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VIET NAM



FINAL DRAFT AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM

DRAFT
8 November 2021

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED
NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026**

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JOINT STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE PAGE

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (GoV) and the United Nations system (UN) in Viet Nam present the ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026 (Cooperation Framework, or CF, for short). The Cooperation Framework is the United Nations' central framework for planning and implementation of development activities at the country level. It articulates the UN's collective framework of support to Viet Nam towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development priorities.

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

By signing herewith, the members of the UN in Viet Nam and the GoV endorse the Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 and reinforce their joint commitment to the Cooperation Framework's strategic priorities and outcomes.

One behalf of the Government of Viet Nam		On behalf of the United Nations Viet Nam
H.E Nguyen Chi Dung Minister of Planning and Investment The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam		[Insert name] UN Resident Coordinator Viet Nam, a.i.

AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN VIET NAM

In witness thereof, the undersigned, being duly authorised, have signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Viet Nam for the period 2022-2026 on < > 2021 in Hanoi, underscoring their joint commitment to its priorities and results.

Mr. Rémi Nono Womdim FAO Representative		Mr. Francisco Pichon IFAD Country Director and Representative Viet Nam and Thailand
Ms. Valentina Barucci ILO Officer-in-Charge		Ms. Mi Hyung Park IOM Chief of Mission
Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton ITC Executive Director		Ms. Maria Elena Filio-Borromeo UNAIDS Country Director

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED
NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

Ms. Rebeca Grynspan UNCTAD Director General		Ms. Caitlin Wiesen-Antin UNDP Resident Representative
Ms. Dechen Tsering UNEP Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific		Mr. Christian Manhart UNESCO Head of Office and Representative
Ms. Naomi Kitahara UNFPA Representative		Mr. Atsushi Koresawa UN-Habitat Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
Ms. Rana Flowers UNICEF Representative		Ms. Le Thi Thanh Thao UNIDO Country Representative
Ms. Nguyen Nguyet Minh UNODC Officer-in-Charge		Ms. Kyoko Yokosuka UNV Deputy Executive Coordinator
Ms. Elisa Fernandez-Saenz UN Women Representative		Mr. Kidong Park WHO Representative

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED
NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	4
LIST OF ACRONYMS	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA.....	9
National context.....	9
Groups at Risk of Being Left Behind	12
CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA.....	13
2.1 FROM CCA TO COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES	13
Inclusive social development	13
Climate change response, disaster resilience and environmental sustainability	14
Shared Prosperity through Economic Transformation.....	15
Governance and Access to Justice	16
Cross-border Priorities	17
2.2 THEORY OF CHANGE FOR THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES	18
UN Country Team Configuration.....	22
Strategic Overview	25
Theory of Change	26
2.3 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES	27
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 1	27
Theory of Change and UN Development Support.....	27
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 2	30
Theory of Change and UN Development Support.....	30
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME.....	33
Theory of Change and UN Development Support.....	33
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 4	35
Theory of change and UN Development Support	35
CHAPTER 3 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.....	39
3.1 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE.....	39
3.2 RESOURCING THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK.....	41
3.3 DERIVATION OF UN AGENCY/ENTITY COUNTRY PROGRAMMING INSTRUMENTS FROM THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK.....	41
3.4 JOINT WORKPLANS.....	41
3.5 BUSINESS OPERATIONS STRATEGY IN SUPPORT OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK	42
3.6 FUNDS MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HARMONISED APPROACH TO CASH TRANSFERS	43
3.7 UPDATES OF THE UN COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS	43
CHAPTER 4 – MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK	44
4.1 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL) PLAN	44
4.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK MONITORING.....	45
4.3 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND COUNTRY RESULTS REPORTING	46
4.4 EVALUATION	47
ANNEX 1 – RESULTS FRAMEWORK 2022 - 2026.....	48
ANNEX 2 - LEGAL ANNEX.....	57
ANNEX 3 – HARMONISED APPROACH TO CASH TRANSFERS	60

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED
NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

LIST OF ACRONYMS

4IR	The Fourth Industrial Revolution
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease
CPV	Communist Party of Viet Nam
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FACE	Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FTA	Free Trade Agreements
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GoV	Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
GSO	General Statistics Office of Viet Nam
HDI	Human Development Index
HDR	Human Development Report
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
JWP	Joint Work Plan
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MDP	Multidimensional poverty
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MPS	Ministry of Public Security
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
NA	National Assembly
NCNDPC	National Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMT	Operations Management Team
OSP	One Strategic Plan
PAPI	Public Administration Performance Index
PDP8	Power Development Planning VIII

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED
NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

PWD	Persons with Disabilities
RCO	Office of the UN Resident Coordinator
(V)SDG	(Viet Nam) Sustainable Development Goals
SDGCW	Survey on measuring SDG indicators on children and women
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Joint Programme for HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDIS	United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education Science and Culture Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Organization for Drugs and Crime
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VHLSS	Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey
VSS	Viet Nam Social Security
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WP	Work Plan

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

The Government of Viet Nam (GoV) and the United Nations (UN) in Viet Nam agree to entitle the CF document as ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026 (Cooperation Framework, or CF, for short). The CF formalises the partnership between the UN and the Government of Viet Nam, highlights the UN's collective support to Viet Nam to achieve the key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development priorities in the period 2022-2026.

The development priorities to which the UN will support collectively within the CF were derived from Viet Nam's SEDS (2021-2030) and SEDP (2021-2025), sectoral strategies and plans, and the Common Country Analysis (CCA). The UN support, its delivery and management mechanisms, are formulated based on the UN's comparative advantages, the lessons and recommendations of the evaluation of the One Strategic Plan (2017-2021) undertaken in 2021.

The CF development process has benefitted from a cross disciplinary approach and inclusive consultation with a range of stakeholders, although constrained to some extent by COVID-19 restrictions. This has included multi-disciplinary planning and consultation workshops inclusive of resident and non-resident UN entities, GoV ministries and agencies at the national and sub-national levels, international and local non-governmental organizations, local social enterprises, representative unions and associations (such as for women, youth, and trade) and other groups, development partners, international financial institutions, research institutions, academia, experts and the private sector. Additional participation was enabled through an online survey.

On the basis of detailed analysis and cross disciplinary dialogue, the UN and the GoV prioritise the following four development outcomes for the UN's support to Viet Nam in its continued efforts to achieve sustainable development for the people of Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind:

- **Inclusive social development**, with a focus on inclusive, gender responsive, disability sensitive, equitable, affordable and quality social services and social protection, with the aim of moving people in Viet Nam further out of poverty in all its dimensions and empowering people to reach their full potential;
- **Climate change response, disaster resilience and environmental sustainability**, with a focus on a safer and cleaner environment as a result of Viet Nam's effective and gender responsive mitigation and adaptation to climate change, disaster risk reduction and resilience building, promotion of circular economy, the provision of clean and renewable energy, and the sustainable management of natural resources;
- **Shared prosperity through economic transformation**, with a focus on sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive economic transformation based on innovation, entrepreneurship, enhanced productivity, competitiveness and decent work; and
- **Governance and access to justice**, with a focus on improved governance, more responsive institutions, strengthened rule of law and the enhanced 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.

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

The following figure the agreed priority outcomes that frame the UN System in Viet Nam's contributions to achieving sustainable development objectives in Viet Nam between 2022 and 2026.

2022 – 2026 UN-VIET NAM COOPERATION FRAMEWORK'S PRIORITY OUTCOMES

Inclusive Social Development	Climate Change Response, Disaster Resilience & Environmental Sustainability	Shared Prosperity through Economic Transformation	Governance and Access to Justice
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	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 circular economy, the provision of clean and renewable energy, and the sustainable management of natural resources.	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	By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a more just, safe and inclusive society based on improved governance, more responsive institutions, strengthened rule of law and the protection of and respect for human rights, gender equality and freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination, in line with Viet Nam's international commitments.

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

The UN in Viet Nam is committed to contributing to the achievement of the above outcomes leveraging enablers¹ and the comparative advantage of the UN system. The UN will adopt approaches that support strategic innovation and technological advancements; support data and evidence generation and utilization; integrate the priorities of capacity building; build and nurture strategic partnerships; encourage and apply digitization; integrate approaches in development financing and budgeting; drive forward priorities for demonstrated accountability to the UN system and the people of Viet Nam; as well as demonstrating a commitment to reducing all barriers to participation.

The UN in Viet Nam will mobilize its resources at the country, regional and headquarters levels, pursuing joint work planning, joint programmes and programme implementation, information sharing, joint communications and resource mobilization strategies to implement the priorities set out in the CF. Strong UN coherence will support the development of partnerships inclusive of non-government organizations, mass organizations, the private sector, academia, development partners and regional entities to take forward outcome priorities, implement outputs and key interventions and make contribution to the achievement of the SDGs.

The CF takes account of the risks that have the potential to slow progress and establishes strategies to mitigate these risks on a regular basis subject to any changes in political will, access to reliable data, any restrictions to public participation or fundamental rights, and reduced financial investment. The

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

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

ongoing impact of COVID-19 and any future major shock have the potential to diminish opportunities for Viet Nam to reach its social and economic development goals, divert existing resources, exacerbate inequalities and push people further into poverty. As such, the CF is aligned with the priorities and strategies of the UN in Viet Nam COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan, in line with the socio-economic development goals in the Resolution of the 13th National Party Congress.

This CF is supported by the guiding principles of gender equality and women's empowerment, youth, life-cycle approach, climate change and disaster resilience, LNOB, human rights, sustainability, social cohesion, human security, and conflict sensitivity. It reflects a strong commitment to the principles of LNOB, in the Viet Nam context, inclusive of people living in poverty and extreme poverty caused from the COVID-19 Pandemic, ethnic minorities, stateless persons and persons of undetermined nationality, Persons with Disabilities (PWD), communities affected by unexploded ordnance or Agent Orange, informal workers, migrants, people living in climate change and disaster prone areas, LGBTI persons, people affected by HIV, in addition to the demographic priorities of children, youth, women and the elderly.

CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

National context

Overall, the development prospects for Viet Nam are positive with several economic, social and political dynamics maintaining the momentum initiated by the Doi moi reforms which were introduced 35 years ago. Between 2016 and 2019, Viet Nam's economic growth was impressive, fed by a modernized, vibrant industrial base powering a high level of manufacturing exports, attracting record volumes of foreign direct investment and cementing the country's integration into global value chains.² Additionally, extreme poverty continued to fall, resulting in an overall reduction of approximately 50 percentage points since 1992.³ This upward trend in economic growth has been accompanied by a marked increase in the provision of and access to basic services such as health and education. The multidimensional poverty rate (defined by Viet Nam's national MDP measurements) reduced remarkably from 9 per cent in 2016 to 5.7 per cent in 2019. Viet Nam's human development indicators have also seen significant improvements and in 2019 Viet Nam ranked within the 'High Human Development' category, a monumental achievement for Viet Nam's level of GDP per capita.⁴ The total population has increased from 32.6 million in 1960 to 97.2 million in April 2020, which makes Viet Nam the 15th most populous country in the world. Nearly 70 percent of the population are aged 15 to 64 years, creating a unique window of opportunity with the presence of the demographic dividend, which can accelerate socio-economic growth if the right investment and policies are implemented, particularly concerning young people. The population is also ageing rapidly. The 65 and over age group is projected to increase by 2.5 times by 2050 posing serious challenges for the social protection system and particularly for healthcare for the elderly.⁵ There are several areas where youth face barriers to accessing basic services and economic opportunities. Despite the country's socio-

² UN in Viet Nam 2021 Common Country Analysis Report, Executive Summary. UN in Vietnam, 2021. At: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/144078-executive-summary-common-country-analysis-2021-viet-nam>

³ UN in Viet Nam, September 2020. Workshop "Development of high-quality human resources for agriculture, new rural development and sustainable poverty reduction in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas" Opening remarks delivered by Kamal Malhotra, UN Resident Coordinator. Found at: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/91510-workshop-development-high-quality-human-resources-agriculture-new-rural-development-and>

⁴ <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2020.pdf>

⁵ 2019 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census. General Statistics Office (GSO) of Viet Nam. <https://www.gso.gov.vn/en/data-and-statistics/2020/11/completed-results-of-the-2019-viet-nam-population-and-housing-census/>

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

economic progress over the last decade, inequalities and disparities for youth persist in access to education, health care – including sexual and reproductive health care, decent employment and youth participation in policy development. Young people account for a large share of the labour force, with nearly half (49.5 per cent) aged 15-39 years.⁶ Transitioning to a higher value economy, Viet Nam faces a growing challenge to generate productive and decent jobs for its young people and expanding labour force, and provide it with relevant skills to expand the service and manufacturing sectors. With living standards, life expectancy and the quality of life have improved, Viet Nam is well-positioned to become a model development success story in the next decade or so if human rights concerns, and environmental degradation can be adequately addressed.

On 1 July 2017, Viet Nam officially graduated from the International Development Association and subsequently from the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Asian Development Fund in January 2019, mechanisms reserved for poor countries or those with low creditworthiness. Additionally, the country reached the high human development category for the first time in 2019 according to the 2020 UNDP Human Development Report (HDR). Viet Nam has rapidly gained recognition as a strong geopolitical contributor at both the regional and global levels. In 2020, Viet Nam took on rare twin-responsibilities of being both a rotating non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (for 2020-2021) and Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for 2020. These developments illustrate the ongoing and significant elevation of Viet Nam's development status.

The long-standing and persistent challenges remain in the East Sea (also known as the South China Sea). Viet Nam's 2019 National Defence White Paper provides a flexible mechanism to expand Viet Nam's strategic and military relations, with implications for disputes in the East Sea. However, defence issues aside, the People's Republic of China's policy that any resource exploration in the East Sea must be undertaken with Chinese partners continues to pose an immediate constraint. Such policy limits Viet Nam's ability to tap into the energy resources within its Exclusive Economic Zone, posing significant risks to its energy security – especially given the increasing demand for electricity and forecasted power shortages.⁷

While GoV has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainable development by enhancing management of land, soil, water and other natural resources, the capacity of Viet Nam's natural environment to deliver valuable natural resources and services essential for economic growth and livelihoods is increasingly threatened by unsustainable business practices. Viet Nam's climate change policies and strategies⁸ have led to some progress at national and local levels, however, Viet Nam's current energy intensity, measured as energy use per unit of GDP, is the highest among major Southeast Asian economies.⁹ Over the past two decades, climate-related disasters in Viet Nam have caused an average estimated annual loss of USD1.8 billion or 1.2 per cent of GDP, and an average of 660 deaths.¹⁰ The most frequent and damaging natural hazards in Viet Nam are recurrent storms and typhoons, floods, landslides, sea surges, drought, forest fires, heatwaves and cold spells. Large population centres and key agricultural sectors are located on Viet Nam's more than 3,000km of coastline, which is vulnerable to climate-related risks, including increasing temperatures, sea level rises, saltwater intrusion, and more frequent and extreme weather events leading to material and losses of life.

⁶ OECD (2020) A Multi-dimensional Country Review of Viet Nam. OECD: Paris

⁷ UN in Viet Nam 2021 Common Country Analysis Report, Executive Summary. UN in Vietnam, August 2021. At: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/144078-executive-summary-common-country-analysis-2021-viet-nam>

⁸ Most notably the Green Growth Strategy, Climate Change Strategy, Plan for Implementation of Paris Agreement, Nationally Determined Contributions, revised Law on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control, revised Law on Environmental Protection.

⁹ Energy and Development in the ASEAN Region. UNESCAP. 2019

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

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

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

The main barriers to achieving the SDGs are noted as being directly related to: existing inequalities in access to basic services and economic opportunities, especially amongst key population groups such as the geographically isolated, ethnic minorities, PWD, victims of violence, the elderly, children and women; the negative impacts of natural disasters, environment degradation and pollution; the economy's relatively low productivity and competitiveness with limited application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and innovations; insufficient public participation in policy and decision-making processes; weak governance mechanisms and limited public administration capacities combined with lack of political will; challenges in strengthening the rule of law and increasing access to justice for all; and the lack of financial resources for SDG implementation.¹⁴ The UN in Viet Nam will assist to accelerate achievement of the SDGs through a prioritization of interventions across the 12 SDGs that Viet Nam will find difficult to achieve by 2030. This will be further reinforced by the establishment of UN internal mechanisms to ensure the development of responsive and innovative joint work plans, advocacy and resource mobilization; and demand-driven advisory support for SDG integration into national plans, budgets, monitoring and reporting. Further, the UN advocates for human rights-based approaches to be mainstreamed and become the core of all development strategies and plans if the SDGs are to be achieved and development achievements are to be sustainable, and able to reach all members of society.¹⁵

Progress on SDG attainment is affected by the impacts of climate change and have been further compounded by the protracted nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has completely re-shaped medium-term projections for Viet Nam and globally. In 2020 GDP grew by 2.9 percent (among the highest globally) and left an ongoing negative economic and social impact on the country, especially for women, informal workers, migrants, those in the tourism industry. It is estimated that a minimum of two million workers left the labour market in 2020, the highest figure in ten years.¹⁶ The most vulnerable Vietnamese have experienced reduced access to basic services such as health, education, and social protection, mainly due to the impact on service delivery, and the fear of transmission in the community. A fourth wave of infection has brought the total number of infected people in Viet Nam to 839,662 and 20,555 deaths as of 10 October 2021¹⁷, from less than 5000 infected and 37 deaths

¹¹ National Report 2020 on Progress of Five-year Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

¹² *ibid*

¹³ *ibid*

¹⁴ *ibid*

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

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

¹⁷ <https://ncov.moh.gov.vn/>

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

before 27th April 2021 when the fourth wave began. Containment measures, lasting longer than that of April 2020, were introduced in the main cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City as well as many other provinces. As transmission rates continued to necessitate strict containment measures and vaccination rate remained low, a temporary increase in poverty and near-poverty rates was expected with many at risk of falling into extreme poverty, especially among migrant and ethnic minority households. The pandemic has also increased social problems such as domestic violence, online abuse, inequality in access to information, reduced medical attention as individuals avoid seeking healthcare services, disrupted learning for children, and higher drop-out rates, risk of increased child labour and these impacts may further impact Viet Nam's efforts to achieve the SDGs. In mid-September 2021 a massive vaccination drive was undertaken which has enabled the careful easing of containment measures and a gradual resumption of economic activity.

The impact of the pandemic on public finances¹⁸ could eventually have a constraining effect on the much-needed investment required to accelerate achievement of the SDGs especially in capital-intensive areas such as climate change, environment, and infrastructure. As Viet Nam's development classification warrants less and less Official Development Assistance (ODA), economic transformation resulting in new revenue streams will be therefore the main means of mobilising sufficient domestic resources and investments for the future, whilst minimizing public debt. A protracted crisis in Viet Nam could have significant negative implications for key development indicators such as those measuring multidimensional poverty, education, health and access to other basic public services. Even without the pandemic, Viet Nam currently faces several barriers as it seeks to achieve economic transformation through a 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) and numerous Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).¹⁹ The current workforce is dominated by low-skilled labour and therefore lacks the skills to support 4IR and to meet compliance requirements of the FTAs. As well as upskilling the workforce, the science, technology and innovation and education sectors need to be better integrated and cultivated, as does access to the digital economy and the absorption of digital capabilities that will close the current digital divide.

Groups at Risk of Being Left Behind

Across all indicators, poor households, ethnic minority groups, stateless people²⁰ and those of undetermined nationality, the rural poor, women across all groups and categories, women and children who are victims or at risk of violence including gender-based violence (GBV) and other harmful practices, PWD, communities affected by unexploded ordnance or Agent Orange, older persons, children, informal workers and migrants, people living in disaster-prone areas, LGBTI persons, people affected by HIV, and victims of sexual harassment and abuse have been identified as most disadvantaged and at risk of being left behind. This shows the dire need for evidence-based policies and improved state capacity to tackle discrimination, negative social norms, marginalization, and protect human rights.²¹ The challenges faced by these groups include physical geographical isolation

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

¹⁹ The Fourth Industrial Revolution—characterised by innovations such as artificial intelligence, automation, and biotechnology—is likely to transform existing systems of production, management, and governance. See The United Nations Development Programme 2018. Development 4.0: Opportunities and Challenges for Accelerating Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific. At:

https://www.undp.org/content/dam/rbap/docs/Research%20&%20Publications/sustainable-development/UNDP_EIU%20Development%204.0%20Report_FA%20101018.pdf

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

²¹ UN in Viet Nam 2021 Common Country Analysis Report, Executive Summary. UN in Vietnam, August 2021. At: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/144078-executive-summary-common-country-analysis-2021-viet-nam>

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

including residing on fringe forests or in forests, ethnicity, lack of legal status or identity, cultural and linguistic barriers, gender identity and sexual orientation, and a lack of appropriate investments to mitigate these drivers. Groups that identify with a combination of these descriptors are those that face the highest risk of being left behind due to the multiple layers of vulnerability they are exposed to.

The poor, ethnic minority groups, people whose livelihoods depend on the climate/environment, the elderly, young people, women, children, PWD, and people with chronic illnesses have the highest level of vulnerability to environment, climate change and disasters. For example, groups that suffer the most from multidimensional poverty are also most vulnerable to COVID-19, climate change, disasters, environmental degradation and pollution which have been driven by a carbon-intensive economy which has not brought equitable benefits to all. Women, especially ethnic minority women, are highly vulnerable due to limited access to education, health care, climate change and disaster risk reduction information, and fewer opportunities to participate in non-agricultural employment. Vulnerable individuals such as women, young people, children, PWD, older persons as well as ethnic minorities deserve separate protection given the disproportionate impact of climate change, disasters, pollution and climate-change induced migration on these groups. An increased representation in decision making bodies as participants and leaders is also needed. All these challenges need to be simultaneously tackled to ensure equitable access to basic services and economic opportunities for all, the lack of which contributes to inequality, multidimensional poverty, and vulnerability.

CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

2.1 FROM CCA TO COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES

The prioritization of the development gaps, challenges and opportunities for the CF were agreed through a consultative, participatory, and iterative process utilizing a number of creative instruments and modalities. The evidence base for these priorities are primarily derived from the 2021 Common Country Analysis (CCA) report, and the independent evaluation of the One Strategic Plan (OSP 2017-2021). The independent evaluation of OSP 2017-2021 benefitted from wide consultations and was deliberated upon within the UN system and with GoV, and multi-stakeholder consultations were held on the main draft findings of the 2021 CCA. The emerging priorities were further defined and endorsed by the Joint UN-Government Steering Committee (JSC) comprising of GoV and the UN Country Team.

Inclusive social development

In sharp contrast to the impressive performance across numerous economic and social indicators, increasing wealth in Viet Nam has created inequalities underpinned by growing income gaps between social groups and regions²², as well as unequal access to social services, notably in health, nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), social protection and social care, child protection, and empowerment for older persons, and education services.²³ Despite the huge strides made in these sectors, there remain pockets of MDP across the country and even among children from non-poor households.²⁴ The concentration of MDP among specific groups necessitates a continued focus on poverty alleviation. Tackling these issues will require strong political commitment and a targeted

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

²³ UN in Viet Nam 2021 Common Country Analysis Report, Executive Summary. UN in Vietnam, August 2021. At: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/144078-executive-summary-common-country-analysis-2021-viet-nam>

²⁴ Leander, Sebastian Silva and Nguyen, Cuong Viet and Nguyen, Van-Anh Thi (2018): Improving Measurement of Multi-dimensional Child Poverty in Vietnam. Munich Personal RePEc Archive. Paper 105954. Online at: https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/105954/1/MPRA_paper_105954.pdf

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

development strategy grounded in gender equality, the empowerment of women and human rights principles that leverage local awareness, knowledge and assets, increased productivity in agriculture, and sustainable natural resource use whilst simultaneously building a green, industrial base that can stimulate sub-industries, cultural industries, and ecologically sound tourism. Where disparities are high, coordinated support for social protection, nutrition, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, education and training, WASH services as well as reduction of unpaid care and domestic work should be prioritized and re-positioned where necessary. To support GoV efforts in accelerating the socio-economic development and MDP reduction in ethnic minorities and mountainous areas, the CF will focus on supporting generation of local innovative solutions and their application at large scale within existing national programmes and policies on MDP and ethnic minority development, as well as enhanced data and analysis on MDP.

Climate change response, disaster resilience and environmental sustainability

Viet Nam is one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change and is ranked as the 13th most affected country to disasters and extreme weather events according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021.²⁵ The most frequent and damaging natural hazards in Viet Nam are recurrent storms and typhoons, floods, landslides, sea surges, droughts, forest fires, heatwaves and cold spells. About 71 per cent of the population and 59 per cent of the land area are vulnerable to natural hazards, with floods and storms causing the highest number of fatalities and economic damage.²⁶ Over the last three decades, climate and extreme weather events related disasters have caused an average estimated annual loss of 1-1.5 per cent of GDP²⁷, and an annual average of 430 deaths.²⁸ In 2020 alone Viet Nam had to absorb a loss of over VND33.5 billion (USD1.5 million) as a consequence of severe storms, floods and landslide²⁹ Viet Nam is a water-rich country, however, it is exposed to droughts, floods and water scarcity, driving issues of reduced water quality and increased water pollution. Areas experiencing the greatest water scarcity include the Red-Thai Binh river basin, Dong Nai, South-east River Cluster and Mekong Delta. At Viet Nam's current energy intensity, and without changes to its carbon-intensive growth trajectory, Viet Nam will continue to be a major regional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emitter.

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

²⁵ Global Climate Risk Index 2021. At: <https://germanwatch.org/en/19777>

²⁶ [Viet Nam Disaster Management Reference Handbook, December 2018](#)

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

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

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

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

The severity and urgency of climate change combined with the economic costs and damage to well-being caused by multiple risks of disasters and COVID-19 warranted a prioritization of the gaps and challenges identified in this area. Formulating climate mitigation and adaptation actions that focus on the livelihoods, well-being, health, human rights, gender responsiveness and participation of those living in disaster-prone areas, are a major priority given their vulnerability to disasters, the loss of life and economic impacts arising from climate change, and recent COVID-19 impacts. The transition to low-carbon development, increased climate change mitigation, ensuring risk-informed development, reducing environmental pollution and reducing associated health risks are also areas of focus due to the multi-layered and disproportionate impacts on the poor, PWD, the elderly, women, children, ethnic minorities and climate change-induced migrants. Introduction of innovative and practical risk-transfer solutions, such as disaster risk financing and insurance will reduce the financial burden of disaster events on public resources. Focusing on these issues will have an accelerant effect across most development issues in Viet Nam, most notably reinforcing access to basic services for these vulnerable groups, promoting the green economy, and advocating gender responsive climate action that addresses the most vulnerable. The importance being to support equal participation and influence by women and men in climate-related decision-making processes, and also equal access to financial resources, climate information, technologies and services that are relevant to advancing climate action.

Strengthening biodiversity and natural resource management including through the reduction of wildlife trafficking and consumption, should also be prioritized due to: the public good nature of these resources and the provision of ecosystem services, the importance for food and water security, the importance of a sustainable marine economy for livelihoods, carbon sequestration, livelihoods and the protection of public health. Sustainable consumption and production as well as sustainable, clean and green cities and rural areas will be prioritised and mainstreamed through the formulation of policies and revised legislation. This includes urban planning, investments in energy efficiency initiatives and shifts from fossil fuel subsidies to green subsidies and phasing down coal power generation by renewable energy sources.

The mobilization of climate finance needs to be accelerated. This includes adopting fiscal disincentives for emitters (the polluter-pays principle), and tapping into private capital, adoption of green technologies and circular economy practices including eco-industrial park approaches, and innovative finance mechanisms as well as ODA opportunities. International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and specialised development partners have a role to play in mobilizing resources for climate change action and disaster risk reduction due to the high volume of resources required (e.g. for grid enhancements) combined with the complexity of established and emerging fiscal instruments. Nevertheless, there is still a need for the UN to actively focus on mobilizing resources for climate action, through international climate finance entities such as the Green Climate Fund, and the IFAD Adaptation Fund. There are also a growing number of global climate-related pooled funding mechanisms which are part of the UN system which will be targeted together with the provision of policy, analytical and operational expertise the UN is best placed to continue offering.

Shared Prosperity through Economic Transformation

Income inequality is rising³⁰ and may continue to do so as Viet Nam's economy becomes more integrated with the global economy and the economic structure shifts to better reward medium and high skilled workers and becomes more digitally oriented. The importance of economic empowerment for inclusive social development cannot be overstated and deserves focus. Enabling shared prosperity requires economic transformation, which is sustainable, inclusive and gender responsive resulting in

³⁰ See National Report 2020 on Progress of Five-year Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and *Even it Up: How to tackle inequality in Viet Nam*. Oxfam, 2017. At: https://www-cdn.oxfam.org/s3fs-public/file_attachments/bp-vietnam-inequality-120117-en.pdf

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

all Vietnamese having an opportunity to contribute to 4IR and reach their full potential. Policies, ecosystems and targeted support, in the context of 4IR acceleration, are critical for promoting gender responsive growth, sustainable innovation and ensuring the growth and resilience of businesses, including MSMEs and cooperatives. Policy actions will focus on increasing the adoption of more advanced and greener technologies and digital tools which will increase productivity and competitiveness. This is expected to have spillover effects that enable increased inclusion across the country to actively contribute to and benefit from economic transformation.

An analysis of the financing landscape in Viet Nam highlights a number of key areas impeding the effective use of resources to ensure economic transformation and achieve the SDGs.³¹ Currently, there is a lack of adequate investment prioritizing sustainable and inclusive economic transformation, and achievement of the SDGs. Evidence-based options and mechanisms in both public and private sectors will be supported to expand the financing for cross cutting issues of the SDG agenda, including gender equality for achievement of the SDGs. In addition, the implementation of the current GoV and UN joint programme (JP) on *Supporting Viet Nam towards the 2030 integrated Finance Strategy for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs*, also referred to as the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), will continue to support a more inclusive, productive green and climate resilient economy, while considering the impact of the recent COVID-19 pandemic on achievement of the SDGs.

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

Increased investments in market relevant tertiary skills, and vocational and management training for vulnerable groups will be imperative to ensure inclusive growth as the economy shifts towards 4IR. The promotion of decent work standards will also work to increase productivity as well as complement the broader environment agenda. Improving the linkages between domestic private firms and foreign direct investment (FDI) is a priority towards increasing the productive capacity of domestic private firms and compliance with high labour standards. Regulatory reforms to improve the quality of FDI are also needed to improve economic, social and governance outcomes; and the digital economy can be relatively quickly expanded by improving institutional capacity, the participation of the private sector and e-governance capabilities.

Labour market institutions and industrial capability will be strengthened through UN interventions and advocating for increased investments in human capital and technological upgrading that meet the needs of 4IR and trade requirements. Women of all ages, children, PWD, older persons, ethnic minorities and geographically remote people as well as informal and migrant workers face significant challenges in participating and benefiting from economic transformation due to discrimination, lack of accessibility and low skills which often works to suppress their income and economic mobility. Increased rights-based and equitable investment in human capital will be prioritized through interventions for inclusive social development given the linkages with education and vocational training.

Governance and Access to Justice

There is insufficient legal protection for vulnerable groups as well as the current limitations on meaningful public participation are major impediments to achieving SDG 5, 6, 10 and 16 and will

³¹ UNDP, 2018. Financing Sustainable Development in Viet Nam: A Development Finance Assessment. UNDP: Ha Noi.

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

continue to be a focus area for the UN during the CF period.³² Although much progress has been made, children, women, PWD, older persons, persons with intersecting identities such as girls and young women, women affected by HIV, and migrant workers, LGBTI persons, people who use drugs, key population groups, sex workers, victims of trafficking, victims of GBV, and ethnic minorities face multiple challenges which can reduce or prohibit their access to basic social services and economic opportunities.³³ There are also gaps in the national institutional capacity to support victims of abuse and violence against women and children, including GBV and abuse of older persons, exploitation, trafficking, and stateless persons and those of undetermined nationality and communities affected by unexploded ordnance and Agent Orange, many of whom are members of ethnic minorities. The Leave No One Behind priorities warrants additional advocacy for and raising awareness on a range of issues such as the environment, land rights and freedom of religion. There is a lack of an enabling environment for organizations and groups that are legally established and operate in line with Government's rule and regulations to bridge the state and its citizens, which would reduce the maximum societal contribution to socio-economic development of Viet Nam.

Although several institutional and organizational reforms have taken place since the late 1980s, the rule of law requires strengthening to ensure that the independence of the judiciary, access to justice including legal services, fair trial rights, the elimination of corruption, and the principle of legal certainty in legislation fully meet international norms and standards. Strengthening public participation remains a major priority given the numerous communications issued by the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council with respect to recommendations arising from the 3rd Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Viet Nam, as well as from the Human Rights Committee.³⁴ This also applies to the fulfilment of fundamental freedoms, access to information and the legal protection of vulnerable groups. The high incidence of violence against women (especially women with disabilities)³⁵ and children remains a concern whilst the current definition of the child as a person under 16 years old does not ensure protection for all children under 18 years as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The land rights and protection from discrimination are also lacking for certain groups, impacting livelihoods and stability in certain provinces. To effectively develop and monitor plans, policies and budgeting systems that respond to the special needs of vulnerable groups and achievement of the SDGs, it is imperative that the collection, management, analysis and use of data is strengthened. This priority applies to all the outcome areas identified.

Cross-border Priorities

The CCA revealed several **cross-border challenges**³⁶, from a governance and human rights perspective, which have not been explicitly targeted in the CF but will be impacted indirectly through priority strategic interventions. These are: (a) cross-border pollution, exacerbated by a lack of adequate legal and policy frameworks and poor enforcement including on intra-regional cross-border trade of plastic waste and a lack of financial resources; (b) the construction of dams (mainly for hydropower purposes) along the Mekong and subsidiary rivers upstream reducing the natural flow of water, negatively impacting downstream ecosystems and communities; (c) poor intra-ASEAN connectivity which limits

³² UN in Viet Nam 2021 Common Country Analysis Report, Executive Summary. UN in Vietnam, August 2021. At: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/144078-executive-summary-common-country-analysis-2021-viet-nam>

³³ Ibid.

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

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

³⁶ UN in Viet Nam 2021 Common Country Analysis Report, Executive Summary. UN in Vietnam, Aug 2021. At: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/144078-executive-summary-common-country-analysis-2021-viet-nam>.

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

economic opportunities for Vietnamese living in geographically remote areas especially ethnic minorities³⁷; and (d) lack of laws and policies on refugees or asylum-seekers.

2.2 THEORY OF CHANGE FOR THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES

The design of the UN's collective efforts for 2022-2026 is underpinned by the 2030 Agenda, the national planning frameworks of the GoV, namely the Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) 2021-2030 and Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2021-2025, the 2017-2021 OSP Evaluation, Gender Equality and Disability Score Card exercises, and the CCA report 2021. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, the findings of the UN Assessment of the Social and Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Viet Nam have also been taken into account especially given the ongoing risks. The CF has been informed and strengthened by a series of internal and external multi-stakeholder exercises conducted as well as policy discussions on global emerging trends.

The United Nation's vision towards 2030 for Viet Nam is expressed through a theory of change rooted in human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women. If inclusive social development occurs; climate change response, disaster resilience and environmental sustainability are prioritized across all areas of the national governance framework; shared prosperity is realized through economic transformation; and inclusive governance and access to justice are positively progressed, sustainable development and the SDGs will be advanced under this CF by the year 2026.

The participation and empowerment of the people of Viet Nam are both central to the effectiveness of this CF, requiring a commitment to LNOB, gender responsiveness, inclusiveness, access to resources, responsive institutions, policy strengthening and change, along with opportunity creation and voice. The four priority areas that form the outcomes of the CF align with international norms and standards, reflect the UN's comparative advantage, and the importance of both institutional internal and external partnerships.

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

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

- People, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from inclusive, gender responsive, disability-sensitive, equitable, affordable and quality **social services and social protection systems**, will have moved further out of poverty in all its dimensions and will be empowered to reach their full potential (aligning with SDGs 1 to 6).
- People, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to **a safer and cleaner environment** resulting from Viet Nam's effective, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, disaster risk reduction and resilience building, promotion of circular economy, the provision of clean and renewable energy, and the sustainable management of natural resources (aligning with SDGs 7, 11, and 13 to 15).
- People, especially those at risk of being left behind, will contribute to and benefit equitably from more **sustainable, inclusive and gender responsive economic transformation** based on innovation, entrepreneurship, enhanced productivity, competitiveness and decent work (aligning with SDGs 5, 8 to 12 and 17).

³⁷ UN in Viet Nam 2021 Common Country Analysis Full Report (internal); and World Bank. 2016. Transforming Vietnamese Agriculture: Gaining More from Less. Working Paper, World Bank Group, Washington, DC

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

- People, especially those at risk of being left behind will benefit from and have contributed to a more just, safe and inclusive society based on **improved governance, more responsive institutions, strengthened rule of law, and the protection of and respect for human rights, gender equality, and freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination**, in line with Viet Nam's international commitments (aligning with SDGs 5, 8, 10 and 16).

Quality social services and social protection systems will be achieved by way of UN support for quality education and lifelong learning; strengthened Health including sexual and reproductive health, WASH, Nutrition, and Emergency and Pandemic Preparedness and Response systems; risk informed, resilient and gender responsive national social protection and social care systems; reduction of unpaid care work and reduced multi-dimensional poverty and inequality with a focus on ethnic minorities, migrants, young people, people with disabilities, older persons and other most vulnerable groups and their rights.

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

A more sustainable, inclusive and gender responsive **economic transformation** will be supported by the UN with a focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainability, enhanced productivity, competitiveness and decent work. Labour standards and rights for all types of workers will be improved through reforming labour market institutions to better align with the UN guiding principles on business and human rights; capacity will be built to formulate policies and strategies to support sustainable agriculture, industry and service sectors for decent work and business models for financing, land rights and other capital assets; economic empowerment, especially for the poor, ethnic minorities and women who need support to alleviate the burden of unpaid and domestic work, will be supported through the promotion of responsible business models and practices including MSMEs and cooperatives that increase productivity, trade, innovation and improved working conditions and compliance. Cultural industries will be enhanced and sustainable tourism advanced through support for strengthened heritage preservation and urban creativity. The UN will also support the facilitation of smooth and inclusive transition to 4IR through accessibility to and adoption of appropriate technologies, digital tools and platforms. To ensure adequate financing for economic transformation and the SDGs, the UN will support the development of credible and practical options and mechanisms in both public and private sectors.

Improved governance, responsive institutions, strengthened rule of law and the protection of and respect for human rights, gender equality and freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination will be achieved through the UN's efforts to create an enabling environment for vulnerable groups to participate in national systems, strengthen the rule of law, ensure access to legal identity and nationality, expand access to justice and combat discrimination, in line with international human rights norms and standards. The acceleration of gender equality, empowerment, participation and decision-making of women and young people as well as LGBTI persons will be made possible through UN support for an enhanced social, institutional and legal environment. A focus on gender-sensitive, life-cycle, socio-cultural attitudes and practices, accountability and transformed legal and policy frameworks will support the elimination of gender-based discrimination and violence and all forms of abuse, exploitation and discrimination against vulnerable groups. Strengthening national agencies, legislation, and policies will prevent trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, child labour and forced labour, illicit drugs, wildlife trafficking, corruption and money laundering. It will also provide better

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

support to victims of these criminal actions. Gender-responsive, evidence and rights-based policies as well as planning and budgeting will be informed by strengthened data production, analysis and use.

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

- Leaving no one behind, including those affected by conflict
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Youth empowerment
- Resilience (including emergency preparedness and response, risk informed development and shock-responsive policies)
- A human rights-based approach and life-cycle approach to development
- Sustainability
- Accountability

In light of these priorities and principles there are a number of **assumptions** that the theory of change relies upon. These include that development approaches will be equitable, gender responsive, affordable, risk informed, integrated, multi-dimensional, and protect human rights. In addition, national data systems will improve monitoring and evaluation of interventions, the most vulnerable communities will be prioritized, and domestic funding will increase as international funding decreases.

There are a number of identified **risks and barriers**³⁸ that have the potential to impact Viet Nam's development trajectory and hinder progress in the country's efforts to achieve the SDGs, if they are not addressed. The risks considered most likely to impact the efforts to support attainment of the SDGs and Agenda 2030 in Viet Nam are:

- There is a lack of progress in addressing: pollution, climate change mitigation (reducing GHG emissions) and adaptation, the depletion of natural resources, the negative impacts of carbon-intensive economy, the adoption of green and circular economy, and producing clean and affordable energy. There is also increased risk of conflict over natural resources.
- Increasing impacts of climate change, disasters and environmental pollution continue to affect the poor, most marginalized and vulnerable people.
- The COVID-19 crisis continues to exacerbate existing and new risks on health outcomes, poverty reduction efforts, economic stability, social cohesion, and gender equality with the long-term health, economic and social impact still unknown.
- The capacity of the health system will be over stretched and impact progress in tackling non-communicable diseases specifically, affecting life expectancy and poverty rates.
- Inadequate investment in education and training that fosters the digital and transferrable skills of children and young people may reduce Viet Nam's capacity to achieve 4IR.
- Harmful gender social norms do not change or are even reinforced by, for example, access to internet and social media among young people and children, that some forms of violence such as sexual violence continue to worsen as a result, and that prevalence of violence remains high or even increases.
- Anti-corruption measures become less effective as other opportunities for corruption or loopholes in existing prevention mechanisms are found, especially given economic impacts of COVID-19.
- Collective labour disputes, strikes, and lawsuits that are not in accordance with legal procedures may increase in frequency, while the institutional capacity gaps in the dispute settlement system are being addressed.

³⁸ UN in Viet Nam 2021 Common Country Analysis Report, Executive Summary. UN in Vietnam, August 2021. At: <https://vietnam.un.org/en/144078-executive-summary-common-country-analysis-2021-viet-nam>.

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

- The reform of public administration services and fiscal constraints that may affect access to infrastructure and social services for rural poor, ethnic groups, upland and unregistered populations.
- The COVID-19 crisis leads to an increase in migrant and informal workers moving to urban areas where they will not have access to basic services and housing.
- Public dissatisfaction regarding human rights protection, land issues, and natural resources grows whilst relevant dispute resolution mechanisms are strengthened.
- Restrictions on organizations and groups that are legally established and operate in line with Government's rules and regulations and independent media also serve to increase tensions and ultimately could negatively impact on development trajectory and SDG attainment.
- Weak cyber security as the digital economy grows, most notably for personal data protection, fraud and harmful materials which can impact trust and effectiveness of the digital transformation process.
- A lack of progress towards increasing domestic resource mobilization which constrains the level of resources to invest in reaching the SDG targets, especially as major capital flows have been reduced by the COVID-19 crisis.
- Increasing geo-political tensions over the control and exploitation of East Sea may affect peace, stability and trade in the region and globally; and
- Climate related challenges are inadequately addressed, especially marine pollution.

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

- A lack of attention to integrated and cross sectoral/whole-of-society approaches, that need to be addressed by inter and cross sectoral approaches of UN entities and whole-of-society programme planning.
- Ineffective mobilization of diverse financial resources, especially from domestic private sources.
- A lack of attention to those at risk of being left behind, gender equality and the empowerment of women and protection of human rights, whereby some groups lag behind in many dimensions including income, health, education, water, sanitation and access to justice despite widespread and sustained economic growth and social improvements.
- A lack of a robust system for information and data collection, management, dissemination, access, and utilization for advocacy, and influencing decision makers, the assessment of progress in achieving the SDGs and realization of the LNOB principle. Data gaps impede the measurement of gender disparities, including women in the informal sector, GBV and gender specific concerns and issues, as well as to measure the vulnerabilities of certain groups, including ethnic minorities, migrants, PWD, the elderly, People affected by HIV, people who use drugs, sex workers, victims of human trafficking and LGBTI persons. These data gaps limit the ability to address critical issues such as urban disparities, long term impacts of COVID-19, and gender-based inequality.

Contributing to the achievement of the CF outcomes requires the UN Development System in Viet Nam to develop and maintain a broad range of **partnerships**, some of which are geographic or sector specific, and responsible for supporting different elements of the development process, covering a range of areas such as implementation of identified services, capacity development in key areas of growth or development, technical support for institutions or institutional practices and policy development. These partnerships will be forged to compliment the comparative advantages of the UN, and will include:

- Collaborating internally across UN entities to increase joint approaches to programming, knowledge-sharing and learning, mobilization of specialist resources and the joint monitoring and evaluation of results.

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

- Collaboration with the public and private sector, particularly with regard to nurturing a labour force that is responsive to the labour market and emerging opportunities.
- Further dialogue to facilitate contributions from the Vietnamese private sector in addition to public sector partnerships, particularly in areas such as responsible investments, innovative financing renewable energy, energy efficiency, technological advancement and innovation. Engagement should also foster progress across all areas of the SDGs to accelerate achievement.
- Partnership with multilateral institutions and international financial institutions able to provide financing for large scale high value projects, especially on green development issues.
- Collaborating with bilateral donors, international NGOs, organizations and groups that are legally established and operate in line with Government's rules and regulations, community and specialized organizations skilled in the delivery of services and the provision of specialized local level responses, including specialized groups focused on ensuring participation of and development results for the most vulnerable and marginalized.

The UN in Viet Nam's support for outcomes that respond to the Theory of Change will include specific strategies, programmes and initiatives that focus on those most **at risk of being left behind**, notably: poor households; women; children; the unemployed; PWD; migrants; stateless persons and those of undetermined nationality; the elderly; people living with chronic disease and chronic health issues; migrants and informal workers especially women; ethnic minorities; persons affected by GBV; adolescents and youth; LGBTI persons; people affected by HIV including people who use drugs, sex workers, men who have sex with men and transgender women;; communities affected by unexploded ordnance and Agent Orange; victims of violence; child labourers; forced labourers; victims of smuggling and trafficking; victims of sexual harassment and abuse, and children without parental care.

The negative impacts of the pandemic are likely to increase reliance on public services, placing further pressure on national systems, especially in the health and social sectors which provide primary preparedness support and response. Access to quality education has also been affected by the pandemic resulting in reduced access for the most vulnerable – notably those without digital devices and connectivity. The UN's focus therefore remains on support for and strengthening of national institutions, building the capacity to implement policy, and take forward innovation in a rapidly changing environment where priorities for environmental sustainability may be undermined by targeting economic growth. The UN seeks to harness new ways of working, take pilots and innovation to scale and advocate for policy change and implementation that ensures equitable and coordinated service delivery.

The theory of change is underpinned by **global normative frameworks** that ensure the people have the opportunity to both realize and exercise their rights without discrimination. The UN will also act on recommendations for Viet Nam concluded through the relevant UN human rights mechanisms. The theory of change promotes the implementation of treaties to which Viet Nam is a party, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability, United Nations International Security Council Resolution 1325 on participation, prevention, protection and resolution and recovery, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which is key to the achievement of all areas of the CF. The theory of change works towards addressing the 241 recommendations Viet Nam received and accepted (partially or in full) during the 3rd cycle of the UPR of the UN Human Rights Council. Likewise, the priorities within the theory of change link to the prioritized outcomes of regional and global frameworks providing the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of results that directly contribute to these complimentary development frameworks.

UN Country Team Configuration

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

The UN Development System in Viet Nam comprising both resident and non-resident UN entities will support the CF outcomes on the basis of their individual and/or combined comparative advantage.³⁹ Joint work planning, implementation and annual monitoring will be undertaken by UN entities in collaboration with all other UN entities engaged within any one outcome. Synergies across outcomes will also be maximised.

Outcome 1*	Outcome 2*	Outcome 3*	Outcome 4*
FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV, UNWOMEN, WHO	FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNV, UNWOMEN, WHO	FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNWOMEN, WHO	FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV, UNWOMEN

A range of **partnerships** will be consolidated and enriched across the CF implementation cycle to leverage the expertise and resources needed to support the attainment of all planned results aimed at accelerating transformative change for Viet Nam and attainment of the SDGs. This will include relationships with global funds including the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund. New partnerships will go beyond traditional government implementing partners to include a range of stakeholders based on a whole-of-society approach.

Partnerships with multilateral entities, such as IFIs and other development partners as well as the private sector, will be strengthened to enable strategic alliances that support the mobilization of sufficient resources to finance the SDGs and foster innovation. The UN will open new dialogue to mobilize and engage the emerging Vietnamese private sector to facilitate the contribution of resources to SDG attainment and the incorporation of the UN principles of responsible business in their operations. These good practices will be backed by the Government and aim to demonstrate an expanding dialogue with new partners around SDG attainment in Viet Nam.

The UN's convening power will be utilised to establish different types of partnerships on climate change, clean energy, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) policy, innovation, the strengthening of health systems as well as innovative finance to capture both domestic and foreign private finance. The UN will foster cooperation between government, business, academia and communities for business innovation and social impacts in all outcome areas. This will extend to forging closer partnership with foreign and national partners, linking the public and private sectors as well as employer-employee associations in nurturing a labour force and healthy industrial relations which are responsive to the labour market and emerging economic integration opportunities, especially for identifying specific skillsets for growth-enhancing sectors, technology and knowledge transfers, and effective innovation policy frameworks.

The UN will seek close collaboration with public agencies, non-governmental organizations, community-based networks to promote good governance, legal and justice reforms, and tackle social challenges prioritised within the CF. Partnerships with global institutions and regional partner networks in support of cross-boundary issues will be prioritised, particularly those related to the preservation of global public goods such as climate change action, pollution, illicit financial flows and cross-border trafficking.

³⁹ There are also non-resident agency/entity members of the UN Sustainable Development Group such as the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) that will support GoV and UNCT, as and when necessary, towards the delivery of outputs for which their specialized expertise is required. These non-resident agencies/entities are not signatories to this CF.

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED
NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

The UN will mobilize available **technical expertise** through country, regional and head quarter levels in the areas of: policy advocacy; international norms and standards; political, social and economic analysis; data, monitoring and evaluation; communication and advocacy; humanitarian action, disaster risk management; and partnerships.

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

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

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

ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)

Strategic Overview

DESIRED CHANGES/ IMPACT	LN0B Ethnic Minorities, the poor, Stateless Persons & and those of undetermined nationality, children, Persons with Disabilities, Migrants, People Living in disaster prone areas, older people, LGBTI People, communities affected by unexploded ordnance and Agent Orange, People affected by HIV, people who use drugs, sex workers, victims of human trafficking Demographic focus: Children, Youth, Women, older people.	Reducing poverty in all its dimensions.		Safer and cleaner environment		Sustainable, inclusive, gender responsive economic transformation		Safe, just and inclusive society	
PRIORITIES		People empowered to reach their full potential		Human rights fulfilled and no one left behind		Enhanced productivity, competitiveness and decent work		Strengthened rule of law Freedom from all forms of violence	
OUTCOMES		Inclusive Social Development		Climate Change Response, Disaster Resilience & Environmental Sustainability		Shared Prosperity through Economic Transformation		Governance and Access to Justice	
GUIDING PRINCIPLES		1. By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from inclusive, gender responsive, disability-sensitive, equitable, affordable and quality social services and social protection systems, will have moved further out of poverty in all its dimensions and will be empowered to reach their full potential		2. By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a safer and cleaner environment resulting from Viet Nam’s effective mitigation and adaptation to climate change, disaster risk reduction and resilience building, promotion of circular economy, the provision of clean and renewable energy, and the sustainable management of natural resources		3. By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will contribute to and benefit equitably from more sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive economic transformation based on innovation, entrepreneurship, enhanced productivity, competitiveness, and decent work		4. By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a more just, safe and inclusive society based on improved governance, more responsive institutions, strengthened rule of law and the protection of and respect for human rights, gender equality and freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination, in line with Viet Nam’s international commitments.	
CROSS CUTTING		Leave No One Behind	Human Rights	Resilience/Risk mitigation	Youth	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment	Sustainability	Accountability	
ENABLERS		Human Rights	Equity and Inclusivity	Gender Equality		Climate change adaptation & mitigation		Humanitarian and Pandemic Response	
		Strategic innovation		Data and evidence generation		Capacity building		Partnerships	
	Digitalization		Financing and budgeting		Accountability and participation				
RISKS COVID-19, Climate Change, reduced political will, changed government systems, reduced or limited financial investment, limited verifiable data, restrictions on public participation and fundamental rights.									

Theory of Change

CHANGE PATHWAY OVERVIEW – THEORY OF CHANGE

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

SDGs 1–6	SDGs 7, 11, 13- 15	SDGs 5, 8 – 12, 17	SDGs 5, 8, 10, 16
1. Inclusive Social Development	2. Climate Change Response, Disaster Resilience & Environmental Sustainability	3. Shared Prosperity through Economic Transformation	4. Governance and Access to Justice
<p>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 life, transferrable and digital skills, including during emergencies.</p> <p>1.2 The country's Health, WASH, Nutrition, and Emergency and Pandemic Preparedness and Response systems strengthened to ensure that all people, with focus on vulnerable groups, have equitable access to comprehensive, affordable, gender-transformative, climate-resilient and environmentally sensitive services, and have healthy behavioural practices.</p> <p>1.3 The national social protection and social care systems are inclusive, coherent and integrated, applying life cycle, risk informed, resilient and gender responsive approaches with a focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people</p> <p>1.4 Evidence based policies and innovative solutions are adopted and scaled up to reduce MdP and inequity with a focus on ethnic minorities and the most vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>2.1 Enhanced capacity and gender - responsive policies to identify and reduce climate risks, respond to disasters and build resilience of vulnerable populations.</p> <p>2.2 Accelerated implementation of policies and measures and enhanced awareness and engagement of stakeholders for low carbon development, circular economy, environmental protection and reduced environmental pollution.</p> <p>2.3 Strengthened institutional capacity and action from all stakeholders for sustainable management and use of natural resources and effective conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems</p> <p>2.4 Improved capacity to reduce negative impacts of climate change, environmental degradation on human development.</p>	<p>3.1 Reformed labour market institutions are used for improving labour standards for all types of workers and formalizing informal employment.</p> <p>3.2 National capacities are strengthened to formulate and implement evidence -based policies and strategies, and enhance enabling ecosystems for inclusive, transformative and sustainable agriculture, industry and service sectors for decent work.</p> <p>3.3 Sustainable, inclusive and responsible business models and practices including MSMEs and cooperatives are promoted to increase productivity, trade development and innovation, and improve working conditions and compliance, with special focus on economic empowerment of the poor, ethnic minorities and women.</p> <p>3.4 Strengthened heritage preservation and urban creativity is undertaken to enhance cultural industries and advance sustainable tourism.</p> <p>3.5 Evidence-based options and mechanisms are promoted to expand public and private finance for achieving SDGs</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>4.1 The enabling environment is created towards innovative, responsive, accountable and transparent national systems in participation of vulnerable groups in the sustainable development process</p> <p>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</p> <p>4.3 The social, institutional and legal environment is enhanced to accelerate the achievement of gender equality, empowerment, participation and decision - making of women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, girls and LGBTIQ persons.</p> <p>4.4 Socio cultural attitudes and practices, accountability, and legal and policy frameworks are transformed to eliminate gender - based violence and all forms of abuse, exploitation and discrimination against vulnerable groups.</p> <p>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 equitable access to protection systems is ensured for victims, witnesses and other vulnerable groups, especially migrants, women and children</p> <p>4.6 Data and production, analysis and use are strengthened to inform evidence based and rights -based policies, planning, budgeting</p>

2.3 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 1: By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially the poor and those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from inclusive, gender responsive, disability-sensitive, equitable, affordable and quality social services and social protection systems, will have moved further out of poverty in all its dimensions and will be empowered to reach their full potential.

Theory of Change and UN Development Support

Multi-dimensional poverty has reduced, and extreme poverty has continued to fall in Viet Nam since 2015⁴⁰ with human development indicators showing significant improvements. However, the risk of falling back into poverty is high among certain groups and even more so in the current pandemic. The reductions in poverty are not spread evenly across the country and inequalities exist between regions. Higher levels of multi-dimensional poverty exist in the Northern Midlands and mountainous regions and the Central Highlands, for instance, where most ethnic minorities live. Women, young people, children, older persons, informal and migrant workers, stateless persons and those of undetermined nationality, and PWD are affected to a higher degree. While state investment in social protection has increased through established social protection systems, namely The Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform (2017-2025), Master Plan for Social Insurance Reform and their Action Plans (2018-2030), support is low and coverage is fragmented and constrained by the definition and selection of beneficiaries⁴¹, negatively impacting informal workers, the poor, children, the elderly, young people, women, PWD, people who use drugs, sex workers, victims of human trafficking and persons affected by HIV and hampering efforts to eradicate issues of unacceptable forms of work. Hunger and malnutrition have been reduced in most provinces, nevertheless, Viet Nam's hunger situation is sensitive to seasons and is mainly caused by natural disasters and extreme weather, mainly in the Northern Mountainous Areas, the North Central and Central Coastal Area, and the Central Highlands.⁴² During the COVID-19 crisis, hunger concerns spread to urban areas as strict containment measures were introduced for several months mid-2021.

Key health indicators have improved over the last three decades as a result of reduced morbidity and mortality due to infectious disease and through the strengthening of primary health care. Barriers to affordable, quality and rights-based health services need to be eliminated, and a focus on reducing maternal and child mortality, particularly among ethnic minorities, increasing services to an ageing population, and strengthening health policies, awareness and promotion is needed. Likewise, growing concerns about mental health, especially among older persons, adolescents and youth, necessitate expansion of quality early intervention and support services including life skills and comprehensive sexuality education. Viet Nam faces unmet need for family planning, particularly for modern contraceptives, highest amongst ethnic minorities and migrants, leading to higher maternal mortality. The current pandemic has impacted the capacity of health care providers and constrained national resources, threatening the gains made in the health sector. Concerns around access to health care for persons with a disability need to be understood and addressed.

⁴⁰ Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and UNDP (2018), Multidimensional poverty in Viet Nam: Reducing poverty in all its dimensions to ensure a good life for all, <http://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/library/poverty/MDPR.html>.

⁴¹ ILO, (2020). A focus on families: A short-term benefit package for the extension of multi-tiered social security coverage in Viet Nam.

⁴² National Report 2020 on Progress of Five-year Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

Viet Nam's net primary and secondary enrolment rates⁴³ are approaching universal, however, gender, geographic location, ethnicity, poverty, disability and migrant status influence access to education and the overall quality of education remains a concern. Ethnic minority children and children with a disability and out-of-school youth are most at risk of being left behind, with geography, poverty and the limited availability of inclusive mainstream education the main barrier to children, adolescents and youth attending school.⁴⁴ There are large disparities in access to education for families with different economic status leading to substantial gaps in school performance.⁴⁵ The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed a serious digital divide, which primarily impacts older persons, students in remote, mountainous and large ethnic minority areas. More broadly, education is poorly aligned with the needs of the labour market, particularly when it comes to digital and transferable skills development. Likewise, efforts are needed to ensure more equitable access to relevant tertiary education knowledge through development and sharing of open learning resources and open public online courses; and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) accreditation that meets the skills shortages faced by Viet Nam. Older persons, especially those in rural, remote areas, face more difficulties in accessing online/digital information and services and are being left out in the digital age. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, as most of the information and services have been transformed from the traditional forms into online and digital platforms, where older people have limited knowledge and access. Access to digital technology for older persons should be better facilitated through improved knowledge and skills. Continuous education and lifelong learning, adaptation of equipment and software, and mentoring for older persons should be developed to ensure their successful inclusion.

Access to improved drinking water has increased from 80 percent in 2000 to 95 percent in 2017, although geographic disparities persist⁴⁶, and 88.9 percent of households now use hygienic toilets.⁴⁷ Nevertheless, 26 million rural people do not have access to clean water, 16 million people are without hygienic latrines and 7.7 million students do not have clean drinking water and WASH facilities at school. Ethnic minorities in rural areas lag behind and open defecation practices persist in the Mekong River Delta, Central Highlands and Northern Mountains. Low rates of handwashing with soap are further exacerbating the risk of COVID-19 transmission and reinforce the need for greater levels of expenditure in WASH including investment in WASH promotion, urban and rural water supply – including for schools and health centres - and quality regulatory systems.

There has been significant progress in child nutrition, however, stunting rates remain high at 19.6 percent, and disparities persist among ethnic minorities at 38 percent.⁴⁸ Maternal nutrition and complementary feeding practices are inadequate, limiting progress in malnutrition reduction. Viet Nam faces a “triple burden of malnutrition”, notably undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight and obesity. Nineteen per cent of children and adolescents are overweight or obese, more than doubling in ten years. The prevalence in urban areas is 26.8 percent.

Overall analysis identifies four key challenges affecting the delivery of social services and social protection systems, the achievement of the SDGs, gender equality and the fulfilment of human rights: i) **Significant nationwide disparities** in the delivery of quality education and lifelong learning to ensure emergency resilient learning, and life transferable and digital skills ; ii) **unequal access to and use of**

⁴³ 2019 Population and Housing Census, General Statistics Office of Vietnam. Estimates for enrolment rates at primary, lower secondary and upper secondary school at 98, 89.2 and 68.3 per cent respectively.

⁴⁴ Ministry of Education and Training, UNESCO Institute for Statistics and UNICEF. 2018. Report on Out-of-School Children: Viet Nam Country Study 2016. Ha Noi. Ministry of Education and Training.

⁴⁵ Young Lives (2014) - An International Study of Childhood Poverty 2013-2014

⁴⁶ UNICEF and WHO, *Joint Monitoring Programme – Progress on household drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene 2000-2017*. 2019, p 104

⁴⁷ *ibid*

⁴⁸ General Nutrition Survey 2019-2020. Institute of Nutrition, Ministry of Health (Viet Nam).

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

health, WASH, and nutrition services, which is often exacerbated by health and environmental shocks; iii) **A social protection and social care system which is fragmented and limited in scope and coverage**, and can be improved to reach all those in need; and vi) **improvements needed in policy development and institutional capacities to ensure that rapid reduction of multi-dimensional poverty**, which is disproportionately high among ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups, benefits all Vietnamese and reduces inequalities.

i) The further strengthening of the quality of the education and lifelong learning systems will be supported by the UN through improved local and national capacity to strengthen gender responsive policies, planning and finance for climate smart, equitable, inclusive, innovative quality learning opportunities for all with a special focus on the most vulnerable groups (especially ethnic minorities, adolescents and youth, and children with disabilities) and continuity during emergencies; increased equitable, gender responsive and inclusive, innovative quality (in and out of schools) learning opportunities and life-long learning, including in life skills and comprehensive sexuality education and TVET; improved learning, transferable, life and digital skills, participation and engagement for all children, adolescents and young people, especially the most vulnerable. The UN will also raise awareness and equip communities, families, parents, education professionals, caregivers, and all children, adolescents and young people with knowledge and skills to contribute to positively transforming harmful gender and social norms.

ii) Priorities for health, WASH, nutrition and emergency and pandemic preparedness and response systems will be responded to by the UN through evidence-based and rights-based policy/decision making. This will include support to enhancing health management information systems and surveillance of diseases and monitoring of health trends. The UN will strengthen governance systems, including legal frameworks and regulations especially for vulnerable populations. Technical support will be provided by the UN along with evidence-based advocacy for development of national and subnational policies and plans focused on sexual and reproductive health care; child, newborn, and adolescent health; nutrition; integrated care for older persons; non-communicable diseases; HIV; environmental health and migrant health. The UN will facilitate innovation in financing mechanisms including private sector and sub-national public financing and technologies; and pilot innovative interventions and capacity building to improve the access and utilisation of services by vulnerable populations. The UN will respond to threats to global health security including COVID-19 through fostering partnerships across sectors, development partners, organizations and groups that are legally established and operate in line with Government's rule and regulations, and the private sector.

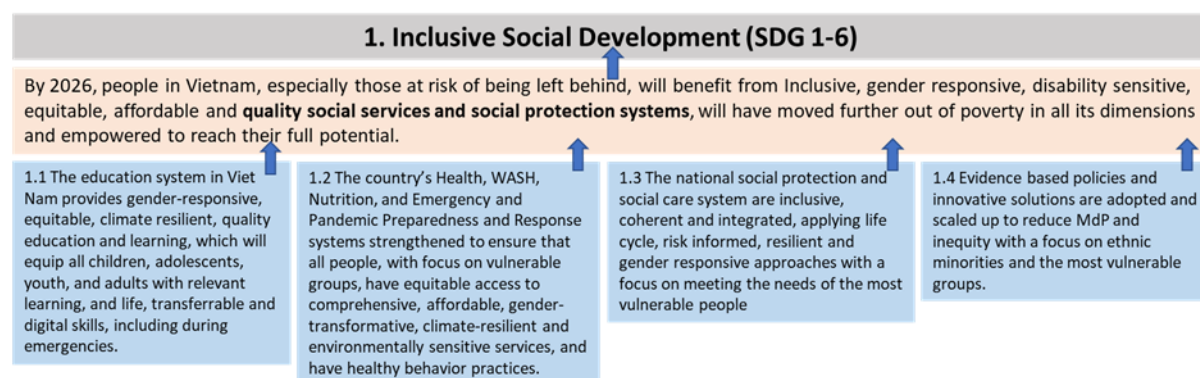
iii) National social protection and social care system priorities will be supported by the UN through policy advice and innovative solutions for a social protection framework responsive to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and natural disaster emergencies. The UN will also promote and support evidence-based policy reform to expand coverage and adequacy of social protection and social insurance mechanisms; utilise advocacy, evidence-based policy advice and technical support to increase care support for vulnerable groups; reduction of unpaid care work of women; strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks for social protection programmes and social care services; improve the social services workforce and their ability to respond to the needs and rights of vulnerable people; as well as support the reform of social assistance and social care policy and frameworks. The UN will assist digital transformation for beneficiary self-regulation, management of social protection systems and service delivery to increase reach, quality and transparency. The UN will improve access to information and the available support mechanisms focusing on vulnerable groups.

iv) Reduction of multi-dimensional poverty will be accelerated through the UN's support for improvement of the national multi-dimensional poverty reduction framework, policy, programming and budgeting to enhance multi-dimensional poverty reduction efforts. This will include strengthening the capacity to monitor and assess multi-dimensional poverty. The UN will promote multi-stakeholder

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

platforms that lead to strengthened ethnic minority and women led businesses that result in sustainable jobs and improved livelihoods. The UN's policy advice and technical assistance will introduce innovative solutions and strengthen regulatory frameworks to empower ethnic minorities and women to create and access sustainable livelihoods, and access services equitably in the COVID-19 context enhancing positive social impact amongst ethnic minorities. The UN will advise and advocate for evidence-based and rights-based policies on socialisation of social services to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, equality and inclusiveness of social services provision.

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



COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 2: By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a safer and cleaner environment resulting from Viet Nam's effective mitigation and adaption to climate change, disaster risk reduction and resilience building, promotion of circular economy, the provision of clean and renewable energy, and the sustainable management of natural resources.

Theory of Change and UN Development Support

Viet Nam is highly vulnerable to climate change and disasters, threatening the rights and livelihoods as well as physical and social health of communities, risking Viet Nam's fragile development progress, affecting the most vulnerable. Likewise, Viet Nam has significant renewable energy potential creating opportunities to move beyond the current heavy reliance on fossil fuels. Rapid population growth is placing increased pressure on the environment including overconsumption of natural resources, under-utilization of sources of renewable energy, with practices such as the unregulated chemical use in industry and agriculture contributing to the extinction of plant and animal species. Viet Nam's CO2 emission per unit of manufacturing value added is the highest in the region, and a trend that is increasing⁴⁹.

These trends are driving the need to prioritise a more mainstreamed approach to building resilience to disaster and climate risks, a sustainable ocean economy, low-carbon technological development, sustainable natural resource, environmental management that meet sustainable development

⁴⁹ <https://iap.unido.org/country/VNM>

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

targets⁵⁰, seeking to prioritise the needs and rights of those most vulnerable including women, persons living with disability, children, migrants, ethnic minorities and stateless persons and those of undetermined nationality, the elderly, people living with chronic disease, people living in disaster prone areas, vulnerable people and the poor.

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

i) To enhance capacity and gender-responsive policies to identify and reduce climate risks, respond to disasters and build resilience of vulnerable populations the UN will develop an enhanced risk transfer and insurance system; support risk-informed development planning; promote resilient and climate smart agri-food systems; as well as strengthen gender mainstreaming, the legal gender responsive framework, technical and management capacity and financing mechanisms. In addition, the participation of women, older persons, ethnic minorities, children and youth in positive climate action will be facilitated, as well as the participation and leadership of women, especially those disproportionately affected, in decision-making processes will be prioritised. The coordination of UN-Government-partner responses to humanitarian emergencies and the promotion of resilient and green recovery through large scale action will also be prioritized. Early warning systems and early action will be enhanced by the UN through improved risk assessments, the application of remote sensing and inclusive digital data and tools. Priorities will also be addressed through nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

ii) To accelerate the implementation of policies and enhance awareness of stakeholders for low carbon development, circular economy and environmental protection the UN will support the adoption of circular economy practices and policies, strengthen environmental regulatory systems, and support the government in the transition to a low-carbon economy. The UN will also support MSMEs to adopt low emission, clean technologies and low carbon intensive goods; and support the phase down of coal and reduce dependence on fossil fuels - leading the way for increasing renewable energy development and lowered GHG emissions. The UN will assist in greening existing and new industries, boosting the adoption of resource efficient, energy efficient and circular economy practices, fostering innovation around clean energy, clean production technologies, and minimising energy and resource consumption along the value chain and during the lifetime of products. E-mobility, green transport and infrastructure, green and smart cities and eco industrial parks will be promoted by the UN. Education and public awareness to reduce plastic production and consumption will be improved as will the promotion of effective waste management with linkage to informal sectors. The UN will work to establish a nationwide industrial pollution monitoring system and strengthen regulation and enforcement for effective air, soil and water pollution management along with supporting the effective management of hazardous chemicals, persistent organic pollutants and general medical waste. The UN will also assist Viet Nam in achieving the objectives of and compliance with multilateral environmental agreements.

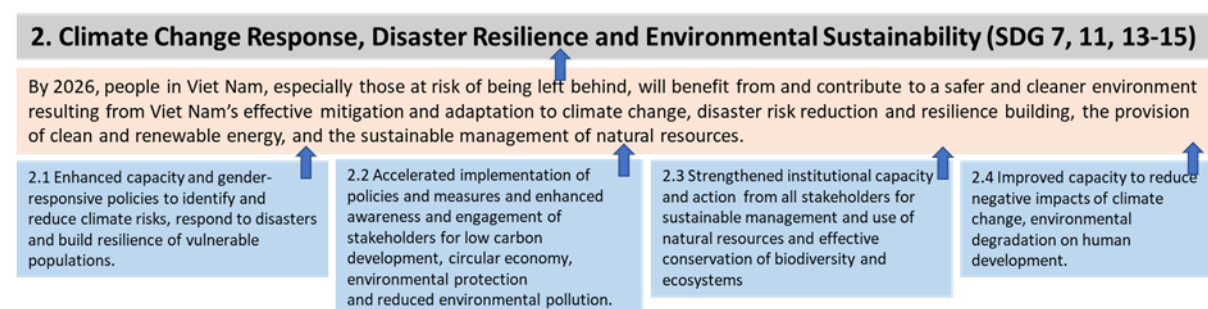
⁵⁰ [KEI 2017. Environmental Sustainability in Asia: Progress, Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Series 1 - Vietnam. Chapter 2: National vision and plans and SDGs](#)

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

iii) The sustainable management and use of natural resources and effective conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems will be addressed by the UN through enhancing capacity, policy and mandates to support coherent and sustainable management of biodiversity and habitats, improving sustainable access to water for productive use as well as the prevention of wildlife trafficking and consumption. The UN will promote sustainable financing mechanisms for conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, and introduce innovative mechanisms to attract and sustainably engage the private sector in sustainable natural resource management. The UN will devise strategies to promote co-management schemes that ensure local communities enjoy their human rights and benefit from resilient development and sustainable tourism, and contribute to biodiversity conservation and natural resource management.

iv) To reduce the negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on human development the UN will increase public awareness of these priorities and increase support mechanisms for families, women and children who experience multiple impacts from COVID-19 climate change and disasters. The UN will strengthen the normative framework to realize people's and children's environmental rights, strengthen capacities, and improve gender responsive climate and disaster resilient systems for human development and in support of climate change adaptation. The UN will prioritise support for the prevention and preparedness for a next pandemic through strengthening of the One Health⁵¹ approach, improving the management of the human-animal-environment interface.

The UN interventions are well-aligned with the GoV's commitment to human rights-based climate action illustrated by Viet Nam being, since 2016, one of the main sponsors of an annual UN Human Rights Council resolution on human rights and climate change. The theory of change relies on the overall *assumption* that the Vietnamese people and businesses will continue to raise concerns about environmental issues, and will freely and actively contribute to climate action. Also, that linkages will be made with regional and global efforts and there will be constant opportunity to enhance digitisation and the application of new technology. It also assumes that partnership mechanisms for engagement will promote partnerships with NGOs and social organizations, organizations and groups that are legally established and operate in line with Government's rules and regulations, and the private sector.



⁵¹ Building on and expanding earlier efforts, the One Health Partnership was launched in March 2016. It brings together national and international governmental and non-governmental One Health stakeholders under the leadership of the Government of Viet Nam. The overall goal of the partnership is to enhance the capacity of Viet Nam to address zoonotic infectious diseases threats at the human-animal*-ecosystem interface (*including livestock, wildlife and other species).

COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 3: By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will contribute to and benefit equitably from sustainable, inclusive and gender-responsive economic transformation based on innovation, entrepreneurship, enhanced productivity, competitiveness, and decent work.

Theory of Change and UN Development Support

The impressive economic growth rate that Viet Nam has seen in recent years points to success of national planning tools which have facilitated manufacturing, trade promotion and facilitation, tourism and macroeconomic prudence. However, widening income inequalities and unintended marginalization of vulnerable groups points to an uneven distribution of wealth as well as opportunities for economic prosperity. Productivity in the agricultural sector could be improved and Vietnamese are migrating both domestically and internationally to seek better paid opportunities. The industrial base and service economy is dominated by low-skilled, low-value addition activity and low technology contents; high dependence on foreign direct investment (FDI) with limited backwards linkages; small local firms with limited capability; and uncoordinated industrial policies and implementation. However, to meet national development objectives, inclusive of labour rights, and the 2030 Agenda, Viet Nam needs to increase its productive capacities across all three sectors of the economy, whilst fully harnessing the potential of its natural endowments.

The analysis points to four main challenges impeding economic transformation, achievement of the SDGs, gender equality and the fulfilment of human rights: i) **lack of integrated and well-resourced development policies** and strategies to accelerate inclusive, transformative and sustainable growth across all economic sectors, ii) a **private sector which is dominated by low productivity** business models and practices especially among MSMEs, household businesses, and cooperatives, iii) **Insufficient adoption and access** to modern technology, and iv) **lack of adequate investment** prioritizing sustainable and inclusive economic transformation, and achievement of the SDGs. The pathway to a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic transformation, which all Vietnamese can benefit from and contribute to, requires strategic and green economic policies which promote equitable participation, innovation, productivity, resilience, the protection of all workers, the use of modern digital tools and platforms and respect for human rights.

i) To accelerate inclusive, transformative and sustainable growth across all economic sectors, national capacities need to be strengthened to design and implement evidence-based, inclusive and gender responsive policies and strategies and enhance enabling ecosystems across all sectors. The UN's strategic interventions will focus on promoting scientific, technological and innovation policies and standards to support structural transformation including facilitating a smooth transition to 4IR; devising new business models and practices which improve connectivity and the use of spatial economics, increasing technological diffusion and adaptation, facilitate market access, upgrade business and value chains and increasing economic opportunities especially for ethnic minorities, PWD and those in geographically remote areas; design strategies to improve the mobility of people, goods and services and increase productivity, trade development and economic diversification; support a comprehensive industrialization policy which incorporates and integrates the green economy and employment, circular economy and natural capital development; and encourages the expansion of enabling infrastructure development. There are also specific areas where the UN will leverage its comparative advantage namely by strengthening heritage preservation and urban creativity to enhance cultural industries and advance sustainable tourism. Strategic interventions will include enhancing institutional management capacity of heritage and cultural resources; reinforcing development strategies at the level of cities and encouraging public-private sector dialogues; strengthening institutional capacity in governance and financing modality of technology business incubator; strengthening and promoting linkages and synergies between food processing, handicraft, tourism and the creative industries for local economic development and women's economic

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

development; and strengthening integrated urban policies with interrelated socioeconomic, environmental and cultural strategies to promote national and local economic growth and prosperity.

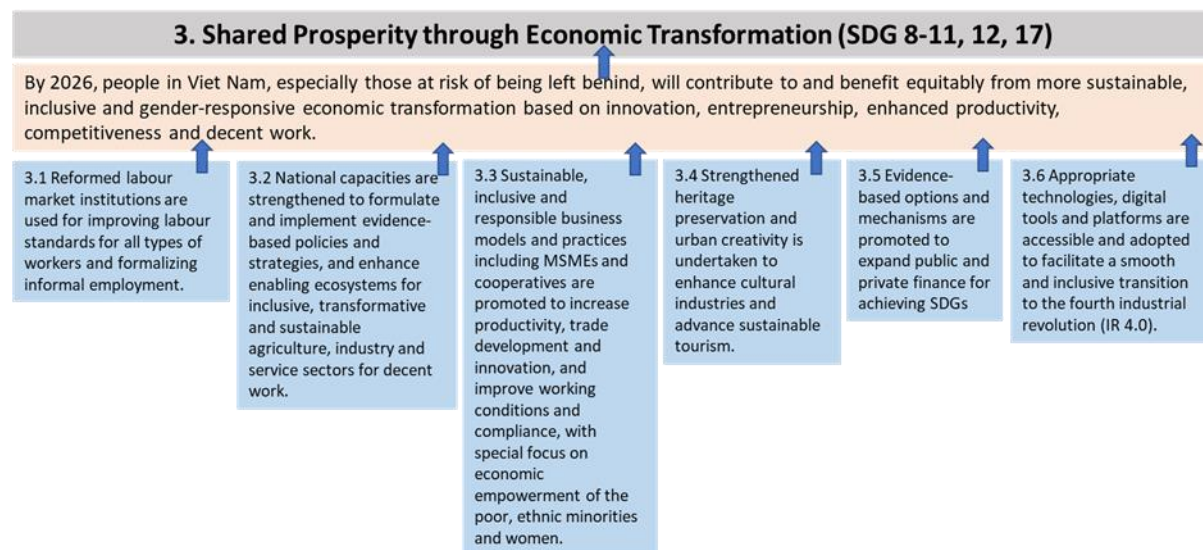
ii) As the engine of economic growth, the private sector plays an important role in the successful implementation of development policies and needs to be both supported and incentivized to adopt business models which reflect the main tenets of the SDGs. The UN will seek to prioritize vulnerable MSMEs, household businesses, women-owned businesses and the informal sector (especially those led by women, PWD and ethnic minorities) to enable a bounce back from the impacts of COVID-19 and to enable Viet Nam to build resilience to other shocks and become greener and more resources and energy efficient; enhance domestic value-addition and productivity; grow domestic markets and consumer demand; improve access to finance, information, markets and technology; better connect firms to domestic, regional and global value chains, and reduce other bottlenecks for the growth of Viet Nam's MSMEs. The youth will be supported through labour market policies, youth entrepreneurship and self-employment initiatives. Compliance with international labour standards ensures a path to decent work and therefore the UN aims to help improve labour market governance and labour standards in Viet Nam including supporting the transition of workers and enterprises from the informal to the formal economy, improving labour relations, promoting responsible business conduct which complies with international human rights standards (e.g. the UN Principles on Business and Human Rights), and in relation to land rights, and facilitate safe, fair and regular labour migration (aiding the implementation of the United Nations' Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration).

iii) Accelerating a smooth and inclusive transition to 4IR requires a cultural shift in the adoption and accessibility of appropriate and new technologies, digital tools and platforms. The UN intends to provide solutions which increase access to ICT services, expanding access to 4G technology and raising ICT capabilities among MSMEs, household businesses, cooperatives with special focus on economic empowerment of vulnerable groups including the poor, ethnic minority, PWD and women. The UN will also focus on innovative approaches to improve inclusion such as developing strategies to mainstream digital services across all sectors as part of broadening the digital economy; promoting e-commerce adoption among MSMEs and cooperatives; building human capital and raise total factor productivity through focussed vocational training and industrial skills development and developing innovative platforms for children and young people particularly girls and young women to facilitate their transition from school to decent and productive employment; and develop and enforce active labour market policies and for re-skilling of migrant and informal workers, particularly female workers in a digital economy.

iv) Finally, addressing the above challenges and the 2030 Agenda will require effective, equitable, and targeted investments which go far beyond the existing levels of domestic resources and with declining ODA flows, the UN will intervene to promote evidence-based options and mechanisms aimed at expanding gender responsive public and private finance for achieving the SDGs. This includes exploring innovative financing tools and modalities, private sector partnerships and pooled funds and provide support services to enterprises for access to financial and other resources. It also requires strengthening public investment management, and gender-responsive budgeting; and accelerating financial and fiscal stimulus for strengthened, inclusive macroeconomic policies.

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

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**



COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 4: By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a more just, safe and inclusive society based on improved governance, more responsive institutions, strengthened rule of law and the protection of and respect for human rights, gender equality, and freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination, in line with Viet Nam's international commitments.

Theory of change and UN Development Support

Although legal and judicial reforms are underway to encourage a more responsive and transparent governance system, the meaningful participation of vulnerable groups in policy and decision-making can be improved especially for children, youth, women, the elderly, LGBTI, PWD, persons with chronic health issues, and ethnic minorities. The efficiency and transparency of government service delivery, and its responsiveness to gender and child issues is lacking which reduces the overall efficacy of sustainable development policies and hinders progress and achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

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

i) To address the limited capacity of governance institutions to strengthen public participation of vulnerable groups, the UN will focus on creating an enabling environment to foster innovative, responsive, accountable and transparent national systems. UN interventions will promote accountability and transparency, and the application of technology, digitalization, and full implementation of e-governance for efficient and transparent delivery of government services. The aim is to accelerate implementation and monitoring of public sector reforms and support participatory legislation development and decision-making processes that are evidence-based, people-centred and

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

aligned with international standards on human rights. The UN will leverage innovative approaches to support the expansion of institutional mechanisms to provide citizens with opportunities to participate in policy design and decisions which impact their lives, with emphasis on children, youth empowerment, women, LGBTI persons, older persons, PWD, persons with chronic health issues, migrants and ethnic minorities. The interventions will ensure the participation and empowerment of community and specialized organizations, the private sector and communities as key partners for SDG achievement, whilst supporting the capacity of organizations and groups that are legally established and operate in line with Government's rules and regulations to represent their constituencies and participate in advocacy, legislation and decision-making processes, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes. This intervention will focus on the adoption of e-government applications to facilitate more efficient, broader participation from marginalized groups, and innovative approaches for citizen centric governance.

ii) Strengthening the rule of law has serious implications for improving access to justice and tackling discrimination in Viet Nam. For this reason, the UN strategic support will focus on improving the independence and integrity of the judiciary, implementing recommendations accepted under international human rights mechanisms such as the UPR, improving and strengthening responsive and protective laws and policy enforcement, in line with Viet Nam's international commitments, improving access to justice and legal services including legal aid by vulnerable groups; and expanding awareness and eligibility of access to legal aid. The UN will utilize its comparative advantage in human rights to propose innovative approaches at the government and community level to address deeply entrenched challenges, especially with respect to enhancing participation for organizations and individuals in decision-making processes as well as by encouraging the participation of women and marginalized, especially LGBTI and PWD in elected bodies. The UN will work to promote access to legal identity (including birth registration) and nationality for stateless persons and those of undetermined nationality. In particular, the UN offer will also support child and gender-sensitive justice system reform. The protection of vulnerable groups especially LGBTI persons, older persons, PWD, ethnic minorities, women and children as survivors of GBV, people affected by HIV, migrants, stateless persons and those of undetermined nationality, victims of trafficking, and communities affected by unexploded ordnance is an area of concern and will be prioritized. Such interventions include maintaining and expanding prospects for freely chosen and productive employment for women and men through safe and regular migration; and promoting the UN guiding principles on business and human rights, as well as the national implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The UN will also support national institutions to effectively lead and manage mine action functions and responsibilities in line with the UN Mine Action Strategy, 2019-2023.

iii) Although gender equality has improved, progress has been slow and uneven. The UN will focus on enhancing the social, institutional and legislative environment to accelerate the achievement of gender equality, the empowerment of women, participation and decision-making of women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, girls, LGBTI persons, the elderly, especially those in the vulnerable groups mentioned. The strategic approach will work to strengthen the capacity of government and relevant stakeholders to develop and implement laws and policies that address remaining gender gaps and discrimination and promote gender equality as well as end harmful practices, and address discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes across the life cycle that hinder the full participation of and benefit to girls, women and LGBTI persons. Leveraging the UN's convening power, interventions will work to reinforce multi-sectoral government and stakeholder coordination for policy development and implementation, accountability mechanisms, and partnerships whilst mobilizing initiatives in digital transformation to promote basic human rights for all and gender equality across all areas of society. The UN will also continue to promote women's role in peace and security, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Viet Nam and ensure women's participation in and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making. The UN also works to support the documentation, testing and piloting of locally driven initiatives designed to prevent violence, promote tolerance and advance social cohesion.

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

iv) To eliminate GBV and all forms of abuse, exploitation and discrimination against women, children and other vulnerable groups, the UN strategic intervention will work towards improving legal and policy frameworks, accountability as well as socio-cultural attitudes and practices. At the institutional level, advocacy to increase the commitment and resourcing for implementation of laws and policies, data collection on GBV, gender-biased sex selection, and violence against children, other forms of abuse and exploitation, including child and forced labour, will be a priority, as will be improving the capacity of essential services to the survivors of violence. The UN will also work to formulate national guidelines for frontline workers and establish a multi-sectoral coordinated essential services response to GBV and other forms of harmful practices and violence to ensure continuity in essential services particularly in humanitarian and emergency situations. At the community level, the UN will support participatory, inclusive and rights-based mechanisms to eliminate stigma and discrimination, transform socio-cultural norms and attitudes to prevent GBV and gender-biased sex selection, and improving human security for communities in target areas. This will include initiating campaigns and advocacy to promote gender equality and discourage gender stereotypes; and community mobilization and individuals to address social norms, harmful attitudes and practices that encourage violent behaviours, discrimination and stereotypes. Tackling GBV and discrimination against LGBTI persons, sex workers, migrants and PWD groups can also be powerful in creating a cultural shift on how these issues are viewed by society. Women, children, PWD and communities affected by unexploded ordnance and Agent Orange will also be a focus.

v) To address trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, illicit drugs, wildlife trafficking, corruption and money laundering require strengthened national legislation, policies and agencies. The UN intervention will leverage expertise in crime prevention to improve the detection and elimination of such crimes whilst ensuring that equitable access to protection systems is ensured for victims, witnesses and other vulnerable groups, especially migrants in vulnerable situations, women and children. The UN strategic intervention will build on its comparative advantage in coordinating on cross-border issues, regional cooperation and information-sharing, all of which will work towards combatting these challenges which require multilateral approaches given their complexities.

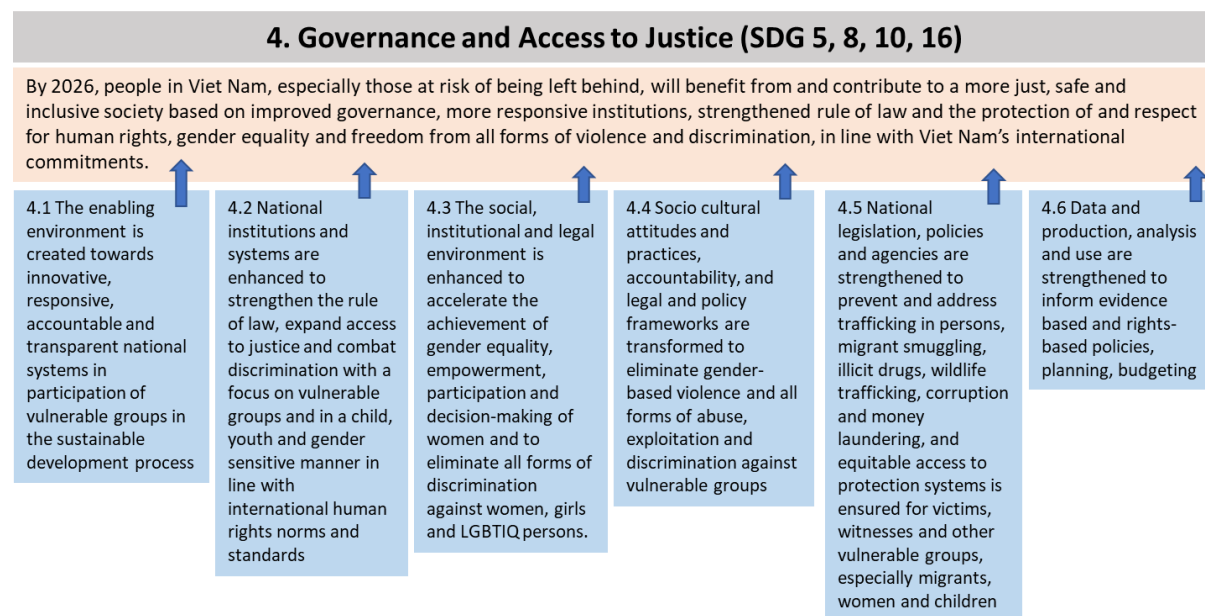
vi) Weak data collection, management, analysis and use limit the effectiveness of policies, planning and budgeting that respond to the special needs of vulnerable groups, especially women, children, adolescents and youth, PWD, the elderly, and survivors of GBV and Agent Orange, and accidents caused by unexploded ordnance. The UN intervention will increase the availability, access and disaggregated nature of data and statistics for improved monitoring and rights-based/evidence-based policy design and budgeting whilst improving the participation and empowerment of non-governmental organizations, academia, the private sector and communities as key partners for achieving the SDGs. The UN strategic approach will encourage the application of responsive and protective laws, policies and statistical methodologies, in line with Viet Nam's international commitments to realize the SDGs and better capture the needs of vulnerable groups and effectiveness of ongoing interventions. The UN will also increase the availability of quality data and statistics to promote and track progress on SDG achievement, gender equality and women's empowerment, and also develop innovative approaches to advocacy and communications in order to accelerate progress in this area.

This outcome focuses on addressing the major recommendations Viet Nam received and accepted, based on its obligations under the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and ratified international human rights law treaties, during the 3rd UPR in 2019. Special attention will be paid to recommendations on various freedoms; violence against women; access to justice and the rule of law; the right to participate in public affairs; the protection of ethnic minorities and persons in rural areas;

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

and the assurance of legal participation in the protection and promotion of human rights for relevant stakeholders.

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



CHAPTER 3 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3.1 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Joint UN-Government Steering Committee

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

United Nations Country Team

The UNCT is led by the UN Resident Coordinator and is comprised of the heads of all resident and non-resident UN agencies and entities who operate in Viet Nam. The UNCT is the highest inter-agency coordination and joint decision-making body of the UN system at the country level, providing oversight of the implementation of the CF 2022-2026. The UNCT is guided by the UNCT Code of Conduct and members are accountable to each other for the responsible use of resources, achievement of results, adherence to the UN guiding principles for UN development assistance, and progress in UN reform. This includes making available the financial, human and other resources needed for the realisation of the commitments related to the achievement of CF 2022-2026 results. In leading the UNCT, the UN Resident Coordinator is assisted in her/his duties by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and provides support to advance UNCT efforts on UN reform and coordination of CF 2022-2026 implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation. The UNCT oversees the UN Governance and Management Structure and promotes UN reform and the key principles of enhanced efficiency and effectiveness across the entire UN system. Effective coordination within the UN system will continue to ensure achievements and measurable programmes and will also apply to the inter-agency groups established by the UNCT.

UN Programme Management Team

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

UN Operations Management Team

The UN Operations Management Team (OMT), comprised of key operations management personnel across UN entities, will develop the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) to align with the programmatic priorities of the CF and to enhance opportunities for increased efficiency and quality in programme delivery. The connection between the PMT and the OMT will increase awareness of programme implementation and resourcing needs and increase efficiencies in multi-year programme delivery. The

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

OMT will work with the PMT to align monitoring cycles between the CF and BOS to ensure that programming needs, priorities and challenges that may be pinpointed in annual CF monitoring cycles can influence the cyclical monitoring and work planning of BOS by the OMT. The OMT reports to the UNCT in Viet Nam.

UN SDG Task Force

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

UN Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Group

The UN Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Group will be established to provide technical advice and support to the UNCT, PMT, UN Results Groups, and relevant UN working groups on all aspects concerning CF monitoring, review, reporting, and evaluation, in close collaboration with the GoV. The MEL Group will be responsible for supporting the UNCT, in consultation with PMT, in establishing M&E multi-agency mechanisms, tools, processes, and procedures, to ensure that the UNCT's contributions to CF outcomes and outputs are tracked in a timely and efficient manner and reviewed in line with the UNSDG guidance and the six UN guiding principles⁵², engaging all relevant stakeholders including GoV agencies, NGOs, mass organizations, private sector, businesses, development partners, researchers and academia, communities, and people.

UN Results Groups

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

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

UN Thematic Groups

The UNCT will establish UN Thematic Groups to work on a number of prioritized cross-cutting issues, such as gender, adolescents and youth empowerment, and human rights. The Thematic Groups, chaired by RC or UNCT member, will play an important role in facilitating the UN's coherent approach and action on these issues across all UN interventions and the CF results group, and supporting the UNCT mainstreaming of these issues into CF workplans, interventions, monitoring and reporting. The

⁵² Leaving no one behind (LNOB), human rights-based approach to development (HRBA), gender equality and women's empowerment, resilience, sustainability and accountability

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED
NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

Thematic Groups, in close collaboration with the Results Groups and others, are also the mechanism to coordinate and facilitate information sharing and learning, joint analysis, common advocacy messages, and joint interventions regarding the cross-cutting issues.

UN Communications Group

The UN Communications Group will prepare and implement on behalf of the UNCT in Viet Nam a communications strategy for the CF to highlight and promote the UN's contribution to achievement of the SDGs. The UN Communications Group's dissemination strategies will include consideration of accessibility and formats that allow for widespread access and dissemination with consideration for language, literacy and cultural difference.

3.2 RESOURCING THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The CF's implementation relies upon the availability of funding and resources mobilized at the country level and through other funds.

Following the signing of the CF, the Funding Framework will be developed as the financial planning and management tool for CF implementation incorporating the costed results (outcomes and outputs) of the CF, including for operations and communications, for the full programme cycle. Clearly defined interventions that support implementation of outputs will inform the Funding Framework. The CF Funding Framework, prepared by Results Groups in line with joint workplans, is a tool utilised by the UNCT to guide joint resource mobilization, including that undertaken in collaboration with Government and other partners.

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

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

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

The Programming instruments of UN entities have been developed in line with the strategic approach presented in this CF. The CF strategic planning process has benefited from consultation with government and parallel consultations related to the planning of respective country programmes. UN agency/entity programmes have been defined and shaped around the priorities and strategic interventions designed within the framework and will correspond with joint work plans. To ensure strong alignment, Country Programme Document (CPD) submission has taken account of the CF outcomes and outputs and all other UN entities without CPDs will derive their entity-specific country programming instruments from the CF planned results.

3.4 JOINT WORKPLANS

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

The CF will be nationally executed under the overall co-ordination of Viet Nam's Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Government coordinating authority for specific UN system agency/entity programmes. UN system entities and their implementing partners will implement programme activities. The CF will be made operational through the development of joint work plans (JWPs)⁵³ and entity-specific work plans as necessary, which will describe the specific results to be achieved. To the extent possible, the UN system entities and their implementing partners will use either the signed CF and CF JWPs or entity-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. As necessary and appropriate, project documents will be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the CF and JWPs joint or entity-specific work plans⁵⁴.

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

All UNCT members, both resident and non-resident, will be involved in preparing JWPs and they will be discussed within and across Results Groups to ensure that gaps, overlaps and potential for synergy and joint programmes are identified and responded to as appropriate. The JWPs will capture the CF outcomes, outputs, funding framework and resources, SDG Targets and indicators, gender equality and human rights, disability inclusivity and any other system wide markers⁵⁵, with each UN agency/entity's contributions (outputs and resources) to the CF outcomes clearly aligned to the CF theory of change.

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

The JWPs will be endorsed by the UNCT and will be the basis for the Results Group Annual Performance Review to ensure that these respond to the evolving country context and directly supports the preparation of the Annual UN country results report to Government.

3.5 BUSINESS OPERATIONS STRATEGY IN SUPPORT OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

Following the development and endorsement of the Business Operations Strategy 2017 -2021 the UN in Viet Nam has implemented the UN's Global Business Operations Strategy (BOS) to ensure both cost effectiveness and quality of the UN's operations, including those services deriving from a Common Back Office within the Green One UN House, having a direct impact on the goals achieved through UN joint programming. The OMT is responsible for overseeing the BOS' development, implementation, annual monitoring and work planning, and in doing so the OMT will continue to explore and

⁵³ As per the UNSDGCF guidance. .

⁵⁴ In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Cooperating Agency directly responsible for the Government's participation in each UNDP-assisted workplan. The reference to "Implementing Partner(s)" shall mean "Executing Agency(s)" as used in the "Standard Basic Assistance Agreement" (SBAA). Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a workplan, a Principal Implementing Partner will be identified who will have responsibility for convening, coordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the workplan to ensure that inputs are provided, and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the workplan.

⁵⁵ E.g. The UNCT Gender Equality Marker (GEM) will be used as a tool for tracking UN contributions to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

recommend innovative business models and levels of collaboration across UN entities, aimed at efficient and effective implementation of the CF and common business operations in Viet Nam.

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

Business Operations Strategy 2017-2021 common service lines

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

3.6 FUNDS MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HARMONISED APPROACH TO CASH TRANSFERS

The UN system entities that implement Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (namely UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) will provide support for the development and implementation of activities within the CF, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system entities' support may be provided to non-governmental organizations as agreed within the framework of individual workplans and project documents.

Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the ICSC circulars).

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

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

The Government will support the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds required to meet the needs of this Cooperation Framework and will cooperate with the UN system agencies including: encouraging potential donor Governments to make available to the UN system agencies the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme; endorsing the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector both internationally and in Viet Nam; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Viet Nam to support this programme which will be tax exempt for the Donor, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

3.7 UPDATES OF THE UN COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

The CCA will be updated through annual reviews and in response to any major changes in national circumstances (including conflict, political crises, the changing human rights context, pandemics and disasters). The UNCT may also find it necessary to initiate periodic ‘horizon scanning’ or trend analysis between annual updates. Where relevant, CCA updates will also be informed by other strategic assessments, to maximise capacity and availability of information. An analysis of the groups of people at risk of being left behind will be integrated into each of the updates of the CCA, through a review of the latest data and evidence as well as consultations with the concerned people. Where possible, special attention will be paid to providing analysis on the situation of PWD, and endeavours made to ensure that the updates/revisions include: (a) analysis of the situation of PWD in at least one thematic area; or (b) analysis of the situation of PWD in the majority of its thematic areas, and (c) data and analysis of the situation of PWD. In addition, gender analysis will be updated across all sectors of the CCA, including the underlying causes of gender inequality and discrimination. Particular attention will be given to non-traditional focus areas such as nature, energy and climate change. Consistent sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive data will continue to be strengthened in the CCA when available and with a focus on the most vulnerable groups.

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

CHAPTER 4 – MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

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

Monitoring of the CF indicators utilises verifiable national data sets in order to align CF monitoring to national monitoring instruments and processes including those that monitor results contributing to the achievement of Viet Nam localised SDG targets.

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

4.1 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL) PLAN

A multi-year MEL Plan will be developed by the MEL Group on behalf of the UNCT for the full CF period, identifying key MEL actions to be conducted by the UNCT and UN entities in collaboration with the GOV, with clear objectives, timelines and responsible entities.

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

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

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

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

4.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK MONITORING

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

Monitoring will be undertaken through a set of CF outcome and output indicators. Outcome indicators as part of the CF Results Framework have been selected primarily from the National SDG Indicator Framework (Viet Nam SDG or VSDG indicators) with available, transparent, and official baselines, targets, and data sources supporting the monitoring. Proxy indicators have been identified where no VSDG or SDG indicator exists. Outcome indicators meet the UNCT's obligations under the UNCT SWAP Gender Scorecard Action Plan and the UNCT UNDIS Action Plan. The UNCT maintains a commitment, to the extent possible, to the disaggregation of CF indicators by disability, sex, and age. CF Output Indicators will be identified within CF joint work plans in linkage with VSDG indicators.

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

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

- (i) UN Results Groups' JWP planning, review and reporting: with a focus on joint UN contributions, agreeing on course correction to the JWPs, and flagging any coordination and programmatic issues to the UNCT;
- (ii) UN agency/entity monitoring: focus on monitoring, reporting, and learning from specific projects and programmes that contribute to CF results;
- (iii) UN agency/entity monitoring of joint programmes or joint development interventions with a common geographic or sector focus;
- (iv) JSC review: setting CF strategic direction, discussing national circumstances and priorities, and agreeing on course correction to the CF; and
- (v) Other UN inter-agency group planning, review and reporting: providing supplementary information on UN contributions.

Monitoring of development risks and opportunities

The CF identifies a range of risks and assumptions and there are a number that are considered universal and represent relevant threats to the realisation of CF outcomes and therefore require ongoing monitoring and dialogue between partners.

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

The first is the current global COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a significant impact on Viet Nam's socio-economic advancement, the availability of resources, the availability of personnel and the rollout of programmes. The pandemic threat may continue to put pressure on available resources and their need to be diverted and for programme priorities to be nuanced or changed. Policy commitments may need to be adjusted and policy development processes may continue to be disrupted requiring ongoing monitoring and time spent in UN-Government dialogues to discuss and adjust plans accordingly.

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

Changed government systems and reduced political will may reduce the ability of the UN system to work towards CF outcomes in collaboration with government and potentially without the important technical collaboration with Ministries and Government Agencies. Aligned programming, an active JSC, regular sectoral planning processes and integrated planning and monitoring cycles are measures that have been put in place to mitigate risk in this area.

A lack of access to or limited utilisation of verifiable data caused by disruption to statistical institutions, national SDG monitoring or changes to government institutions could raise the risk of the credibility and validity of evidence-based policy development, programming and monitoring and could be mitigated by sustainable practices in data management and storage and increasing trust in data sharing.

Overall, the CF will benefit from adaptive measures taken to jointly analyse and respond to new situations emerging in the course of the implementation of this programmatic framework, including tapping into the regional and global tiers of the UN system. Establishment and full use of CF monitoring cycles and the governance structures designed for the CF will ensure cyclical approaches to review, monitoring and adjustment of the CF, including the design of intervention strategies as needed.

HACT Monitoring

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

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with UN system agencies,
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following UN system Agency standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,
3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

4.3 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND COUNTRY RESULTS REPORTING

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

Under the overall leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, each Results Group will conduct an Annual Performance Review with its stakeholders to discuss achievements, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned in the last quarter of each year of CF implementation. UN INFO reports will be an important basis for the review. Based on this review and the evolving country context, the Results Groups will propose to the UNCT amendments to the Cooperation Framework and or the following year's JWP to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness of the UN's support to the country.

The UN INFO reports, Annual Performance Reviews and CCA updates will feed into the mandatory annual UN Country Results Report, which will capture the full footprint of UN entities in supporting the GoV to advance progress towards the 2030 Agenda. These UN entities' annual results reports and mid-term reviews (if available) will also be taken into account to inform the progress of the CF in terms of programmatic results. The UN Country Team Results Reports will inform the JSC Annual CF Performance Reviews and will be endorsed by the JSC for wide dissemination.

The JSC Annual Performance Review will be organized in the first quarter of each year to discuss the evolving country context in the past year, CF achievements, challenges, opportunities, learning, priorities and adaptations necessary for implementing the CF.

4.4 EVALUATION

An independent evaluation of the CF will be conducted in 2025 (the penultimate year of the CF) and will be the first step in the strategic planning process for the new programming cycle. The evaluation will be undertaken by independent consultant(s) commissioned by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. The evaluation Terms of Reference will ensure an independent, impartial, inclusive and participatory approach involving all stakeholders in line with UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) norms and standards. Multiple data collection methods will be utilised to allow for the triangulation of findings, comprising past annual monitoring reports, focus group discussions, online surveys, facilitated participatory workshops and in-depth interviews. The evaluation will also receive guidance, support, and quality assurance from UNDCO.

The independent evaluation will draw on individual UN agency/entity country programme evaluations with its findings presented through the JSC mechanism. Likewise, a formal management response to the evaluation will be developed by the JSC, responding to each recommendation and establishing follow-up actions identifying the relevant actors and timeframes.

ANNEX 1 – Results Framework 2022 - 2026

CF RESULTS FRAMEWORK

<p>IMPACT</p> <p>National development priorities</p> <p><u>Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2021-2030's overall objectives:</u> Strive to make Viet Nam, by 2030, a developing country with modern industry and an upper middle income level; modern, competitive, effective and efficient management institutions; whose economy develops in a dynamic, rapid and sustainable, independent and autonomous manner on the basis of science and technology, innovation in association with improved efficiency in external affairs and international integration; kindle the aspiration for the country's development, build on the entire nation's creative capability, will and strength, build a prosperous, democratic, fair, civilized, orderly, disciplined and safe society, and ensure the people's peaceful and happy life; constantly improve the people's life in all facets; firmly defend the Fatherland, the peaceful and stable environment for the country's development; heighten the position and prestige of Viet Nam in the international arena. Strive to become a developed high-income nation by 2045.</p> <p>Regional frameworks: Association of Southeast Asian Nations Charter, 2008</p> <p>VSDGs and VSDG targets: The CF contributes to the implementation and achievement of all 17 SDGs, with focus on the following targets: 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 4.4, 4.8, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.3, 6.1, 6.2, 7.2, 7.3, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.7, 8.8, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.8, 10.3, 10.4, 10.6, 10.7, 11.5, 12.4, 13.1, 13.2, 14.5, 15.1, 16.2, 16.5, 16.6, 17.19</p>			
<p>Outcome 1. Inclusive Social Development</p> <p>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.</p> <p>VSDGs/SDGs: 1- 6</p> <p>UN Agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV, UNWOMEN and WHO.</p>		<p>Assumption Statement:</p> <p>Domestic funding will increase as ODA declines; national data systems will improve monitoring and evaluation of interventions; development approaches will be rights based; evidence based policy making will take place, society will be willing to change social norms and behaviours; Government commitments remain high and support from government agencies will continue; commitment to advance the HIV response remains high; Government's commitment to 4IR and digital transformation remains high.</p>	
Indicators	Baseline (year, source)	Target (year, source)	Source/Mean of Verification

ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026

(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)

1.1 Proportion of schools and other education facilities with access to: (a) the Internet for pedagogical purposes, (b) computers for pedagogical purposes, (c) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities, by education level (VSDG 4.8.1)	2019 (VSDG report 2020) Pre-primary: (a) Internet:10%; (b) computers: 10%; (c) disabilities-friendly infrastructure: 5% Primary: (a) Internet: 82.7%; (b) computers: 79.1%; (c) disabilities-friendly infrastructure: 27.9%; Lower-secondary: (a) Internet: 88.1%; (b) computers: 87.9%; (c) disabilities-friendly infrastructure: 20.7%; Upper-secondary: (a) Internet: 85.5%; (b) computers: 88%; (c) disabilities-friendly infrastructure: 13.8%	2025 (VSDG roadmap/MOET decision 2257/2019) Pre-primary: (a) Internet: 20%; (b) computers: 20%; (c) disabilities-friendly infrastructure: 9% Primary: (a) Internet: 85%; (b) computers: 85%; (c) disabilities-friendly infrastructure: 65% Lower-secondary: (a) Internet: 100%; (b) computers: 95%; (c) disabilities-friendly infrastructure: 65% Upper-secondary: (a) Internet: 100%; (b) computers: 95%; (c) disabilities-friendly infrastructure:65%	Annual MOET report
1.2. Percentage of schools which provide basic education programmes about sex education, violence prevention, abuse prevention, and HIV-related knowledge [VSDG 4.7.2]	School Year 2019-2020 (MOET) Kindergarten: 9.8% Primary: 68.8% Lower Secondary: 72.7% Upper Secondary: 67.8%	90% (2025-2026, MOET)	Annual MOET report
1.3. Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years old disaggregated by ethnicity (VSDG 2.2.1)	Total: 19.6%; 32% among ethnic children (2020, Nutrition Survey)	< 17% at national level and < 28% among ethnic children (2025, National Nutrition Strategy 2021-2030)	National Nutrition Surveillance, National Institute of Nutrition, MOH.
1.4. Infant mortality rate by sex (VSDG 3.1.5)	14 per 1000 live births Male: 15.8; Female: 12.0 (2019, Pop. Census 2019)	Total: 12.5 per 1000 live births (2025, VSDG Roadmap)	Annual Population Change Survey, GSO
1.5. Maternal Mortality Ratio	Total: 46 per 100,000 live births (2019)	42 (2025) (Source: MOH Maternal Mortality Surveillance Studies and Reports)	MOH Maternal Mortality Surveillance Studies and Reports, 2025
1.6. Number of deaths from traffic accidents (VSDG 3.5.1)	6,700 (2020, GSO Stat. yearbook/VSDG report 2020)	Decrease by 5-10% p.a. (VSDG roadmap)	Statistics Yearbook, GSO
1.7. Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations (VSDG indicator 3.2.1)	0.05 per 1000 population. Total cases: 5200; male (15+): 3400; female (15+): 1400; children (0-14): < 500 (2019, UNAIDS Global Report)	Decreased by 80% compared with 2010 data (0.18 per 1000 population or 16,000 cases) (2025, UNAIDS estimated target)	UNAIDS Global Report

ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026

(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)

1.8. Proportion of rural population using safely managed water service. (SDG 6.1.1)	51% (2020, MARD report)	55% (2025, MARD decision #4019/2019 on VSDG roadmap)	MARD Report
1.9. Adolescent birth rate among women aged 15-19 years per 1,000 women in that age group (adjusted VSDG 3.6.2)	Total: 35 (2019); Urban: 16; Rural: 45 (Pop Census 2019)	33 (2025, VSDG roadmap)	Population and Housing Census, Annual Population Change Survey (GSO); SDGCW survey (GSO-UNICEF)
1.10. Proportion of married women aged 15-49 years who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (VSDG 3.6.1)	72.8% (2020, SDGCW survey)	75% (2025, SDGCW survey)	SDGCW survey (2025) and the Annual MICS Plus
1.11. Viet Nam Human Development Index	0.704 (2019)	Human Development Index (HDI) maintained at above 0.7 or among high-HDI countries until 2030 (SEDS 2021-2030)	Global HDR, UNDP
1.12. Multi-dimensional poverty rate by national standard (VSDG 1.1.1)	4.8% (2020, GSO Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey (VHLSS) report)	Decrease of 1-1.5% p.a. until 2026 (VSDG Roadmap)	VHLSS (GSO)
1.13. Multi-dimensional child poverty rate (total, area, sex, ethnicity and disability status (VSDG 1.1.3)	Total: 14.5% Urban: 5%; Rural: 18.6%; Kinh/Hoa: 6.8%; Ethnic minority: 46.4% Children with disabilities: 43.0% (2018) Male: 14.8% Female: 14.2% (2018, GSO-UNICEF Report)	Decrease of 1-1.5% p.a. (2025, VSDG Roadmap)	National Report on Multi-dimensional Child Poverty, GSO and UNICEF

ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026

(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)

1.14. Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems (SDG indicator 1.3.1)	(1) 32,6% (or 15.03 mil) of labour force participates in social insurance, of which 1.07 million participates in voluntary social insurance (2020, VSS); (2) 90.85% Health insurance coverage rates (2020, VSS) (3) 13.27 mil workers (or 26.82% of TLF) participates in unemployment insurance (2020, VSS) (4) 3.041.731 mil or 3,41% of the population are beneficiaries of monthly social allowance (2020, VSS) (5) 4.9 mil people at retirement age (42.8%) received pension or social insurance allowance and social pension (MOLISA 2020)	(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 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 allowance (2025, VSDG roadmap); (5) About 55% people at retirement age received pension or social insurance allowance and social pension (2025, Resolution No. 28 / NQ-TW)	1- Government's annual report on the socio-economic situation (Government portal and GSO website) 2- Labour Trends Report, periodically (Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs, MOLISA) 3- National SEDP Report (Every 5 years) 4- National Report on VSDG implementation
1.15. Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (VSDG 5.4.1)	Male 8.9 h/week Female 18.9h/week, 2.1 times as compared with that of male (2019 Labour Force Survey (LFS)/VSDG report 2020)	Reduce the average number of hours spent by women in unpaid housework and family care work, as compared to that of men, to 1.7 times by 2025 and 1.4 times by 2030 [National strategy on Gender Equality]	LFS (GSO)
Outcome 2. Climate Change Response, Disaster Resilience and Environmental Sustainability 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 circular economy, the provision of clean and renewable energy, and the sustainable management of natural resources. VSDGs/SDGs: 7, 11, 13-15 UN Agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNV, UNWOMEN and WHO.		Assumption Statement The Vietnamese people and businesses will continue to raise concerns about environmental issues, and will freely and actively contribute to climate action. Also, that linkages will be made with regional and global efforts and there will be constant opportunity to enhance digitisation and the application of new technology. It also assumes that partnership mechanisms for engagement will promote partnerships with NGOs and social organizations, organizations and groups that are legally established and operate in line with Government's rules and regulations, and the private sector.	
Indicators	Baseline (year, source)	Target (year, source)	Source/Mean of Verification

ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026

(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)

2.1 Number of tonnes CO ₂ eq emitted (adjusted VSDG 11.6.4)	528.4 million tonnes of CO ₂ eq in 2020 (NDC report)	673.3 million tonnes of CO ₂ eq 2025 (NDC)	GoV Reports to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (National Communication, Biennial Update Report; Biennial Transparency Report; and NDC)
2.2 Forest coverage (VSDG 15.2.2)	41.89% (2020, MARD)	Maintained at 42% (SEDS 2021-2030, Strategy on Forestry Development 2021-2030, vision to 2050 promulgated on 1 Apr 2021)	Reports on forest cover of MARD and MDG Report
2.3 Area in hectare of marine protected areas and special used forest (adjusted VSDG 14.5.1)	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 during 2021-2030) Special used forest: 2.17 mil ha (2020, Assessment of the implementation of the Prime Minister Decision 1976 on the planning of the special use forest planning to 2020, vision to 2030)	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 used forest: 2,462,652 ha (2025, Assessment of the implementation of the Prime Minister Decision 1976 on the planning of the special use forest planning to 2020, vision to 2030)	Reports from Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, MARD
2.4 Number of deaths, missing persons, and injuries attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (VSDG 11.5.1) (disaggregated by sex and age)	357 deaths and missing person (37 women) 912 injuries (2020, NCNDPC)	Less than 250 (2025, SDG Roadmap Report)	Annual Report on loss and damage of NCNDPC, GSO Stat. Yearbook
2.5 Number of destroyed or damaged health and educational facilities attributed to disasters (link to VSDG11.5.1)	209 health centres and 1894 schools affected (2020, NCNDPC)	Sustained reduction annually	Annual Report on loss and damage of NCNDPC
2.6 Renewable energy (solar, on and offshore wind) share in the total final energy consumption (adjusted VSDG 7.2.1)	25% (2020 draft Power Development Planning VIII (PDP8))	28% (2025 draft PDP8)	Ministry of Industry and Trade

ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026

(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)

2.7 Total final energy consumption/GDP (koE/1000 USD GDP) (VSDG indicator 7.3.1)	409 (2019, GSO Stat. Yearbook)	Reduction of 1.0 – 1.5% per year up to 2030 - Draft Green Growth Strategy	GSO Annual Statistical Yearbook
Outcome 3. Shared Prosperity through Economic Transformation 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. VSDGs/SDGs: 5, 8-12, 17 UN Agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UNWOMEN and WHO.		Assumption Statement Strategies relate to both international and internal migrants.	
Indicators	Baseline (year, source)	Target (year, source)	Source/Mean of Verification
3.1 GDP per capita (in USD, current price) (VSDG 8.1.3)	USD 2,779 (2020, GSO)	Sustain the annual growth rate of 4-4.5% (2026, VSDG Roadmap)	GSO
3.2 Proportion of informal employment by sex (VSDG 8.3.1)	Total: 56.2%; Female: 51.1%; Male: 60.5% (2020, GSO) Vulnerable employment: 54.1% (2019, Global HDR)	Decreased proportion of informal employment (2026); A proportion of vulnerable employment of 51.5% by 2025, 50.9% by 2026, decreasing about 1% per year	LFS (GSO); Global HDRs (UNDP)
3.3 Unemployment rate (VSDG 8.5.2)	2.48% (2020, GSO)	Remained less than 3% in 2025 (VSDG Roadmap)	LFS (GSO)
3.4 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries (VSDG 8.8.1)	8000 cases, of which 1000 deaths and nearly 2000 severely injured 2019 (2020 National Report on 5 years implementation of VSDG)	Annual decline of (a) occupational accidents: 5%; (b) fatal occupational accidents: 5%; (c) non-fatal occupational accidents: 5% (2025, VSDG Roadmap)	MOLISA report (by Labour Inspector)
3.5 Labour productivity (VSDG 8.2.1)	5,081 USD per labour (2020, GSO)	Annual growth rate of 6.5% until 2030 (SEDS 2021-2030)	GSO's Annual Socio-Economic Report
3.6. Proportion of female directors/owners of enterprises and cooperatives (VSDG 5.5.5)	24% (2019, LFS)	27% (2025, National Strategy on Gender Equality 2021-2030)	LFS (GSO)
3.7. Proportion of population using the Internet (SDG 17.8.1)	68.7 % (2019, ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database)	80% by 2025, 100 % by 2030 (Strategy on the fourth Industrial Revolution towards 2030)	ICT indicators database

ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)

Outcome 4. Governance and Access to Justice By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, will benefit from and contribute to a more just, safe and inclusive society based on improved governance, more responsive institutions, strengthened rule of law and the protection of and respect for human rights, gender equality, and freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination, in line with Viet Nam's international commitments. SDGs: 5, 8, 10, 16 UN Agencies: FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV and UNWOMEN.		Assumption Statement There is knowledge of and respect for international law, norms and standards regarding human rights, gender equality, freedom from all forms of violence and discrimination, and a means to ensure enhanced education and economic opportunities, robust social safety nets, and integrated disaster risk management.	
Indicators	Baseline (year, source)	Target (year, source)	Source/Mean of Verification
4.1 Rate of female deputies in elected bodies (National Assembly and People's Council) (VSDG5.5.1, VSDG5.5.4)	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% (2026)	Reports from the Election Council and the National Assembly
4.2 Sex ratio at birth (SRB) (VSDG 5.1.1)	112.1 (2020, Population Change Survey, GSO)	111.0 in 2025, 110.6 in 2026 (Vietnam Population Strategy to 2030)	National Population survey(s) and/or National report(s) of GSO, MOH
4.3 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before the age of 18(VSDG 5.3.1)	9.1% (2019, Population Census, GSO)	6% (2026, Viet Nam Population Strategy to 2030, aims to reduce by 50% couples married before 18 or child marriage by 2030)	2024 intercensal population and housing survey.
4.4 Proportion of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour (VSDG 8.7.1)	5.4% (2018)	4.9% (2025, National Programme on prevention and reduction of child labour reduction 2021-2025 and 2030)	Survey reports of GSO/MOLISA

ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026

(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)

4.5 Level of national compliance with core labour rights (adjusted SDG 8.8.2)	(1) Viet Nam has ratified Convention No. 98 on Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining in 2019 which came into force in 2020. The 1st report with baseline data will be available by end of 2021; (2) As scheduled, dossier for ratification of ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and on the Protection of the Right to Organize is expected to be prepared in 2023;	(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)	MOLISA, Vietnam General Confederation of Labour
4.6 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience with public services (VSDG 16.6.1)	84.45% (2019, VSDG report 2020)	86% (2025, VSDG roadmap)	Satisfaction Index of Public Administrative Services, Ministry of Home Affairs
4.7 Proportion of persons 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 those public officials, during the previous 12 months (<i>State employment, Public healthcare service, Land use right certificates</i>) (SDG 16.5.1)	PAPI (2020) - State employment: 40% - Public healthcare service: 28% - Land use right certificates: 27%	<20% (2026, VSDG roadmap)	PAPI
4.8 Corruption Perception Index	Score 36/100; Rank: 104/180 countries (2020, CPI)	Score: 50-59, moving from the 'highly corrupt' to 'less corrupt/cleaner' scale (2026)	Transparency International
4.9 Number of social order and safety related crime offences	120,536 (2020)	decreased	Ministry of Public Security (MPS) annual report to NA
4.10 Rate of crimes detected, investigated and prosecuted	Rate of criminal cases detected, investigated and prosecuted: 85.69% (2020)	increased	MPS annual report to NA
4.11 Number of new or amended legal documents on protecting the rights of PWDs supported by the UN.	0 (2021, UN)	Proposals accepted and included in the NA's 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.	NA and GoV reports

ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026

(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)

4.12. 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)	50% (2026, MOLISA's M&E framework)	MOLISA's M&E Framework of the National Programme on GBV 2021-2025. (national GBV database to be developed)
4.13. Youth Development Index	0.63 (2016, Global, ASEAN and National Youth Development Index report)	0.88 (2026, Global, ASEAN and National Youth Development Index report)	Global, ASEAN and National Youth Development Index Report(s)
4.14. Number of country visits by Special Procedures accepted by Viet Nam	0 (2020, OHCHR)	3 (by 2026, OHCHR)	OHCHR
4.15. Number of reports to Treaty Bodies submitted by Viet Nam	0 (2020, OHCHR)	6 (by 2026, OHCHR)	OHCHR
4.16. Percentage of recommendations agreed on by Viet Nam from the Third Cycle Universal Periodic Review implemented	0 (2019, OHCHR)	50% (by 2024, OHCHR)	UPR Reports
4.17. Number of new population surveys/research conducted for use in decision making and SDG monitoring.	0 (2021, UN)	3 (2026, UN)	GoV/GSO and UN reports

ANNEX 2 - Legal Annex

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

- a) With the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the Agreement for the opening of the FAO Representation in Viet Nam on 27 January 1978.
- b) With the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), there is a Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) for the period 2019-2025 agreed with the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and endorsed by the 127th session of IFAD Executive Board in September 2019.
- c) With the International Labour Organization (ILO), an Agreement on the establishment of an ILO office in Hanoi was concluded on 4 February 2002.
- d) With the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a Cooperation Agreement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the Government on 19 August 2010 (which replaced the previous MOU dated 26 September 1991).
- e) With the International Trade Centre (ITC), a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP and the Government on 21 March 1978 applies, mutatis mutandis, to ITC.
- f) With the United Nations Joint Programme for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP and the Government on 21 March 1978 applies, mutatis mutandis, to UNAIDS.
- g) With the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP and the Government on 21 March 1978 applies, mutatis mutandis, to UNCTAD.
- h) With the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country was signed by the Government and UNDP (the “Standard Basic Assistance Agreement” or “SBAA”) on 21 March 1978. This Cooperation Framework, together with a joint results group work plan specifying UNDP programme activities further to this Cooperation Framework (which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference), constitute together a “project document” as referred to in the SBAA. The implementing partner and UNDP will sign a project agreement containing the specific arrangements for each project further to the relevant project document.
- i) With UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2025) and the associated Programme of Work (2022-2023) approved by the United Nations Environment Assembly in the first session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.1) in February 2021.
- j) With the United Nations Education Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) the agreement concerning the establishment of a UNESCO office in Hanoi was signed with the Government on 13 September 1999.
- k) With regard to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed by UNDP and the Government on 21 March 1978 applies, mutatis mutandis, to UNFPA.
- l) With UN-Habitat the organization operates under the administration of UNDP since 18 October 2008.

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

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

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

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

The Government will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in paragraph on the Basis of the Relationship.

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

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED
NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

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

(a) “Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement”.

(b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the

Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

ANNEX 3 – Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers

All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans (WPs)¹¹ agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agency/entity. Cash transfers for activities detailed in joint work plans can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:
 - a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
 - b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement);
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

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

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months with exceptions up to six months consistent with each UN agency/entity's guidelines. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies. Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN¹² Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

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

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner in [here insert the number of days as per UN system agency schedule].

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

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third-party vendor. Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

to secure the agreement that [UN organization] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

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

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

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

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

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

- *Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.*
- *Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the [UN organization] that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to [UN organization].*
- *Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.*

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

- *Where no assessment of the Public Financial Management Capacity has been conducted, or such an assessment identified weaknesses in the capacity of the Supreme Audit Institution]: The audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.*

**ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED
NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026
(AWAITING ENDORSEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM)**

4. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with UN system agencies,
5. Programmatic monitoring of activities following UN system Agency standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,
6. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.