

A Snapshot:  
Millennium Development Goals in Viet Nam

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty

• Proportion of people living in poverty	15.6%
• Proportion of malnourished children under five	20.6%

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

• Net enrolment rate for primary education	95.96%
• Proportion of children who complete primary education	85.6%

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

• Percentage of girls to boys in primary education	94.1%
• Percentage of women in National Assembly	25.8%

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality by two-thirds

• Child mortality rate (under five, per 1,000 live births)	25
• Infant mortality rate (under one, per 1,000 live births)	15.5

Goal 5: Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality rate

• Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	75
• Percentage of births attended by skilled health care	92.9%

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

• Percentage of adults (15-49 year olds) with HIV	0.43%
• Number of people living with HIV with access to antiretrovirals	41.8%

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

• Percentage of rural population with access to clean water	66.4%
• Percentage of households with proper toilets	59.1%

Goal 8: Develop a partnership for development

- Viet Nam became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in January 2007 and a non-permanent member of the United Nations' Security Council 2008-2009. These roles have created opportunities for Viet Nam to establish a global partnership for development.

While Viet Nam has made impressive progress in achieving the MDGs there are widening inequalities between different groups and regions and it is vital to ensure that the MDGs are achieved in every commune, district and province. In particular, more work is needed to reduce the number of malnourished children, ensure proper sanitation and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

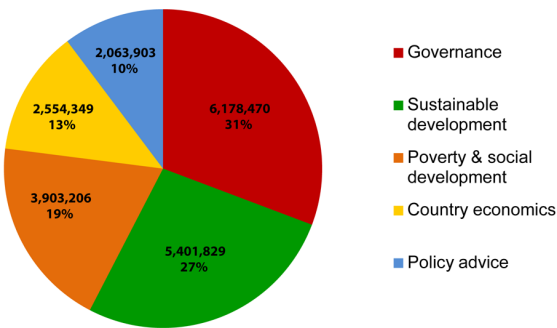
Source: National MDG Report, MPI (2008)

Funding for 2008 programme activities

Donor	Amount in US\$
UNDP	5,514,532
One Plan Fund*	4,204,570
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	2,990,997
UK	2,564,447
Sweden	1,442,019
Spain	573,574
Ireland	543,317
EC	441,502
Netherlands	405,487
Norway	343,094
Other donors	1,078,218

\*Donors to the One Plan Fund include: Norway, MDG Fund (Spain), UK, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland, France, Australia, Sweden and Finland

Breakdown of 2008 expenditure by clusters



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NOW...

UNDP in Viet Nam



Cover photo: While Viet Nam has experienced rapid economic growth, inequalities are widening . Photo: Doan Bao Chau

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Viet Nam

UNDP IN  
VIET NAM

During the last 15 years Viet Nam has witnessed rapid economic growth and a sharp reduction in poverty. By 2010, Viet Nam aims to become a middle income country. Yet growth is not evenly distributed and disparities are emerging.

Like other countries in the region, Viet Nam is also being impacted by the current global economic crisis which is affecting employment and poverty levels. Many Vietnamese families subsist on incomes only marginally above the poverty line and are at real risk of falling back into poverty. The priority is therefore to ensure that all Vietnamese benefit from the country's growth.

The One UN Initiative

In Viet Nam, UNDP works as part of an integrated UN system – the One UN Initiative. Launched in early 2006, the One UN Initiative is an ambitious reform agenda which aims to make the UN in Viet Nam more effective and deliver better development results. Working together as one is fundamental to the Initiative, which includes five pillars of reform: One Plan, One Budget, One Leader, One Set of Management Practices and a Green One UN House.



## Strengthening elected bodies

Since the mid 1990s, UNDP has worked closely with the National Assembly – the highest level of state authority and main organ of representation and an increasingly powerful institution. Recent UNDP support has focused on providing training to Deputies from the National Assembly and provincial People's Council, particularly those who were newly elected in 2007. The aim is to improve the Deputies' policy analysis skills, strengthen their capacity to review legislation and oversee the work of the executive and make sure they can better represent their constituencies. During the last two years, we have also supported pilot public consultations. Such regular consultations ensure that decision-makers have the necessary information on a given issue before making a policy decision and that these decisions better represent the rights and interests of constituents.

## Deepening public administration and legal reform

Our work in public administration reform aims to promote transparency, Government accountability and people's participation. New ways to improve the quality of public service delivery are being developed. For instance, rural telecentres which provide farmers with market-related information and enable them to share their feedback with relevant government agencies have been successfully piloted in ten provinces across the country. The telecentres provide a new way to promote people's participation in government decision-making and respond better to public needs.

Our support to legal and judicial reform focuses on supporting the implementation of Viet Nam's two key strategies, the Legal Systems Development Strategy and the Judicial Reform Strategy, initiatives to improve the legislative process and increase access to justice, as well as building mechanisms to protect and enforce the rights of citizens. We work not only with government agencies



*UNDP is supporting new ways to improve the quality of public service.  
Photo: UNDP/VIE/01/024*

but also professional organizations, such as the Viet Nam Lawyers' Association, which has a key role to play in supporting the development of a rule-of-law state.

UNDP also supports the Government in combating corruption. Together with other partners we are helping the Government to build a corruption monitoring system which will allow Viet Nam to effectively follow corruption trends and develop more targeted anti-corruption programmes.

## Tackling widening socio-economic inequality

In spite of Viet Nam's rapid economic growth and sharp reduction in poverty rates inequalities between different groups and regions are growing and new types of poor people, such as urban poor, are emerging. In the poorest districts in Viet Nam poverty rates are still 50 per cent higher than national standards and poverty among ethnic minority households is much higher than among the Viet majority.

Along with other donors, UNDP supports Viet Nam to effectively design and implement national poverty reduction programmes which target the poorest men,

women and ethnic minorities. We provide technical assistance to the Government to better manage these programmes and work with other donors to harmonize efforts and increase aid effectiveness.

Since the outset of the global economic crisis, UNDP has been working to support the Government on crisis related issues. For instance, we are helping to set up a system to monitor the social impact of the crisis and understand how individual households are being affected, both in terms of poverty levels and other dimensions such as health, education and nutrition.

## Responding to climate change and managing natural disasters

Viet Nam is one of the countries in the world most affected by the consequences of climate change, such as rising sea levels. In response, UNDP has provided technical support to the Government to formulate its national climate change programme. As part of a US\$4 million project, we also provide technical support and capacity building to ministries working on climate change. For instance, we are providing training to the Vietnamese delegation going to the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen at the end of 2009 to make sure the delegation can best represent the interests of Viet Nam.

Viet Nam is also highly vulnerable to natural disasters, such as floods, storms and typhoons, and climate change is making the impact of these much worse. UNDP works closely with the Government, local communities and international partners to help Viet Nam prepare for and respond to disasters, as well as to bridge the gap between emergency relief, early recovery and long-term development. For instance, UNDP has played a lead role in improving disaster management information systems and coordination mechanisms among disaster practitioners and is currently supporting the Government in developing the first-ever National Disaster and Pandemic Response Plan.



*UNDP is helping Viet Nam to better prepare for and respond to disasters.  
Photo: UNICEF/Viet Nam/2005, Cao Viet Hoa*

## Protecting the environment

Viet Nam has a rich biodiversity but natural resources are constantly being degraded. UNDP is providing expertise to help Viet Nam best protect these natural resources by, for instance, supporting Viet Nam in drafting its first-ever biodiversity law. Dioxin (agent orange) remains one of the most critical environmental issues to address in Viet Nam. We provide support to the Government to help it engage in a dialogue with key donors on this issue in order to mobilize funding and technical assistance to combat the problem.

## Supporting the One UN Initiative

UNDP plays a key role in supporting the One UN Initiative and UN-system coordination. For instance, UNDP manages the US\$60 million One Plan Fund. The Fund allows donors to fund a strategic plan with a coordinated UN response and covers 14 UN agencies. UNDP also manages the process of building a Green One UN House which will house in one building all the resident UN organizations in Viet Nam.