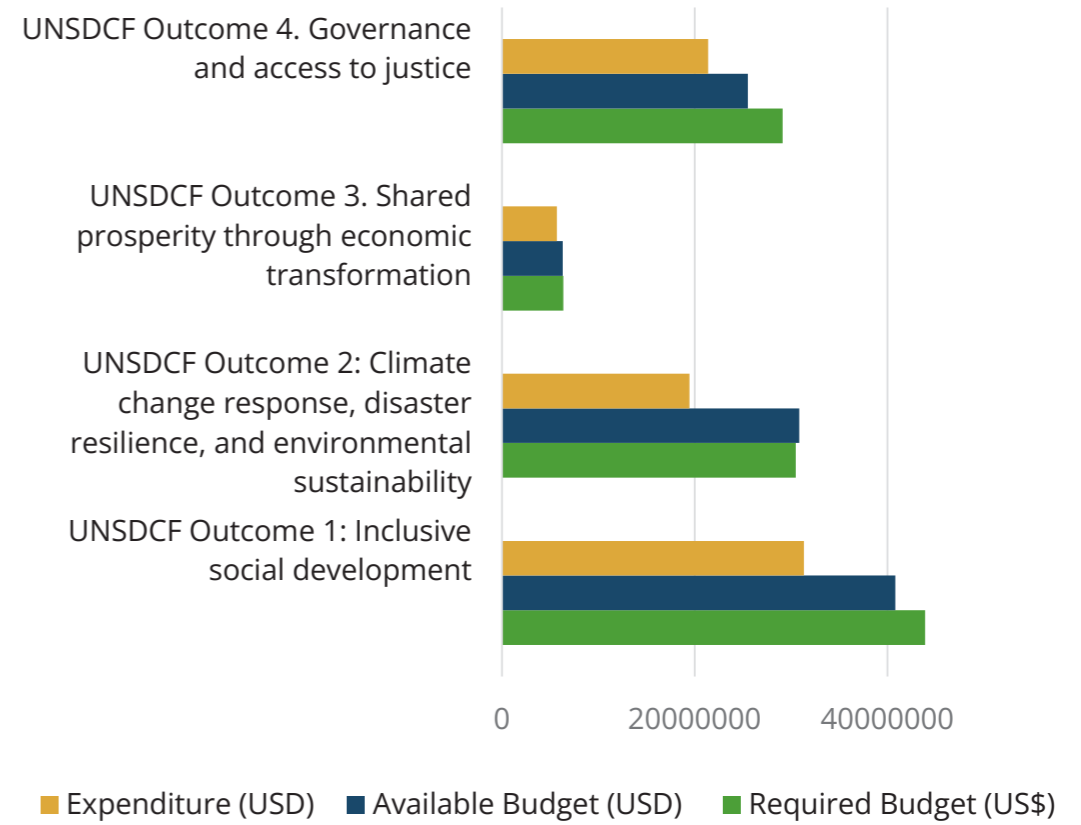
Agency	Required Budget (US\$)	Available Budget (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)	Delivery (%)
FAO	10,287,226	10,247,226	4,154,241	40.5
IFAD	200,000	200,000	190,000	95.0
ILO	5,743,100	4,743,100	3,482,010	73.4
IOM	6,334,452	3,303,207	3,095,830	93.7
UN Women	3,297,798	3,621,162	2,768,619	76.5
UNICEF	22,689,495	25,915,024	19,157,959	73.9
UNDP	26,118,212	26,838,726	22,046,865	82.1
UNESCO	552,215	188,656	184,928	98.0
UNEP	1,128,500	778,500	617,500	79.3
UN - Habitat	2,894,429	2,934,429	1,204,662	41.1
UNIDO	1,111,481	1,046,771	1,046,771	100.0
UNAID	1,079,000	1,034,000	973,700	94.2
UNODC	2,886,546	2,886,546	2,377,027	82.3
UNFPA	8,045,000	6,876,407	6,171,352	89.7
WHO	17,479,705	12,873,122	10,395,270	80.8
TOTAL	109,847,159	103,486,876	77,866,734	75.2

SOURCE OF AVAILABLE BUDGET

UNSDCF FUNDING SOURCES 2023 (%)



BUDGET BY UNSDCF OUTCOME



CHAPTER 3: THE UN STRATEGIC FOCUS IN 2024

Amidst the heightened policy crises of rising conflicts and geopolitical tensions, global economic slowdown, and the escalating climate emergency, SDG progress in Viet Nam is increasingly under threat. With only seven years remaining until 2030, the UN is committed to supporting the Government of Viet Nam in accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs and ensuring no one is left behind.



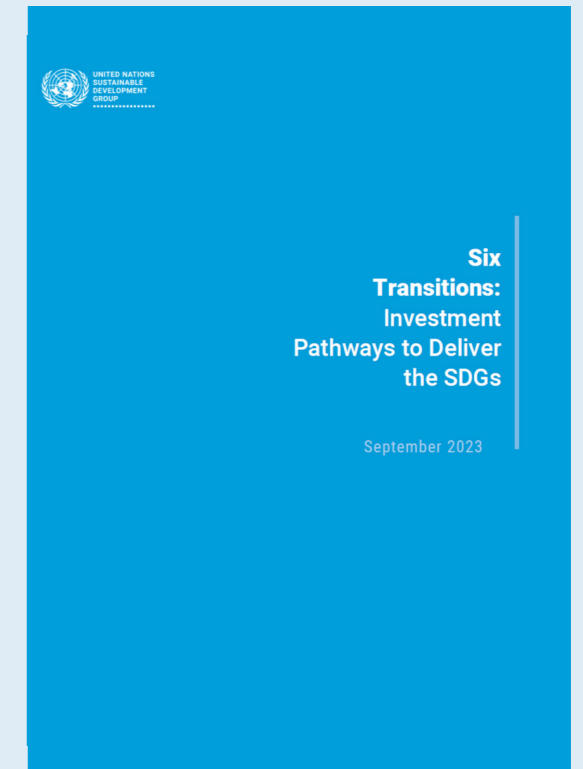
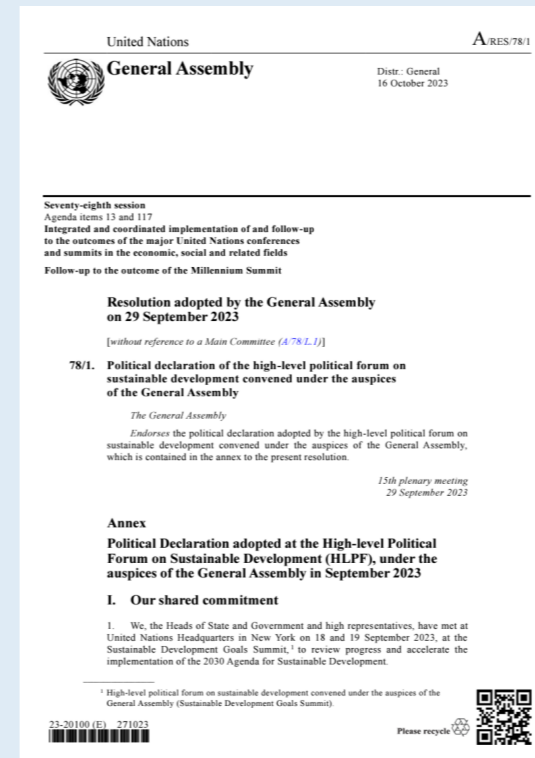
3.1 INTEGRATED POLICY SOLUTIONS

Six transitions to accelerate 2030 Agenda implementation. The priorities identified in Viet Nam's second Voluntary National Review are well aligned with the key transitions developed by the UN globally to drive SDG transformation. These six transitions are in Jobs and Social Protection, Energy Compacts, Transforming Education, Food Systems, Digital Transformation, and Biodiversity and Nature Protection. Gender equality is cross-cutting, while equal attention needs to be placed on the means of implementation including on finance, data, SDG localization, trade, and public sector capabilities. The six transitions can generate large multiplier effects across SDGs to promote economic prosperity, while protecting human and environmental well-being.



Guidance for the six transitions and engine room actions for SDG acceleration

The SDG Summit 2023 concluded with an endorsement of the [Political Declaration](#) for the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda implementation. To guide collective efforts of the member states, UN system, and partners in accelerating the SDG achievements by 2030, the UN has issued a principal document on “Six Transitions: Investment Pathways to Deliver the SDGs.” The document outlines an integrated approach and investment pathways with six transformative entry points and four engine room actions needed to deliver the 2030 Agenda.



Viet Nam has set ambitious targets, as well as committed and initiated actions for all six transitions. Among these are the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), the National Roadmap for Food Systems Transformation, the Education Development Strategy 2021-2030, the National Digital Transformation Programme by 2025 with an orientation to 2030, and Party Resolution 42 on Social Policy.

Building upon these existing national commitments, the UN's priority in the remaining period to 2030 is to support the Government of Viet Nam in translating the strategic priorities identified in Viet Nam's National Commitments to SDG Transformation and the 2nd Voluntary National Review into policies and actions that can drive the acceleration of SDG progress. This encompasses more integrated policy

advisory, analytics, and technical assistance to the Government to implement the six SDG transitions that are embraced in the National Commitments and the Government's public policies. Ensuring that the transitions are just, equitable, and inclusive underpin the promise of leaving no one behind.

Finally, the SDGs can only be reached with equal commitment to and focus on the means of implementation. Priority transitions for SDG breakthroughs require adequate and effective financing. Viet Nam identified financing in its VNR as an enabler of transitions and policies into actions and results. An SDG Financing Strategy is therefore critical. While mobilizing additional financial resources is a priority, unlocking existing resources, including ODA,

and enhancing domestic resource efficiency is equally important. Moreover, aligning financial resources such as the State budget with SDG targets strengthens implementation and tracking of investments and progress.

Policy advisory for the New Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP). The UN will support the Government of Viet Nam in identifying and prioritizing strategic policy areas for the formulation of the next SEDP 2026-2030. Through policy-oriented analytics, this includes integration of the strategic priorities in the National Commitments. It also includes further embedding the SDGs into the SEDP with the six transitions as policy levers for implementation to support Viet Nam in achieving its national development aspirations and SDGs by 2030.

Policy dialogues. With its convening power advantage, the UN will engage with Government partners, development partners, think tanks, civil society organizations, the private sector, and other stakeholders to advocate for positive policy changes and mobilize concerted efforts and partnerships to drive SDG acceleration. This can be conducted through a series of policy dialogues informed by evidence-based analytics. The focus should be on the means of implementation for SDG acceleration such as public sector capacity strengthening and institutional arrangements, SDG financing, and data systems and monitoring.

Acceleration of SDG investments and ODA resolutions. The UN will support the Government of Viet Nam to enhance the use and allocation of public financial resources and increase investments in expediting SDG implementation through evidence-based analytics and policy advisory. One of the main UN priorities is to work hand-in-hand with the Government and development partners to simplify the ODA management procedure to unlock ODA inflows, use the ODA to catalyze public and private investments in priority development areas, and improve the implementation of ODA-funded projects.

SDG data and statistical system. The UN will continue to support the Government of Viet Nam to review its SDG indicators and their datasets and to produce and mine data from available sources to fill data gaps for monitoring SDG progress. The UN will also support the Government in improving statistical catchment systems to support the monitoring and visualization of SDG progress and to generate evidence-based and data-driven decision-making on public policies such as for digital economy and food systems transformation.

Participation in the Summit of the Future 2024. The UN will support the Government of Viet Nam to participate in the Summit of the Future to be held during the UN General Assembly High-level Week in September 2024. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Viet Nam to highlight its development accomplishments and assure its unwavering commitments and actions to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3.2 UNSDCF OUTCOME PRIORITIES

The UN identified the following thematic priorities for 2024 based on the Joint Workplan of the UNSDCF 2022-2026:

- Outcome 1**

 - Support food systems transformation, including nutrition and taxes on products harmful to health; support digital connectivity, especially in child health and education and exchange of information between human and animal surveillance systems.
 - Assist provision of inclusive, quality education for girls and boys, especially children from vulnerable groups and out-of-school children and adolescents through education planning, financing, and monitoring (SDG4).
 - Support ongoing policy reform, notably social insurance and employment laws, and social protection programming interventions with a focus on vulnerable groups such as migrants, ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities.
 - Address health and socioeconomic impacts of climate change, including scaling up of climate-resilient health facilities and WASH services in schools and health facilities; address air pollution through awareness raising, policy, and advocacy.
- Outcome 2**

 - Support implementation of gender-responsive policies and measures to promote low-carbon development, green and circular economy, and environmental sustainability.
 - Strengthen institutional capacity and action, especially for the public sector, for sustainable management and use of natural resources and effective conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.
 - Promote climate change adaptation and mitigation through awareness raising, strengthening the One Health Approach, and development of nature-based solutions.
 - Support JETP implementation, including technical assistance to the JETP Secretariat and resource mobilization plan, to ensure the energy transition is just and sustainable.
- Outcome 3**

 - Support reform of legal and regulatory framework to promote gender-responsive labour standards and markets and promotion of digital economy and Industry 4.0.
 - Strengthen gender-sensitive skills development and TVET programmes to enhance economic productivity and competitiveness and expand the skilled workforce for decent and skilled jobs, especially for vulnerable groups.
 - Support creation of economic opportunities, especially for vulnerable groups, through value chain upgrading and industrial quality compliance.
- Outcome 4**

 - Support strengthening of national legislations, policies, and institutions and deepening of an enabling, transparent, and inclusive environment for the participation of people, especially vulnerable groups, in a gender-sensitive development process.
 - Assist strengthening of national institutions and capacity to expand access to justice and combat discrimination with a focus on vulnerable groups.
 - Promote enhancement of sociocultural attitudes and practices and legal and policy framework and accountability to eliminate gender-based violence and all forms of abuse, exploitation, and discrimination against women and other vulnerable groups.



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ANNEX 1. UNSDCF 2022-2026 INDICATORS

Outcome indicators

Indicators	Baseline	2022 Status	2023 Status	Target	Indicators (short name)	Traffic Light 2022	Traffic Light 2023
OUTCOME 1: INCLUSIVE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT							
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) [UNESCO lead reporting, UNICEF support]	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%	Pre-primary: (a) Internet:95.83%; (b) computers: 94.27%; (c) disability-friendly infrastructure: NA; Primary: (a) Internet: 90.85%; (b) computers: 87.84%; (c) disability-friendly infrastructure: 37.11%; Lower secondary: (a) Internet: 89.3%; (b) computers: 88.96%; (c) disability-friendly infrastructure: 28.93%; Upper secondary: (a) Internet: 88.53%; (b) computers: 88.87%; (c) disability-friendly infrastructure: 19.94%	NA	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%	Schools and other education facilities with access to internet, computer, and disability-friendly infrastructure	Progress	Progress
Percentage of schools which provide basic education programmes about sex education, violence prevention, abuse prevention and HIV-related knowledge (VSDG 4.7.2) [UNESCO lead reporting, UNICEF support]	School year 2019–2020 (MOET) Kindergarten: 9.8% Primary: 68.8% Lower secondary: 72.7% Upper secondary: 67.8%	Kindergarten: NA; Primary: 73.58%; Lower secondary: 74.67%; Upper secondary: 71.89%		90% (2025–2026, MOET)	Percentage of schools which provide basic education programmes about sex education, violence prevention, abuse prevention and HIV-related knowledge (VSDG 4.7.2) [UNESCO lead reporting, UNICEF support]	Progress	Progress
Prevalence of stunting among children under five disaggregated by ethnicity (VSDG 2.2.1) (%) [UNICEF lead reporting]	2020: Total: 19.6; EM: 32	19.2 (2021)	18.9 (appx, NIN 2022)	2025: Total: 16; Ethnic Minority: 27	Prevalence of stunting among children under five disaggregated by ethnicity (VSDG 2.2.1) [UNICEF lead reporting]	Progress	Progress
Infant-mortality rate (IMR) by sex (VSDG 3.1.5) [UNICEF lead reporting]	14 per 1,000 live births Male: 15.8; female: 12.0 (2019, Pop. census 2019)	12.1	Total: 12.09 per 1,000 live births. Male: 13.75; Female: 10.35 Urban: 6.96; Rural: 12.79 (2022, GSO, Yearbook)	Total: 12.5 per 1,000 live births (2025, VSDG Roadmap)	Infant-mortality rate (IMR) by sex (VSDG 3.1.5) [UNICEF lead reporting]	Achieved	Achieved
Maternal mortality ratio (VSDG 3.1.1) [UNFPA lead reporting]	Total: 46 per 100,000 live births (2019)	NA	NA	42 (2025) (Source: MOH Maternal Mortality Surveillance Studies and reports)	Maternal mortality ratio (VSDG 3.1.1) [UNFPA lead reporting]	No data	No data
Number of deaths from traffic accidents (VSDG 3.5.1) [WHO lead reporting]	6,700 (2020, GSO Stat. yearbook/VSDG report 2020)	6397 (2023, GSO)	7300 (2023, GSO)	Decrease by 5-10% per annum.	Number of deaths from traffic accidents (VSDG 3.5.1) [WHO lead reporting]	Regress	Regress

Indicators	Baseline	2022 Status	2023 Status	Target	Indicators (short name)	Traffic Light 2022	Traffic Light 2023
Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected people, by sex, age and key populations (VSDG indicator 3.2.1) [UNAIDS lead reporting]	0.05 per 1,000 population Total cases: 5,200; Male (15+): 3400; Female (15+): 1400; Children (0–14): < 500 (2019, UNAIDS Global report)	5,700 [5,000 - 6,200] (2021) (deduction of 60% compared to 2010)	6,200 [5,600 - 6,800] (2022) (deduction of 56% compared to 2010)	Decrease by 80% compared to 2010 data (0.18 per 1,000 population or 16,000 cases) (2025, UNAIDS estimated target)	Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected people, by sex, age and key populations (VSDG indicator 3.2.1) [UNAIDS lead reporting]	Regress	Regress
Proportion of rural population using safely managed water service. (SDG 6.1.1) [UNICEF lead reporting]	51% (2020, MARD report)	NA	69.3% (2023, MARD report)	55% (2025, MARD decision #4019/2019 on VSDG roadmap)	Proportion of rural population using safely managed water service. (SDG 6.1.1) [UNICEF lead reporting]	Achieved	Achieved
Adolescent birth rate among women aged 15–19 years per 1,000 women in that age group (adjusted VSDG 3.6.2) [UNFPA lead reporting]	Total: 35 (2019); Urban: 16; Rural: 45 (Population census 2019)	NA	NA	33 (2025, VSDG roadmap)	Adolescent birth rate among women aged 15–19 years per 1,000 women in that age group (adjusted VSDG 3.6.2) [UNFPA lead reporting]	No data	No data
Proportion of married women aged 15–49 years who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (VSDG 3.6.1) [UNFPA lead reporting]	72.8% (2020, SDGCV survey)	68.1 (2021, VNR)	NA	75% (2025, SDGCV survey)	Proportion of married women aged 15–49 years who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (VSDG 3.6.1) [UNFPA lead reporting]	Regress	Regress
Viet Nam Human Development Index [UNDP lead reporting]	0.704 (2019)	0,703 (2021, UNDP)	0.726 (2022, UNDP)	Remain above 0.7 or with a high HDI by 2030 (SEDS 2021–2030)	Viet Nam Human Development Index [UNDP lead reporting]	Achieved	Achieved
Multi-dimensional poverty rate by national standard (VSDG 1.1.1) [UNDP lead reporting]	4.8% (2020, GSO Viet Nam Household living standards survey (VHLSS) report)	3.60%	3.20%	Decrease of 1–1.5% annually until 2026 (VSDG roadmap)	Multi-dimensional poverty rate by national standard (VSDG 1.1.1) [UNDP lead reporting]	Progress	Progress
Multi-dimensional child poverty rate (total, sex, residence, ethnicity and disability status) (VSDG 1.1.3) [UNICEF lead reporting]	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)	Total: 10.9% Urban: 5.0%; Rural: 13.7% Boys: 10.6%; Girls: 11.1% Kinh/Hoa: 6.5%; Ethnic minorities: 35.9% (2020, VHLSS)	2022 data to be released in May 2024	Decrease of 1–1.5% annually. (2025, VSDG Roadmap)	Multi-dimensional child poverty rate (total, sex, residence, ethnicity and disability status) (VSDG 1.1.3) [UNICEF lead reporting]	No data	No data
Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems (SDG indicator 1.3.1) [ILO and UNFPA co-lead reporting]	(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); (2) 90.85% health insurance coverage rates (2020, VSS) (3) 13.27 million workers (or 26.82% of the labour force) participate in unemployment insurance (2020, VSS) (4) 3.041.731 million or 3,41% of the population receive monthly social allowances (2020, VSS) (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)	(1) 38.07% (or 17.50 million persons) of the labour force participates in social insurance; (2) 92.03% health insurance coverage rates (or 91.1 million persons) (3) 31.18%	(1) 39.27% of the labour force participates in social insurance; (2) 93.35% health insurance coverage rates (3) 31.6% of the labour force participate in	(1) 45% of the workforce participates in social insurance (2025, Resolution No. 28 / NQ-TW); (2) 95% of the population is covered by health insurance (2025, Resolution	Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems (SDG indicator 1.3.1) [ILO and UNFPA co-lead reporting]	Progress	Progress

Indicators	Baseline	2022 Status	2023 Status	Target	Indicators (short name)	Traffic Light 2022	Traffic Light 2023
		of the labour force (or 14.3 million persons) participate in unemployment insurance (4) 3.3% of the population (or 3.6 million persons) receive monthly social allowances (5) 42.8% (or 5.57 million older persons) of older persons receive pension or social insurance allowances and social pension	unemployment insurance (4) 3.5% of the population (about 3.7 million persons) receive monthly social allowances (5) 43.5% (or 6.1 m out of 14 m older persons) of older persons receive pension or social insurance allowances and social pension	No. 28 / NQ-TW); (3) 35% of the work force participates in unemployment insurance (2025, VSDG roadmap); (4) 3.5% of the population are beneficiaries of monthly social allowances (2025, VSDG roadmap); (5) About 55% people at retirement age receive pension or social insurance allowance and social pension (2025, Resolution No. 28 / NQ-TW)		Progress	Progress
Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (VSDG 5.4.1) [ILO and UN Women co-lead reporting]	Female 18.9 hour/week Male 8.9 hour/week Female/Male: 2.1 times (2019 Labour force survey (LFS)/VSDG report 2020)	1.9 times (2021, VNR)	Women: 16.13 hours/week Men: 8.75 hours/week Women/Men: 1.8 times (2022 LFS)	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]	Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (VSDG 5.4.1) [ILO and UN Women co-lead reporting]	Progress	Progress
OUTCOME 2: CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE, DISASTER RESILIENCE, AND ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY							
Number of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emitted (adjusted VSDG 11.6.4) (UNDP leads reporting)	528.4 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2020 (NDC report)	NA	550 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent	2025: 673.3 m tons of CO2 equivalent (NDC)	Carbon dioxide emitted	No data	progress
Forest coverage (VSDG 15.2.2) (UNDP leads reporting)	41.89% (2020, MARD)	42%	42.02%	2025: Maintain at 42% (SEDS 2021–2030, Strategy on Forestry Development 2021–2030, vision to 2050 promulgated on 1 Apr 2021)	Forest coverage	achieved	achieved
Area in hectares (ha) of marine protected areas and special-use forest (adjusted VSDG 14.5.1) (UNDP leads reporting)	Marine protected areas: 213,000 ha (2020, Results of the management of the marine protected area system in Viet Nam during 2010–2020, and tasks in 2021–2030) Special-use forest: 2.17 million hectares (2020, Assessment of the implementation of the Prime Minister's Decision 1976 on the planning for the national special-use forest system to 2020, vision to 2030)	Marine protected areas: 213,000 ha. Special-use forest: 2,195,725 ha	Marine protected areas: 213,000 ha; Special use forest: 2,198,086 ha (2023, MARD)	Marine protected areas: 270,271 ha (2025, Results of the management of the marine protected area system in Viet Nam during 2010–2020, and tasks during 2021–2030) Special-use forest: 2,462,652 ha (2025, Assessment of the implementation of the Prime Minister's Decision 1976 on the planning for the national special-use forest to 2020, vision to 2030)	Area of marine protected areas and special-use forest	Progress	progress
						Progress	progress

Indicators	Baseline	2022 Status	2023 Status	Target	Indicators (short name)	Traffic Light 2022	Traffic Light 2023
Number of deaths, missing persons and injuries attributed to disasters (VSDG 11.5.1) (disaggregated by sex and age) (UNDP and UNICEF leads reporting)	357 deaths and missing person (37 women) 912 injuries (2020, National Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control (NCNDPC))	139 deaths/missing persons/injuries	296 (169 deaths and missing persons; 127 injuries) (2023, Department of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control)	Less than 250 (2025, SDG Roadmap report)	Number of deaths, missing persons and injuries attributed to disasters	Achieved	Regress
Number of destroyed or damaged health and educational facilities attributed to disasters (link to VSDG11.5.1) (UNICEF leads reporting)	209 health centers and 1894 schools affected (2020, NCNDPC)	17 health centers and 1194 schools affected (2022, NCNDPC)	NA	Sustained reduction annually	Number of destroyed or damaged health and educational facilities attributed to disasters	Achieved	no data
Renewable energy (solar, onshore and offshore wind) share in the total final energy consumption (adjusted VSDG 7.2.1) (UNDP leads reporting)	25% (2020 draft Power Development Planning VIII (PDP8))	27.82% renewable energy/final energy consumption	NA	28% (2025 draft PDP8)	Renewable energy (solar, onshore and offshore wind) share in the total final energy consumption	Achieved	Achieved
Total final energy consumption/ GDP (octanal-water partition coefficient/1,000 USD GDP) (VSDG indicator 7.3.1) (UNDP leads reporting)	409 (2019, GSO Stat. yearbook)	407.8 (2020)	NA	Reduction of 1.0–1.5% per year up to 2030 - Draft Green Growth Strategy	Total final energy consumption/ GDP	Achieved	no data
OUTCOME 3: SHARED PROSPERITY THROUGH ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION							
GDP per capita (in USD, current price) (VSDG 8.1.3) (ILO leads reporting)	2,779 (2020, GSO)	4,110	4,285	Sustain the annual growth rate of 4–4.5% (2026, VSDG Roadmap)	GDP per capita	Achieved	Achieved
Proportion of informal employment, by sex (VSDG 8.3.1) (ILO and UNDP leads reporting)	Total: 56.2%; Female: 51.1%; Male: 60.5% (2020, GSO) Vulnerable Employment: 54.1% (2019, Global HDR)	65.40%	64.90%	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)	Proportion of informal employment	Regress	Regress
Unemployment rate (VSDG 8.5.2) (ILO leads reporting)	2.48% (2020, GSO)	2.32%	2.28%	2025: Remained less than 3% (VSDG Roadmap)	Unemployment rate	Achieved	Achieved
Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries (VSDG 8.8.1) (ILO leads reporting)	8,000 cases, of which 1,000 deaths and nearly 2,000 severely injured 2019: (2020 National report on five years implementation of VSDG)	NA	NA	Annual decline of (a) occupational accidents: 5%; (b) fatal occupational accidents: 5%; (c) non-fatal occupational accidents: 5% (2025, VSDG Roadmap)	Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries	no data	no data
Labour productivity (VSDG 8.2.1) (ILO leads reporting)	\$5,081/labour or VND 93.4 million/labour (2020, GSO)	US\$8,106/labour or VND 188 million/labour	US\$8,380/labour or VND 199.3 million/labour	Annual growth rate of 6.5% until 2030 (SEDS 2021–2030)	Labour productivity	progress	progress

Indicators	Baseline	2022 Status	2023 Status	Target	Indicators (short name)	Traffic Light 2022	Traffic Light 2023
Proportion of female directors/owners of enterprises and cooperatives (VSDG 5.5.5) (ILO leads reporting)	24 (2019, LFS)	29.9 (2020)	NA	27% (2025, National Strategy on Gender Equality 2021–2030)	Proportion of female directors/owners of enterprises and cooperatives	progress	progress
Proportion of population using the Internet (SDG 17.8.1) (ILO leads reporting)	68.7 (2019, ITU World telecommunication/ICT Indicators database)	70.3 (2020)	7910.0%	80% by 2025, 100 % by 2030 (Strategy on the fourth Industrial Revolution towards 2030)	Proportion of population using the Internet	progress	progress
OUTCOME 4: GOVERNANCE AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE							
Rate of female deputies in elected bodies (National Assembly and People's Council) (VSDG5.5.1, VSDG5.5.4) (UNDP, UNWomen lead reporting)	National Assembly female delegates (2021): 30.26% People's Council Deputies (2021): - Provincial level: 29.00% - District level: 29.08% - Commune level: 28.98%	30.3	NA	> 30 (2026)	Rate of female deputies in elected bodies	Achieved	Achieved
Sex ratio at birth (VSDG 5.1.1) (UNFPA leads reporting)	112.1 (2020, Population change survey, GSO)	113.7 (MOH)	112 (GSO)	2025: 111.0; 2026: 110.6 (VN Population Strategy to 2030)	Sex ratio at birth	Regress	progress
Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before the age of 18 (VSDG 5.3.1) (UNFPA leads reporting)	9.1 (2019, Population census, GSO)	14.6 (2020, VNR)	NA	6 (2026, Viet Nam Population Strategy to 2030, aims to reduce by 50% the number of couples married before 18 or in a child marriage, by 2030)	Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before the age of 18	Regress	Regress
Proportion of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour (VSDG 8.7.1) (UNICEF leads reporting)	5.4 (2018)	6.9 (2020, SDGCW)	NA	4.9 (2025, National Programme on the Prevention and Reduction of Child Labour 2021–2025 and 2030)	Proportion of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour	Regress	Regress
Level of national compliance with core labour rights (adjusted SDG 8.8.2) (ILO leads reporting)	(1) Viet Nam has ratified Convention No. 98 on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining (in 2019), which came into force in 2020. The first report with baseline data will be available by end of 2021. (2) As scheduled, dossier for the ratification of ILO Convention 87 on the Freedom of Association and the Protection of the Right to Organize will be prepared in 2023	NA	The implementation of 2019 LC are monitored and reported; the application of Convention 98 is monitored and its 1st compliance report is made at high quality level; Efforts to promote the ratification of Convention 87 continue to be made.	(1) Increased the number of collective bargaining agreements (2) Dossier for ratification of Convention 87 to be prepared (Source: MOLISA and tripartite partner periodical report on implementing the international labour standards)	Level of national compliance with core labour rights	No data	progress
Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience with public services (VSDG 16.6.1) (UNDP leads reporting)	87.16 (2021)	NA	80.78 (data for 2023 will be released in May 2024; MOHA)	86 (2025, VSDG roadmap)	Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience with public services	No data	Regress

Indicators	Baseline	2022 Status	2023 Status	Target	Indicators (short name)	Traffic Light 2022	Traffic Light 2023
Proportion of people who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by a public official, during the previous 12 months (State employment, public healthcare service, land-use rights certificates) (SDG 16.5.1) (UNDP leads reporting)	total: 36; public healthcare service: 28 land-use right certificate: 27; state employment:40	NA	38 (data for 2023 will be released in April 2024, PAPI)	<20 (2026, VSDG roadmap)	Proportion of people who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by a public official, during the previous 12 months	No data	Regress
Corruption Perception Index (UNDP leads reporting)	Score 39/100 (2021, Transparency Intl)	42/100	41/100	Score: 50–59, moving from the 'highly corrupt' to 'less corrupt/cleaner' scale (2026)	Corruption Perception Index	Progress	Regress
Number of social-order and safety-related crime offences (UNODC leads reporting)	120,536 (2020)	76658	86949	Decreased	Number of social-order and safety-related crime offences	Achieved	Achieved
Rate of crimes detected, investigated and prosecuted (UNODC leads reporting)	Rate of criminal cases detected, investigated and prosecuted: 85.69% (2020)	Rate of criminal cases detected, investigated and prosecuted:84.95% (37,679/44,535 cases)	Rate of criminal cases detected, investigated and prosecuted:77.01% (2023) (44.733/58,086 cases)	Increased	Rate of crimes detected, investigated and prosecuted	Regress	Regress
Number of new or amended legal documents on the protection of the rights of PWDs supported by the UN.	0 (2021, UN)	1	2	Proposals accepted and included in the National Assembly's (NA) legislative agenda for: 1. Ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty; 2. Proposal of amendment of Law on PWDs; 3. Decree instructing Article 25 of the Law on Intellectual Property	Number of new or amended legal documents on the protection of the rights of PWDs supported by the UN.	progress	progress
Percentage of GBV victims seeking assistance from any supporting services (linked with VSDG 16.2.3)	9.6% (2019, Violence against women study by GSO/MOLISA)	NA	NA	50% (2026, MOLISA's M&E framework)	Percentage of GBV victims seeking assistance from any supporting services	No data	No data
Youth Development Index	0.63 (2016, Global, ASEAN and National Youth Development Index report)	0.744 (2020)	NA	0.88 (2026, Global, ASEAN and National Youth Development Index report)	Youth Development Index	Progress	Progress
Number of country visits by special procedures accepted by Viet Nam	0 (2020, OHCHR)	NA	1	3 (by 2026, OHCHR)	Number of country visits by special procedures accepted by Viet Nam	No data	progress
Number of reports to treaty bodies submitted by Viet Nam	0 (2020, OHCHR)	NA	2	6 (by 2026, OHCHR)	Number of reports to treaty bodies submitted by Viet Nam	No data	progress
Percentage of recommendations agreed on by Viet Nam from the Third Cycle Universal Periodic Review implemented	0 (2019, OHCHR)	NA	NA	50% (by 2024, OHCHR)	Percentage of recommendations agreed on by Viet Nam from the Third Cycle Universal Periodic Review implemented	No data	No data
Number of new population surveys/research conducted for use in decision making and SDG monitoring.	0 (2021, UN)	NA	2	3 (2026, UN)	Number of new population surveys/research conducted for use in decision making and SDG monitoring.	No data	progress

ANNEX 2. MANAGEMENT RESPONSE ACTION PLAN TO THE EVALUATION OF THE OSP 2017-2021

Actions to be taken		Status by end 2023
1.1	Develop 2022-2026 CF in line with the UNSDG guidance with robust TOC and results framework which enable more strategic and selective UN interventions, and greater accountability and transparency of the UN system in Viet Nam	completed
1.2	Set up relevant mechanisms (GOVN-UN taskforce, multi-stakeholder workshop and consultation) to ensure inclusive consultation with government, NGOs, mass organizations, DPs, and other stakeholders during CF development	completed
2.1	Select robust Outcome indicators as part of CF Results Framework which link with national SDG indicator framework and output areas to reflect UN contribution. Outcome indicators are measurable and realistic in number, with available baseline and targets, with clear data sources, and with identification of UN agencies in charge of data reporting.	completed
2.2	Select robust Output indicators as part of CF Joint Work Plans which reflect UN specific contribution as results of UN interventions. Output indicators are measurable and realistic in number, with available baseline and targets, with clear data sources, and with identification of UN agencies in charge of data reporting.	completed
2.3	Develop the UNCT Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan, including clear guidance on JWP planning, monitoring, review and reporting	completed
2.4	Improve the UNInfo database (through sufficient data entry) and its use for monitoring of CF progress and UN contribution (both programmatically and financially) to SDGs and as a basis for UN discussion and identification of possible joint interventions	completed
3.1	Revise the JSC TOR to strengthen JSC's coordination towards strategic discussions and more active GOVN participation, especially for the new CF.	ongoing as expected
3.2	Implement the JSC TOR as designed and revise when necessary	ongoing as expected
3.3	Ensure meaningful and active GOVN contribution to the CF development	completed
4.1	Establish UN-internal CF Governance and Management Structure to ensure RG strategic position	completed
4.2	Develop (and implement at later stage) RG TOR to ensure RG strategic position, more frequent interaction within RGs, linkage with GOVN sectoral/thematical coordination structures, and maximized GOVN participation in RGs (including in the development of joint programmes) to extent possible	completed

Actions to be taken		Status by end 2023
4.3	Implement the CF Government and Management Structure and RG TORs as designed and revise when necessary	ongoing as expected
5.1	RGs to discuss and identify areas for collective efforts and potential joint programmes annually during the JWP planning	ongoing as expected
5.2	Collect and review good practices and lessons learned on joint programming and joint programme during annual review/ reporting period. Report to UNCT for strategic discussion for improvement of joint programming.	ongoing as expected
6.1	Identify cross-cutting priorities and LNOB in CF document	completed
6.2	Mainstream cross-cutting priorities and LNOB into CF indicator frameworks (in the CF documents, JWPs, and MEL plan) to extent possible in line with relevant UNCT action plans (e.g. SWAP and UNDIS action plans)	ongoing as expected
8.1	UNCT/RCO to continue to support non-resident agencies in collaborating with GOVN agencies and other stakeholder to extent possible, and to consistently engage non-resident agencies in relevant groups/tasks/communication	completed
8.2	Non-resident agencies to be more active in sharing information of their activities, participating, presenting and contributing to the UNCT, RGs, and other inter-agency coordination mechanisms (including CF and JWP planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting)	completed
9.1	UNCT and GOVN to make a decision on whether we should keep the VN SDG Fund for the future given the existing joint global fund and GOVN procedures and given that we may still get some funds through this country-level mechanism in the future	completed
9.2	If the decision is yes (for Action 9.1) then JSC to agree on the SDGF TOR	completed
10.1	Discuss and identify directions/ways to enhance UNCT collective strategy and common messages on UN normative agenda	ongoing as expected
10.2	Implement UNCT directions to enhance UNCT collective strategy and common messages on UN normative agenda, including through joint workplanning, joint programming, and UN joint messages	ongoing as expected
10.3	Improve the UN joint communication for advocating UN normative agenda and common strategic messages through UNCT website and other media tools	ongoing as expected
11.1	Strengthen GOVN engagement in designing joint programmes from the beginning and through out the whole JP development process	ongoing as expected

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank	ESG	Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance
ACDM	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management	EWS	Early Warning System
AEM	AIDS Epidemic Model	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	GAL	Gender Affirmation Law
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	GBV	Gender-Based Violence
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication	GCF	Green Climate Fund
BES-NET	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network	GDL	Global Digital Library
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
BR	Biosphere Reserve	GEF	Green Environment Facility
CBDRM	Community-Based Disaster Risk Management	GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
CBO	Common Back Office	GHG	Greenhouse Gases
CE	Circular Economy	GII	Gender Inequality Index
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	GNI	Gross National Income
CF	Country Framework	GOUNH	Green One UN House
CO2	Carbon Dioxide	GOVN	Government of Viet Nam
COP28	28th UN Climate Change Conference	GQSP	Global Quality and Standards Programme
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	GSO	General Statistics Office of Viet Nam
CSE	Comprehensive Sexual Education	GTG	Gender Thematic Group
CSO	Civil Society Organization	HDI	Human Development Index
DHIS2	District Health Information System 2	HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	I4.0	The Fourth Industrial Revolution
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
EIP	Eco-Industrial Park	ILO	International Labour Organization
ERPA	Emissions Reduction Payment Agreement	ILSSA	Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs
		IMF	International Monetary Fund
		IMR	Infant Mortality Rate

IOM	International Organization for Migration	NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
ISPONRE	Institute of Strategy, Policy on Natural Resources and Environment	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ITC	International Trade Centre	NSCC	National Strategy on Climate Change
JETP	Just Energy Transition Partnership	NTP	National Targeted Programme
JP	Joint Programme	ODA	Official Development Assistance
JSC	Joint Steering Committee	OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
JWP	Joint Work Programme	OPD	Organization of Persons with Disabilities
KMGBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, and Others	OSP	One Strategic Plan
LNOB	Leave No One Behind	PAPI	Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	PDP8	Eighth Power Development Plan
MCH	Maternal and Child Health	PPL	Public Procurement Law
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training	PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
MOF	Ministry of Finance	PwD	Person with Disabilities
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	QI4SD	Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development
MOH	Ministry of Health	RG	Results Group
MOJ	Ministry of Justice	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs	SDGF	SDG Fund
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	SEDEMA	National Targeted Programme on Socio-Economic Development in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas
MPS	Ministry of Public Security	SEDP/S	Socio-Economic Development Plan/Strategy
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment	SIB	Social Impact Business
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification	SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
MTBBE	Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education	SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
NAP WPS	National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	STEAM	Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease	TB	Tuberculosis
		TIP	Trafficking in Persons

TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training	UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN	United Nations	UN	Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UN-SWAP	UN System-Wide Action Plan	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	VBA	Village-Based Attendant
UNCT	United Nations Country Team	VCCI	Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	VDDMA	Viet Nam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority
UNDIS	United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy	VGCL	Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	VIHEMA	Viet Nam Health Environment Management Agency
UNDS	United Nations Development System	VND	Vietnamese Dong
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security	VNR	Voluntary National Review
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme	WPS	Women, Peace, and Security
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	VSDG	Viet Nam Sustainable Development Goal
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	VWU	Viet Nam Women's Union
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund	WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	WB	World Bank
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund	WHO	World Health Organization
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization		
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime		
UNPRPD	United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities		
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office		
UNSDCF	United Nations Strategic Development Coordination Framework		



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