

# UNDP VIET NAM:

*Working for growth with equity*



# A Partner for Inclusive Growth

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) is the global development network of the United Nations. We connect countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. Our focus is helping countries to meet the challenges of:

- Democratic Governance
- Poverty Reduction
- Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- Energy and Environment

In all our activities, we encourage gender equality and support developing countries to attract and use aid effectively.

UNDP has supported Viet Nam through its many stages of transition: from post-war reconstruction, to the early *doi moi* social and economic reforms, to WTO accession. The strength of the long partnership between UNDP and Viet Nam has always been built on mutual trust and respect.

Together with other UN agencies, UNDP is part of the One UN Initiative in Viet Nam to provide better assistance to the Government and people of Viet Nam.



## Focus Areas

Viet Nam has seen great progress in economic and social development, yet increasing disparities are emerging. In this phase of Viet Nam's development – rapid international integration, ever-increasing GDP and a goal to reach middle income status by 2010 – the priority is to ensure that this growth is inclusive.

UNDP supports Viet Nam's commitment to socially-inclusive development with policy advice and assistance to strengthen its institutions and rule of law so that all people benefit from development. Key focus areas of our support include: strengthening elected bodies such as the National Assembly; accelerating legal and public administration reforms; reducing socio-economic inequality; protecting the environment; and natural disaster management.

# Working with Viet Nam to:

- **Strengthen elected bodies**



As the highest level of state authority and main organ of representation for the people, the National Assembly is becoming an increasingly powerful institution. UNDP and the National Assembly have worked together to build capacities for policy formulation, legislation review, representation and policy and budgetary oversight, with crucial support to local governance institutions. UNDP trains Assembly Deputies and staff to better represent the citizens of Viet Nam, to develop processes for regular consultations with constituents and to promote integrity and ethical behaviour in this important public service.

- **Accelerate legal and public administration reform**

Public administration reform and the development of the legal system are both critical for improved governance, continued economic growth and sustainable human development in Viet Nam.

Ongoing cooperation in public administration reform aims to improve the delivery of administrative and social services by making government counterparts more accountable to the needs and interest of the public, especially the poor. To this end, UNDP is assisting government counterparts to deepen the decentralisation process, make socio-economic development plans more pro-poor, improve information and performance management systems, combat corruption, and explore new models for service delivery, including through public-private partnerships. Support to legal reforms is centred on initiatives to improve the legislative process, transform international human rights treaties into domestic law, and to increase access to justice at the local level.



## ● Protect the environment



Viet Nam's rich biodiversity and natural environment must be managed for future generations and rapid development puts pressure on the country's natural resources. UNDP provides advocacy, expertise and resources to help Viet Nam's government and people protect their health and preserve their natural resources. UNDP also supports the integration of environmental issues into investment planning, education and decision making.

To reinforce the important link between poverty reduction and environmental management, UNDP is working with international partners to develop an environmental legal framework, raise public awareness and provide expertise to support sustainable development.

## ● Manage natural disasters and the effects of climate change

Natural disasters like typhoons, floods, droughts, and landslides threaten not only Viet Nam's sustainable development, but its people, especially the poor. With its 3,200km coastline, Viet Nam is expected to be one of the countries most affected by climate change if world sea levels rise at current rates.

For 15 years, UNDP has been working closely with the Government, local communities and international partners to help Viet Nam prepare and respond to disasters, as well as to bridge the gap between emergency relief and long-term development. UNDP, along with NGO and donor partners, has played a leading role in helping the Government to develop a mechanism for a coordinated response to disaster mitigation, called the National Disaster Mitigation Partnership.





# Working with Viet Nam to:

- **Tackle socio-economic inequality**

For more than a decade UNDP has been assisting the Government of Viet Nam in levelling the economic playing field through regulatory reforms to develop businesses that create domestic employment and unleash the capacity of local entrepreneurs. At the same time, UNDP supports Viet Nam with the effective design and implementation of national programmes on poverty reduction targeting the poorest women and men and ethnic minority communities. Assistance will be extended to the development of ethnic minority policies and a progressive social security system. Work continues with local levels of government to create and implement legal frameworks to combat stigma and discrimination in HIV and AIDS prevention and control.

UNDP also supports Viet Nam in monitoring the equity and inclusiveness of growth by working with the General Statistics Office and related government agencies on improving national socio-economic monitoring. UNDP's assistance in the production of National Human Development Reports, MDG Reports and policy papers stimulates debate and helps Viet Nam to better analyse development progress. International knowledge and research helps bring emerging issues to bear in national socio-economic development strategies and policy formulation.



# Partners in Development

The Government of Viet Nam is our primary partner. Cutting across national and local levels, we work with national ministries, provincial government units, and local level agencies. UNDP also partners closely with bilateral and multilateral donors, civil society, and the private sector.



## Working as One in Viet Nam

Responding to Government's call for a more effective UN in line with the global aid effectiveness agenda, UNDP's efforts to support Viet Nam's development agenda are firmly grounded in the context of the One UN Initiative. Launched in early 2006, the One UN initiative aims to move beyond coordination towards One United Nations. For the UN to deliver the best results for Viet Nam, a transformed UN with unity of purpose, coherence in management and efficiency and effectiveness in operations is required. As a significant step in the process, a common action plan has been developed that will encourage UN funds and agencies to work together to "deliver as one" and achieve better results for the people of Viet Nam. UNDP's commitment to inclusive and equitable growth in Viet Nam is embedded in the five outcome areas of the One UN Plan:

1. Equitable and inclusive social and economic policies, plans and laws
2. Universally available, high-quality social and protection services
3. Environmental protection and the rational management of natural resources and cultural heritage
4. Accountable, transparent and participatory governance
5. Reduce risks of, and vulnerability to, natural disasters, communicable diseases and other emergencies



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