NATIONAL REPORT 2020

ON PROGRESS OF
FIVE – YEAR – IMPLEMENTATION
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

The 2030 Agenda	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
ATMs	Automated Teller Machines
CPTPP	Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership
CSI	Corporate Sustainability Index
EIA	International Energy Agency
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GATS	Investigation of Tobacco Use
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSO	General Statistics Office
HI	Health Insurance
IUU	Illegal, unreported, and unregulated
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOC	Ministry of Construction
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOIC	Ministry of Information and Communications
MOIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MOST	Ministry of Science and Technology
PCI	Provincial Competitiveness Index
PPP	Public-private partnership
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDG NAP	National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
SEDP	Socio- economic Development Plan
SMEs	Small and medium enterprises
UN	United Nations
VCCI	Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
VSDG	Viet Nam Sustainable Development Goal

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INTRODUCTION
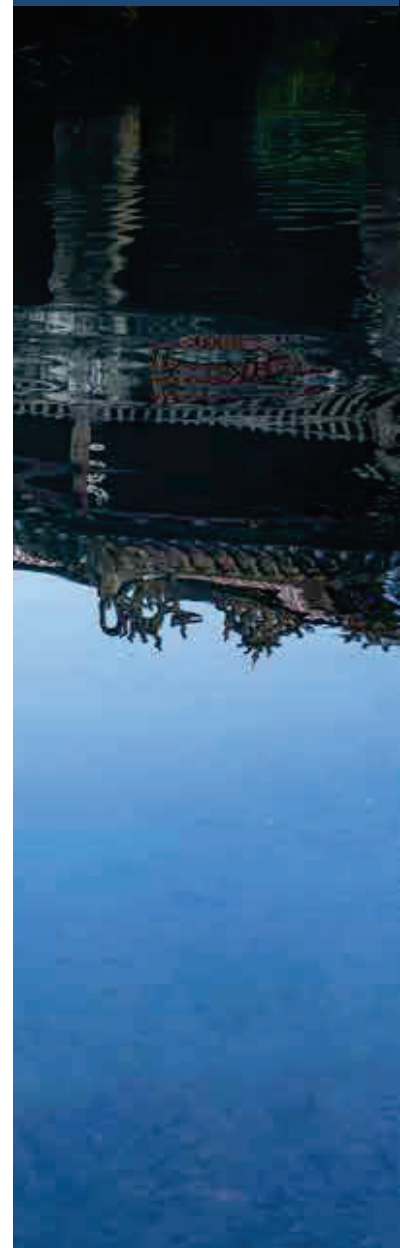
Sustainable development is an urgent need and an inevitable trend in the development process of human society. At the United Nations (UN) Summit, which took place from September 25-27, 2015 in New York, USA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (The 2030 Agenda) was approved by the UN member states. At the Summit, the Head of the State of Viet Nam affirmed that Viet Nam supported and committed to mobilize all necessary resources, all ministries, related agencies, localities, organizations, communities and citizens to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda and all the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The 2030 Agenda possesses a universal and broad policy coverage for the full benefit of all people around the world, for today and the future generations. The 2030 Agenda sets out the vision for the next 15-year development phase (2016-2030) with 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets, identifying specific means of implementation, global partnerships and action plans. The global SDGs play the role as a continuation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for the period 2000-2015, and also concretizes the Agenda 21 on sustainable development for the entire 21st century which was approved by the UN in 1992.

To implement its international commitment, on May 10, 2017 the Prime Minister issued the Decision No.622/QĐ-TTg on the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG NAP). The SDG NAP sets out targets, tasks and assignments of responsibilities for ministries, related agencies and provinces. In the SDG NAP, 17 goals and 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda have been nationalized into 17 Viet Nam SDGs (VSDGs) and 115 targets, based on Viet Nam's development conditions and context. 115 targets reflect the 150/169 global ones.

The year 2020 is of great importance, marking nearly 5 years of Viet Nam's implementation of the 2030 Agenda and being the last year of the Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) 2011-2020 and the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2016-2020, creating momentum for the implementation of the SEDP 2021-2025 and the SEDS 2021-2030. After nearly 5 years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Viet Nam's ranking on sustainable development index has continuously increased, ranking 49/166 countries in 2020.

The year 2020 also witnessed the Covid-19 pandemic and its global impact. The Covid-19 pandemic is considered to have caused economic and social crisis in many countries, especially in developing and least developed ones, increasing the risk of unfulfilling 17 SDGs by 2030 in many nations. Entering a new period of 2021-2030, the world's and the region's outlook has been more complicated than ever projected. The increasingly serious public debt crisis in many countries, the downturn of the world economy, the acceleration of risks in the international financial and monetary markets, and many countries' recent intensification of trade protectionism have been taking place. Together with the rapid development of science and technology, the fourth industrial revolution and the digital economy has become one of the major development trends of the era. Natural disasters and epidemics are unpredictable, causing serious damage to the achievements of countries around the world.

In the context that Viet Nam is preparing for implementation of the SEDS 2021-2030 and the SEDP 2021-2025, and after nearly 5 years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Viet Nam, **the National Report 2020: on progress of five-year - Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals** is developed to: (i) Update on five years of implementation and assess the ability to achieve Viet Nam's SDGs by 2030; (ii) Present the challenges and difficulties in the implementation process of SDGs, taking into account the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on a global scale and in Viet Nam; (iii) Propose solutions to promote the implementation of SDGs in the next 5 years.

The assessment of the progress of and the ability to achieve SDGs is based on the analysis of data of Viet Nam's sustainable development statistical indicators (issued in the Circular 03/2019/TT-BKHDT dated 22nd January 2019 by the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)) and Roadmap for the implementation of Viet Nam's SDGs to 2030 (issued in the Decision No.681/QD-TTg dated 4th June 2019 by the Prime Minister). The ability to achieve the goals and targets will be presented in 3 levels, including: achieve the goals and target by 2030 (indicated by the green card - or 3 points); still have difficulties and challenges to achieve the goals and targets by 2030 (indicated by the orange card - or 2 points) and very difficult to achieve the goals and targets by 2030 (indicated by the red card - or 1 point)[1].

The report formulation process was driven by the engagement of ministries and related agencies, socio-political organizations, social organizations, national and international organizations, and representatives from the business community, research institutes and scientists. The information and data used in the report is taken from the Reports on the implementation of the SDGs of ministries and related agencies, data reports of the General Statistics Office (GSO), and other reports which have recently been released by ministries, related agencies, and national and international organizations in various fields. The development and publication of the report has been carried out with technical support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Hanns Seidel Stiftung Foundation (HSF)-Germany in Viet Nam.

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1   The forecast of the achievement of the sustainable development goals to 2030 by 3 levels is based on the analysis of the progress of implementing the sustainable development goals in the past years and forecasting trends in the coming years. The lack of available data and information to reflect the progress toward the sustainable development goals is also seen as a challenge that needs to be addressed.
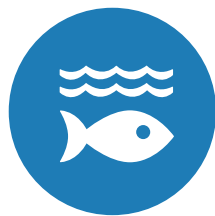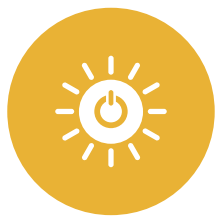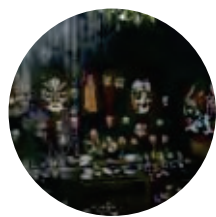
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THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONALIZATION IN VIET NAM

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda that was approved by all UN member states in September 2015, provides a master plan for peace and prosperity for people and the planet now and in the future. The key point of the 2030 Agenda is 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is an urgent call for action for all countries in the world to build a sustainable future for everyone, everywhere. SDGs emphasizes that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies on health improvement and education, inequality reduction and economic growth, but at the same time address the problem of climate change, conservation of our oceans and forests.

17 SDGs are formulated and formed based on decades of work by countries and the United Nations, specifically:

- In June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, more than 178 countries adopted the Agenda 21, a comprehensive action plan on global partnerships for sustainable development to improve people's lives and protect the environment.

- Member States adopted the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. The Summit led to the development of the eight MDGs to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.

- The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Implementation Plan adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002, reaffirmed the global community's commitment on poverty eradication and environmental protection, The Johannesburg Declaration was built on the Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration, which put more emphasis on multilateral partnerships.

- At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012, member countries adopted the outcome document: 'The Future We Want', in which decided to start a process of building SDGs based on MDGs and set up the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

- In 2013, the UN General Assembly established an Open Working Group of 30 members to develop a proposal on the SDGs.

- In January 2015, the UN General Assembly began the negotiation process on the post 2015 development agenda. The result of this process was the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015.

Nationalization in Viet Nam

To implement international commitments, the Prime Minister has issued The National Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (NAP 2030) in the Decision No.622/QD-TTg dated 10 May 2020. The NAP 2030 has identified 17 SDGs of Viet Nam to 2030 with 115 targets with 2 phases of implementation: 2017-2020 and 2021-2030. The NAP 2030 has assigned specific responsibilities to ministries, sectors, provinces, and sets out tasks and solutions to implement SDGs in Viet Nam.

To create a legal basis and promote the implementation of the NAP 2030, the Government, the Prime Minister, ministries, sectors and provinces have issued the following documents:

- The Resolution No.136/NQ-CP dated 25/9/2020 of the Government on sustainable development.

- The Directive No.13/CT-TTg dated 20/5/2019 of the Prime Minister on sustainable development.

- The Decision No. 681/QD-TTg dated 4/6/2019 of the Prime Minister on the Roadmap for the SDGs implementation to 2030.

- The Decision No. 2158/QD-BKHDT dated 31/12/2019 of the Minister of Planning and Investment promulgating guidance on integrating SDGs into the 5-year socio-economic development plan 2021-2025, 2026-2030 for ministries, sectors and provinces.

- 17/22 ministries, sectors and 51/63 provinces issued the Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda.

SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the SDGs is central in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Viet Nam. Accordingly, MPI has developed a set of sustainable development statistical indicators of Viet Nam in Circular No.03/2019/TT-BKHDT dated January 22, 2019[2], which includes: (i) 38 indicators in the National Statistical Indicator System specified in the Law on Statistics 2015; (ii) 112 indicators compatible to 101 global SDGs indicators; (iii) 32 indicators in the Statistical Indicator System of Ministries: Ministry of Education and Training (MOET); Ministry of Health (MOH); Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST); Ministry of Construction (MOC); Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE); Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA).... Responsibility for collecting and aggregating data for Viet Nam's sustainable development statistical indicators is specified in the Circular No. 03/2019/TT-BKHDT, specifically: GSO is responsible for collecting 62 indicators (39.2%); 21 other ministries and agencies are responsible for collecting 96 indicators (60.8%).

In order to quantify the achievement of SDGs, the Roadmap for the SDGs implementation to 2030 was issued in the Decision No.681/QD-TTg dated June 4, 2019 of the Prime Minister. The roadmap is the basis for ministries, sectors and provinces to develop targets in their annual and 5-year socio-economic development plans and is a measure of the SDGs achievement by 2020, 2025, 2030.

In order to support ministries, sectors and provinces in SDGs M&E, MPI has issued guidelines for SDGs M&E in Viet Nam until 2030 (the Decision No.468/QD-BKHDT dated March 26th, 2020). Accordingly, SDGs are monitored and evaluated through a system of 158 indicators (promulgated in the Circular 03/2019/TT-BKHDT) and assessed the level achieved by 2020, 2025, and 2030 based on the roadmap for the SDGs implementation in Viet Nam until 2030 (issued in the Decision No.681/QD-TTg). SDGs M&E involves the participation of stakeholders which include: Viet Nam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations; ministries, sectors and agencies; People's Committees of provinces; social organizations, professional associations; non-governmental organizations; universities, research institutes, professionals, and the business community. Annually, ministries and provinces send reports on the SDGs implementation to MPI for synthesis and submission to the Prime Minister.

According to regulations, M&E reports on the SDGs implementation include:

- Annual Reports on the SDGs implementation.

- National Reports on the SDGs implementation.

- Voluntary National Review on the SDGs implementation (VNR).

- Sustainable development reports by topic, and other irregular reports.

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2   The set of indicators is built on three main principles: (1) Ensure the reflection and evaluation of 17 SDGs and 115 targets of Viet Nam (corresponding to 17 global SDGs and 150 global targets); (2) Ensuring international compatibility and comparability but still meeting the practical conditions and sustainable development needs of Viet Nam; (3) Ensure the feasibility and consistency with other statistical indicator systems of Viet Nam

Social organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and other stakeholders are encouraged to submit reports and research on SDGs to MPI and related ministries and agencies.

In 2018, Viet Nam was one of 47 countries developing the Voluntary National Review Report at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The report assessed progress on 17 SDGs of Viet Nam and shared difficulties, challenges and lessons learned from Viet Nam with other countries in the world. The development of the VNR affirms Viet Nam's commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially in monitoring, evaluation and reporting of SDGs progress.

However, a current difficulty for the M&E of the SDG implementation is the lack of data of indicators defined in the Circular 03/2019/TT-BKHDT. According to the review during the preparation of the National SDGs Report 2020, there are only 114/158 indicators having aggregated data. The lack of disaggregated data, especially according to criteria and target groups (such as children, people with disabilities ...), leads to difficulties in undertaking multi-dimensional review and evaluation of the fullfilment of the "leaving no-one behind" principle of the 2030 Agenda. The lack of data is also an unavoidable limitation in the formulation of the National SDGs Report 2020.
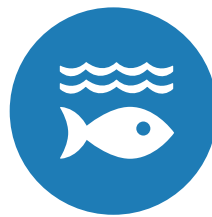
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PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In this section, the Report will focus on reviewing the progress of implementing the 115 targets under the 17 SDGs of Viet Nam. The review and evaluation of the progress of implementing the SDGs will be based on: i) the 158 sustainable development statistical indicators of Viet Nam issued under the Circular 03/2019/TT-BKHDT dated January 22, 2019 by the Minister of Planning and Investment; ii) the Roadmap for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of Viet Nam up to 2030 issued under the Prime Minister's Decision No.681/QD-TTg dated June 4, 2019.

The data used for analysis is from 2010 to 2019, prior to the global Covid-19 pandemic, and the focus of analysis will be within 2015-2019 - i.e. since the 2030 Agenda was approved. However, the Report also analyses the direct and immediate impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the achievement of some Goals, such as the Goal 1-No Poverty; Goal 2-Zero Hunger; Goal 3-Good Health and Well-being; Goal 4-Quality Education; Goal 5-Gender Equality; Goal 8-Decent Work and Economic Growth and Goal 10-Reduced Inequalities.

The analysis of statistical indicators based on the data available is to monitor the progress of the SDGs implementation, to assess current trends and to forecast the situation for the coming years, to see where Viet Nam is and whether the Roadmap set out for 2030 could be achieved or not. At the end of the section on progress of SDG implementation, there will be a summary of the analysis, outlining the challenges that Viet Nam needs to overcome and summarizing the progress of implementing the targets with a web chart describing the forecast results by 2030 based on scoring the accomplishment level: 3 - will be achieved the target by 2030; 2 - still having difficulties and challenges to achieve the target by 2030 and 1 - very difficult to achieve the target by 2030.

Based on the results of evaluating each Goal, a table summarizing the forecasts of achievement of SDGs is also presented in the form of coloured bars, corresponding to different scores: 3 - blue (will achieve the Goal by 2030); 2 - orange (still having difficulties and challenges to achieve the Goal by 2030) and 1 - red (very difficult to achieve the Goal by 2030).

GOAL 1
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

NATIONAL MULTI-DIMENSIONAL POVERTY RATE DECREASED SHARPLY

decreased by **1.17 %** annually

2016 **9.2%**

2019 **5.7%**
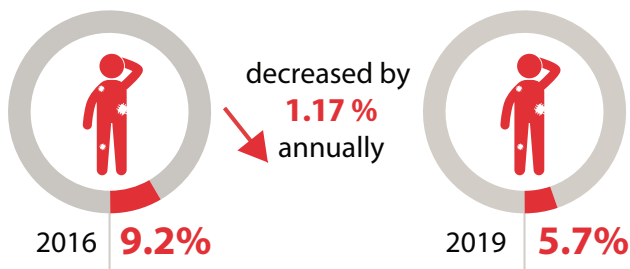
RATE OF MULTI-DIMENSIONALLY POOR CHILDREN DECLINED

2016 **19.1%**

2018 **14.5%**
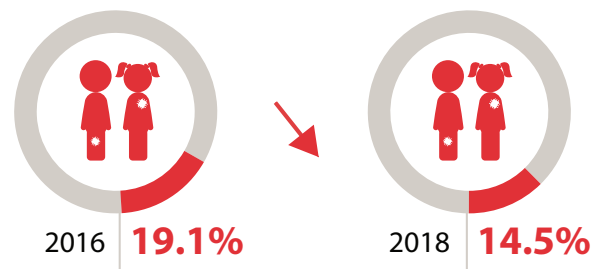
A SIGNIFICANT DISPARITY BETWEEN DIFFERENT REGIONS

NORTHERN MIDLANDS AND MOUNTAINOUS AREAS **16%; 29.3%**

AND THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS **12%; 25.4%**

have the highest multi-dimensional poverty and multi-dimensionally poor children rate

PROPORTION OF POPULATION PARTICIPATING IN
SOCIAL INSURANCE,
HEALTH INSURANCE
AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
KEPT GROWING

Year	Proportion of population participating in health insurance	Proportion of labour participating in social insurance	Proportion of labour participating in unemployment insurance
2014	71	21.3	17.1
2016	81.8	24.1	20.3
2018	86.8	26.6	25.8
2019	89.9	30.4	27.5

Proportion of population participating in health insurance

Proportion of labour participating in social insurance

Proportion of labour participating in unemployment insurance

INDICATORS REFLECTING LEVEL OF ACCESS TO BASIC LIVING CONDITIONS HAVE INCREASED AND REMAINED HIGH

Viet Nam is likely to achieve SDG 1 by 2030. However, the country needs to better focus on the poor in the vulnerable groups such as children, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and those in disadvantaged areas.

Percentage of households with solid houses

Percentage of households using electricity

Percentage of households with access to hygientic water

Percentage of households using hygienic toilets

Percentage of households having durable goods

■ 2014   ■ 2016   ■ 2018
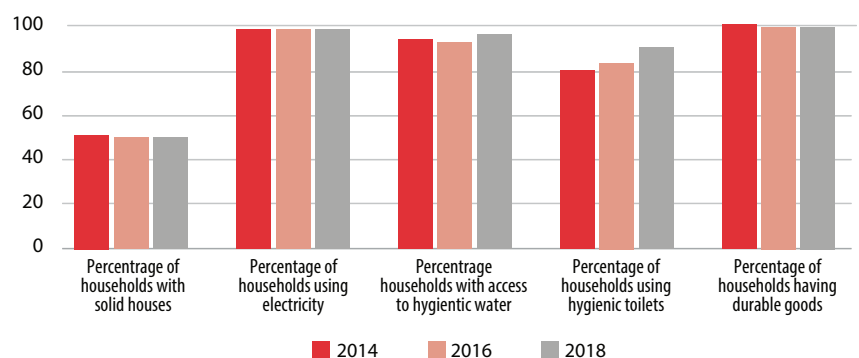
Target 1.1: By 2020, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, measured as the poverty line with per capita income of USD 1.25 a day in Purchasing Power Parity (in 2005 constant price) [3]; by 2030, halve, at least, the poverty rate based on the national multi-dimensional poverty criteria (Global targets 1.1 and 1.2).

Indicator 1.1.1: Multi-dimensional poverty rate.

Roadmap: By 2020, maintain a reduction rate of 1-1.5% annually. In the period of 2021-2030, maintain a reduction rate of 1-1.5% and by 2030, at least halve the multi-dimensional poverty rate based on the national multidimensional poverty criteria.

According to the data of GSO, from 2016 to 2019, the national multi-dimensional poverty rate decreased sharply, from approximately 9% in 2016 to 5.7% in 2019, which means an average decrease of 1.17 percentage points per year nationwide, corresponding to the roadmap to reduce 1.0-1.5 percentage points per year[4]. This shows that, if such poverty reduction rate can be maintained, Viet Nam will achieve the target according to the roadmap set for 2020 and will achieve the goal of at least halving the multidimensional poverty rate by 2030. However, a significant disparity still remains in multidimensional poverty rates between different regions, between ethnic minorities and other ethnic groups, and between the groups of persons with disabilities and those without disabilities. For example, the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas and the Central Highlands are still characterized by very high poverty rates (over 16% and over 12% in 2019, respectively) while the national average rate was 5.7%. These regions are also home to a high proportion of ethnic minorities. In addition, the rate of poor households with persons with disabilities was 17% in 2016 while that national average rate was 9.2%[5]. Therefore, Viet Nam needs to have policies with better focus in supporting livelihoods and reducing poverty in a sustainable way for these vulnerable groups in the coming time.

Table 1. Rate of poor household by national multi-dimensional poverty standards[6] (%)

Region	2016	2017	2018	2019
National	9.2	7.9	6.8	5.7
Reduction rate (percentage points)		1.3	1.1	1.1
Urban	3.5	2.7	1.5	1.2
Rural	11.8	10.8	9.6	0.8
Red River Delta	3.1	2.6	1.9	1.6
Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas	23.0	21.0	18.4	16.4
North Central and Central Coastal Areas	11.6	10.2	8.7	7.4
Central Highlands	18.5	17.1	13.9	12.4
South East	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.5
Mekong River Delta	8.6	7.4	5.8	4.8

Source: GSO

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3   The UN recommended to use the poverty line with per capita income of USD 1.9 a day in Purchasing Power Parity (in 2011 constant price) to replace the poverty line with per capita income of USD 1.25 a day in Purchasing Power Parity (in 2005 constant price).

4   The Circular 03 assigns the GSO to compute and publish the data on multidimensional poverty as described in Table 1. However, the data reported by MOLISA provide a data series of a lower rate of multi-dimensional poor households, namely: in 2015: 9.9%; 2016: 8.23%; in 2017: 6.7%; in 2018: 5.23%; 2019: 3.75%. Thus, on average, Viet Nam has decreased by 1.53 percentage points annually based on the national multidimensional poverty line, much higher than the roadmap that have been set out.

5   National Survey on People with Disabilities 2016.

6   Pursuant to the Decision No.59/2015/QĐ-TTg dated 19/11/2015 by the Prime Minister stipulating the national poverty lines by multi-dimensional approach for 2016-2020.

Indicator 1.1.2: Proportion of population with an average daily income of less than US $1.90.

Roadmap: Not available.

Viet Nam has not yet computed data for this indicator. However, it is an important indicator, ensuring international comparability in poverty rates across countries. Therefore, Viet Nam needs to arrange the computation and publication of this indicator in the coming years. According to a report by the World Bank, Viet Nam has almost accomplished the goal of eradicating extreme poverty, with poverty rate of population with income less than US$1.9 by purchasing power parity at constant price in 2011 was only 2% in 2016[7]. By 2018, this rate reduced to less than 1%[8].

Indicator 1.1.3: Percentage of multi-dimensionally poor children.

Roadmap: Not available.

The data in Table 2 on the percentage of multi-dimensionally poor children shows a declining trend, which is similar to the overall trend of the national multi-dimensional poverty rate shown in Table 1 and has more detailed disaggregated data for children by ethnic group, by region and by sex. It can be seen that the percentage of multi-dimensionally poor children in Viet Nam is always higher than the national average rate. For example, the national multi-dimensional poverty rate was 9.2% in 2016, the multi-dimensional poverty rate among children was 19.1% that year. Similarly, these rates were 6.8% and 14.5% respectively in 2018. In addition, there is a huge disparity in multi-dimensional poverty between children from urban and those from rural areas, between Kinh and Hoa children versus children from ethnic minorities in Viet Nam. In 2018, the rate of multi-dimensionally poor children in rural areas was 3.7 times higher than that in urban areas; the poverty rate of children from ethnic minorities (excluding the Hoa) was 6.8 times higher than that of children of the Kinh and the Hoa. The regions with the highest multi-dimensional poverty rate among children in the country are the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas (29.3%) and the Central Highlands (25.4%).

Table 2. Percentage of multi-dimensionally poor children (%)[9]

	2014	2016	2018
Percentage of multi-dimensionally poor children	21.2	19.1	14.5
Disaggregated by sex			
Male	22.0	19.3	15.1
Female	18.1	18.6	12.1
Disaggregated by urban/rural			
Urban	8.9	8.4	5.0
Rural	26.8	23.6	18.6
Disaggregated by region			
Red River Delta	7.0	5.4	3.9
Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas	40.2	34.5	29.3
North Central and Central Coast	19.0	20.4	13.8
Central Highlands	41.2	32.8	25.4

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7   Source: http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/206981522843253122/pdf/124916-WP-PULIC-P161323-VietnamPovertyUpdateReportENG.pdf

8   Source: Multidimensional Poverty in Vietnam: Sustainable Poverty Reduction 2016-2020. https://mppn.org/multidimensional-poverty-viet-nam/

9   Multidimensional poverty among children in the study of UNICEF and GSO is determined based on the set of indicators on multidimensional poverty among children including 8 dimensions with 19 indicators, not exactly the same as the regulations on poverty dimensions under the Decision No.59/2015/ QĐ-TTg dated November 19, 2015

	2014	2016	2018
South East	9.6	10.5	6.6
Mekong River Delta	27.4	21.5	15.6
Disaggregated by ethnic group			
Kinh, Hoa	12.7	10.8	6.8
Other ethnic groups	61.2	52.5	46.4

Source: UNICEF and GSO, 2020: Multi-dimensional child poverty rate

As described by the Figure 1, when any threshold is used, the multi-dimensional poverty among children shows a declining trend in 2014-2018.

Figure 1. Multi-dimensional child poverty rate across different cut-off thresholds (*)
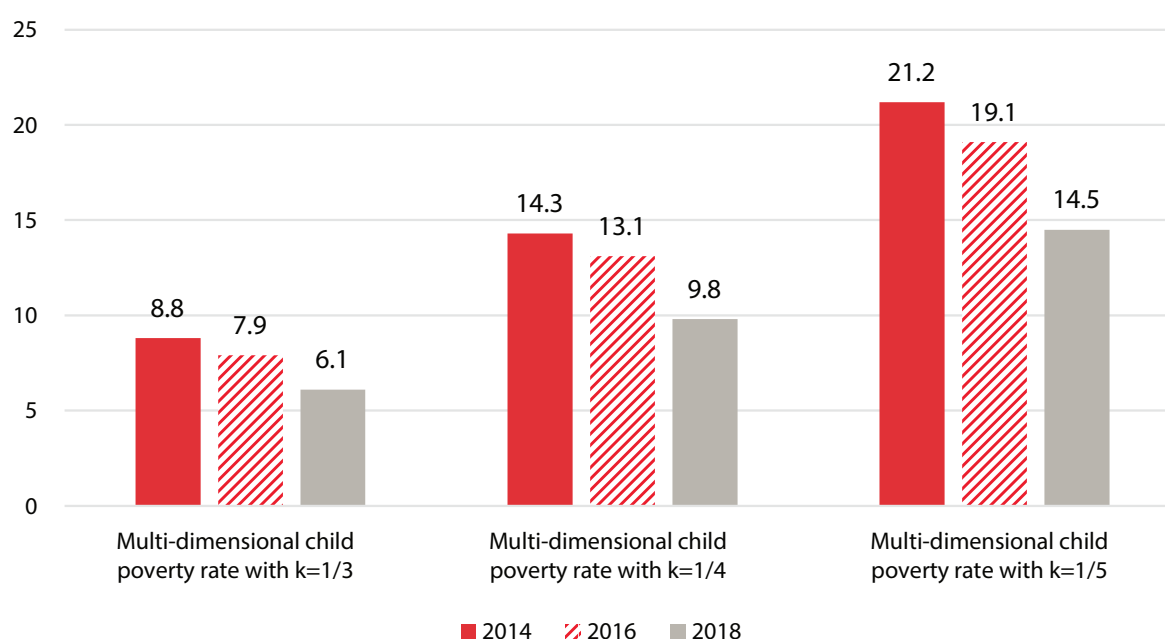
Note: Threshold k=1/3 means lack 1/3 of the dimensions in living standards (normally there are total 6 dimensions or 7 dimensions). Similarly, this principle is applied for the thresholds of 1/4 and 1/5

Source: UNICEF and GSO, 2020: Multi-dimensional poverty among children

The research by UNDP and MOLISA (2018) shows that the multi-dimensional poverty rate among children is always higher than that of the population of other ages and that it is higher in households with more children[10]. Thus, to reduce this inequality, the poverty reduction policies in the coming time should pay more attention to disadvantaged children, especially ethnic minority children, children living in rural and remote areas.

The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 has significantly reduced the incomes of vulnerable households and increased the rate of temporary poverty. A recent study to assess the Socio-Economic Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Vulnerable Households and Enterprises (RIM 2020) found that the sharpest decline in income was recorded in April and signs of recovery were seen in May 2020[11].

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10 Source: Multi-dimensional poverty report in Viet Nam: Poverty reduction in all dimensions to ensure quality of life for all people. UNDP – 2018.

11 Poverty simulations at the international poverty line of $ 3.20 per day rose from 4.6% to 26.7% in April, and then fell back down to 15.8% in May 2020. The pre-pandemic poverty rate was 22.1% among ethnic minority households increased to 76.3% in April 2020 and slightly decreased to 70.3% by May 2020- RIM 2020.

Target 1.2: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable (Global target 1.3).

Indicator 1.2.1: Number of contributors to social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance.

Roadmap: The rates of the workforce in the eligible age group participating in Social Insurance and Unemployment Insurance: by 2020, 35% and 25% respectively; by 2025: 45% and 35% respectively; by 2030: 60% and 45% respectively.

Viet Nam has built up a multi-layered social insurance system targeting universal social insurance; implemented solutions to expand and develop the coverage of beneficiaries of compulsory social insurance as well as to expand voluntary social insurance schemes to facilitate a seamless transition between voluntary social insurance and compulsory social insurance, towards compulsory social insurance for all employed paid workers when all necessary conditions are met. The social insurance policies shall ensure and promote gender equality for people participating and benefiting from social insurance. These policies include the revised Law on Social Insurance (Law No.58/2014/QH13) coming into effect in 2016, with a number of new and relatively progressive regulations to ensure gender equality principles on the expansion of participants in compulsory social insurance, and regulations on maternity, retirement and unemployment insurance schemes.

According to the GSO's 2019 Statistical Yearbook, the number of people participating in social insurance, health insurance and unemployment insurance in the period 2015-2018 kept growing (Table 3).

Table 3. Number of contributors to social insurance, health insurance, and unemployment insurance (Thousand people)

Number of contributors to insurance (thousand people)	2015	2016	2017	2018
Social Insurance	12,290.5	13,055.7	13,820.4	14,732.3
Health Insurance	68,466.1	75,915.2	81,189.0	83,540.5
Unemployment Insurance	10,310.2	10,944.7	11,538.9	12,643.1

Source: 2019 Statistical Yearbook -GSO

By 2019, the rate of the workforce within eligible age to participate in social insurance was 30.4% and unemployment insurance was 27.5%[12]. Thus, by 2020, Viet Nam could only almost meet the target of social insurance coverage of 35% and exceeded the target of the unemployment insurance coverage of 25% by 2020. However, with an average growth rate of 1.8 percentage points annually over the past period regarding the rate of labour force participating in social insurance, it is difficult for Viet Nam to meet the roadmap of social insurance coverage of 45% by 2025 and 60% by 2030. However, if Viet Nam continues to maintain the current growth rate of the labour force participating in unemployment insurance, Viet Nam may exceed the roadmap of 35% and 45% by 2025 and 2030 respectively. It is also important to note that it is more difficult to achieve the abovementioned growth rate in the later years to come than the past earlier years, so the later policies must be more focused and more effective.

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12   Source: MOLISA.

Figure 2. Basic Social Security Coverage (%)
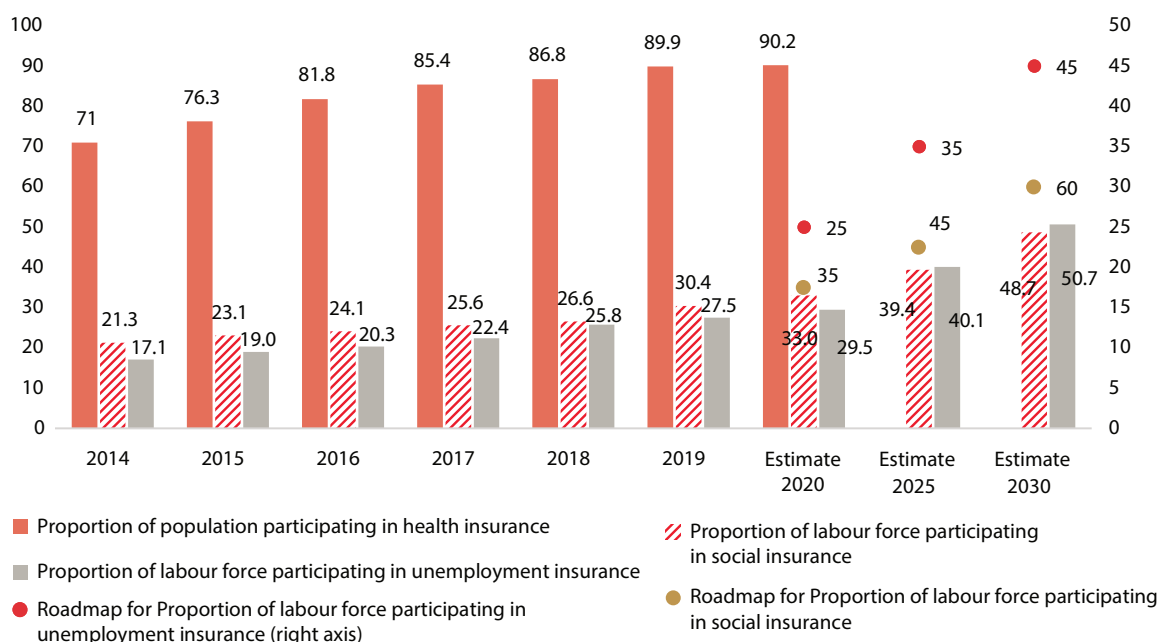
Source: Viet Nam Social Security forecast: experts' calculation

Viet Nam is gradually moving towards universal health insurance coverage with a high number of people participating in health insurance. The proportion of population participating in the health insurance increased continuously from 71.25% in 2014 to 89.3% in 2019 and is estimated to reach 90.7% by 2020. Thus, the health insurance has covered more than 90% of the population (equivalent to 85.4 million people) and exceeded the target set by Central Resolution No. 21-NQ/TW (2012) for 2020[13]. Notably, the proportion of the poor and near poor joining health insurance, one of the indicators showing the coverage of social security policies for the poor and vulnerable groups, has been improved. According to current regulations, poor households, near poor households and children under 6 years old are provided with health insurance cards for free. This means that the poor in Viet Nam are guaranteed to access health services by law. According to MOH, the proportion of near poor households participating in health insurance reached 96% in 2019. According to the GSO's 2016 National Survey on People with Disabilities, the proportion of people with disabilities having health insurance also reached a high rate of 90.1%, higher than the national average rate in the same year (81.8%).

Indicator 1.2.2: Number of beneficiaries of social insurance, health insurance, unemployment insurance.

Roadmap: Not available.

GSO annually publishes data on the number of beneficiaries of health insurance, of social insurance, and of unemployment insurance which shows a growing trend corresponding to the trend of the numbers of people participating in social insurance, health insurance and unemployment insurance (Table 3)

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13 The Central Resolution No. 21-NQ/TU on strengthening the Party's leadership in social insurance and health insurance matters for the period of 2012-2020. Accordingly, the target by 2020 is to reach health insurance coverage of more than 80%.

Table 4: Number of beneficiaries of social insurance, health insurance, unemployment insurance (thousand)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of monthly social insurance beneficiaries (thousand people)	2,720.5	2,837.6	2,934.4	3,026.3	3,097.9	
Number of lump sum social insurance beneficiaries (thousand packages)(*)	7,238.2	8,339.5	9,200.7	9,634.5	10,881.1	
Number of health insurance beneficiaries (million times)	136.46	130.47	148.6	168.18	176.47	184.5
Number of monthly unemployment insurance beneficiaries (thousand people)	532.9	550.7	614.8	706.5	746.1	

(*)The data is adjusted according to the new method to calculate the number of lump sum social insurance beneficiaries. Accordingly, this indicator includes the number of lump sum social insurance beneficiaries and the number of people receiving sickness and maternity benefits.

Source: Statistical Yearbook-GSO. Data of HI beneficiaries in 2018-2019 - MOH

Indicator 1.2.3: Number of beneficiaries of monthly social allowance in community.

Roadmap: By 2020, 2025 and 2030, Number of beneficiaries of monthly social allowance in community accounting for 3%, 3.5% and 4% of the population respectively.

Over the past years, social assistance schemes and policies have been expanded in terms of beneficiaries, complying with the legitimate purposes, with the right population in an efficient way. The number of people receiving regular social assistance increases every year. Currently, beneficiaries of monthly social support are defined in the Decree No.136/2013/ND-CP on social assistance policies for beneficiaries of social protection.

MOLISA announced that by the end of 2019, the whole country had more than 3 million beneficiaries (including 1.75 million elderly receiving monthly cash benefits; over 1.098 million people with disabilities; 217 thousand children, the rest are other vulnerable groups – equivalent to 3.1% of the population) who are receiving the monthly social allowance, finance for health care and health insurance cards.

Thus, Viet Nam has completed the roadmap set out to 2020 and if this trend remains, it is possible to complete the roadmap for the milestones in 2025 and 2030.

Indicator 1.2.4: Number of people receiving ad-hoc social support.

Roadmap: By 2020, 2025, 2030, 100% of people facing difficulties would receive ad-hoc social support.

According to current regulations, the following cases are entitled to receive ad-hoc support in challenging situations: i) Funeral allowance; ii) Serious injury in case of force majeure; iii) Poor, near-poor households and households facing difficulties due to damaged or collapsed houses; iv) Households have to relocate urgently due to force majeure; v) Children whose parents are missing and have no support. According to MOLISA, the ad-hoc social support has covered all groups in need of assistance, ensuring that people are provided with timely assistance in case they face risks and natural disasters; and the roadmap for this indicator is achievable. Every year, there are millions of people suffering from food deficiency after natural disasters, close to harvest time, and on the occasion of the Lunar New Year (Tet), who receive timely support with both rice and money. In 2019, the number of cases receiving funeral support was 62.2 thousand cases.

The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 put pressure on the social security system with the number of people applying for unemployment benefits and the number of payments increased sharply compared to that in 2019, and the number of people and businesses receiving support from the Government's assistance

package also increased sharply. According to data from MOLISA, the number of people applying for unemployment benefits in the first 6 months of 2020 increased by 32% compared to the same period in 2019. The number of unemployment benefits surged by approximately 40% compared to the same period last year. In the first 6 months of 2020, more than 11 million people and more than 6,000 businesses received support from the government's 62 trillion dong support package.

Indicator 1.2.5: Number of people living and being cared for in social protection facilities or social housing.

Roadmap: Not available.

According to MOLISA, the number of people living and being cared for in social protection facilities or social housing in 2019 was 40.1 thousand people. Persons with disabilities dominate this population (23.5 thousand people, accounting for more than 58%), followed by orphans (9.6 thousand children, accounting for more than 23.9%), elderly people (almost 3 thousand people) and other groups.

It could be seen that in the target 1.2, Viet Nam is on the right track, but the country should be proactive in implementing measures to attract workers to join social insurance in the future years.

Target 1.3: By 2030, ensure that all people, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, access to basic services, land use and natural resources, ownership and control over the other forms of property, appropriate new technologies and financial services, including micro finance (Global target 1.4).

Indicator 1.3.1: Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services.

Roadmap: Not available.

Except for the rate of households with solid housing, which has not increased significantly in the past 8 years, and remains at only 50%, other criteria of access to basic living conditions have increased and remained high. Note that the data in Figure 3 reflect the proportion of households with access to basic services rather than the "proportion of the population living in households with access to basic services" as indicator 1.3.1.

Figure 3. Access to basic living conditions (%)

Source: 2019 Statistical Yearbook - GSO
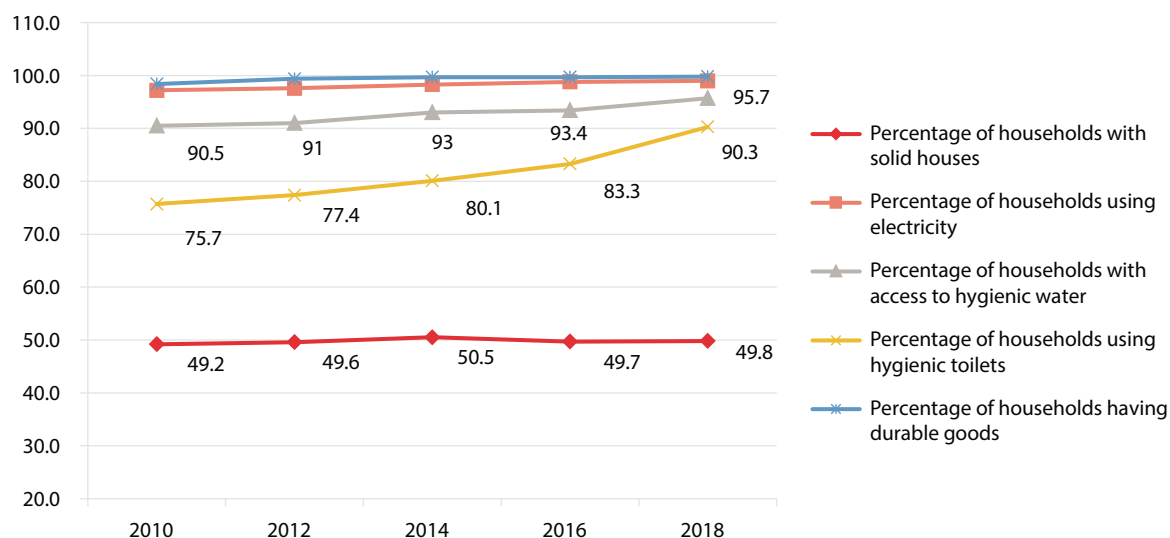
Regarding access to land use rights, according to data from The World Bank, the proportion of households having land use right certificates in Viet Nam is quite high, with the lowest proportion in the Central Highlands (62% in 2018) and highest proportion at 90% in the Mekong River Delta Region. This somehow shows the ability to secure land use rights for the people in Viet Nam.

Figure 4. Proportion of households' land granted with certificate of land use rights (%)
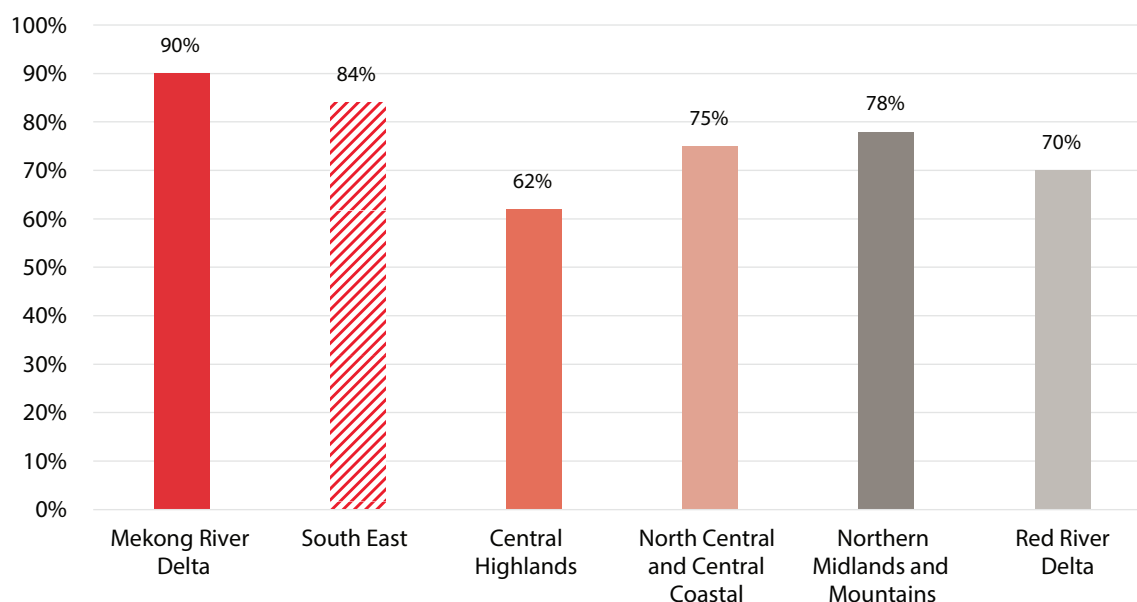
Source: The World Bank, 2018

Overall, Viet Nam is likely to achieve target 1.3 if it continues to maintain the current policies, and at the same time makes significant efforts to improve housing conditions for the people, especially those in the Central Highlands, the South East and the Mekong River Delta; and pays more attention to supporting the poor and disadvantaged groups.

Target 1.4: By 2030, improve the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social, environmental shocks and disasters (Global target 1.5).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

For the past years, Viet Nam has implemented many policies to improve resilience against natural disasters. The Government has spent trillions of dong to invest in infrastructure projects, and at the same time, implemented timely support policies for people affected by natural disasters.

By 2020, it is estimated that the whole country arranged and settled down for about 10,000 households in areas at high risks of natural disasters (valley floods, flash floods, landslides), at borders, islands, areas of migrants, and special-use forests areas. This contributed to stabilizing and improving people's lives, limiting damages caused by natural disasters, free migration, reducing poverty, protecting the environment and strengthening national defence and security.

However, with unpredictable changes in weather and the increasing impacts of climate change, Viet Nam needs more sustainable and long-term solutions to improve resilience of disadvantaged groups, especially those living in areas prone to natural disasters and affected by environmental, economic and social disasters.

SUMMARY

Following the successes in poverty reduction and hunger eradication for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) period, Viet Nam continues to gain impressive results in 2016-2020 on SDG 1 on "End poverty in all its forms everywhere". The Covid-19 pandemic significantly compromised incomes of vulnerable households and increased temporary poverty rates in 2020. Despite this, Viet Nam has the potential to achieve all 4 targets under SDG 1 by 2030. In addition to the continuation of the National Targeted Programme on sustainable poverty reduction, pro-poor policies in the coming period should focus more on vulnerable groups like children, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and people in the difficult areas. Furthermore, social welfare should be enlarged its coverage, particularly social insurance including compulsory and voluntary forms.

Goal 1.1

3
2
1
0

Goal 1.4

Goal 1.2

Goal 1.3
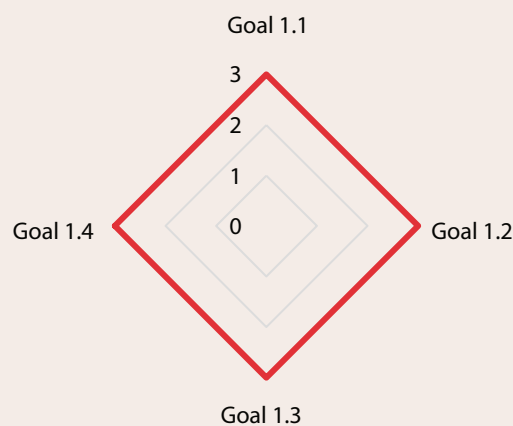
GOAL 2

End hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agricultural development

VIET NAM HAS **COMPREHENSIVELY REDUCED HUNGER** ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND BASICALLY SOLVED HUNGER PROBLEMS **BY 2020**. THE HUNGER SITUATION IS SENSITIVE TO SEASONS AND IS MAINLY CAUSED BY NATURAL DISASTERS AND EXTREME WEATHER

Number of households in hunger (hungry households counted)

Number of household members in hunger (hungry head counted)

Number of household members in hunger (hungry head counted)
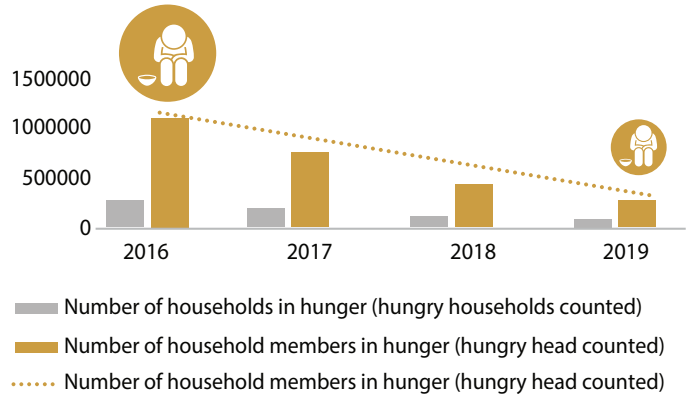
THE RATE OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS

SUFFERING FROM STUNTING MALNUTRITION
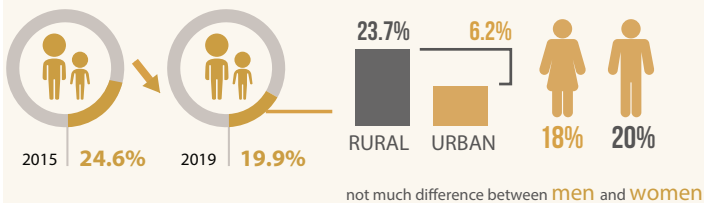
2015 | **24.6%**   2019 | **19.9%**

23.7% RURAL   6.2% URBAN

18% women   20% men

not much difference between **men** and **women**

SUFFERING FROM WASTING MALNUTRITION

2015 | **6.4%**   2019 | **5.1%**

4,5% URBAN   7,2% RURAL

OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY

2015 | **5.3%**   2017 | **5.9%**   2019 | **9.7%**

PER CAPITA INCOME IN **RURAL AREAS**

18.9 MILLION VND 2012   **35.9** MILLION VND 2018
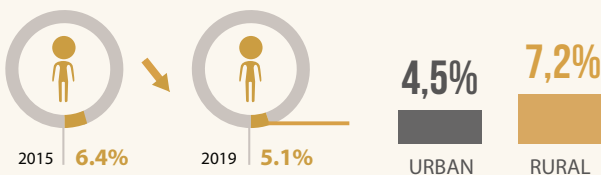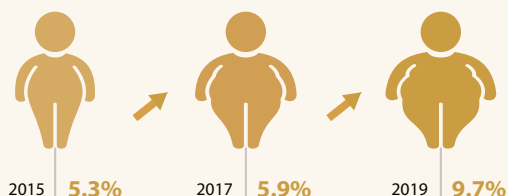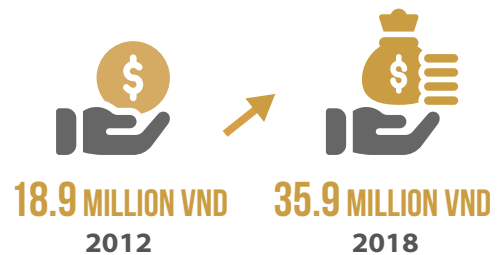
Nationally, **624** aquaculture zones/establishments are recognized with

VietGAP CERTIFICATES

2016
2020

with an area of 6,363 ha
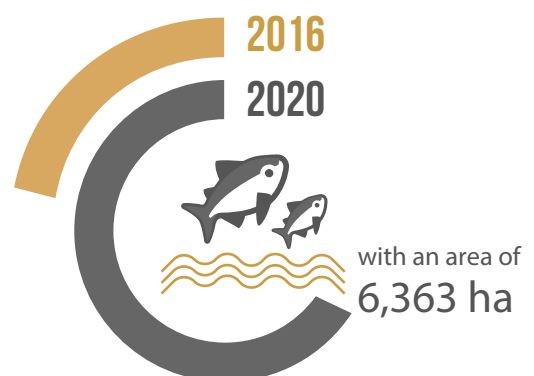
Viet Nam is basically set to complete SDG 2 by 2030. However, more attention is needed on improving the health and physical strength of children in rural and remote areas and ethnic minority children; and to child obesity in big cities.

Target 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including the elderly and infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round (Global target 2.1).

Indicator 2.1.1: Prevalence of undernourishment.

Roadmap: By 2020, have basically addressed hunger and there is no hunger in the country by 2025.

Viet Nam has comprehensively reduced hunger across the country at an impressive rate in recent years and basically solved hunger problems by 2020 according to the set roadmap. 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. In order to mitigate people's hunger, the Government has timely implemented many policies in an integrated way such as livelihood support for the poor, disaster prevention, and welfare relief of the entire society over the recent years, (as described in target 1.2) which have significantly contributed to the achievement of Viet Nam's SDG target 2.1 on ending hunger.

Figure 5. Number of households and members suffering from hunger (counted households/members)
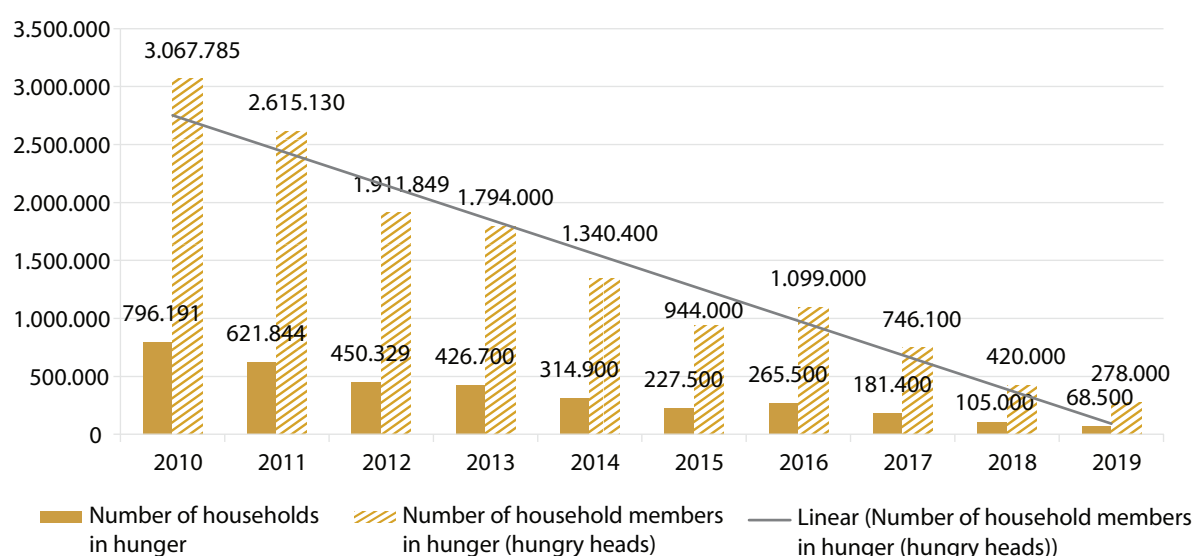
Source: GSO

Thus, if the existing trend continues, Viet Nam will surely achieve the roadmap by 2020 and 2025.

Indicator 2.1.2: Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population (Food insecurity experience scale - FIES).

Roadmap: Not available.

Currently, Viet Nam has integrated survey questions on FIES in the Viet Nam Living Standards Survey 2018. In the coming time, this indicator will be compiled and published periodically in line with the Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey every 2 years.

Overall, Viet Nam could achieve SDG target 2.1 by 2020 and maintain this achievement in the coming years. In addition to ensuring national food security, Viet Nam also supports food security for other countries. The production of grain food in 2020 was 48.2 million tons, the average food quantity per capita is approximately 525 kg/year, making Viet Nam one of the top 6 countries in this index and a

country with sustainable food security with an amount that is higher than most developing countries in Asia[14].

Target 2.2: By 2030, reduce malnutrition rate in all its forms and satisfy nutritional needs of children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons (Global target 2.2).

Indicator 2.2.1: Prevalence of malnutrition among children under five years of age.

Roadmap:

- Stunting (height for age): below 21.5% by 2020, below 20% by 2025 and below 15% by 2030;

- Wasting (weight for height): below 5% by 2020 and maintain this rate below 5% for the following years;

- Overweight, obesity (weight for height): by 2020: below 5% for rural areas and below 10% for urban areas and maintain this rate for the following years.

The rate of children under 5 years of age suffering from stunting malnutrition nationwide decreased by 4.7 percentage points, from 24.6% to 19.9% in the period 2015-2019. This rate in rural areas is much higher than that in urban areas, 23.7% and 6.2% respectively; meanwhile, there is not much difference between men and women; 20% and 18% respectively in 2019. If maintaining the current speed, Viet Nam can achieve the roadmap set for indicator 2.2.1

Figure 6. Prevalence of stunting malnutrition among under-five children (%)
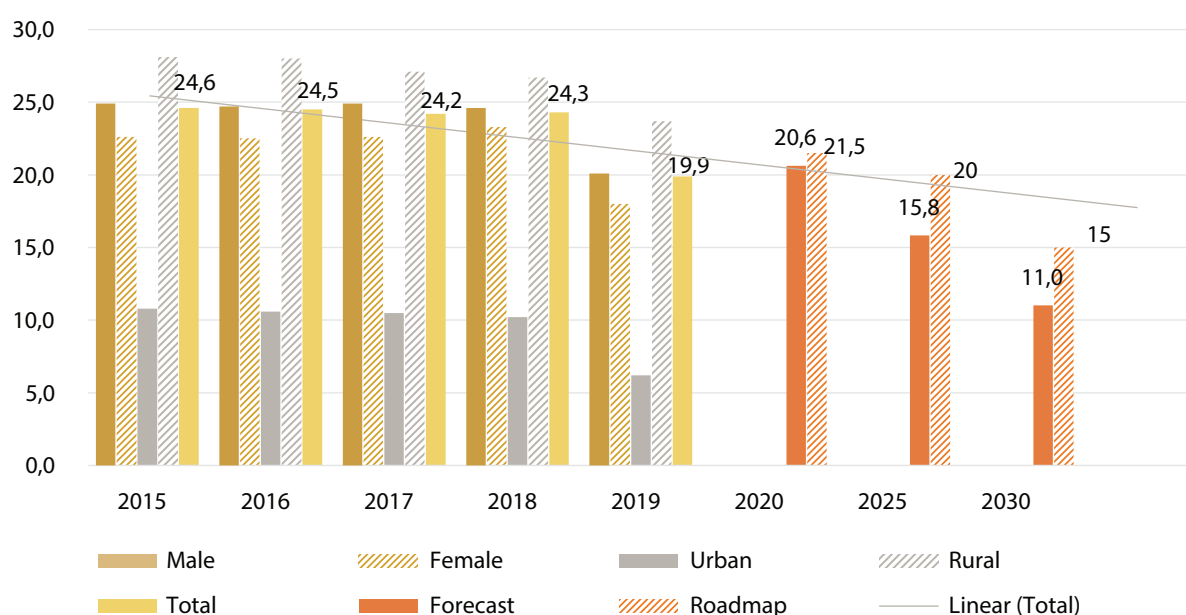
Source: Statistical Yearbook-GSO, Forecast: Experts' calculation

The rate of under-5 children suffering from wasting malnutrition nationwide remained at around 6% in recent years, it decreased to 5.1% in 2019 (with 4.5% in urban areas and 7.2% in rural areas). With such a rate of decline, Viet Nam is likely to reach the roadmap to reduce the rate of wasted under-5 children to under 5% by 2020 and for the following years.

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14   The MARD, Report on Implementation of the SDGs by 2020.

Figure 7. Prevalence of wasting malnutrition among under-five children (%)
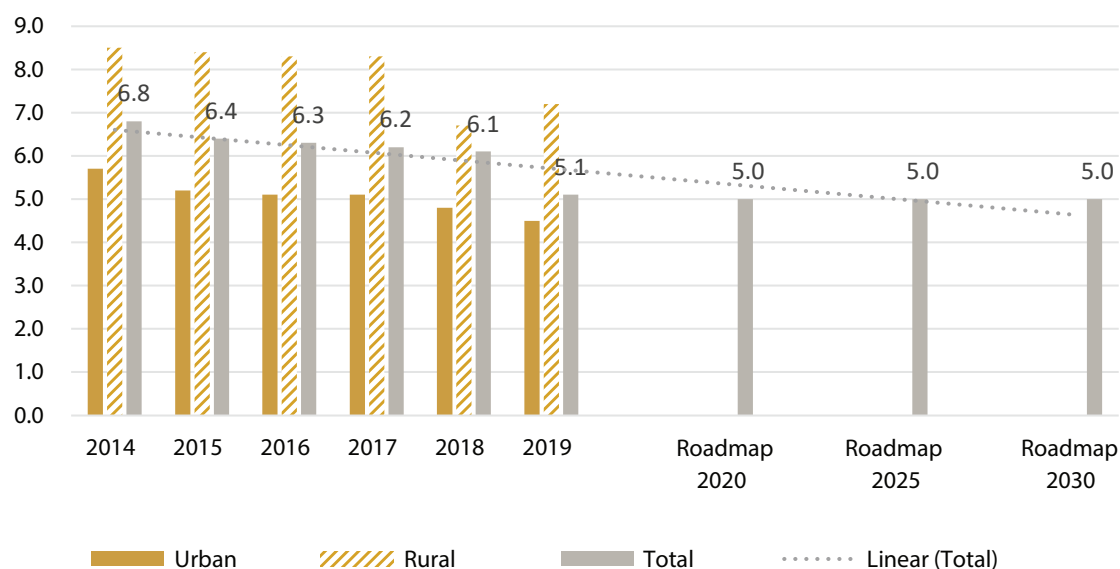
Source: Statistical Yearbook-GSO, Forecast: Experts' calculation

The proportion of overweight and obese under-five children has increased rapidly in recent years, from 4.8% in 2014 to 5.9% in 2017 and reached 9.7% in 2019 (Figure 8). Overweight and obesity among children has been reported to rise in many big cities of Viet Nam. In Ho Chi Minh City, the prevalence of overweight and obesity among children under 5 has tripled in 10 years and reached 11.5% in 2016[15]. The main cause of overweight and obesity is an imbalance in the amount of calories intake to the body and the calories burned. The increasing trend of overweight and obese children in the community today is mainly due to increased consumption of energy-rich foods such as fast food, carbonated soft drinks. Without balanced nutritional solutions in the coming years, Viet Nam will not be able to meet the roadmap for 5% overweight and obesity children under 5 years old in rural areas and 10% in urban areas by 2030.

Figure 8. Prevalence of overweight and obesity among under-five children (%)

Source: MOH

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15   See https://nhandan.com.vn/goc-tu-van/so-tre-thua-can-beo-phi-o-viet-nam-tang-rat-nhanh-306852
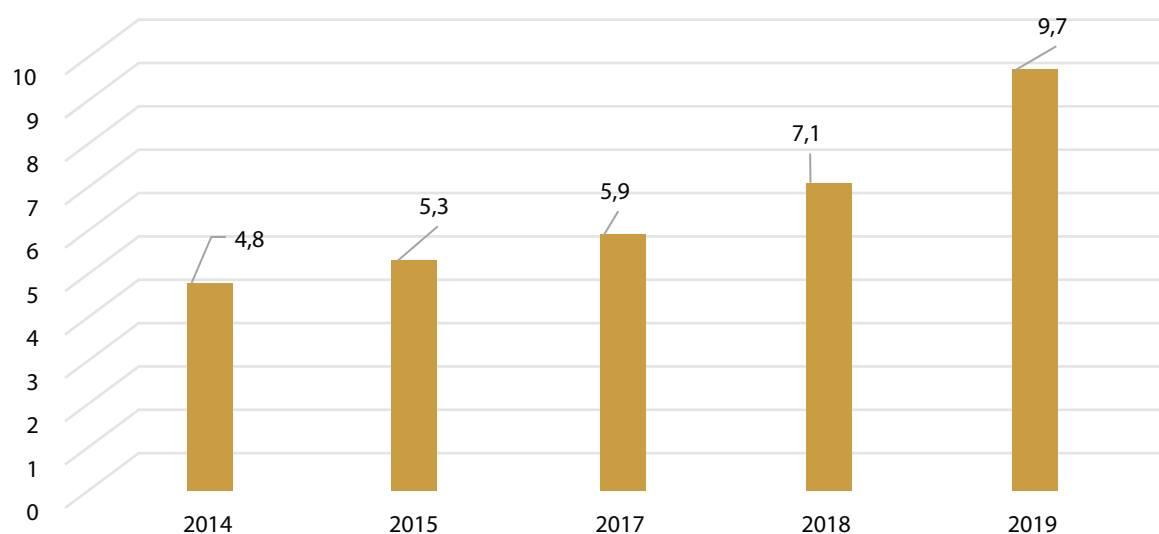
Meanwhile, micronutrient deficiency among children is still relatively common. According to a survey in 2015 by the National Institute of Nutrition, the rate of iron deficiency anaemia among children under 5 years old in Viet Nam was 27.8%; and the rate is higher in mountainous areas (31.2%), rural areas (28.4%) and lower in urban areas (22.2%). The rate of zinc deficiency among children under 5 years old was very high, up to 69.4%; This rate was particularly high in mountainous areas (80.8%), rural areas (71.6%), and it was lower in urban areas but still quite high (49.7%). The above data shows that among children under 5 years of age, approximately one third of them were anaemic and more than two thirds were zinc deficient.

The survey by the National Institute of Nutrition in 2015 also shows that the incidence of iron deficiency anaemia among pregnant women was 32.8% and this rate in non-pregnant women was 25.5%. The prevalence of zinc deficiency among pregnant women at national level was particularly high (80.3%), and that rate in mountainous areas was 87%, in rural areas was 80.1% and in cities was 70.8%. The rate of zinc deficiency among women of reproductive age is also very high, accounting for 63.6%, this rate was 73.4% in mountainous areas, 60.3% in rural areas, and 54.5% in urban areas.

Therefore, it is necessary to continue to pursue more appropriate policies and strengthen communication on nutritional supplementation for children, pregnant and lactating women, especially in rural, remote and mountainous areas.

Target 2.3: By 2030, improve agricultural productivity and income of workers in agriculture sector by 1.5 times (Global target 2.3).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Average income per capita in rural areas shall reach 43 million, 60 million and 90 million dong by 2020, 2025 and 2030 respectively.

With the growth rate of per capita income almost doubled after 6 years (2012-2018), Viet Nam will surely achieve the target "Per capita income in rural areas shall reach 43 million per year by 2020" and will far exceed 90 million by 2030 at the current price.

Figure 9. Average income per capita in rural areas by current price (thousand dong/year)
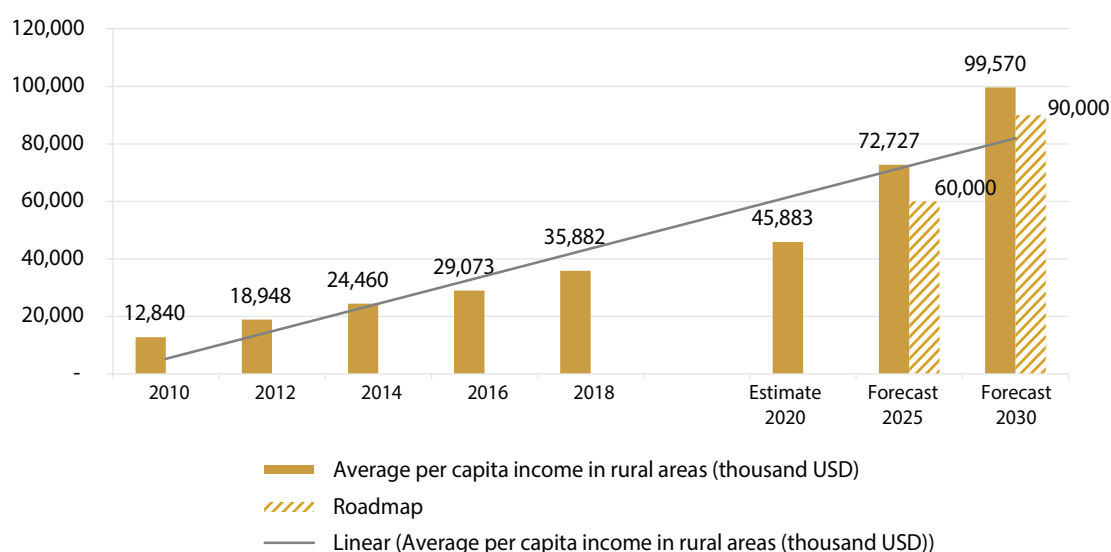
Source: 2019 Statistical Yearbook-GSO, Forecast: Experts' calculation

The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 disrupted the supply chain and made it difficult to export agricultural products, leading to a decline in farmers' incomes[16]. However, despite this immediate impact, Viet Nam is still set to achieve the target 2.3 by 2030, which is to increase the income of agricultural workers 1.5 times by then. In 2020, production of agriculture, forestry and fisheries still proved to be a strong pillar of the economy in difficult times and ensured sufficient supply of foods, foodstuffs, and essential goods for domestic market and for export, the GDP growth rate of the sector reached 2.68%, exports reached 41.2 billion USD.

However, there is still a lack of high-quality labour, rural workers working in agriculture are mainly elderly, with few young and qualified workers, and so the application of technology is limited, leading to low agricultural labour productivity.

Target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, and strengthen the capacity for adaptation to climate change and other disasters and progressively improve land and soil quality (Global target 2.4).

Indicator 2.4.1: Proportion of agricultural cultivation area applying safe production processes.

Roadmap: The area for agricultural cultivation using safe production processes maintains an annual increase of 10-15%.

The Circular 03 assigns MARD to coordinate with GSO to collect and publish this data starting from 2025. According to the report of the MARD, by the end of 2020, there are 170 thousand hectares of crops recognized with VietGAP certificates and equivalent (10 times higher than 2016) with 4,846 certified businesses, an increase of 3.5 times compared to the number of certified businesses in 2016 (1,380 businesses); 11,521 farms and livestock households are recognized with VietGAP certificates or equivalent, with the production of 595,489 tons of meat and 332,117 million eggs (an increase of 1.6 times higher than that in 2016) [17]. Thus, the annual average growth rate for the agriculture cultivated area applying safe production processes has exceeded the roadmap for indicator 2.4.1 (10-15%/year).

Indicator 2.4.2: Proportion of aquaculture area applying good and sustainable aquaculture practices.

Roadmap: The aquaculture area applying good and sustainable aquaculture keeps growing by 8% annually.

Similar to indicator 2.4.1, the Circular 03 assigns MARD to coordinate with GSO to collect and publish this data starting from 2025. According to the report of the MARD, by the end of 2020, the country has 624 zones/establishments of aquaculture with an area of 6,363 hectares recognized with VietGAP certificates and equivalent, tripling the area from 2016 (201 establishments/1,553 hectares) or an average growth of 100%/year, far exceeding the growth rate 8%/year as set by the roadmap.

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16 According to the GSO's Labor Force Survey, the income of workers in the agricultural, forestry and fishery sector in the first three quarters of 2020 increased by 1.1% compared to the first half of the year, but decreased by 0.1% compared to the same period last year. Export of agricultural and forestry products in the first 9 months of 2020 went down by 4.7%, seafood export declined by 3% compared to the same period in 2019.

17 MARD, Report on Implementation of the SDGs by 2020.

Indicator 2.4.3: Consumer price index (CPI) of food and foodstuffs.

Roadmap: Not available.

The consumer price index of foods and foodstuffs increased slightly and steadily which somehow shows the ability to ensure production of foods and foodstuffs in Viet Nam. In recent years, the consumer price index of the foods and foodstuffs in Viet Nam has always been lower than the average annual consumer price index of the total commodity categories in the basket. In particular, the food category always maintains the lowest price index (Table 5).

Table 5: Average annual consumer price index (previous year = 100), by category of commodities (%)

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
CPI	**106.6**	**104.1**	**100.6**	**102.7**	**103.5**	**103.5**	**102.8**
Foods, foodstuffs	102.7	104.0	101.5	102.4	98.9	103.2	104.1
Foods	97.9	103.8	98.9	101.7	101.6	103.7	100.5
Foodstuffs	103.1	104.2	102.0	102.8	97.4	103.5	105.1
Beverage and tobacco	104.2	103.7	102.2	102.2	101.5	101.4	102.0
Food ware, headwear	107.9	104.3	103.3	102.1	101.1	101.5	101.7
Housing and construction material	104.7	103.7	98.4	102.5	104.3	103.3	103.0
Household goods	105.0	103.0	102.0	101.1	101.0	101.2	101.4
Medication, health	145.6	105.4	102.1	128.5	142.3	110.8	103.8
Transports	104.5	101.6	88.1	92.7	106.8	106.4	99.0
Post and telecommunication	99.5	99.6	100.3	99.3	99.4	99.3	99.3
Education	114.2	110.2	106.5	106.3	109.1	106.3	105.7
Culture, sports, recreation	103.9	102.4	101.6	101.5	100.9	101.3	101.8
Other goods and services	107.0	104.0	102.9	102.2	102.1	102.4	102.7

Source: GSO

In summary, measures have been taken to restructure crops on inefficient rice cultivated land and in drought weather. At the same time, the use of high quality seeds is promoted and production is arranged under the model of "big farm" not only for rice but also for other vegetables; application of production according to VietGAP process or equivalent is promoted. Livestock has clearly changed in the organization of production, livestock in farms, household farms, focusing on closed chains, biosafety, application of advanced science and technology, and expanded high technology; thus many organic breeding models have been formed and are being popularized and replicated.

Overall, Viet Nam is likely to achieve the SDG target 2.4. However, there are still shortcomings and limitations such as: (i) Science and technology has not fully fulfilled their important roles; the application of high technologies and modern technologies in production and processing and preservation is limited; (ii) The sector is still slow at innovating and developing different forms of arranging production; the small household economy still accounts for a high proportion and is posing shortcomings and weaknesses that hinder the process of industrialization and modernization of agriculture; large-scale production, along the value chain, linking raw material production with preservation, processing and consumption has not been considered as key improvements; (iii) epidemic and diseases on plants and animals face continuous risks of outbreaks; food safety management is still found to be very difficult and complicated.

Target 2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals; promote access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated indigenous knowledge as internationally agreed (Global target 2.5).

Indicator 2.5.1: Number of secured plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Roadmap: Not available.

In implementation of the Decision No.1671/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister approving the Program on conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources by 2025, vision to 2030, MARD is implementing a project on Development of National Plant Gene Bank Development during 2011-2020. Currently, the project has collected plant genetic resources in 53 provinces / cities, with a total of 12,250 samples of genetic resources of different plant classes. The project has initially evaluated agronomic and morphological properties to complete the genetic database of 8,405 samples of herbaceous plants, beans, vegetables, spices; detailed assessment of 4,710 samples, in which genetic diversity was assessed by DNA markers, DNA bio specimen were made of 1,450 samples (1,287 rice varieties, 65 soybean seeds, 98 green beans).

However, maintaining genetic diversity and the mechanism for sharing the systems for plants and animals and the equitable use of the stored genetic resources is still a challenge that needs to be addressed.

SUMMARY

Even as Covid-19 pandemic posed immediate impact on target 2.3 by interrupting supply chains and creating difficulties to agricultural exports, leading to lower incomes for the farmers, Viet Nam is basically set to complete SDG 2 by 2030. Among 5 targets, Viet Nam is expected to complete 4 of them. In terms of grain food production in 2020, Viet Nam is on the list of top 6 countries and it has become a nation with better sustainable food security than its Asian peers. However, the analysis shows that in the coming time, related policies should pay more attention to upgrading health and physical strength of children in remote and rural areas and ethnic minority areas, address children's obesity problems in big cities, and ensure a fair usage of stored gene sources.
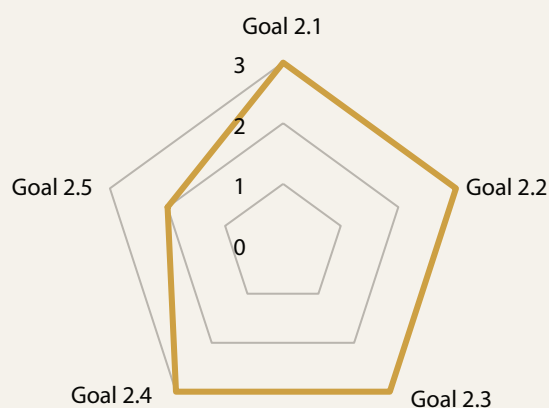
GOAL 3
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO

54 2015 ↘ **46** 2019

Maternal mortality ratio
100,000 live births
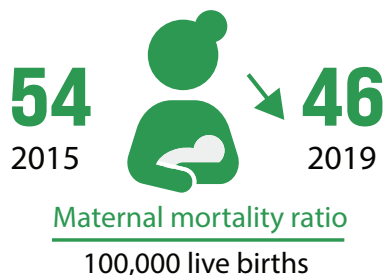
NUMBER OF DEATHS AND INJURIES CAUSED BY TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS CONTINUOUSLY DECLINED

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

● Number of deaths ● Number of injuries
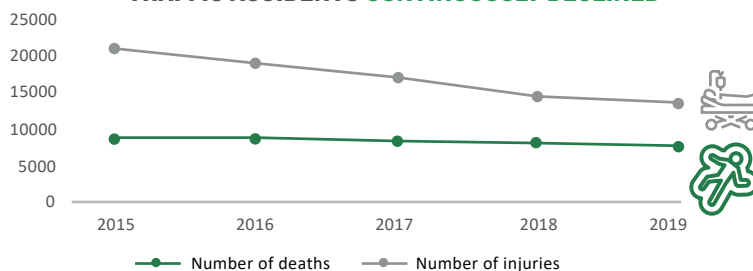
UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATE AND UNDER-ONE MORTARITY RATE IN 2019

21‰   14‰

Essential healthcare service coverage Index
78/100 points (2019)
higher than the global average level
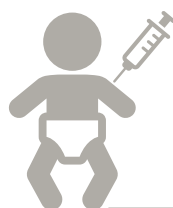
Percentage of fully vaccinated infants under one year old reached 96.4% in 2019

112 2015 ↘ **104** 2019

Number of new cases of tuberculosis infections
100,000 population

Reduction of youth age using alcohol and the proportion of people using tobaco are among the highest numbers in the world

11.3 2015 ↘ **7** 2019

Number of new cases of malaria infections
100,000 population

Viet Nam will face challenges in order to achieve SDG 3 by 2030. More attention should be drawn on the communicable and non-communicable diseases, prevention and treatment of substance abuse, reduction of maternal and child mortality and implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

2.51 2015 ↘ **2.18** 2019

Number of HIV infections detected
1,000 uninfected population

Target 3.1: By 2030, reduce the maternal mortality ratio to less than 45 per 100,000 live births; reduce the under-one child mortality rate to below 10 per 1000 live births and the under-five child mortality rate to below 15 per 1,000 live births (Global targets 3.1 and 3.2).

Indicator 3.1.1: Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births.

Roadmap: By 2020: 52; By 2025: <48; By 2030: <45.

The maternal mortality ratio per one hundred thousand live births has decreased significantly in recent years, from 64 deaths per one hundred thousand live births in 2012 to 46 in 2019, even lower than the roadmap for 2020 and 2025. If this trend continues, Viet Nam will surely achieve the roadmap (the maternal mortality ratio per one hundred thousand live births by 2030 is under 45).

Figure 10. Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births
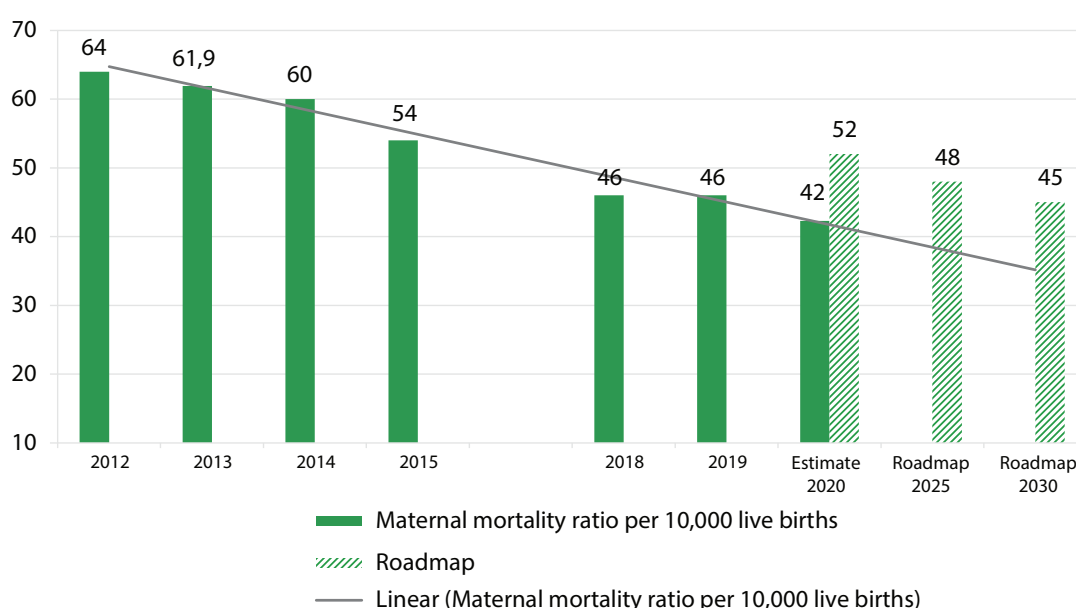
Source:MOH: 20012-2018; GSO: Population and Housing Census 2019

Indicator 3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.

Roadmap: By 2020: 98%; By 2025: 98%; By 2030: 98%.

The rate of births attended by skilled health personnel reached almost 97% in 2019, lower than the rate of 98% in 2016. This rate for the ethnic minority group was 90.3%. Significant disparities in health status, maternal mortality and reproductive health care still exist among different regions and ethnic groups. The rate of births without support of a skilled health personnel mainly exist among the groups of women living in remote areas and ethnic minority areas. The survey results on the socio-economic situation of 53 ethnic minorities in 2019 showed that up to 9.5% of ethnic minority women giving birth at home without support from skilled health personnel. Some ethnic minorities such as Mang, Mong, Cong and La Hu have a very high rate of giving birth at home and without professional support, 50.6%, 38.8%, 37.0% and 36.5% respectively. This is because ethnic minorities still have outdated birth practices, relying mainly on traditional experiences, combined by a lack of medical staff or they are undertrained in the villages. This requires more appropriate policies and models to contribute to improving the above situation for ethnic minorities.

Figure 11. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
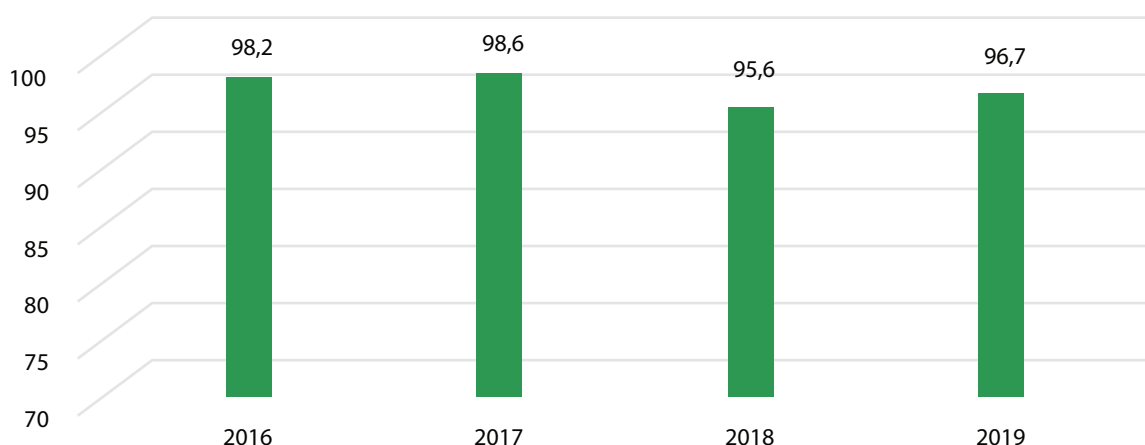
Source: MOH

Thus, Viet Nam is likely to meet the roadmap for indicator 3.1.2 by 2030, i.e. 98% of births attended by skilled health personnel. However, it is necessary to further improve reproductive health care for groups from ethnic minorities and remote areas.

Indicator 3.1.3: Under-five mortality rate.

Roadmap: By 2020: 20; By 2025: 18.5; By 2030: 15.

The under-five mortality rate tends to go down quite slowly, from 23.8‰ in 2010 to 21‰ in 2019. If this rate continues, it will probably decline to 20.6, 19.1, and 17.5 deaths per 1000 live births by 2020, 2025, and 2030 respectively, which are higher than the Roadmap set for indicator 3.1.3 at 20‰, 18.5‰ and 15‰ respectively.

Figure 12. Under-five mortality rate (‰)
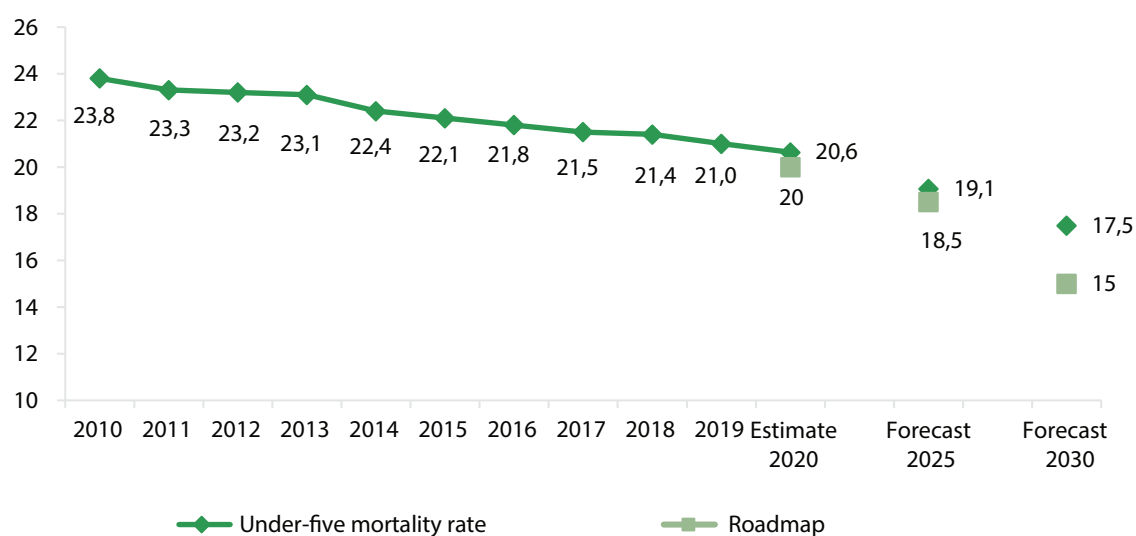
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO; Forecast: Experts' calculation

In terms of gender, the mortality rate for under-five boys is higher than that for under-five girls, although the difference between boys and girls tends to narrow down between 2010 and 2019. By 2019, the rate for boys is 27.3 ‰ and for girls 14.2 ‰ (Figure 13). The statistics also show that the death ratio of children living in rural areas double that in urban areas, which were 25.1‰ in rural areas and 12.3‰ in urban areas in 2019.

Figure 13. Under-five mortality rate by sex (‰)
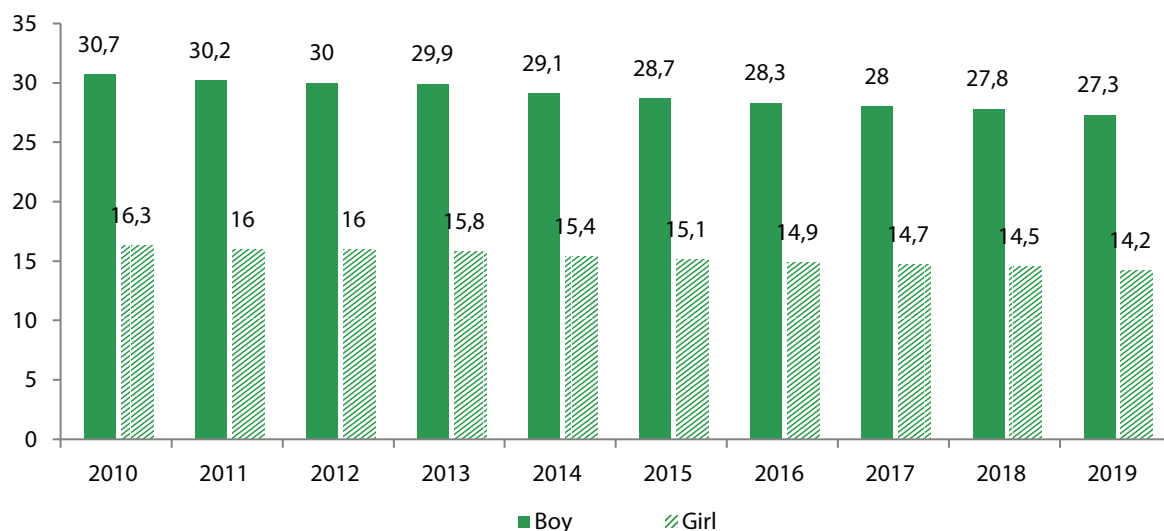
Source: Statistical Yearbook-GSO; 2019: Population and Housing Census 2019

Without breakthrough efforts, it may be considered difficult for Viet Nam to reach the roadmap set for indicator 3.1.3 by 2030, although it is still likely to close the roadmap set for 2020 and 2025.

Indicator 3.1.4: Neonatal mortality rate.

Roadmap: By 2020: <10; By 2025: <9.5; By 2030: <9.

Neonatal mortality rate is the average number of live births dying within 28 days of age per 1,000 live births in a year. At present, there is no official published statistics on indicator 3.1.4. According to the Circular 03, this indicator is to be quantified from 2025; MOH also has not collected data on this indicator every year. The only source of data on this indicator to date is the 2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014. According to the MICS 2014, the neonatal mortality rate is 11.95 deaths per 1,000 live births. According to UNICEF, up to 74% under-one child deaths occur in the first month of life[18]. If this rate is maintained in the coming years, and combined with trend analysis for the indicator 3.1.5 on under-one mortality below, it is possible to forecast the neonatal mortality rate: by 2020 will be 10.2; 2025 will be 9.9 and 2030 will be 9.3, slightly higher than the proposed roadmap.

In the near future, this indicator will be estimated based on the data of the Survey on Measuring Sustainable Development Goal Indicators on Children and Women 2020 conducted by GSO in cooperation with UNICEF at a national scale.

Indicator 3.1.5: Under-one mortality rate.

Roadmap: By 2020: 13.5; By 2025: 12.5; By 2030: 10.

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18 Source: https://www.unicef.org/vietnam/vi/ch%C4%83m-s%C3%B3c-s%E1%BB%A9c-kh%E1%BB%8Fe-b%C3%A0-m%E1%BA%B9-tr%E1%BA%BB-em

The under-one mortality rate tends to drop gradually in the period 2010-2019. With an average annual decrease rate of 0.2 points ‰ as in recent years, this indicator will be at 13.8 by 2020 and anticipated to be 13.4 and 12.7 per 1000 live births in 2025 and 2030 respectively which are higher than the set roadmap with13, 12.5 and 10 respectively.

Figure 14. Under-one mortality rate (‰)
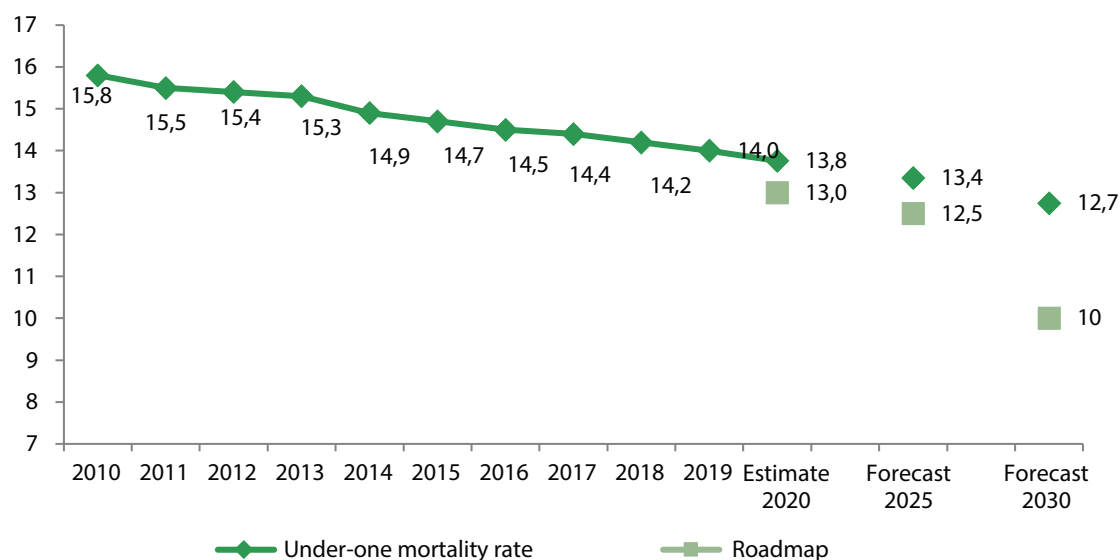
Source: Statistical Yearbook-GSO; 2019: Population and Housing Census 2019; Forecast: Experts' calculation

By sex, the mortality rate among under-one boys is higher than that among under-one girls but they tends to reduce gradually (Figure below).

Figure 15. Under-one mortality rate by sex (‰)
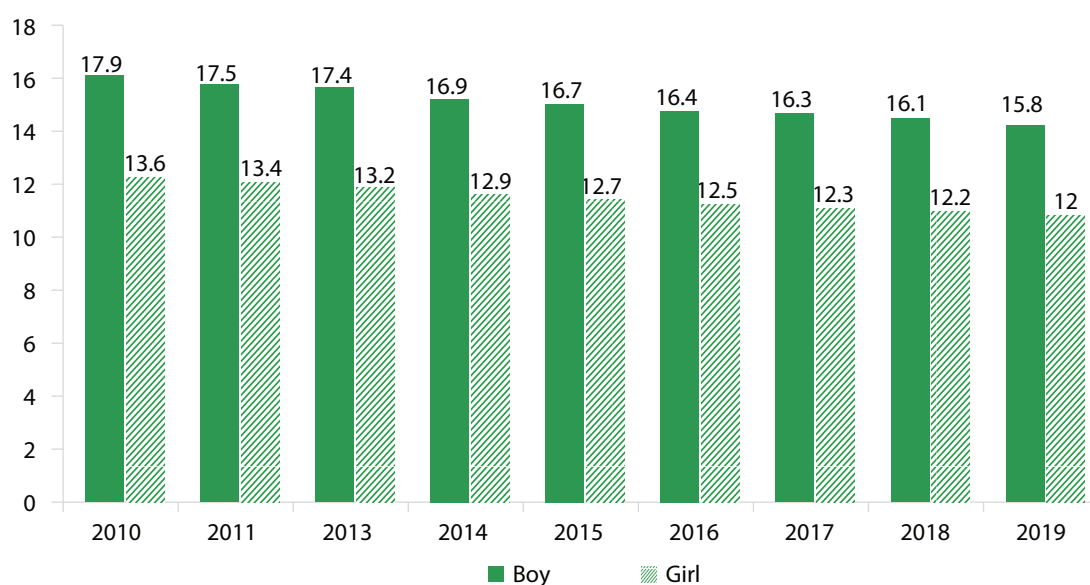
Source: Statistical Yearbook-GSO; 2019: Population and Housing Census 2019

Thus, if there are no breakthrough efforts, it will be difficult for Viet Nam to reach the roadmap set by 2030 for indicator 3.1.5.

In general, the implementation of Goal 3.1 poses many challenges for Viet Nam. To achieve the set target, Viet Nam needs to make more efforts to ensure the roadmaps set for the 3.1.3, 3.1.4 and 3.1.5 indicators regarding under-five, under-one and neonatal mortality rates.

Target 3.2: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases; prevent and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases (Global target 3.3).

Indicator 3.2.1: Number of new cases of HIV infections detected annually per 1,000 uninfected population.

Roadmap: Number of new HIV infections detected annually: By 2020: 20% lower than 2015; By 2025: 40% lower than 2015; By 2030: 50% lower than 2015.

As depicted in the figure, the number of new HIV infections detected annually (the roadmap of the indicator) tends to decrease gradually to 8,200 people in 2019. If this trend remains, it could be forecast for different years: approximately 7800 people by 2020, nearly 4400 people by 2025, and almost 1000 people by 2030, corresponding to a decrease of 23% by 2020, 56.8% by 2025 and up to 90% in 2030 compared to the level of 2015. Compared to the set roadmap, this reduction is much higher. Meanwhile, the number of new cases of HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population shows insignificant changes in the period 2011-2019, only slightly reducing from 2.25 in 2011 to 2.18 in 2019. According to a recent report by UNICEF and MPI[19], the number of children infected with HIV tends to decrease, in 2019 it is estimated that there are more than 5,000 children infected with HIV nationwide, down by approximately 24, 5% compared to 2016.

Figure 16. Number of new cases of HIV infections detected annually per 1,000 uninfected population
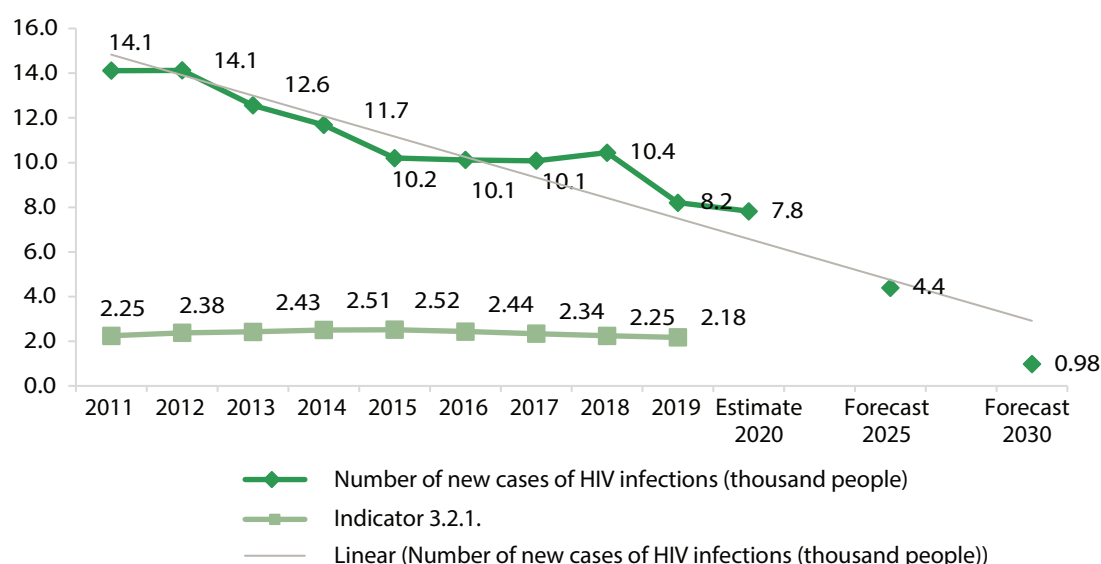
Source: MOH; Forecast: Experts' calculation

Viet Nam will accomplish the set roadmap on reduction of the detected new cases of HIV infections if the current improvement rate is maintained.

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19 MPI - Unicef, Report on Monitoring the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of Viet Nam by 2020 with focus on the realization of the child rights, December 2019.

Indicator 3.2.2: Number of new cases of tuberculosis infections per 100,000 population.

Roadmap: Number of new tuberculosis cases: By 2020: decrease by 30% compared to 2015; By 2025: decrease by 60% compared to 2015; By 2030: decrease by 80% compared to 2015.

The number of new tuberculosis cases per 100,000 people under the indicator 3.2.2, tends to decrease in the period 2012-2019 from 117 to 104 cases. In terms of the absolute data (used to define the Roadmap), the number of new cases of infections per year also tends to decrease gradually, although there was a sudden increase in 2016 with 106.5 thousand people, after that reducing to 103 thousand people in 2017 and 100 thousand people in 2019. According to this trend, by 2020, it is forecast that the number of new TB cases may reach 102 thousand, only slightly decrease by 0.5% compared to the number of cases in 2015 (30% reduction should be achieved according to the roadmap). Similarly, the number of new tuberculosis cases in 2025 is likely to be 101.2 thousand, only 1.5% lower than 2015 and 100.3 thousand in 2030, down 2.3%, much lower than the roadmap which set 60% and 80% reduction for 2025 and 2030 compared to 2015. Thus, if there are no breakthrough tuberculosis prevention measures, Viet Nam will not be able to reach the roadmap by 2030.

Figure 17. Number of new cases of tuberculosis infections per 100,000 population
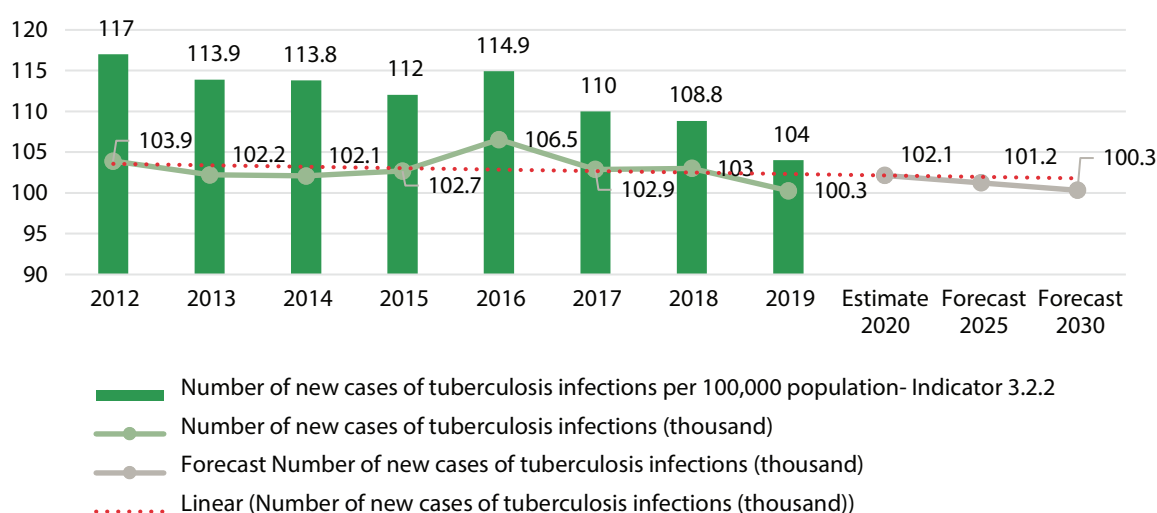
Source: MOH; Forecast: Experts' calculation

Indicator 3.2.3: Number of new cases of malaria infections per 100,000 population

Roadmap: By 2020: <19; By 2025: 8; By 2030: eliminate malaria.

Malaria prevalence based on the number of new cases per hundred thousand people has decreased sharply and there were only 7 cases per 100,000 people in 2019 compared to 49.3 in 2012, much lower than the roadmap which set 19 cases by 2020 and 8 cases by 2025. If the current downtrend is maintained in the coming years, Viet Nam will surely reach the target of malaria elimination by 2030. However, it is still important to note the complicated development of malaria in Viet Nam in remote areas, where grassroots health networks are weak and poorly equipped facilities.

Figure 18. Number of new cases of malaria infections per 100,000 population
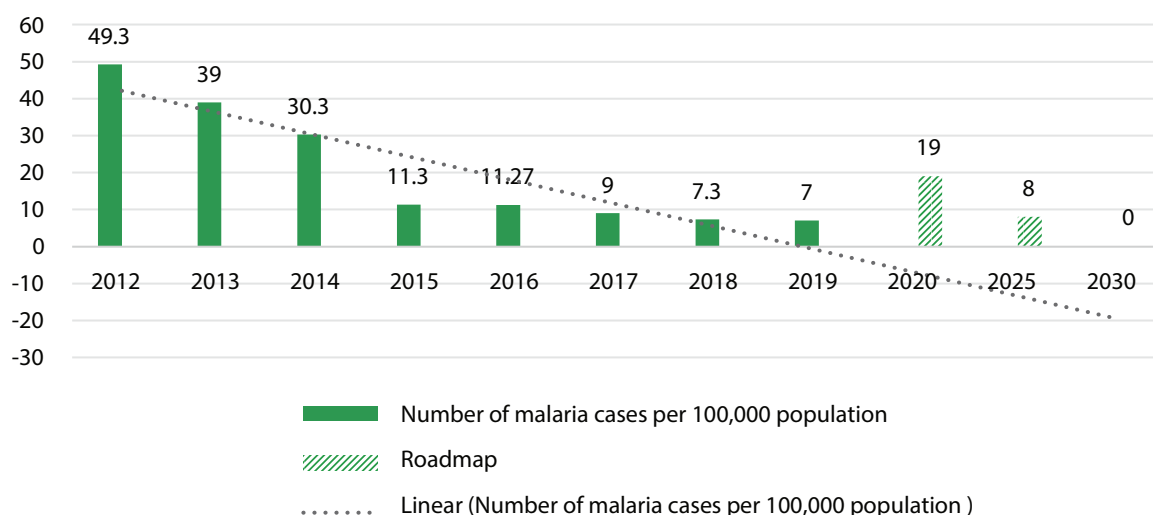
Source: Health Statistical Yearbook, MOH

Indicator 3.2.4: Number of new cases of Hepatitis B infections per 100,000 population

Roadmap: Not available.

To date, MOH has not yet produced regular statistics or officially released data for indicator 3.2.4. The Circular 03 also provides a roadmap for collecting data for this indicator from 2025. However, MOH estimates that Viet Nam has about 11-15% of the population (estimated from 11-16 million people) infected with Hepatitis B (rather than the number of new cases of Hepatitis B as indicator 3.2.4) and is the country with the highest or second highest rate of Hepatitis B infection in the region. According to the World Health Organization, Viet Nam is also a country with high rate of liver cancer in the region, 23.2 out of every 100,000 Vietnamese people have liver cancer.

Target 3.3: By 2030, reduce by 20% to 25% the under-70 mortality ratio due to non-communicable diseases, through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being (Global target 3.4).

Indicator 3.3.1: Number of deaths attributed to cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease per 100,000 population.

Roadmap: By 2020: The number of deaths due to cancer, heart diseases, diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease will decrease by 10% compared to 2015; By 2025: reduce by 20% compared to 2015; By 2030: decrease by 25% compared to 2015.

Non-communicable diseases are the leading cause of death in Viet Nam. The Circular 03 stipulates a data collection roadmap for this indicator from 2025. Therefore, at present, there are no statistics on this indicator. According to MOH estimates, non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are the causes of 73% of annual deaths and 40% of them die before the age of 70. Today high prevalence of smoking, drinking and practicing unhealthy lifestyle and eating, especially among young people, constitutes the causes of increased risk of non-communicable diseases. It will therefore be a big challenge for Viet Nam to achieve target 3.3 by 2030.

Indicator 3.3.2: Suicide mortality rate per 100,000 population

Roadmap: Not available.

According to MOH's data, the number of people dying from suicide per one hundred thousand people has tended to decrease slightly in recent years, from 5.86 in 2014 to 5.32 in 2017. Within these numbers, the rate of suicide deaths among men is 2.5 times higher than that among women. However, the absolute number of suicides increased significantly, in 2014 it was nearly 5.1 thousand people which increased to more than 5.2 thousand in 2017. This suggested a warning for programs to care for and promote mental health in Viet Nam in the years to come, accordingly, more attention should be paid to this phenomenon.

Figure 19. Suicide mortality rate per 100,000 population
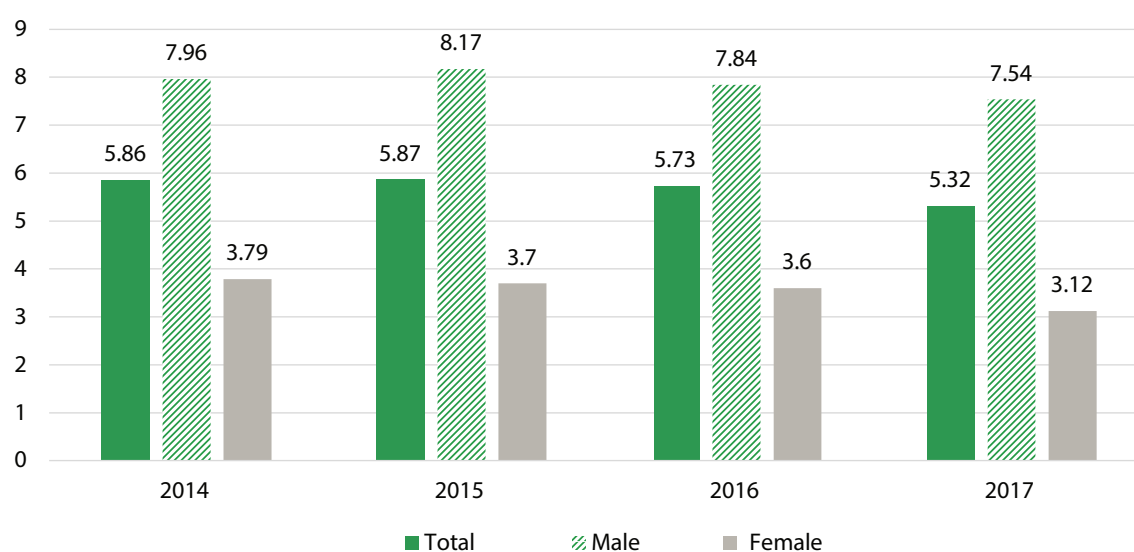
Source: Health Statistical Yearbook 2014-2018

Target 3.4: Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol (Global target 3.5).

Indicator 3.4.1: Coverage of treatment interventions for drug addicts.

Roadmap: By 2020: 25%; By 2025: 30%; By 2030: 40%.

According to MOH's estimates, this rate in Viet Nam in 2019 reached 25%. Thus, Viet Nam has reached the roadmap set for 2020. However, it is necessary to continue to maintain the current rate of improvement in order to reach the roadmap set by 2030.

Indicator 3.4.2: Proportion of people aged 15 years and older using alcohol at a harmful level.

Roadmap: By 2020: decrease 10% compared to 2015; By 2025: decrease 20% compared to 2015; By 2030: decrease 25% compared to 2015.

According to MOH, the proportion of people aged 15 and older using alcohol at a harmful level in 2015 was 22.4%. Notably, up to 44.2% of men drink alcohol at a harmful level (in the past 30 days had at least 1 drink of 60 grams or more alcohol). People starting to drink at younger age is, in particular, a worrying issue. The age of youth as first-time drinkers of alcohol is 14 to 18 years old (48.6%). In addition, approximately 2/3 of young respondents have used alcohol, with the common frequency of drinking 1-3

times per week (56.3%)[20]. Harmful use of alcohol does not only lead to health and social consequences but also causes the risk of accidents while driving (indicator 3.5.1). In addition, uncontrolled drinking affects people around them as well, especially vulnerable groups such as women and children, and is directly correlated with domestic violence as recent studies in Viet Nam have shown. Harmful effects of alcohol have a double burden on the poor and near poor.

The enactment of the Law on Prevention and Control of Harmful Effects of Alcoholic Beverages 2019 and effective implementation of this Law is expected to contribute to reducing the proportion of people using alcohol at harmful levels in the coming years.

In general, Viet Nam will face challenges when it comes to achieving the target 3.4 as the situation of harmful use of alcohol is still very complicated, especially in rural areas. Viet Nam needs to collect sufficient information on harmful use of alcohol in order to have a basis for evaluating the realization of this target in the coming years.

Target 3.5: By 2030, further control and annually reduce traffic accidents based on three criteria: the number of accidents, the number of deaths and the number of injuries (Global target 3.6).

Indicator 3.5.1: Number of traffic accidents; number of deaths or injuries from traffic accidents.

Roadmap: Reduce from 5-10% annually (for each criterion).

Traffic safety has shown positive changes in recent years. The traffic accident situation in our country has been improved continuously since 2012 on all 3 criteria: number of cases, number of deaths and number of injured people. Within these numbers, the reduction rate in the number of accidents and injuries is much higher than that of the number of deaths caused by traffic accidents (Figure 20). On average, in the period 2011-2019, the reduction rates on the 3 criteria are as follows: i) the number of traffic accidents decreased by 9.6%; the number of deaths dropped by 4.3%; the number of injured people declined by 16%.

Figure 20. Number of traffic accidents; number of deaths or injuries from traffic accidents
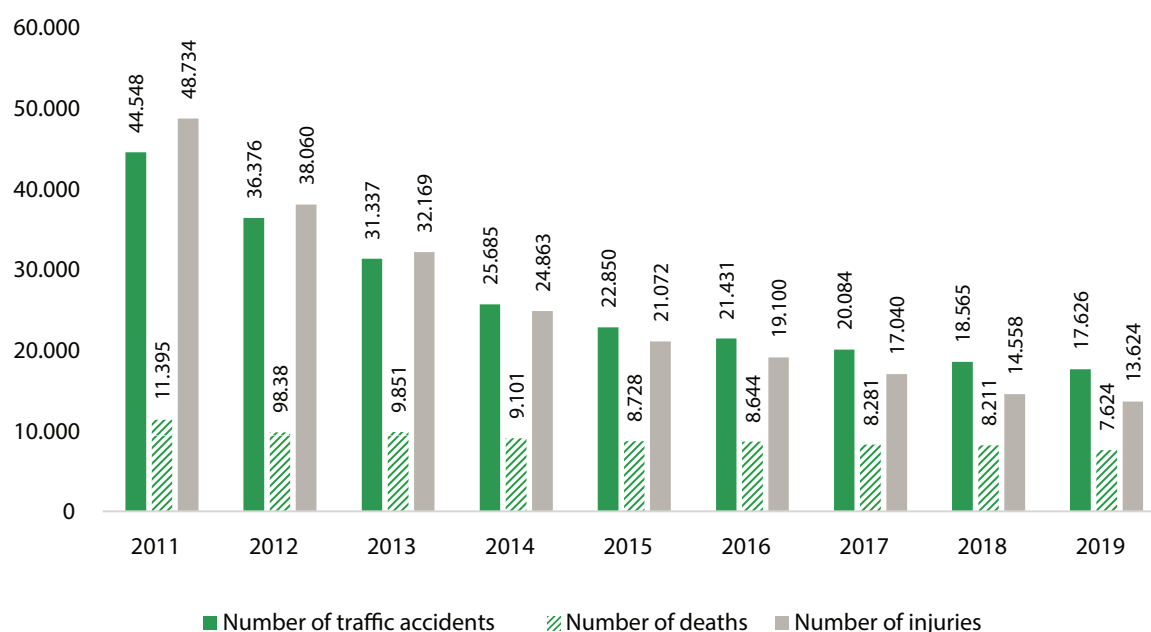
Source: Statistical Yearbook-GSO

20   Source: Viet Nam Youth Report 2015-2018 – MOHA.

However, it should be noted that the number of deaths caused by traffic accidents, especially road traffic, is still high, at more than 9,000 people per year on average over the past decade. The main reasons could be named: poor quality road infrastructure, inadequate awareness when participating in traffic activities, poor compliance with the traffic laws (in which high-risk behaviours lead to traffic accidents or major damages, including drinking and then driving, violation of speed regulations, not wearing a helmet while riding a motorcycle, not wearing a seat belt in a car, not using child seats in a car, using phones while driving and using drugs while driving), and problems in the sign system and traffic safety management. Notably, traffic accidents are responsible for the second cause of injuries to children and adolescents (15-19 years old). This is an issue that needs more attention in the coming time, especially the education of youth to strictly comply with the Law on Road Traffic as well as the new Law on Prevention and Control of Harmful Effects of Alcoholic Beverages issued in 2019.

In general, Viet Nam can achieve the Roadmap set forth for indicator 3.5.1 on controlling and reducing annual traffic accidents by 5-10% on all the 3 criteria by 2030.

Target 3.6: By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into relevant national strategies and programmes (Global target 3.7).

Indicator 3.6.1: Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who have their need for family planning and are using modern methods.

Roadmap: Proportion of women aged 15-49 using modern contraceptive methods: By 2020: >70%; By 2025: >70%; By 2030: >70%.

The proportion of women aged 15-49 using modern contraceptive methods tends to decrease gradually between 2010 and 2019, although it rose in 2019 when reaching 68%, 1.5 percentage points higher than 2018, but still lower than the highest level in the 2011 (68.6%) during this period. This rate is higher in rural areas than in urban areas (69.2% compared to 63.3% in 2018). The data also shows that the contraception rate in the Northern mountainous areas and the Central Highlands has decreased significantly compared to other regions. This situation is attributed to the outdated customs of the ethnic minorities living there where infomation on sexual issues and family planning still face many challenges (due to location and languages). This suggests that there are still problems related to reproductive health care services that need improvement in these regions. If the current trend is maintained, the proportion of women aged 15 - 49 using modern contraceptive methods can only reach over 65% by 2025 and by 2030, much lower than the roadmap sets out.

Thus, if there are no strong improvements and changes, Viet Nam will not reach the target according to the roadmap set for 2020, 2025 and 2030 of over 70% of women aged 15 - 49 years using modern contraceptive methods.

The Covid-19 pandemic which occurred in 2020 and social distancing measures introduced during the pandemic resulted in disruption in public healthcare. Some programs such as cancer screening, family planning, or control of communicable diseases have been interrupted or suspended. This health service disruption can affect the health of vulnerable groups and may affect the implementation of some targets such as 3.2, 3.3 and 3.6. According to a study conducted UN on the social impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, in the first Quarter of 2020, number of births given in health facilities decreased by 5-15% compared to the same period in the year before. Similarly, from March to April 2020 - when applying social distancing measures, the number of under-five children going to public health centres shrank by 48%; pregnant women attending antenatal care declined by 20%; 88% of commune health

stations temporarily stopped providing vaccination services and vaccinated children fell off by 75%; consultations to promote child health and to monitor under-five growth were also suspended[21].

Figure 21. Proportion of women aged 15-49 using modern contraceptive methods
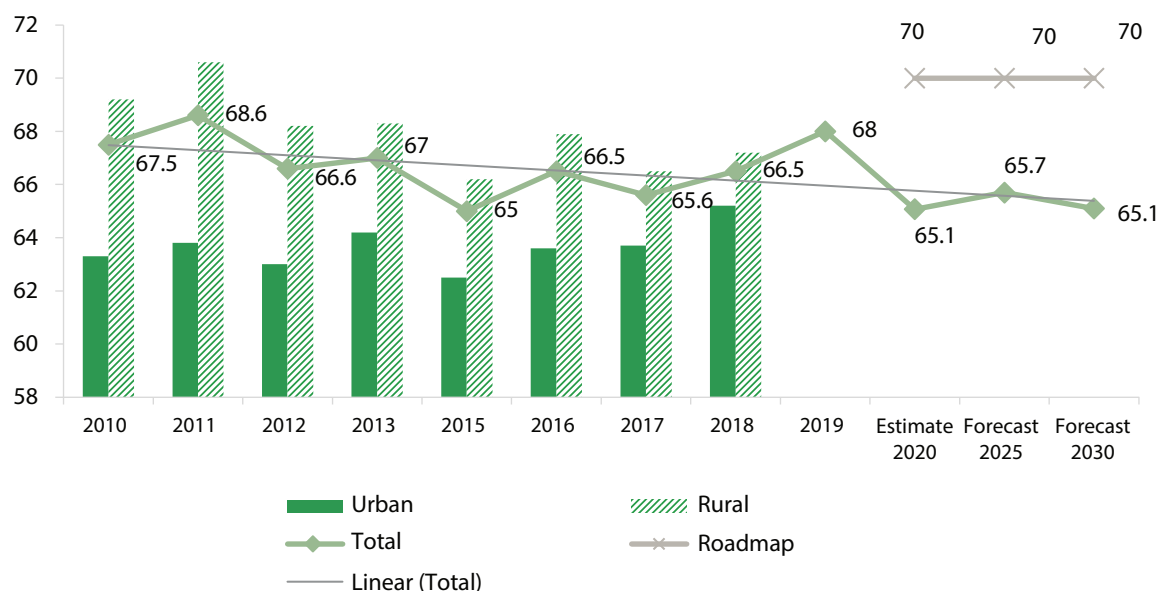
Source: GSO: Population Change and Family Planning Survey 2019: MOH; Forecast: Experts' calculation

Indicator 3.6.2: Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–19 years).

Roadmap: Adolescent birth rate (15-19 years): By 2020: 35; By 2025: 33; By 2030: 31.

There is a difference in reference age between the indicator 3.6.2 and the indicator used to define the roadmap. While the indicator 3.6.2 refers to the age from 10-19, it is broken down in two groups of age: 10-14 and 15-19, whereas the roadmap only sets the indicator for the age of 15-19.

According to the Population and Housing Census 2019, the fertility rate in adolescents aged 15 -19 tended to rise sharply in the past 10 years, from 24‰ in 2009 to 35‰ in 2019. Among them, adolescents aged 15-19 in rural areas have a higher fertility rate than those in urban areas (42‰ versus 18‰).

In terms of adolescent age (aged 10-17 according to Vietnam's Law), the findings of the Population and Housing Census 2019 shows that female adolescent birth rate was 3.3‰, which was highest in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas (9.7‰), 8.5 times as high as that of the Red River Delta (1.1‰), followed by the Central Highlands (6.8‰). The Census also revealed that the fertility rate of adolescents in rural areas was 3 times as high as that in urban areas (4.2‰ versus 1.3‰).

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21 Study on the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the progress of implementing the SDGs of Viet Nam, MPI, December 2020.

Figure 22. Adolescent birth rate (Aged 15-19) during 2009-2019
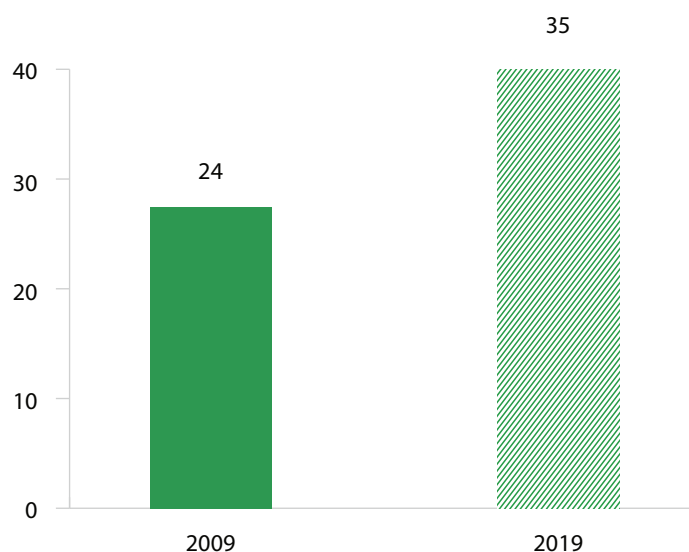
Source: Findings of the Population and Housing Census 2009, 2019-GSO

Thus, it can be confirmed that Viet Nam has completed the roadmap defined for 2020. However, in order to achieve the target in the Roadmap for the period of 2021-2030, it is necessary to further strengthen sex education and information for children in this age group to control the growth of the fertility rate in the coming years, especially for adolescents.

Target 3.7: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all (Global target 3.8).

Indicator 3.7.1: Proportion of households with large medical expenditures as a share of total expenditure or income.

Roadmap:

a) Proportion of households with medical expenditures >= 25% of total household expenditure: 2.2% by 2020, 2% by 2025, and 1.8% by 2030.

b) Proportion of households with medical expenditures >= 10% of total household expenditure: 10.4% by 2020, 10.2% by 2025, 10% and 2030

According to MOH's Report, the proportion of households with medical expenditure higher than 10% and 25% of total household expenditure in 2014 was 9.81% and 2.07%, respectively, lower than the roadmap set for 2020. By 2016, this proportion was 9.4% and 1.9%, respectively. Also according to the same report, this proportion in rural areas was higher than in urban areas, respectively 9.51% and 2.37% in rural areas versus 9.14% and 1.87% in urban areas in 2016. Thus, Viet Nam has achieved the roadmap set out for 2030 many years earlier than scheduled.

Figure 23. Proportion of households with large medical expenditures as a share of total expenditure or total income
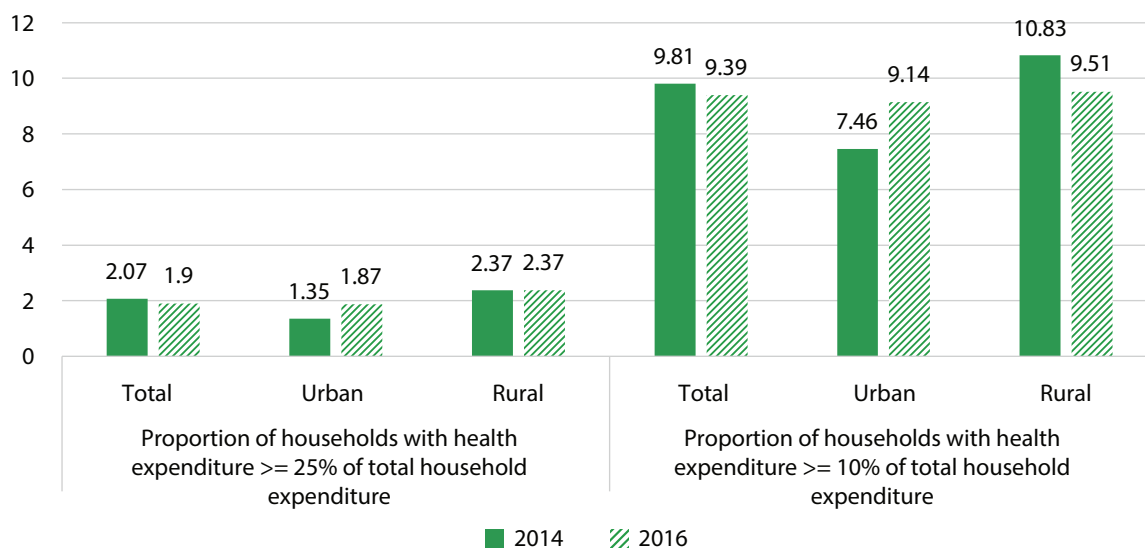
Source: MOH

Indicator 3.7.2: Percentage of fully vaccinated infants under one year old.

Roadmap: Not available.

Percentage of fully vaccinated of children under one year old has typically remained at more than 90%, but a downward trend was witnessed in recent years, standing at 96.4% in 2019, a fall of 1.6 percentage points compared to 2016 (Figure 24). The downward trend is seen in all regions, in which the South East had the lowest rate (89.6%) while the Red River Delta experienced the highest rate (98.3%) in 2019.

Basically, Viet Nam has ensured that children under one year old are fully vaccinated and this result should be maintained in the coming time. Attention should especially be paid to the regions with low vaccination rates

Figure 24. Percentage of fully vaccinated infants under one year old (%)
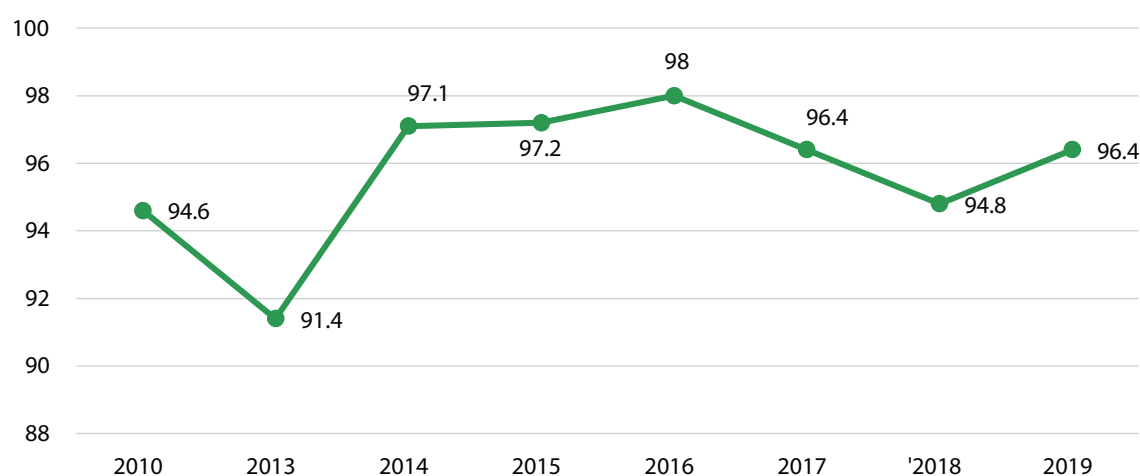
Source: 2019 Statistical Yearbook

Indicator 3.7.3: Number of health workers per 10,000 population.

Roadmap: Essential health service coverage index: >75 points by 2020; >78 points by 2025, and >80 points by 2030.

Regarding indicator 3.7.3, statistics show that this indicator has steadily increased over the years since 2011 and reached 51.8 people per 10,000 population in 2018, equal to 472.6 thousand health workers. This shows that the health care conditions for the people have been improved. This trend is reflected in all criteria, both in terms of the number of doctors and nurses per 10,000 people.

Figure 25. Number of health workers per 10,000 population
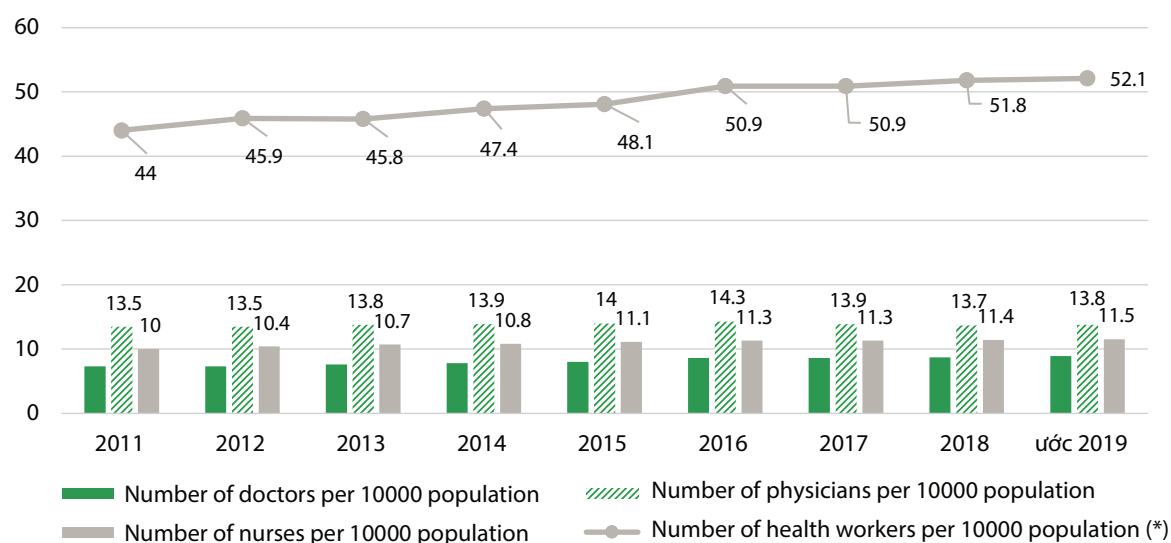
Note: (*) Health workers are those working in the medical facilities at the reporting time[22]. Thus, they include not only physicians, doctors and nurses but also other staff such as midwives, pharmacists and other employees.

Source: Health Statistical Yearbook, MOH

The "Essential healthcare service coverage Index[23]" is used to define the Roadmap. The figure 26 shows that Vietnam's coverage of essential health services (rated on a scale of 100) has steadily improved over the years in the period 2015-2019, reaching 78 points in 2019 versus 72 points in 2015. According to the Report on monitoring of implementation of universal health care coverage by the World Health Organization and The World Bank in 2017, Vietnam's healthcare service coverage index reached 73 points, higher than the average for Southeast Asia (59 points) and the global average (64 points).

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22 Source: The Circular No. 03. This means that health workers include not only physicians, doctors and nurses but also other staff such as midwives, pharmacists and other employees.

23 is measured at scale from 0 to 100 points, as the means of 14 indicators on health service coverage.

Figure 26. Essential healthcare service coverage Index
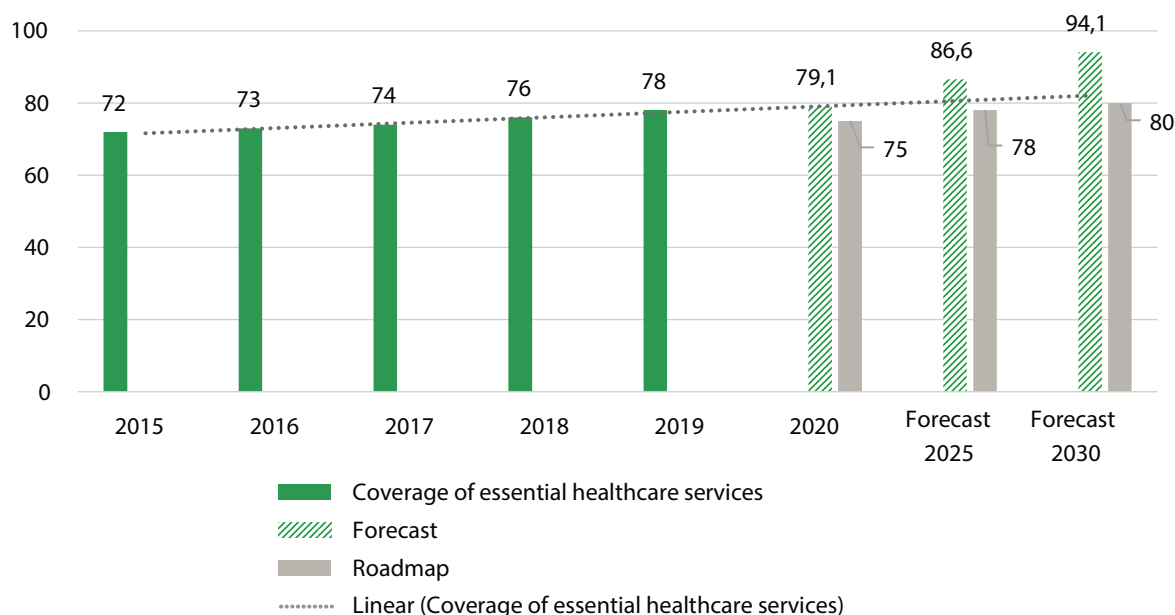
Source: MOH

This achievement is supported by recent policies on developing the social security network, expanding the health service system to villages, improving access to health care for everyone. Currently, 90% of Vietnam's population has health insurance. In addition, 100% of the poor and 100% of children under 6 years old are provided with free health insurance cards which are issued together with their birth certificates at birth or upon permanent residence registration. Such social policies have, undoubtedly, been contributing to ensuring the coverage of health care services for people, especially those from the vulnerable groups who have been struggling to pay the medical services.

Viet Nam will surely achieve the roadmap of essential healthcare services coverage for the milestones in 2020, 2025 and 2030.

Target 3.8: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, soil pollution and contamination (Global target 3.9).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

This is one of the challenging targets for Viet Nam to measure and evaluate the progress of implementation because the indicator is difficult to quantify when Viet Nam has not regularly gathered the data yet. According to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that in 2016, Viet Nam had about 60,000 deaths related to air pollution[24]. Although there have been many positive changes in the coverage of clean water supply and sanitation in recent years, diseases related to water pollution constitute a major threat to public health. In the context of increasingly serious air and water pollution recently, especially in large cities and industrial parks, ensuring adequate implementation of target 3.8 is a big challenge for Viet Nam in the coming years. Effective implementation towards other targets such as 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 11.6, 12.4 and 12.5 will contribute to narrowing down morbidity and mortality caused by toxic chemicals and pollution of the air, water and soil

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24   Source: https://www.who.int/vietnam/vi/health-topics/air-pollution

Target 3.9: Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (Global target 3.a).

Indicator 3.9.1: Proportion of people aged 15 and older using tobacco.

Roadmap: Proportion of men and boys aged 15 and older using tobacco: 39% by 2020; 32% by 2025, and 27% by 2030:

Currently, the data for indicator 3.9.1 is obtained solely from the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) of which the most recent round was conducted in 2015. According to the findings of this survey (GATS 2015), the national smoking rate in 2015 has tended to decrease compared to that in 2010. In which, the proportion of people using tobacco that is standardized by age among those aged 15 and older was 22,5%, slightly lower than 2010 (23.8%). The male smoking rate was 47.4% in 2010 which declined to 45.3% in 2015. For women, the reduction was negligible, from 1.4% in 2010 to 1.1% in 2015. With such a rates of smokers, the WHO ranks Viet Nam among the 15 countries with the highest number of smokers in the world.

To enhance the implementation of the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Viet Nam has issued and implemented the Law on Tobacco Prevention and Control (2012), and as a result, progress has been witnessed in reducing tobacco use. However, this rate is still high and it is essential to implement comprehensive tobacco prevention policies to gain more considerable reduction of smoking rate, especially among men. In addition, it is important to pay attention to the growth of e-cigarette smoking among teenagers in recent years, especially in big cities.

With the past years' slow decline in the rate of male smokers aged 15 and older, Viet Nam will find it difficult to achieve the roadmap for the years 2020, 2025 and 2030.

SUMMARY

Despite gaining achievements in universal health care coverage (target 3.7) and in decreasing traffic accidents nationwide over all three criteria (target 3.5) and the prospects of completing 10 out of 19 indicators by 2030, Viet Nam will have difficulties in achieving SDG 3 on "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages". In which, it is probable that target 3.9 (implementing the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control) could not be achieved as set out in the roadmap. The six remaining targets including 3.1 (reducing maternal and child mortality), 3.2 (communicable diseases), 3.3 (non-communicable diseases), and 3.4 (prevention and treatment of substance abuse), 3.6 (ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services) and 3.8 (substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, soil pollution and contamination) will be challenging to achieve by 2030, which requires more efforts in the coming time. The Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing measures have led to disruption in community healthcare and services; affecting the health of vulnerable groups, which might have a negative impact on the progress of targets such as 3.2, 3.3, 3.6 and 3.7.
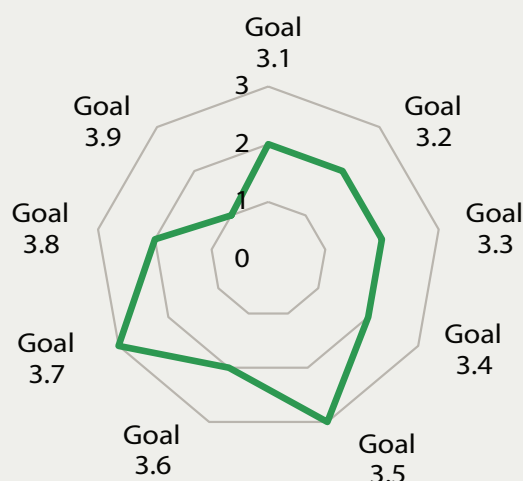
GOAL 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

BY 2019, 95,8% OF PEOPLE AGED 15 AND OLDER WERE LITERATE

HOWEVER, THE LITERACY RATE WITHIN 53 ETHNIC MINORITIES

86.7%
MEN
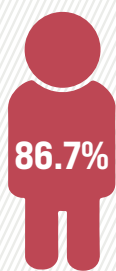
75.1%
WOMEN

2019

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS GOING TO PRIMARY SCHOOL	98%
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR COMPLETING THE PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMME	99.7%
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS GOING TO LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL	89.2%
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS COMPLETING LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL	99.3%

PROPORTION OF FIVE-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN ATTENDING KINDERGARTEN

	2010 - 2011	2012 - 2013	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019
Proportion of children 5 years of age going to kindergarten	95.3	96.8	98	99	99.9
Proportion of children aged 3-5 years going to kindergarten	72.7	80.5	92	92	91.9
Proportion of children recieving care at preschool	11.9	14.3	27.7	28.5	28.9

— ◆ — Proportion of children recieving care at preschool
— ■ — Proportion of children aged 3-5 years going to kindergarten
— ▲ — Proportion of children 5 years of age going to kindergarten

99-100% PROPORTION OF TEACHERS ACHIEVING TEACHING STANDARDS

PROPORTION OF TRAINED EMPLOYED WORKERS GAINED STEADY GROWTH BUT IS STILL LOW COMPARED TO THE LABOUR MARKET DEMAND (WAS 23.1% IN 2019)

2016
53.6%

2019
62%
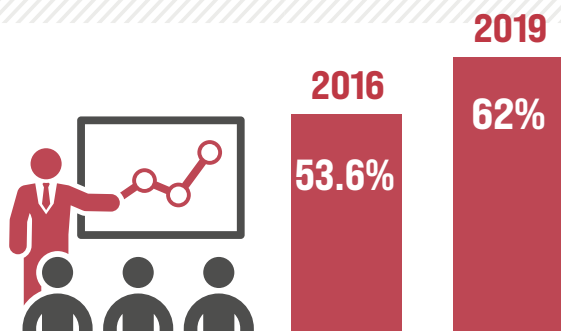
Proportion of trained workers tends to increase steadily

Viet Nam is basically set to achieve SDG 4 by 2030. However, there are still challenges on developing human resources qualified for the labour market within the 4.0 technology industrial revolution.

Target 4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary education and lower secondary education (Global target 4.1).

Indicator 4.1.1: Percentage of students going to primary school.

Roadmap: Not available.

The percentage of students attending primary school at their right age has stayed at a high level in recent years, reaching 98% in 2019 as informed by MOET. In other words, Viet Nam has basically ensured that all girls and boys attend primary school. However, there is still a disparity in this ratio between student groups in different regions and especially for children with disabilities. According to the National Survey on Children with Disabilities in 2016-2017 by UNICEF[25], only 81.7% of children with disabilities enrolled in primary school at the right age.

Indicator 4.1.2: Percentage of students recognized for completing the primary school programme.

Roadmap: By 2020: 95%; By 2025: 97%; By 2030: 99%.

Viet Nam has completed primary education universalization (according to the national standards) and is still retaining this result. All children aged 6-10 years attend primary school and are exempt from school fees. According to data from MOET, the national rate of students recognized for completing primary school at the right age reached 99.7% in 2019, higher than the roadmap set for 2030. This rate for ethnic minority students reached 94.6% in 2019.

Figure 27. Percentage of students recognized for completing the primary school programme school year 2018-2019
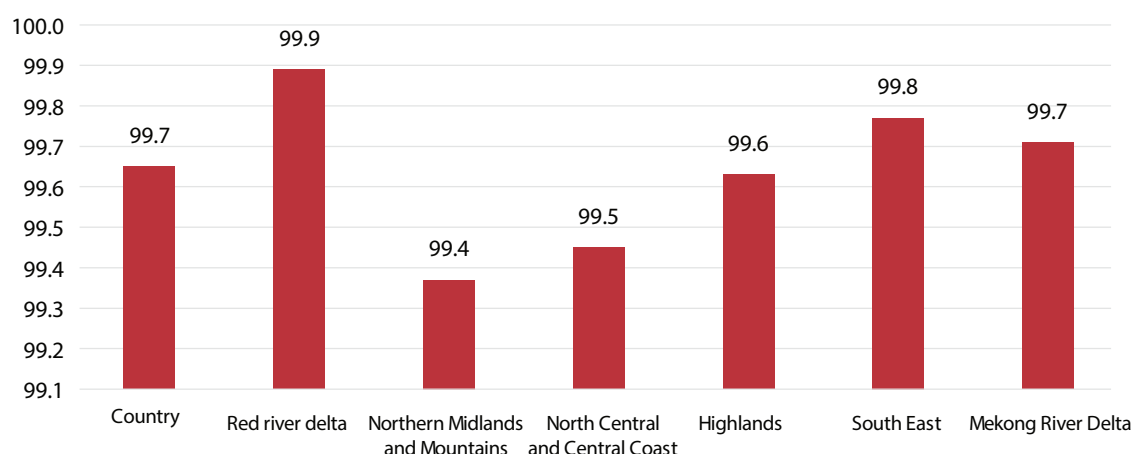
Source: Education and Training Statistical Yearbook

Currently, all provinces nationwide have met the standard of universal primary education at the right age for level 2, of which 14 provinces have met the standard of universal primary education level 3. Gender inequality index in access to primary education for the past decade or so has continuously reached 1.0.

Thus, Viet Nam is likely to meet the roadmap for the indicator 4.1.2 ahead of schedule and continue to maintain this result until 2030.

Indicator 4.1.3: Percentage of students going to lower secondary school.

25 See at: https://www.unicef.org/vietnam/media/2776/file/children%20with%20disabilities%20survey%20findings%20vn.pdf

Roadmap: Not available.

According to data from MOET, the percentage of students attending lower secondary school at the right age in 2016-2018 remained high at over 92%, but in 2019, that rate dropped to 89.2%. In fact, the percentage of students attending lower secondary school in the 2016-2019 period was going up over the years instead of going down. The reason for the decline in 2019 was because the percentage of pupils attending lower secondary school at the right age was estimated based on the data of the population in the age group. During 2016-2018, the data of lower secondary school-age population was based on GSO estimates (lower than reality)which resulted in the rate of more than 90%. In 2019, on the other hand, it was based on actual data from the Population and Housing Census which showed a lower rate. Notably, the findings of the 2016-2017 National Survey on Children with Disabilities showed that there is a significant difference in the enrolment rate at lower secondary school between students with disabilities and the overall rate of the country. Specifically, only 67.4% of children with disabilities enrolled lower secondary at the right age while the overall rate of the country was 92.5% in 2016[26].

Figure 28. Net enrolment rate at lower secondary school at the right age (%)

■ Net enrolment rate at lower secondary school at the right age
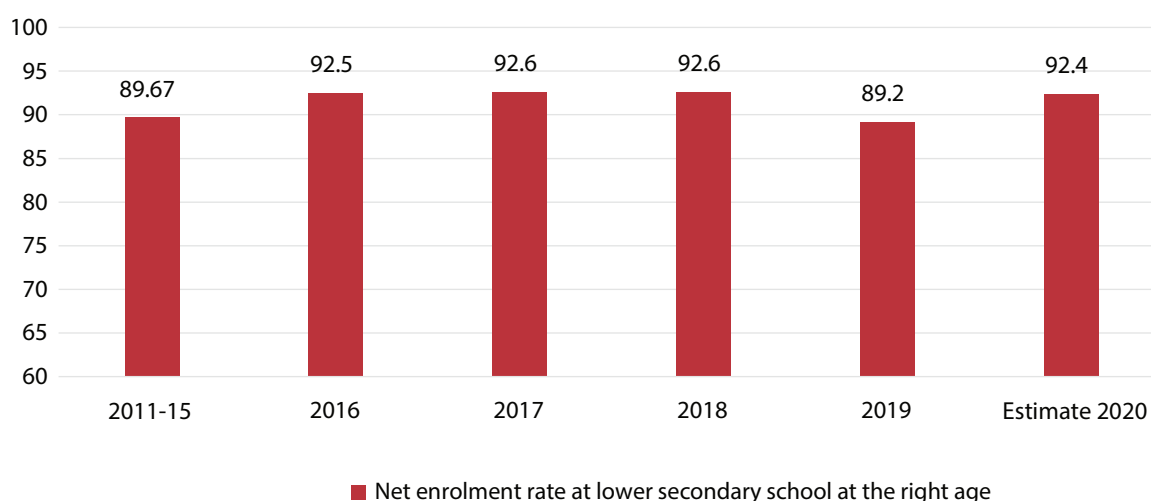
Source: MOET

Thus, the information, education and mobilization for children to enrol school at the right age at the lower secondary school level should be further strengthened in the coming years, especially for children in remote areas, areas with a high proportion of ethnic minority children or children with disabilities.

Indicator 4.1.4: Percentage of students graduating from lower secondary school, percentage of students completing lower secondary school, rate of transition from primary to lower secondary school.

Roadmap: Percentage of students completing lower secondary school: 85% by 2020; 88% by 2025; 93% by 2030.

In 2019, the rate of transition from primary to lower secondary school reached 99.2%. Viet Nam has completed universalization of lower secondary education level 1 in all 63 provinces/cities. Percentage of students graduating from lower secondary school was always high, reaching 99.3% in 2019 and quite similar across most regions and much higher than the target of 93% set out in the roadmap to 2030. Particularly, the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas and the South East had the lowest proportion of students graduating from lower secondary school, but still stood at approximately 99%.

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26 Source: https://www.unicef.org/vietnam/media/2776/file/children%20with%20disabilities%20survey%20findings%20vn.pdf

The percentage of students completing lower secondary school improved over the years, from 80.7% in 2016 to 85% in 2019[27]. Thus, Viet Nam has completed the roadmap set for the percentage of students completing lower secondary school by one year earlier than the schedule. There exists no gender disparity in education in the lower secondary level. The gender equality index in the lower secondary level is always 1.0 or higher. This means that percentage of girls going to lower secondary school at the right age is even higher than that of boys.

However, attention should be paid to the disparity in terms of school facilities, and the quality of education between urban and rural areas and among regions to ensure equal quality of primary education and lower secondary education across the country.

Figure 29. Percentage of students graduating from lower secondary school, percentage of students completing lower secondary school, rate of transition from primary to lower secondary school (%)

Legend:
- ■ Percentage of students graduating from lower secondary school
- ▨ Percentage of students completing lower secondary school
- ■ Rate of transition from primary to lower secondary school
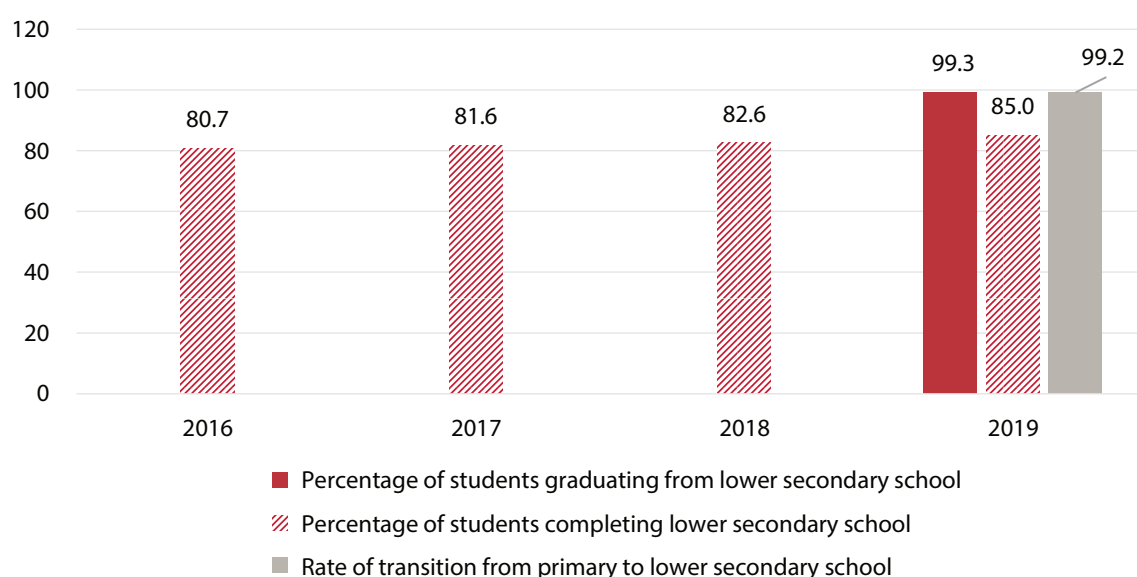
Source: MOET

Target 4.2: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education (Global target 4.2).

Indicator 4.2.1: Proportion of children under five years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning, and psychosocial well- being[28].

Roadmap: By 2020: 98.9%; By 2025: 99.1%; By 2030: 99.3%.

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27   According to the Circular No. 03, percentage of students graduating from lower secondary school is the ratio of number of students graduating from the final grade to number of students in the last grade eligible to graduation. Meanwhile, percentage of students completing lower secondary school is the ratio of number of students graduating from lower secondary school in the year (t + 3) to number of students in grade 6 at the beginning of the school year (t).

28   Another tool for measuring early childhood development is the Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI), which is the percentage of 36-59 month old children developing in the right direction on at least 3 out of the 4 domains, including: literacy – numeration, physical health, social emotion, and learning. Currently, neither national statistical indicator system nor sectoral statistical indicator system has any indicator to monitor child development in Vietnam. The existing statistics on Vietnam's Child Development Index are taken from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey conducted every five years from 1999 to 2020 by the GSO and UNICEF. This indicator is being collected by the GSO and UNICEF through the Survey on Sustainable Development Goals for Children and Women 2020, which is expected to be published in 2021.

According to the MOET's report, in 2019 "Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well- being", reached 90%. In which, this rate was 90% for boys and 89% for girls. Particularly, this rate was lower among ethnic minority children, standing at 82%. Compared to the proposed roadmap, it is difficult for Viet Nam to reach the roadmap, which is 98.9% by 2020, and more effort should be made to achieve the roadmaps for 2025 and 2030.

Indicator 4.2.2: Proportion of five-year-old children attending kindergarten.

Roadmap: By 2020: 98.9%; By 2025: 99.1%; By 2030: 99.3%.

Proportion of children attending crèche and kindergarten has continuously increased in recent years. In the school year 2018-2019, proportions of children going to crèche and kindergarten reached approximately 28.9% and 91.9% compared to the corresponding rates of 11.9% and 72.7%, respectively, in the school year 2010-2011. Notably, Viet Nam has ensured universal preschool education for 5-year-old children, with the rate reaching 99.9% in the school year 2018-2019 and there was no significant difference in the enrolment rate between 5-year-old girls and boys (99.9% and 99.8%, respectively). In particular, children from ethnic minorities and children with disabilities have been taken care of and been provided with access to education. The Inclusive Education Development and Support Centres in the various localities have carried out educational interventions and support for children with disabilities in preschools, despite of much lower than the current demand. In the school year 2018-2019, proportion of children with disabilities receiving inclusive learning at different levels was 79.1% in crèche and 81% in kindergarten.

Figure 30. Proportion of five-year-old children attending kindergarten (%)
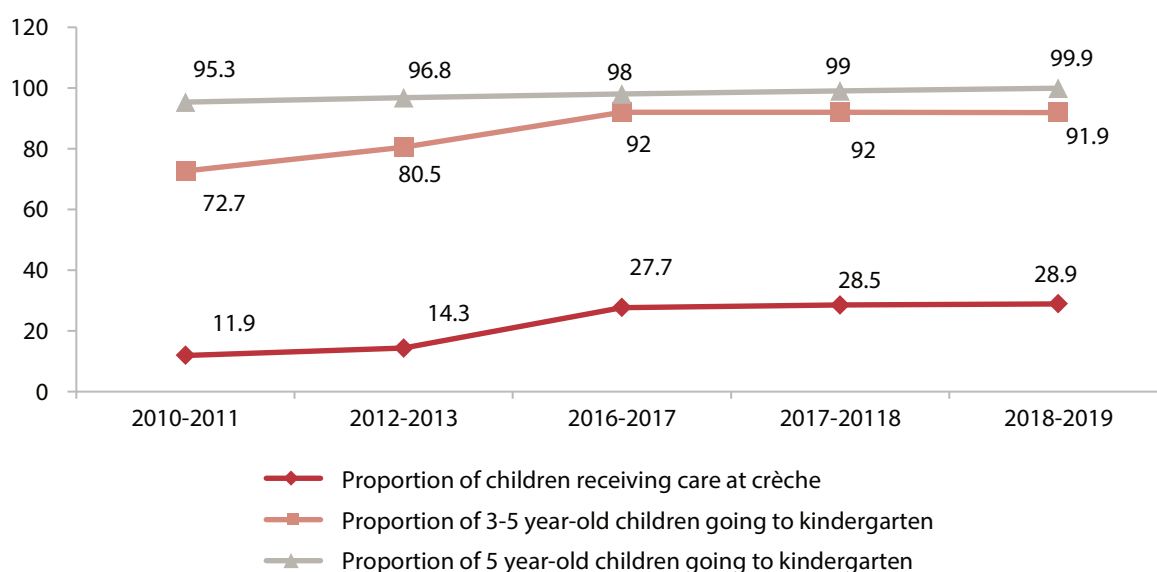
Source: MOET

Viet Nam will basically achieve the roadmap of the indicator 4.2.2 by 2030, but more attention should be paid to under-3-year-old children, given their relatively low enrolment rate (nearly 30%), and education for under-5-year-old children with disabilities.

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic had a direct impact on the progress towards achieving Goal 4. Specifically, the school closing from February to May due to the Covid-19 pandemic and with online learning alternatives affected about 21.2 million children nationwide, this means that these children are deprived of access to quality education services. In particular, in remote areas where students are not

equipped with digital devices, the recent educational achievements as outlined above (targets 4.1 and 4.2) will be impacted, at least in 2020.

Target 4.3: By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university (Global target 4.3).

Indicator 4.3.1: Proportion of people aged 15 and older participating in intermediate-level vocational education, or in college, or in university training programs.

 Roadmap: By 2020: 80%; By 2025: 85%; By 2030: 90%.

The system for vocational training and higher education institutions has developed rapidly in recent years, creating better conditions and opportunities for students across the country to access such educational services. In order to solve the problem of skilled worker shortage, many high-quality vocational training institutions with international qualifications in occupations in line with high labour market demand, have been established. The Government has also implemented a series of vocational training support programs for rural workers and young people.

Currently, there are no annual statistics on indicator 4.3.1, so there is no basis to assess the achievement against the set roadmap. According to a report of MOET, the proportion of people aged 18 and older who are studying at intermediate-level vocational education, or in college, or in university training programs in 2019 reached 75%[29].

Target 4.4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of workers who have relevant skills as required by labour markets, in order for them to have decent jobs and become entrepreneurs (Global target 4.4).

Indicator 4.4.1: Proportion of trained employed workers.

Roadmap: Proportion of trained workers: By 2020: 65%; By 2025: 70%; By 2030: 75%.

The proportion of trained employed workers (indicator 4.4.1) gained steady growth over the years during 2010-2019, but is still very low compared to the labour market demand and the target of 4.4[30]. As of 2019, only 23% of the Vietnamese employed workers were trained, and the remaining 77% of the employed workforce were untrained. Notably, there is a significant disparity in this proportion in terms of gender and geographical locations. Specifically this rate was in urban areas 2.5 times as high as that in rural areas, and 5 percentage points higher for male workers than female workers. The shortage of skills will be a major barrier to the industrialization and development in Viet Nam in the coming years, especially in the period of industrialization and technology revolution 4.0.

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29   Currently, the Ministry of Education and Training has only collected data of the number of people aged 18 and older attending pedagogical colleges and universities, the other data is collected by the Ministry of Labor - Invalids and Social Affairs and the number of people aged 15 and older is collected by the GSO.

30   By definition, a trained employed worker is the one who has been trained at a school or a professional or technical training institution under the National Education System for 03 months or more, and has graduated and granted a diploma/certificate of a certain professional or technical level - the Circular No. 03/2019/TT-BKHĐT.

Figure 31. Proportion of trained employed workers
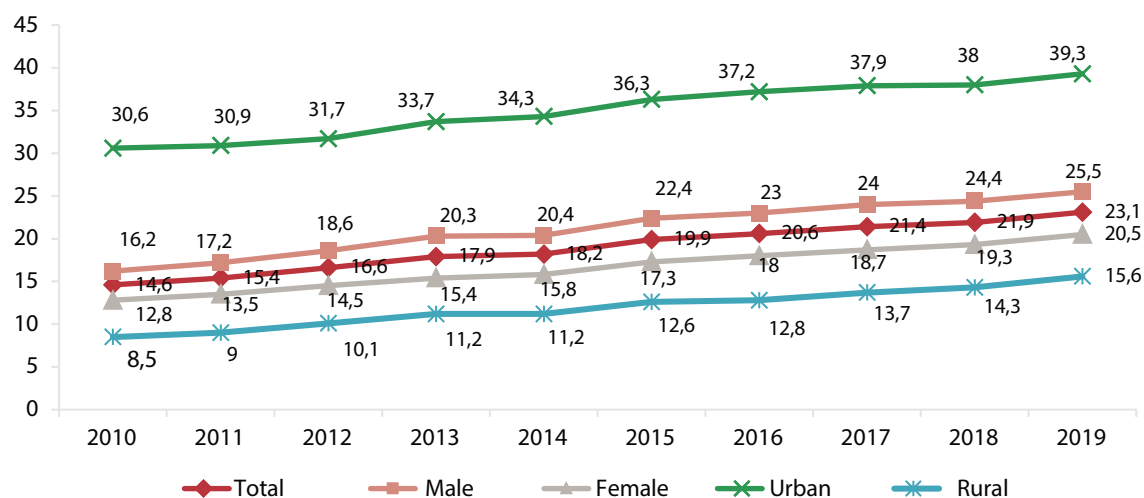
Source: GSO

According to a report of MOLISA, "Proportion of trained workers" - the indicator used to determine the roadmap, is much higher than the indicator "Proportion of trained employed workers" according to the Circular 03 and also tends to increase steadily over the years in the 2016-2020 period, from 53.6% in 2016 to 62% in 2019 and expected to reach 64.5% by 2020 (see figure).

The technical workforce has gradually mastered science and technology and can undertake most of the complicated job positions in production and business that previously foreign experts had to be hired to do, such as jobs in the information technology, artificial intelligence, oil and gas, telecommunications sectors. Vietnamese skilled labour has gradually been accepted by international labour markets. Thanks to the development of the quality of human resources, Vietnam's labour productivity has steadily and significantly been improved over the past years, and Viet Nam is characterized as a country with high labour productivity growth in ASEAN.

Figure 32. Proportion of trained workers
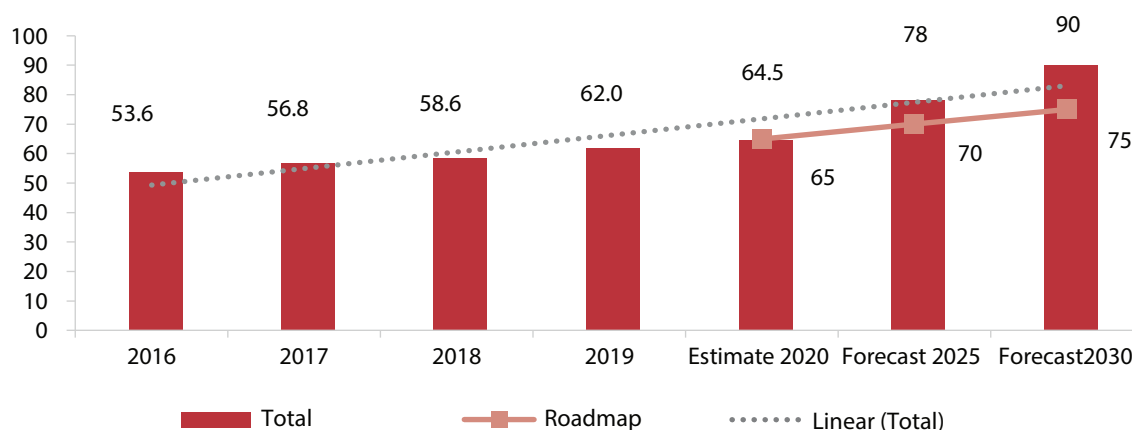
Source: MOLISA

Thus, Viet Nam has approached the roadmap to 2020 and if Viet Nam can keep the current trend, it will exceed the targets for 2025 and 2030.

Indicator 4.4.2: Proportion of people aged 15 and older with basic information and communications technology (ICT) skills.

Roadmap: By 2020: 70%; By 2025: 80%; By 2030: 90%

Currently, Viet Nam has no data on indicator 4.4.2. According to the Circular No. 03/2014/TT-BTTTT dated March 11, 2014 of the Ministry of Information and Communications (MOIC), the required IT skill standards include: i) Basic IT knowledge; ii) Basic computer use; iii) Basic word processing; iv) Basic spreadsheet use; v) Basic PowerPoint use; and vi) Basic Internet use.

However, according to MOET, in Viet Nam, proportion of people aged 15 and older with basic ICT skills reached 62% in 2019, while the roadmap set of 70% in 2020.

Thus, Viet Nam is at risk of failing to achieve the roadmap for 2020 and the following years unless breakthrough efforts are made.

Target 4.5: By 2030, ensure equal access to education and training and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, ethnic minority people and children in vulnerable situations (Global target 4.5).

Indicator 4.5.1: Parity indices in access to education.

Roadmap:

+ Proportion of trained ethnic minority workers: 40% by 2020; 45% by 2025; and 50% by 2030.

+ Proportion of workers with disabilities who have working capacity to receive appropriate vocational training: 30% by 2020; 35% by 2025; and 40% by 2030.

Viet Nam has not periodically compiled and released the Education Parity Index and the two abovementioned indicators. However, the MOET's report shows that Viet Nam basically guarantees equality in general education in terms of gender since this index is always close to 1.0.

Figure 33. Gender equality index in education and training
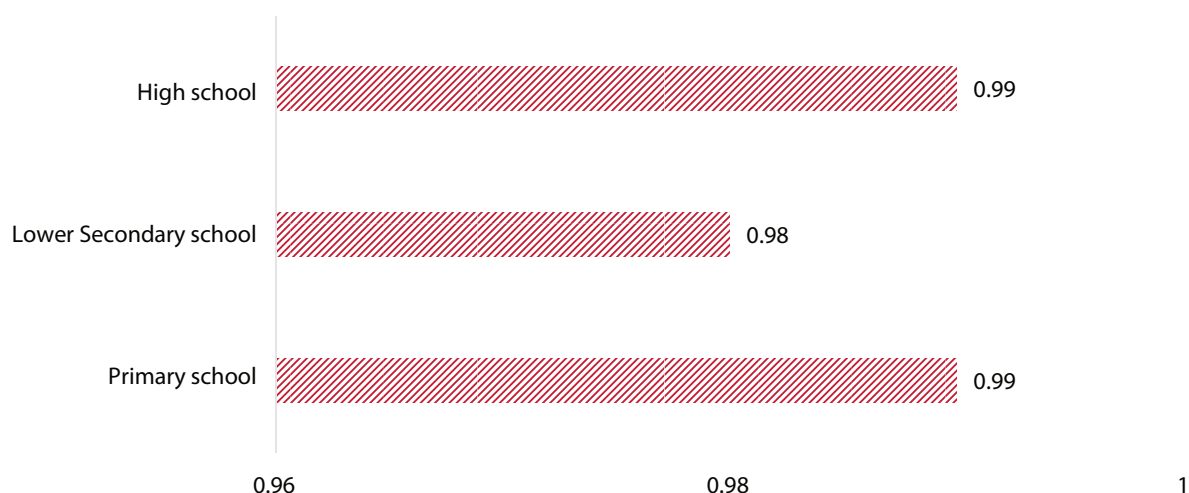
Source: MOET (2019)

The survey on the socio-economic situation of 53 ethnic minorities conducted by the GSO in 2019 showed that only 20% of ethnic minority workers had received training while the national rate was 23,1%, and was much lower than the roadmap for 2020 (40%). Notably, the proportion of trained ethnic minority female workers was only 5.9%, reflecting a clear gender inequality among ethnic minorities.

According to the MOLISA's report, about 40% of people with disabilities were in the working age and still able to work, but only 30% of them were employed. Approximately 30% of people with disabilities who were capable of working were provided with vocational training, equivalent to the roadmap to 2020.

Therefore, Viet Nam has basically guaranteed gender equality in access to general education, but more efforts need to be made to ensure equal access to vocational training for the vulnerable, especially female ethnic minority workers and people with disabilities. In which, attention should be paid to training of other critical working skills such as communication skills, teamwork, foreign languages and computer skills, etc. Especially, in the digital age, digital skills and high-quality tech-related occupations should be added to the list of aligned training...

Target 4.6: By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, are literate (Global target 4.6).

Indicator 4.6.1: Proportion of literates among people aged 15 years or older.

Roadmap: By 2020: 98%; By 2025: 98.8%; By 2030: 99.6%.

By 2019, at national level, 95.8% of people aged 15 and older were literate, an increase of nearly 2 percentage points compared to that in 2010. The gap in literacy rates between men and women has contracted substantially. The difference was recorded at 4.3 percentage points in 2010, but dropped to 2.4 percentage points in 2019. If such improvement speed is maintained, it is expected that this gap will narrow further by 2030.

Figure 34. Proportion of literates among people aged 15 years or older
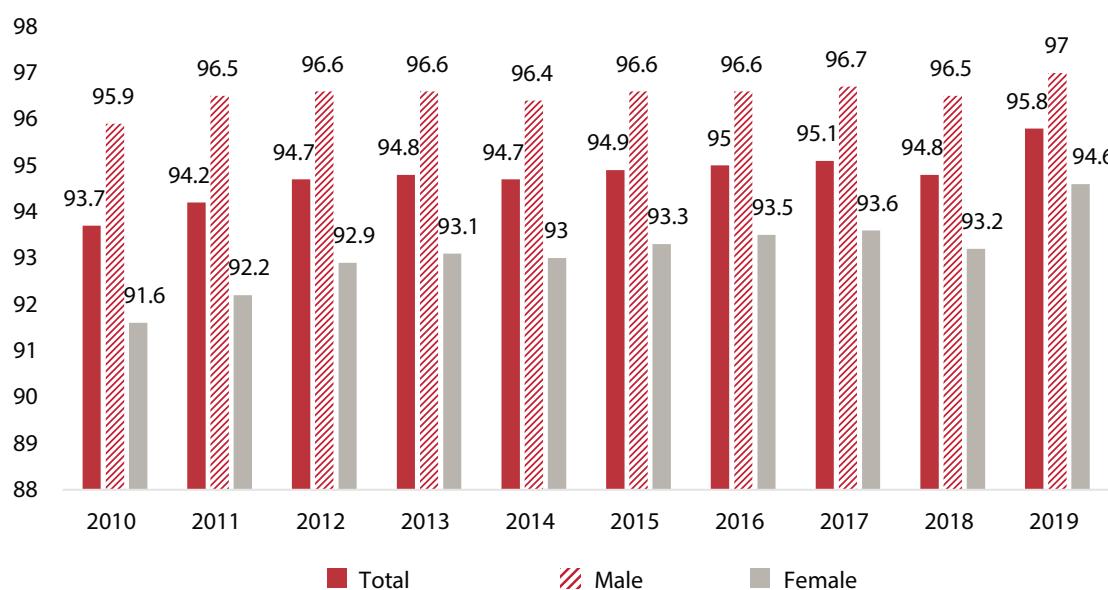
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

The discrepancy in the literacy rate between urban and rural areas has narrowed slightly. That gap was 4.7 percentage points in 2010, and declined to 4 percentage points in 2019, corresponding to the literacy rate of 98,3% in urban areas versus 94.3% in rural areas. The highest illiteracy rate among people aged 15 and older exists in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas (10.1%) followed by the Central Highlands (8.7%) where the population is mainly consists of ethnic minorities. The proportion of ethnic minorities who can read and write the Vietnamese official language is much lower than the national rate, although it has improved slightly in the 2015-2019 period. The rate of ethnic minorities who can read and write the Vietnamese official language was only 79.2% while the average rate of the country was 94.9% in 2015 and both of them rose to 80.9% and 97%, respectively, in 2019[31]. In particular, more than half of the population of some ethnic minorities are illiterate in the Vietnamese official language, like Mang (53.8%), La Hu (53.1%), and Lu (50.3%). The literacy rate for men within 53 ethnic minorities was 86.7% while this rate for women was only 75.1% in 2019.

Viet Nam is likely to meet the roadmap for 2020 and the following years. Nevertheless, attention should be paid to improve the situation among ethnic minorities and in areas with a high proportion of illiterate people.

Target 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development (Global target 4.7).

Indicator 4.7.1: Proportion of teachers achieving teaching standards.

Roadmap: By 2020: 100% By 2025: 100%; By 2030: 100%.

Currently, most teachers at different general education levels are required to ensure that they meet certain standards of training qualifications. According to data from MOET, the percentage of teachers meeting standards of training qualifications at all school levels is high, approximately 99-100%. Hence, it can be confirmed that Viet Nam will complete the roadmap set out for indicator 4.7.1.

Figure 35. Proportion of teachers achieving teaching standards
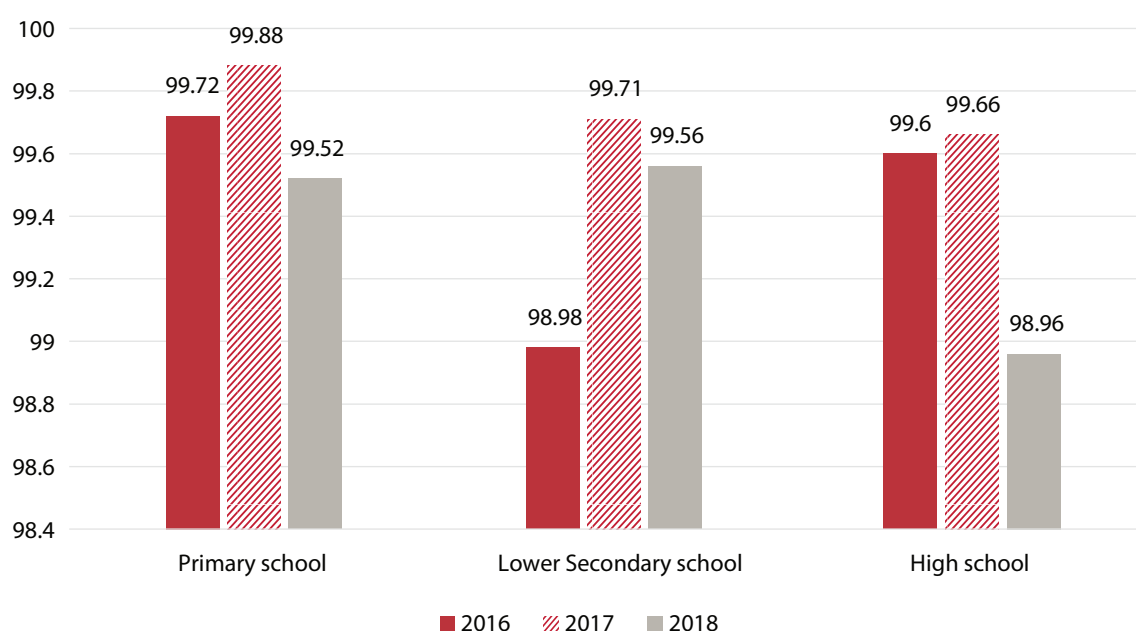
Source: MOET

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31 Source: Findings of the Survey to collect information on the socio-economic situation of 53 ethnic minorities in 2019, conducted by the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs and the GSO, Statistical Publishing House, 2020.

Indicator 4.7.2: Percentage of schools which provide basic education programs about sex education, violence prevention, abuse prevention, and HIV-related knowledge.

Roadmap: By 2020: 80%; By 2025: 90%; By 2030: 100%.

The educational programs at all levels have initially integrated knowledge of sustainable development and climate change in subjects, such as Literature, History, Geography, and Citizen Education. The integration is currently being implemented through the selection of a number of sustainable development-related topics, such as: gender equality, building of a happy and modern family, children's rights, drug and HIV/ AIDS prevention, protection of natural resources and environment, response to climate change, and corruption prevention, etc. to be incorporated into the curricula or extra curricula at all levels. According to the MOET report, the percentage of schools that provide basic education programs about sex education, violence prevention, abuse prevention, and HIV-related knowledge was 95% in 2019 and will reach 99% by 2020, higher than the roadmap for 2020 (80%).

Thus, Viet Nam will surely fulfil the roadmap to 2030. However, the impacts of this integration on mitigating violence, abuse, adolescent pregnancies, and HIV infections among school age groups need to be more carefully monitored in the coming time.

Figure 36. Percentage of schools which provide basic education programs about sex education, violence prevention, abuse prevention, and HIV-related knowledge (%)
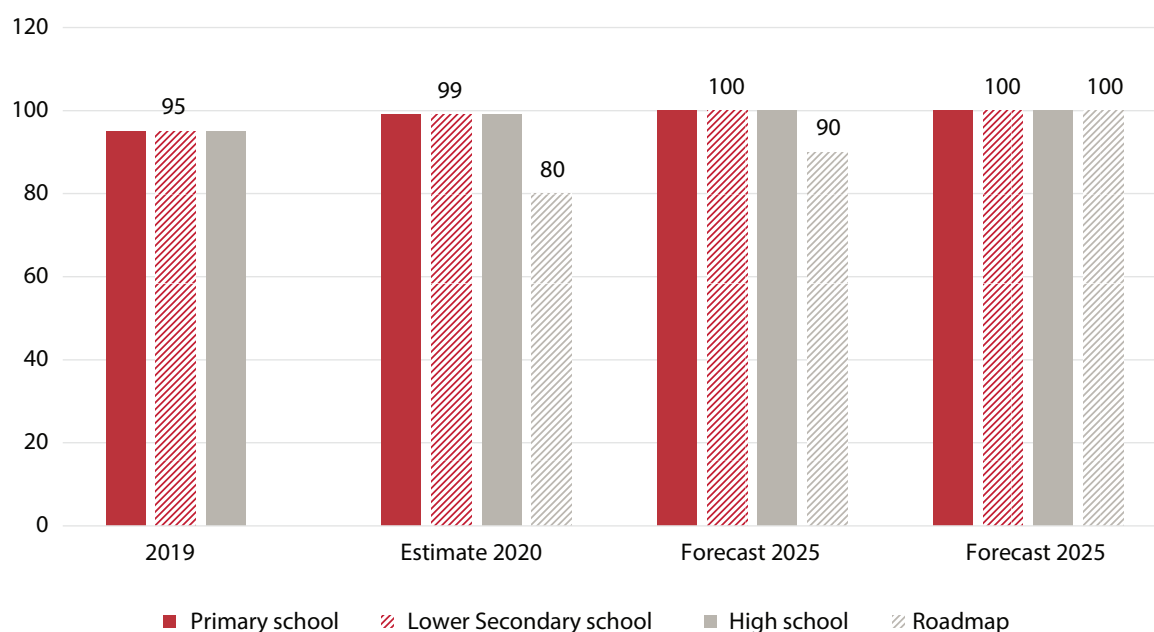
Source: MOET

Target 4.8: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide a safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environment for all (Global target 4.a).

Indicator 4.8.1: Proportion of schools with access to: (disaggregated by education level).

(a) Electricity;

(b) Internet for pedagogical purposes;

(c) Computers for pedagogical purposes;

(d) Adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities.

(e) Basic drinking water;

(f) Single-sex basic sanitation facilities;

(g) Basic hand washing facilities.

Roadmap:

Indi-cator	By 2020				By 2025				By 2030			
	Pre-school	Pri-mary school	Lower Sec-ond-ary school	High school	Pre-school	Pri-mary school	Lower Sec-ond-ary school	High school	Pre-school	Pri-mary school	Lower Sec-ond-ary school	High school
(a)	99	99	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
(b)	99.5	99.5	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
(c)	100	100	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
(d)	50	50	50	50	55	55	55	55	60	60	60	60
(e)	80	80	95	95	85	90	99	99	90	99.9	100	100
(f)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
(g)	98	98	95	95	100	100	99	99	100	100	100	100

The upgrading and building of new educational institutions have been implemented synchronously across the country and at all educational levels for many years thanks to the implementation of the National Target Program on School Solidification. The current regulations require that solid schools must meet criteria, such as electricity, clean water, computers, Internet, sanitation facilities, and equipment suitable for people with disabilities, etc.

Table 6. Facilities of general schools in 2019 and plan for 2020

Indicator 4.8.1	2019				Plan for 2020			
	Pre-school	Pri-mary school	Lower Sec-ondary school	High school	Pre-school	Pri-mary school	Lower Sec-ondary school	High school
(a) Electricity;	90.3	92.9	92.6	87.4	98	92	92	95
(b) Internet for pedagogical purposes;	10	82.7	88.1	85.5	15	82	92	92
(c) Computers for pedagogical purposes;	10	79.1	87.9	88	15	82	92	92
(d) Adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities.	5	27.9	20.7	13.8	7	60	60	60
(e) Basic drinking water;	90.1	88.8	85.5	84	92	92	92	92
(f) Single-sex basic sanitation facilities;	74	85	90	90	78	90	92	92
(g) Basic hand washing facilities	74	90	90	90	78	92	92	92

Source: MOET

However, a number of educational institutions are currently classified as solid schools but they may not necessarily meet the above criteria, especially those that were built many years ago. In addition, according to the National Survey on Persons with Disabilities 2016-2017, GSO shows that the percentage of schools with a design in line with standards of access for students with disabilities at primary level is only 3.5% and lower secondary level is 1.9%.

In 2019, MOET reviewed the situation and is implementing an investment plan, equipping additional necessary equipment for schools in the coming time to meet the criteria as provided in indicator 4.8.1.

Thus, benchmarking against the proposed roadmap, Viet Nam may not be able to complete some criteria under indicator 4.8.1 by 2020, but it is likely to complete the roadmaps set out for 2025 and 2030. Nevertheless, in the coming time, more attention should be paid to ensure that the criteria on school facilities are more adapted to students with disabilities.

SUMMARY

Viet Nam is basically set to achieve SDG 4 on "Quality and equitable education for all by 2030", as 6 out of 8 targets related to universal education will be achieved. It will be very challenging for Viet Nam to achieve target 4.4 on quality of skilled labour force meeting market requirements and target 4.5 on equal access to education and training for the vulnerable. These issues need to be solved in the coming time, particularly developing human resources qualified for the labour market within the 4.0 technology industrial revolution. Furthermore, school facilities at all levels need to be further upgraded to ensure a safe, friendly learning environment and ensure standard access for people with disabilities. The Covid-19 pandemic has potentially had an impact on the implementation of SDG 4 in 2020 due to the fact that schools have been closed during social distancing periods.
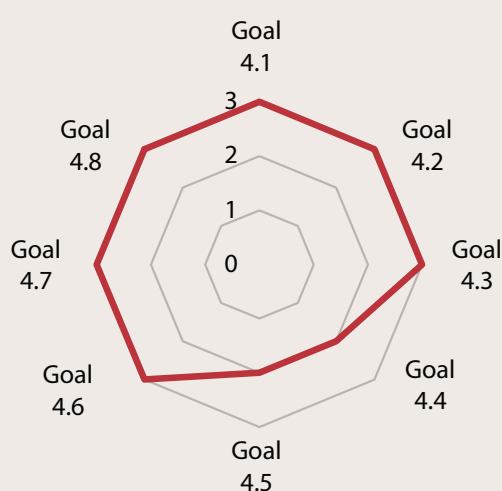
GOAL 5

Achieve gender equality, empower and create enabling opportunities for women and girls

By 2019, **more than half of women had experienced violence** by their husbands or partners; and **one out of every 10 women** experienced physical violence by a person other than their husband or partner

The imbalance in sex ratio at birth has not yet been improved
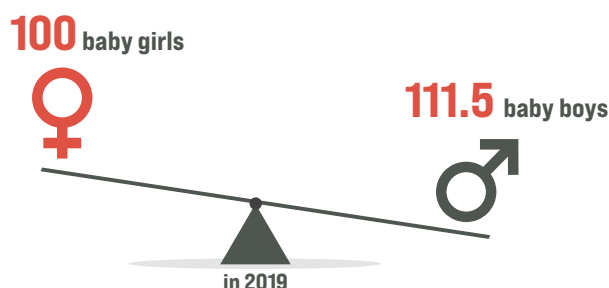
100 baby girls

111.5 baby boys

in 2019

Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were first married or live with a partner

before the age of 15 and 18 has slightly declined

3.3   10.6   9.1

0.5   0.9   0.4

2011   2014   2019

● Proportion of women who were first married before age 15
● Proportion of women who were first married before age 18
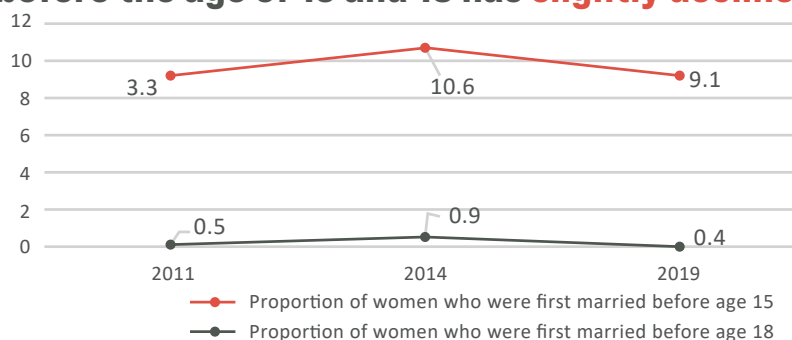
The time that women spent doing housework is

2.1 times higher than men

In term 2016-2021, there were 16/63 provinces with the rate of **PEOPLE'S COUNCIL FEMALE DEPUTIES** from **30%**

In 2019, 24% of total number of enterprises in the country **OWNED BY WOMEN**

Proportion of female farm owners **NATIONWIDE** WAS NEARLY **8.6%** IN 2016

The rate of women participating **IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE 2016-2021 REACHED 27.31%, HIGHER** THAN THE GLOBAL AND ASIA'S AVERAGE

Viet Nam will face a significant challenge to achieve SDG 5 by 2030.
More focus is needed to solve issues of sex imbalance at birth and violence against women and girls .

Target 5.1: Minimize and then end all forms of discrimination against women and girls in all aspects everywhere (Global target 5.1).

Indicator 5.1.1: Sex ratio at birth.

Roadmap: Not available.

The sex ratio at birth rose in the period 2010-2013, then tended to drop in the period 2014-2017, but it surged sharply in 2018 before returning to the general trend, reaching 111.5 baby boys per 100 baby girls in 2019. For 2010-2019 period, the sex ratio at birth experienced an overall growth and the imbalance in sex ratio at birth has not yet been improved. Sex imbalances at birth is witnessed in both urban and rural areas, and there are significant regional disparities. According to the Population and Housing Census 2019 findings, the sex ratio at birth in urban areas is lower than that in rural areas, at 110.8 and 111.8 boys per 100 girls, respectively. The ratio is highest in the Red River Delta (115.5 boys / 100 girls) and lowest in the Mekong River Delta (106.9 boys / 100 girls). This fact will negatively affect the population structure of Viet Nam in the future, leading to a surplus excess of men in the society. Without timely interventions, it is forecasted that by 2050, Viet Nam will lack from 2.3 to 4.3 million women.

Figure 37. Sex ratio at birth (number of boys per 100 girls)
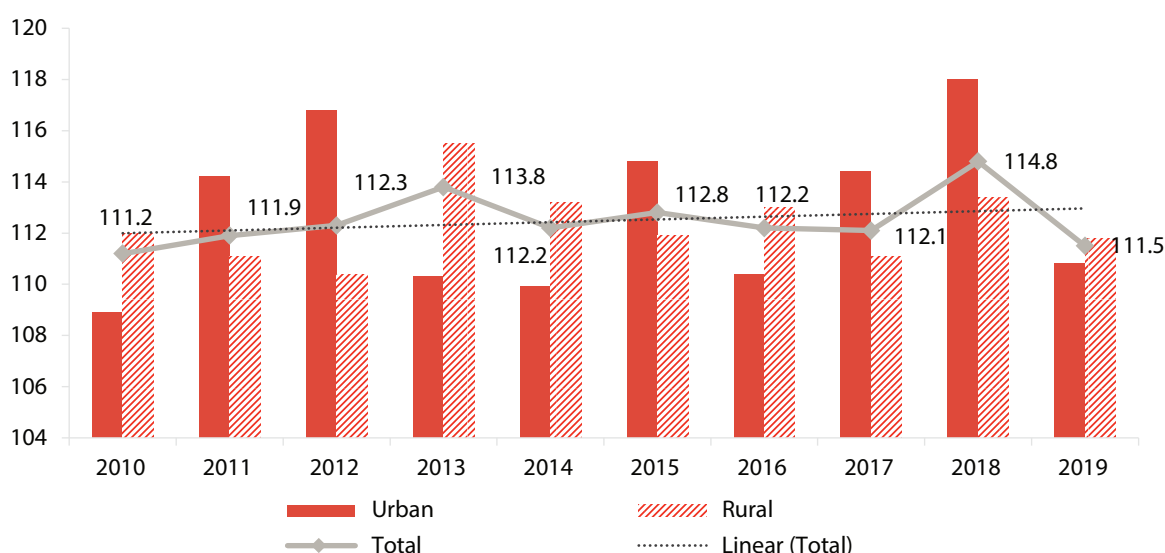
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

The sex selection of the foetus on a gender inequality basis has been identified as the key cause of the imbalance in the sex ratio at birth in Viet Nam. In addition, the reduced fertility rate, the availability and affordable cost of foetal sex selection technologies are contributing to the imbalance in sex ratio at birth. The imbalances of sex ratio can have serious consequences for the socio-economic development of the country and affect the health of women, families and communities. It also implies potential of provoking trafficking in women and girls, early marriages and different forms of domestic violence against women and girls, gender inequality and social unrest (related to other sustainable development targets such as 5.2., 5.3 ...).

Goal 5.2: Substantially reduce all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public or private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation (Global target 5.2).

Indicator 5.2.1: Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to violence by their husbands or partners in the previous 12 months.

Roadmap: Not available.

Currently, the National Survey on Domestic Violence against Women in Viet Nam conducted by GSO in 2010 and 2019 is the only source of data on violence against women to date[32]. Types of violence perpetrated by husbands / partners against women and girls include: physical violence; sexual violence; psychological violence (including emotional violence and control of behaviours); economic violence. As shown in Table 7, the proportion of violence against women in 2019 declined slightly compared to 2010, except for sexual violence, yet it still remained at a high level. Meanwhile, the proportion of women who have experienced one of the three types of violence in their lifetime and in the past 12 months decreased from 58% and 27% in 2010 to approximately 53% and 22% in 2019, respectively. Thus, by 2019, more than half of Vietnamese women aged 15-64 had experienced violence in their lifetime and more than one fifth of these women had experienced violence in the past 12 months. In which, emotional violence in the past 12 months accounted for the highest proportion, although it has decreased from 25% in 2010 to 19.3% in 2019. Sexual violence, in particular, in the past 12 months had a tendency to rise from 4% to 5.7% in the same year.

Table 7. Proportion of women in the surveyed age groups (*) ever subjected to violence by their husbands or partners (%)

Indicator 5.2.1.	2010		2019	
	Current (past 12 months)	In life (any time in life)	Current (past 12 months)	In life (any time in life)
Physical	6	32	4.6	26.1
Sexual	4	10	5.7	13.3
Psychological	25	54	19.3	47
Physical, sexual, psychological	27	58	21.8	52.9

Note: (*) Survey in 2010 of the 18-60 age group and survey in 2019 of the 15-64 age group. In addition, this table only considers the most common violence including physical, sexual and psychological violence.

Source: The National Survey on Domestic Violence against Women in Viet Nam 2010 and 2019[33]

The above mentioned survey in 2019 showed some notable features, such as: the proportion of women with disabilities subjected to violence by their husbands/partners was higher than this rate among women without disabilities; or up to a quarter of women experienced both physical and psychological violence; proportion of women subjected to both sexual and psychological violence accounted for 10%, while proportion of women subjected to both sexual and physical violence was 7.3%.

Thus, although proportion of women who ever or recently experienced violence decreased during 2010-2019, the rate is still high. Viet Nam needs to implement more effective policies and regulations on gender equality and more effective measures should be taken to combat violence against women.

Indicator 5.2.2: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by others than partners or husbands in the past 12 months.

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32   Note that this survey selects the age group for the survey differently from the indicator 5.2.1. While indicator 5.2.1 states "women and girls aged 15 and older", the age range of the GSO's survey respondents is from 18-60 for the 2010 survey and from 15- 64 for the 2019 Census, so violence against women over 64 years old is not taken into account.

33   Source for 2019: https://vietnam.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/1._bao_cao_tom_tat.pdf.

Roadmap: Not available.

According to the National Survey on Domestic Violence against Women in Viet Nam in 2010 and 2019, one out of every 10 women in the surveyed age group[34] experienced physical violence by a person other than their husband or partner. Particularly, the survey in 2019 found that1.2% of women surveyed said that they experienced sexual violence caused by a person other than their husband/partner in the past 12 months, the survey in 2010 did not collect data for this indicator.

Table 8. Proportion of women in the surveyed age groups (*) subjected to violence by a person other than their husbands or partners (%)

Indicator	Type of violence		2010	2019
Proportion of women ever subjected to violence caused be a person (other than their husbands or partners) since 15 years old	Physical	9.9		11.4
	Sexual	2.3		9.0
Proportion of women ever subjected to violence caused be a person (other than their husbands or partners) in the past 12 months	Physical	..		1.4
	Sexual	..		1.2

Note: (*) The Survey in 2010 was for the age within 18-60 and Survey in 2019 was for age within 15-64. In addition, this table only considers the most common violence including physical, sexual and psychological violence.

Source: National Survey on Domestic Violence against Women in Viet Nam in 2010 and 2019, GSO

Indicator 5.2.3: Percentage of women and girls suffering violence whose cases are reported and receive counselling services.

Roadmap:

- Proportion of reported or detected cases of girls subjected to physical and sexual violence which are supported and intervened in a timely manner: 100% by 2020, 100% by 2025, and 100% by 2030.

- Proportion of detected cases of women subjected to violence which are supported and intervened in a timely manner: 70% by 2020, 80% by 2025, and 90% by 2030.

Currently, there is only information reported on the number of detected and supported cases of women or girls experiencing violence or abuse, but there is no data on the total number of women and girls experiencing violence or abuse, so it is impossible to calculate the "rate" as required by the indicator 5.2.3. However, it can be estimated that this rate will be very low. This is because: i) there are still shortcomings in efforts to uncover acts of violence against women and children; ii) in terms of social aspects, domestic violence is still considered as a private issue, a problem of a family is believed to be better kept private, the society should not interfere; iii) women themselves are still heavily influenced by the concept of "a soft answer turns away wrath", leading to a resigned attitude, accepting violence, not reporting to competent agencies for timely intervention. According to the National Survey on Domestic Violence against Women in Viet Nam conducted by GSO in 2019, 49.6% of women who experienced violence by their husbands / partners did not tell others about their violence and 90.4% did not seek support from government agencies.

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34 Note: While indicator 5.2.2 states "women and girls aged 15 and older", the age range of the GSO's survey respondents is from 18-60 for the 2010 survey and from 15- 64 for the 2019 Census, so violence against women over 64 years old is not taken into account.

The Covid-19 pandemic occurring in 2020 has posed direct impact on the progress of implementing target 5.2 on specific aspects such as: i) measures such as temporary school closing, work from home which results in economic and social pressures, and domestic violence, particularly against children and women, have become worse (also related to target 16.1). Only in the first 4 months of 2020, the Centre for Responding to Gender-Based Violence received 347 calls from women in need of assistance, 7 times higher than the same period in 2019. National Child Protection Hotline received 750 calls for support, half of which were related to domestic violence, child abuse and psychological trauma related issues, a spike compared to the same period in 2019. Likewise, the social distancing measures kept women in families under pressure of taking care of children, doing housework, and resulted in increased time spent doing these jobs compared to previous time (target 5.4). This is likely to trigger family conflicts, and the number of divorces therefore increased.

Obviously, Viet Nam will struggle to achieve target 5.2 as the proportion of women and girls who have experienced violence and abuse remains high as analysed in indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2. Meanwhile, detecting and providing counselling to them in such situation still face challenges which require strong policies and solutions to address this problem in the years to come.

Target 5.3: Reduce and then eliminate harmful practices such as child, early, and forced marriages (Global target 5.3).

Indicator 5.3.1: Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were first married or live with a partner before age 15 and before age 18[35].

Roadmap: Maintain a reduction rate of 2-3% per year.

The MICs Survey and Population and Housing Census 2019 revealed that the proportion of women aged 20-24 who were married or live with a partner before age 15 and before age 18 in Viet Nam slightly decrease compared to 2011, at 0.4% and 9.1% respectively in 2019, and 2.5% on annually average, despite an increase seen in 2014. The rate of early marriage was higher in rural areas than in urban areas, up to 8.9 percentage points for marriages before 18 years old and 0.4 percentage points for marriages before 15 years old. In 2019, the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas and the Central Highlands were the two regions with the highest proportion of women aged 20-24 who are married or live with a partner for the first time before the age of 15 and before the age of 18 in the country. In the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas, the rate of women aged 20-24 being married for the first time before 15 years old is 0.9% and 21.5% by age 18; while these rates in the Central Highlands are 0.9% and 8.1% respectively. These are the two regions with high proportion of ethnic minorities in the country, with the custom of early marriage and limited information and legal knowledge at their disposal;. The proportion of women aged 20-24 getting married for the first time before the age of 18 in ethnic minority groups such as H'Mong, Gia Rai, Khơ Mú is at a very high level, 48%; 37.3%; and 37.4% respectively. This shows that, policies are needed to limit and eventually eliminate customs such as child and early marriage, focusing better on the areas that have high proportion of ethnic minorities.

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35   According to the Law on Marriage and Family, the statutory age of marriage is 20 for men and 18 for women. Thus, women married before the age of 18 are considered to get married early.

Figure 38. Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were first married or live with a partner before the age of 15 and 18

● Proportion of women who were first married before age 15

● Proportion of women who were first married before age 18
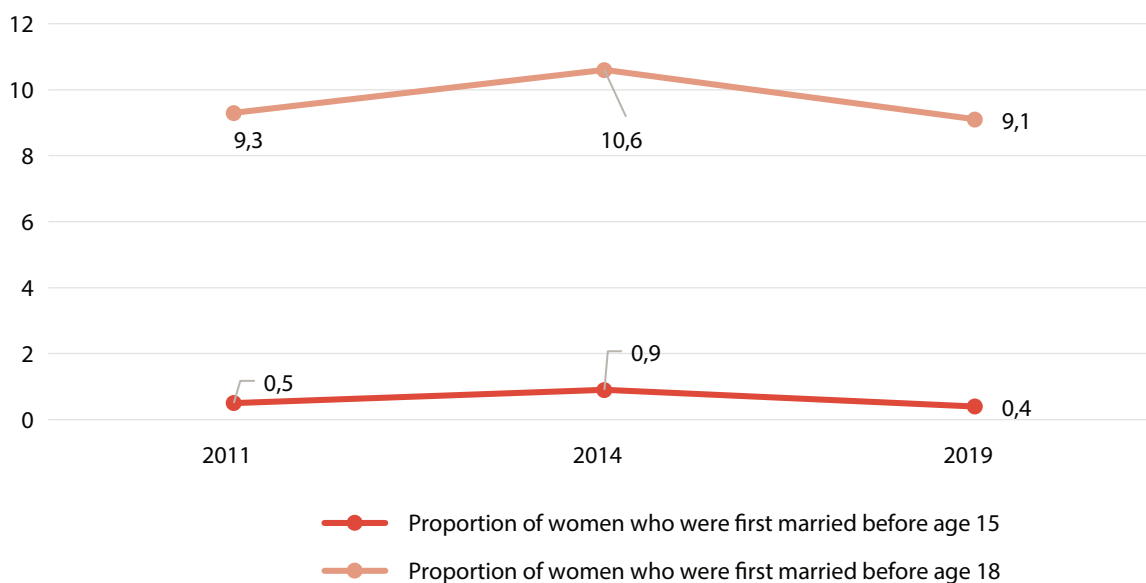
Source: MICS survey (2011, 2014) and Population and Housing Census 2019, GSO

Figure 39. Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were first married or live with a partner before age 15 and 18 by rural-urban areas (2019)

■ Proportion of women who were first married before age 15

▨ Proportion of women who were first married before age 18
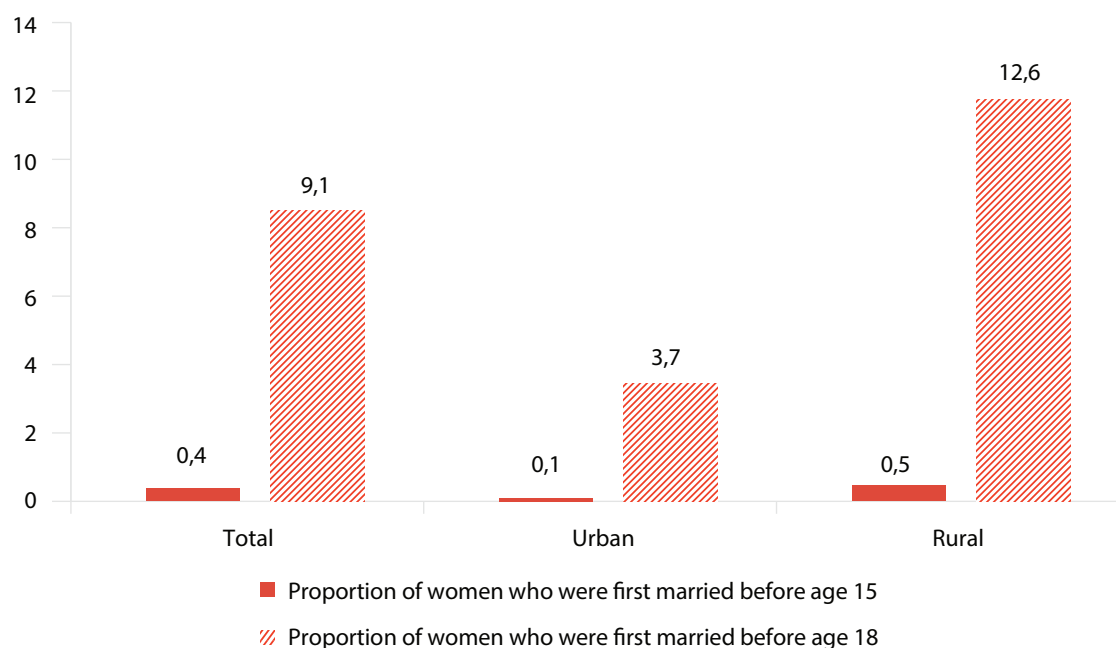
Source: GSO

Indicator 5.3.2: Number of child marriages.

Roadmap: Maintain the reduction rate of 2-3% annually.

Child marriage is a marriage where one or both of the parties are under the legal marriage age. The results of MICS in 2011, 2014 and the Population and Housing Census 2019 showed a similar picture as analysis in the indicator 5.3.1. Subsequently, the proportion of women aged 15-49 years who were early

married or live together (before age 15) tended to grow in the period 2011-2014, then sharply decreased in 2019. Notably, the proportion of women who were early married in the ethnic minority group was quite high. According to the reported findings of the Survey on Socio-economic Situation of 53 ethnic minorities conducted by the GSO in collaboration with the CEMA in 2019, the rate of child marriage among ethnic minorities was 26.6%, 18 times higher than that of Kinh group. Particularly, the rate of child marriage of some ethnic minority groups was more than 30% such as: Mong of 59.7%, Xinh Mun of 56.3%, and La Ha of 52.7%

Thus, Viet Nam will be able to achieve the roadmap for indicators 5.3.1 and 5.3.2, but it will be challenging to "eradicate customs like child marriage, early marriage" by 2030 as stated by target 5.3. Hence, the implementation of the Law on Marriage and Family in the coming years should focus on more effective solutions to customs like child marriage and early marriage in areas with high population of ethnic minority, and rural areas.

Target 5.4: Ensure fair sharing of domestic work and family care; recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through improved provision of public services, infrastructures, social protection policies, family support services, and child care services (Global target 5.4).

Indicator 5.4.1: Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work.

Roadmap: Difference in time spent on unpaid domestic and care work between women and men: 1.5 times by 2020, 1.4 times by 2025, and 1.3 times by 2030.

There is limited available information and reports on unpaid domestic and care work in Viet Nam. According to a research on unpaid care work developed by the MOLISA in cooperation with Action Aid Viet Nam in 2016, Vietnamese women of all age groups, ethnic groups and regions did more unpaid care work than men, and spent more time on unpaid work which was included in GDP. This study showed that women spent up to 275 minutes (4.5 hours) per day in unpaid care work, 105 minutes longer than men. This meant that every year, each woman contributed nearly 7 months to unpaid care work, most of which was unrecognized.

In addition, the amount of unpaid care work might vary by ethnic group. Specifically, Kinh people spent the least amount of time on family care (248 minutes by women and 134 minutes by men per day), while the H'Mong people spent the highest amount of time (420 minutes by women and 293 minutes by men per day). Subsequently, the study has shown the need to further develop public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, family support and childcare services in order to ensure that women spend less time on unpaid domestic and care work, and more time on relaxing and self-care.

The data from the GSO's Labour Force Survey in 2019 shows that women spent up to 18.9 hours doing housework per week while men spent only 8.9 hours doing housework during the week. Thus, the time that women spent doing housework is 2.1 times higher than men.

With the data analysed above, it can be seen that it is challenging in the coming years for Viet Nam to complete the roadmap set out for indicator 5.4.1 by 2020 and to ensure equality in sharing housework and family care as set by the target. 5.4.

Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life (Global target 5.5).

Indicator 5.5.1: Rate of National Assembly's female members.

Roadmap: By 2025: >30%; By 2030: >35%.

Viet Nam is one of the few countries in the Asia-Pacific region where the proportion of women in the National Assembly is over 25%. The number of female members in important positions in the National Assembly's offices has recently increased, especially, Viet Nam has had its first National Assembly Chairwoman for term XIV. The rate of women participating in the National Assembly in the 2016-2021 has reached 27.31%, a rise of 3.11% over 2011-2016 (24.2%), higher than the global average of 23.4% and Asia's average of 18.6%. However, this rate has not yet met the target of over 35% as set by the National Strategy on Gender Equality for the period 2011-2020[36].

Hence, to achieve the roadmap, i.e. the rate of female members in the National Assembly, of 30% by 2025 and more than 35% by 2030, Viet Nam should continue to more effectively implement the National Strategy on Gender Equality and other related policies.

Indicator 5.5.2: Rate of female government leaders.

Roadmap: Rate of ministries, ministerial-level agencies, Government's agencies and Peoples' Committee of all levels which have female leaders at key positions:

	2020	2025	2030
- Ministry level	80%	>90%	>95%
- Provincial level	>34.92%	>50%	80%
- District level	>26.51%	>50%	80%
- Commune level	>17.91%	>50%	80%

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) report, the rate of female government leaders indicated conflicting trends in recent years. While the rate of female leaders at ministry level tended to increase from nearly 19% in 2016 to 23.5% in 2018, the rate of female leaders at the commune and district levels dropped, and the rate of female leaders at the provincial level stayed almost unchanged. In the 2016-2020 term, 13 out of 30 ministries, ministerial-level agencies, and Government's agencies have had female leaders, accounting for 43.3%, much lower than the roadmap for 2020.

Figure 40. Rate of female government leaders (%)
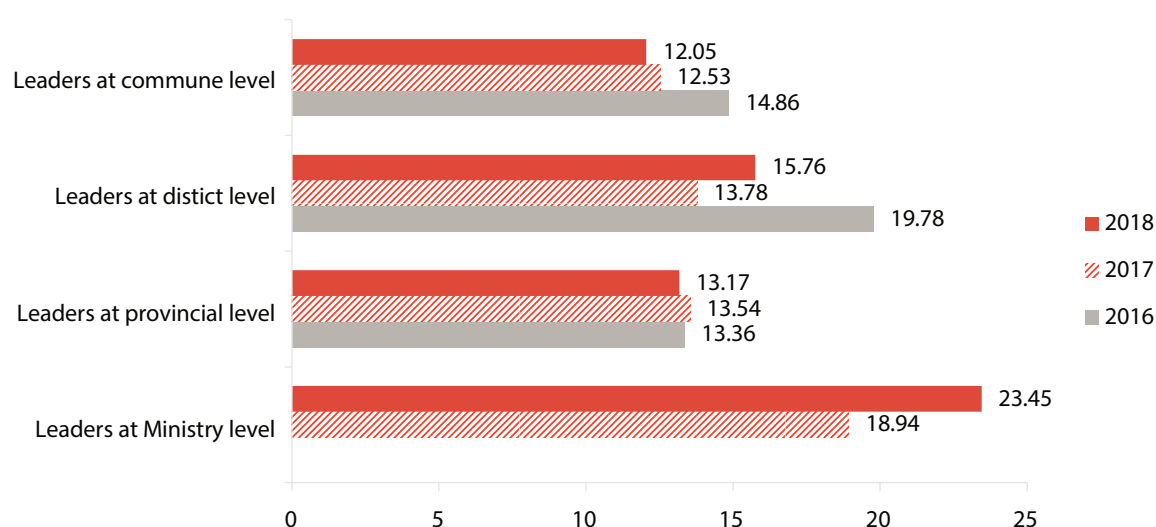
Source: MOHA

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36   Report No. 474/BC-CP dated October 6, 2020 of the Prime Minister on implementing the national targets on gender equality 2019 and period 2011-2020.

Indicator 5.5.3: Rate of women participating in party committees.

Roadmap: Not available.

For the 2015-2020 term, it isthe first time that there are 03 women as members of the Politburo (accounting for 15.78%). The proportion of women participating in the Secretariat is 14.3%. The proportion of women participating in the Executive Committee of the Party, the Standing Committee of the Party is as follows: the Central Party has 10.7% of women participating in the Executive Committee and 19.4% participating in the Standing Committee; At the provincial level: 14.2% of women participate in the Executive Committee and 10.9% in the Standing Committee. There are 10 female secretaries out of 63 secretaries in the Provincial Party Committees; 14 out of 128 are female Deputy Secretaries. Although the proportion of women participating in Party Committees term XII at all levels is higher than that in term XI, the target set in the National Strategy on Gender Equality for the period 2011-2020 has not been met.

Table 9. Rate of women participating in party committees

Level	Term XI	Term XII
Central Executive Committee	8.62%	10%
Party Committees directly under the Central Committee	11.4%	13.3%
District level	14%	14.3%
Grassroots level	18.1%	19.07%

Source: Report No. 474/BC-CP dated October 6, 2020 of the Government on implementing the national targets on gender equality in 2019 and period 2011-2020

Indicator 5.5.4: Rate of People's Council female deputies.

Roadmap: By 2025: >30%; By 2030: >35%.

The rate of female deputies in People's Councils at different levels in term 2016-2021 is higher than that during the term 2010-2015 at all the three levels: province, district, and commune. In term 2016-2021, there were 16/63 provinces, and cities with the rate of People's Council female deputies from 30%. Currently, there are eight chairwomen out of 63 People's Council chairpersons 31 deputy chairwomen out of 63 People's Council deputy chairpersons.

Table 10. Rate of People's Council female deputies at different levels

Level	Term 2010-2015	Term 2016-2021
Province	25.17%	26.54%
District	24.62%	27.85%
Commune	21.71%	26.59%

Source: Report No. 474/BC-CP dated October 6, 2020 of the Government on implementing the national targets on gender equality in 2019 and period 2011-2020

With the current well implemented policies on gender equality and greater empowerment of women, Viet Nam will be able to meet the roadmap for the indicator 5.5.4 by 2030.

Indicator 5.5.5: Proportion of female directors/owners of businesses or cooperatives.

Roadmap: Not available.

In recent years, the Vietnamese women have increasingly had equal opportunities to participate in economic activities, especially holding leadership positions in businesses and cooperatives. According to the data from the Enterprise Survey carried out by the GSO, the proportion of female directors/owners of businesses and cooperatives in Viet Nam was 26.4% in 2016, a rise of 2.3 percentage points compared to that in 2011. This rate varied greatly between regions, and between Kinh people and other ethnic groups. Specifically, in 2016, the proportion of female directors/owners of businesses and cooperatives was highest in the South East (accounting for 29.3%), lowest in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas (accounting for 19.9%). Meanwhile, this rate was higher for Kinh group than the ethnic minorities, with the rates of 26.9% and 15.8% respectively. Particularly, the proportion of female directors/owners of businesses in 2016 accounted for nearly 23%, slightly lower than the general proportion (i.e. including female directors/owners of businesses and cooperatives). Currently, Viet Nam has been considered to have the second highest proportion of female directors of businesses in the Asia-Pacific region, with the proportion of women holding senior management position of enterprises at about 36%.

Figure 41. Proportion of female directors/owners of businesses
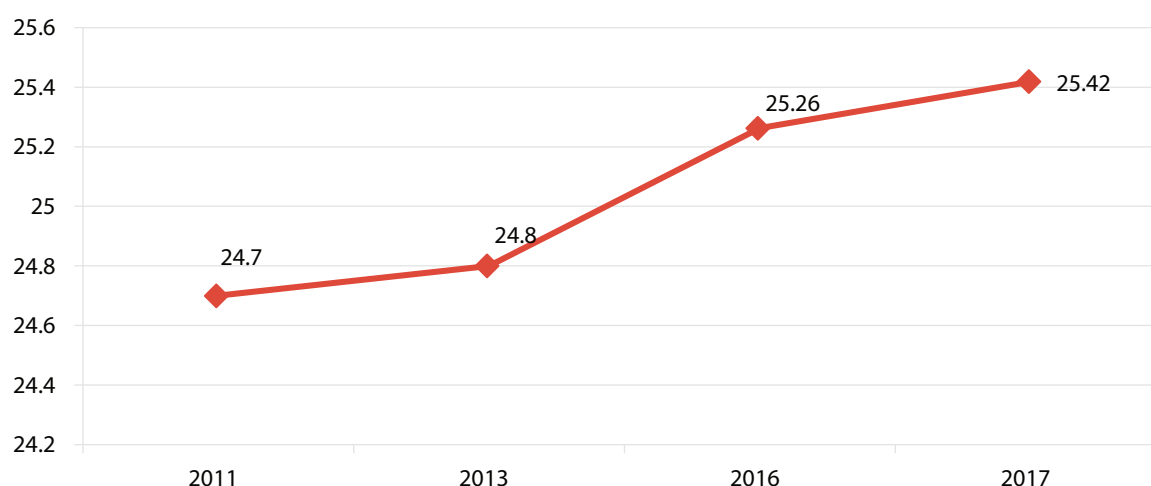
Source: Calculation from the Enterprise Survey period 2011-2017 of GSO

According to data in the National Enterprise Registration Database (MPI), as of October 2019, there were 258,689 women-owned businesses nationwide, accounting for 24% of the total number of enterprises in the country. Among women-owned enterprises, distributed by key activities/sectors most of enterprises are in in trade and service sectors (75%).

Indicator 5.5.6: Proportion of female farm owners.

Roadmap: Not available.

According to the results of the Rural, Agricultural and Fishery Census[37] released by the GSO, the proportion of female farm owners nationwide was nearly 8.6% in 2016, lower than 2011 which was 9.3%. Urban areas had higher rate than rural areas, 14.2% versus 8.1% respectively in 2016. Similar to the proportion of female directors/owners of businesses and cooperatives mentioned above, the proportion of female farm owners who are Kinh was 8.6%, higher than that of ethnic minority people (7.4%). Notably, the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas have the highest proportion of female farm owners (accounting for nearly 25.8%), followed by the South East (14.9%), while the Red River Delta has the lowest proportion, only 4.7%.

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37   Implemented every five years.

Figure 42. Proportion of female farm owners
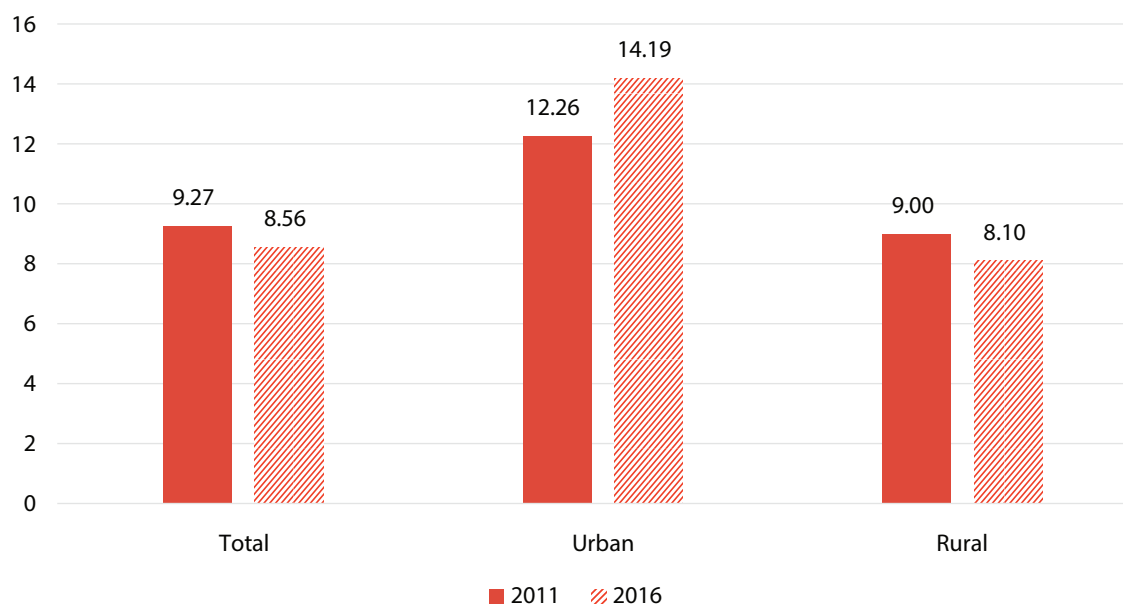
Source: GSO

Target 5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences (Global target 5.6).

Indicator 5.6.1: Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care.

Roadmap: Not available.

Currently, the GSO[38] is responsible for collecting data and disseminating this indicator, but no data has been released. The assessment of reproductive health care via Indicator 5.6.1 is reflected through a number of other indicators, such as the percentage of pregnant women having at least three antenatal visits, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel, and the proportion of women giving birth in health facilities, etc. This information is presented in goal 3 and target 5.1 mentioned above, which shows that Viet Nam has made an encouraging achievement in ensuring better access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as mentioned in target 5.6.

Basically, though there is no roadmap for indicator 5.6.1, it can be seen that Viet Nam will achieve target 5.6 in 2030.

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38   For this indicator, GSO added information to calculate this indicator in the Population Change Survey 2020.

Target 5.7: Ensure that all women, particularly poor women in rural areas and women from ethnic minority groups, have equal rights to economic resources and equal rights to land use and ownership of other forms of property, inheritance, financial services and natural resources as provided by national law (Global target 5.a).

Indicator 5.7.1: Proportion of households using agricultural production land having certificates of land use rights for agricultural production land.

Roadmap: Not available.

With this indicator, the data source will come from the National Rural, Agricultural and Fishery Census conducted by the GSO every 10 years. GSO has suggested the roadmap for collecting the data from 2025, so at the moment there is no data for this indicator.

Target 5.8: Enhance the use of enabling technologies, in particular information and communication technologies (ICT), to promote the empowerment of women. Create enabling conditions for women to access and utilize ICTs (Global target 5.b).

Indicator 5.8.1: Mobile phone penetration rate.

Roadmap: Not available.

Figure 43. Number of mobile subscribers in Viet Nam (million subscribers)
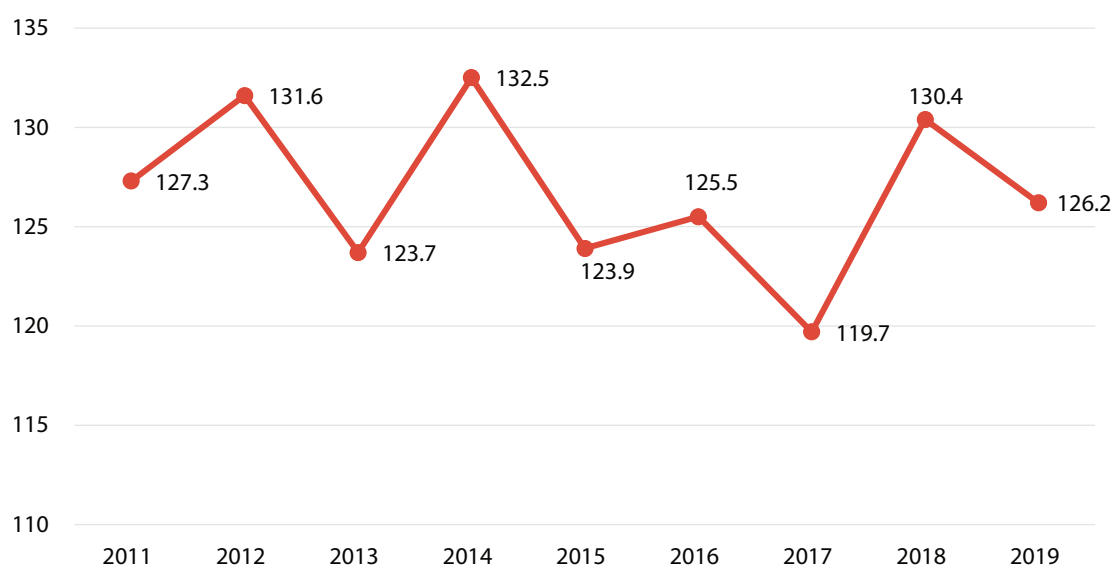
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

According to the MOIC, as of 2019, there were about 136 million mobile phone subscribers, with about 43.2 million users[39], equivalent to 44.7% of the population. Though the data on proportion of using mobile phones is not broken down by sex, there is no restriction for women's access to ICT. Basically, it is likely that Viet Nam will achieve the target 5.8 set for 2030.

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39   One person may have more than one subscriptions.

SUMMARY

A number of indicators related to women's political participation have improved in recent years, such as the proportion of female members in the National Assembly and People's Councils at all levels. The proportion of women as directors/owners of businesses also increased rapidly in recent years (target 5.5). Remarkable results have been achieved for women's sexual and reproductive health care (target 5.6). However, the sex imbalance at birth tends to rise, problems of violence against women and girls have not improved (targets 5.1 and 5.2) and women still spend more time than men in unpaid domestic and care work (target 5.4). In addition, the gaps still exist in realizing policies promoting gender equality. These issues pose a significant challenge for Viet Nam to achieve SDG 5 on "Gender equality" by 2030. It is essential for Viet Nam to more effectively implement legal and policy frameworks to counter all forms of child abuse and violence against women and girls (target 5.2).
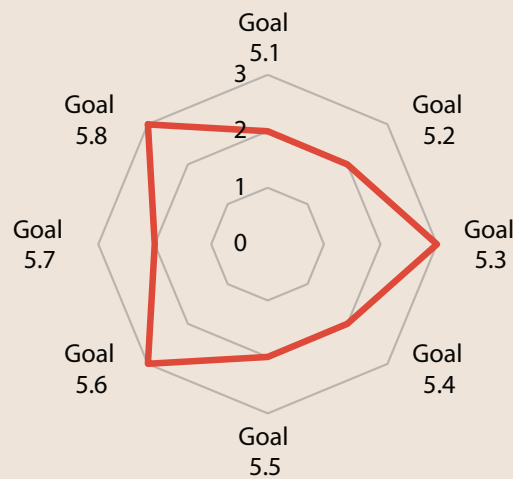
GOAL 6
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

PERCENTAGE OF URBAN POPULATION SUPPLIED WITH DRINKING WATER THROUGH A CENTRALIZED WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

83.5% ↗ **89.15%**
2016 — 2019

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS USING HYGIENIC WATER SOURCES

93% ↗ **96%**
2016 — 2018

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS USING HYGIENIC TOILETS
90.3% in 2018
COMPARED WITH
83.3% in 2016

Proportion of **wastewater** collected and treated in urban areas
Around 15%
Ha Noi ≈ 20.6%
Ho Chi Minh city ≈ 13%

Proportion of industrial parks with centralized wastewater treatment systems
by 2019 is 88.6% increaed by **4 percent points** compared with **2015**

90% of large reservoirs under control and monitoring to ensure minimum flow

100% of large-scale and important river basins with automatic and online monitoring and controlling systems

80% of large, important reservoirs on river basins operating according to the inter-reservoir coordination regulations

BY 2019
THERE ARE 178
NATURE CONSERVATION AREAS
ACCOUNTING FOR 12%
OF THE TOTAL COUNTRY'S TERRITORY

Viet Nam will face difficulties and challenges to achieve the SDG 6 by 2030. Issues should be paid more forcus are to strengthen water resource quality control; to control water pollution in urban and industrial zones; to promote integrated water resource management in river basins and to ensure efficient use of water.

Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable water for all (Global target 6.1).

Indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of urban population provided with drinking water through the centralized water supply system.

Roadmap: Not available.

The proportion of the urban population supplied with drinking water through a centralized water supply system has escalated rapidly and reached 89.15% in 2019. It is expected to reach 90% by 2020, an increase compared to 83.5% in 2016. This rate has reached 100% in the two major cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh in 2019. Although the total design capacity of urban water plants of the whole country has steadily increased over the years and reached about 10.6 million m³ per day and night, the water supply system has not yet met all the urban domestic water demand. The reason is that the urbanization process is rapidly surging along with many newly established industrial parks and urban areas,with the urban population continuously growing.

Table 11. Proportion of urban population provided with drinking water through the improved water supply system (%)

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Whole country	83.50	84.50	86.71	89.15
Red River Delta	82.72	90.00	92.41	94.89
Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas	77.66	78.00	85.02	89.94
North Central and Central Coastal Areas	77.14	76.00	83.09	86.18
Central Highlands	62.29	62.40	64.05	66.64
South East	91.93	90.00	92.98	94.83
Mekong River Delta	84.80	85.00	89.84	91.41

Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

Indicator 6.1.2: Percentage of households using hygienic water sources[40].

Roadmap: By 2020: 90-95%; By 2030: 95-100%.

In the period 2010-2018, there was significant improvement in the use of hygienic water sources. The proportion of households with access to hygienic water sources rose from 90% in 2010 to 93% in 2016 and reached nearly 96% in 2018. This rate increased in both urban and rural areas and across regions nationwide. Nevertheless, the proportion of households with access to hygienic water sources in rural areas was still lower than that in urban areas (93.7% versus 99.5%). The Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas had the lowest proportion (86.8%) while the Red River Delta gained the highest proportion of 99.3%.

40   According to the GSO, hygienic water sources include: tap water, dug wells/ protected wells/tube wells, filtered spring water and rainwater.

Figure 44. Percentage of households using hygienic water sources (%)
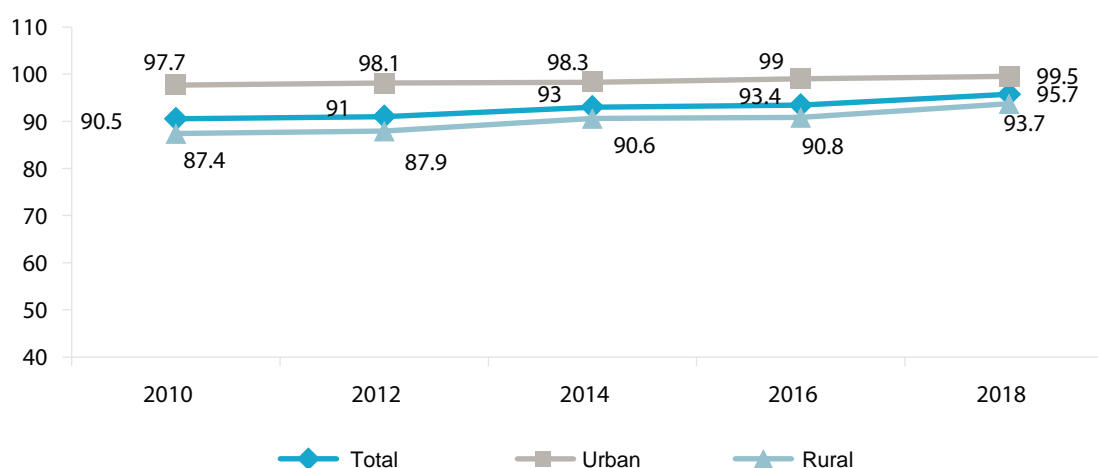
Source: Viet Nam-Household Living Standards Survey; Statistical Yearbook-GSO

Table 12. Percentage of households using improved water sources by region (%)

	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
Red River Delta	98.6	99.5	99.2	99.4	99.3
Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas	80.2	67.0	81.3	81.3	86.8
North Central and Central Coastal Areas	91.0	93.3	93.8	93.1	95.0
Central Highlands	82.8	92.0	85.5	87.5	94.9
South East	98.1	99.8	99.0	98.9	99.5
Mekong River Delta	81.6	85.5	89.1	91.5	94.9

Source: The Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey; Statistical Yearbook-GSO

Thus, Viet Nam has achieved the roadmap set for 2030, with the percentage of households using improved water sources from 95-100%. However, more attention needs to be paid to households' access to hygienic water sources in mountainous and remote areas and areas affected by saline water intrusion and climate change such as the Mekong River Delta. Policies related to privatization need to be implemented more effectively and attract investment from businesses and individuals for water supply projects in mountainous, remote areas and areas with challenges in terms of water sources. In addition, "hygienic water sources" as mentioned under indicator 6.1.2 and the prescribed roadmap, do not ensure quality, as prescribed by MOH. Therefore, in the coming years, Viet Nam needs to continue to develop centralized water supply systems in urban and rural areas to ensure households have access to clean water for domestic use as defined by the standards of MOH.

Target 6.2: By 2030, ensure access to adequate and equitable sanitation facilities and hygiene for all, with particular attention paid to the needs of women, girls, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups; end open defecation practices; 100% of households should have hygienic toilets (Global target 6.2).

Indicator 6.2.1: Percentage of households using improved hygienic latrines[41].

41   According to GSO, hygienic toilets include: septic tanks, pit latrines, pour flush toilets to sewer systems and composting toilets; in 2006 and 2008 that was the proportion of households using hygienic latrines in the total number of households.

Roadmap: Not available.

The use of hygienic latrines in Viet Nam has improved markedly, especially in the past two years. The proportion of households using hygienic latrines increased from 75.7% in 2010 to 83.3% in 2016 and 90.3% in 2018. This proportion increased steadily in both urban, rural areas and 6 regions all over the country. However, there is still a huge gap in the proportion of households using hygienic toilets between rural and urban areas (86.4% versus 97.9%). The regions with the lowest proportion of households using hygienic toilets include the Mekong River Delta (77%), the Central Highlands (82.73%) and the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas (84.2%).

Figure 45. Percentage of households using improved hygienic toilets (%)
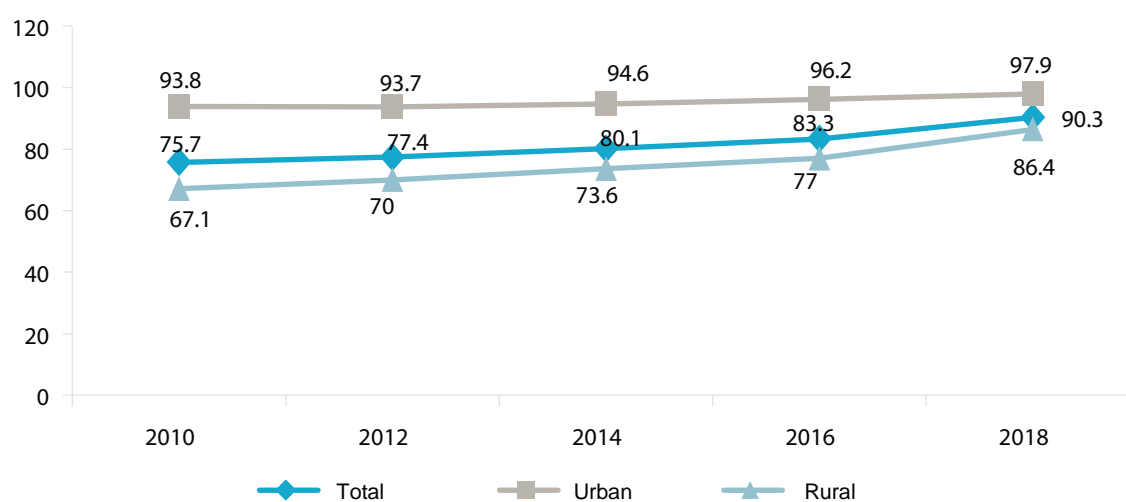
Source: The Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey, Statistical Yearbook, GSO

Table 13. Percentage of households using improved hygienic toilets by region (%)

	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
Red River Delta	89.6	91.4	96.4	97.8	99.4
Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas	60.8	60.0	61.8	67.6	84.2
North Central and Central Coastal Areas	81.9	83.0	82.2	84.0	90.0
Central Highlands	62.1	65.2	61.9	63.3	82.7
South East	92.0	92.5	95.6	97.1	98.6
Mekong River Delta	47.6	53.3	60.4	67.3	77.6

Source: The Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey, Statistical Yearbook, GSO

Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality and achieve control of sources of pollution; end the use of hazardous chemicals in agricultural, industrial and aquatic production that pollutes water sources and degrades biodiversity; treat 100% of hazardous waste water; halve untreated urban waste water; increase the safe reuse of water (Global target 6.3).

Indicator 6.3.1: Proportion of urban wastewater collected and treated up to standards and technical regulations.

Roadmap: By 2020: 15-20%; By 2030: >50% for cities of grade 2 or higher and 20% for cities of grade 5 or higher.

According to a report by MOC, by the end of 2020, the whole country will have about 63 wastewater treatment plants in cities at grade IV or higher operating with a total designed treatment capacity of about 1,334,130 m^3/day and night (an increase of 33 factories and about more than 500,000 m^3/day and night compared to 2015); the service scope of the drainage system is about 60%, the total amount of wastewater collected and treated in urban areas is about 15% and there are about 50 wastewater treatment plants in the process of designing and development. Although the number of urban wastewater treatment facilities has increased over the years, it is still very limited compared to the actual treatment demand. In big cities, the proportion of treated wastewater is higher than that in small and medium cities, but it is still Insufficient, not yet catching up with the current urbanization rate. Only about 20.6% of total domestic wastewater has been treated in Hanoi, while it is only 13% in Ho Chi Minh City.

Meanwhile, there are many shortcomings in the control of pollution sources from industrial, agriculture and aquaculture activities, which leads to more serious pollution of surface water and groundwater, especially in big cities and industrial zones. With the increasing rapid speed of urbanization and industrialization and the higher demand for wastewater treatment in urban areas, it will be difficult for Viet Nam to meet the roadmap set for indicator 6.3.1 by 2030. Viet Nam will need to mobilize more active participation of the private sector in investment for construction, operation, and utilization of wastewater treatment plants and wastewater collection systems; separate wastewater generated by domestic and production activities from the urban rainwater drainage system; raise awareness of businesses and communities regarding protecting water resources.

Indicator 6.3.2: Proportion of industrial parks and export processing zones with centralized wastewater treatment systems satisfying the environmental requirements.

Roadmap: By 2020: 82%; By 2025: 90%; By 2030:100%.

According to MPI data, the proportion of industrial parks and export processing zones with centralized wastewater treatment systems was 88.6% in 2019, higher than the figure of 84.7% in 2015. However, according to the report of MONRE, in 2019, 242 out of 274 industrial parks in operation nationwide possessed centralized wastewater treatment systems, accounting for 88.3% (this rate was 80% in 2018 and 77% in 2017). Of which, 191 industrial parks installed automatic and continuous wastewater monitoring equipment, making up 78.9%. The remaining 51 industrial parks were in the process of installing automatic wastewater monitoring equipment, accounting for 21.1%. The centralized wastewater treatment systems of industrial parks treated about 71% of the generated wastewater (this figure was 42% in 2018).

Viet Nam has planned to develop 1,143 industrial clusters by 2020, of which 587 industrial clusters have been in operation, 199 industrial clusters have been in operation with approved environmental impact assessment reports, reaching the rate of 36%. Of which, 55 industrial clusters have had centralized wastewater treatment systems, only accounting for 9.7%.

Figure 46. Proportion of industrial parks and export processing zones with centralized wastewater treatment systems satisfying the environmental requirements (%)
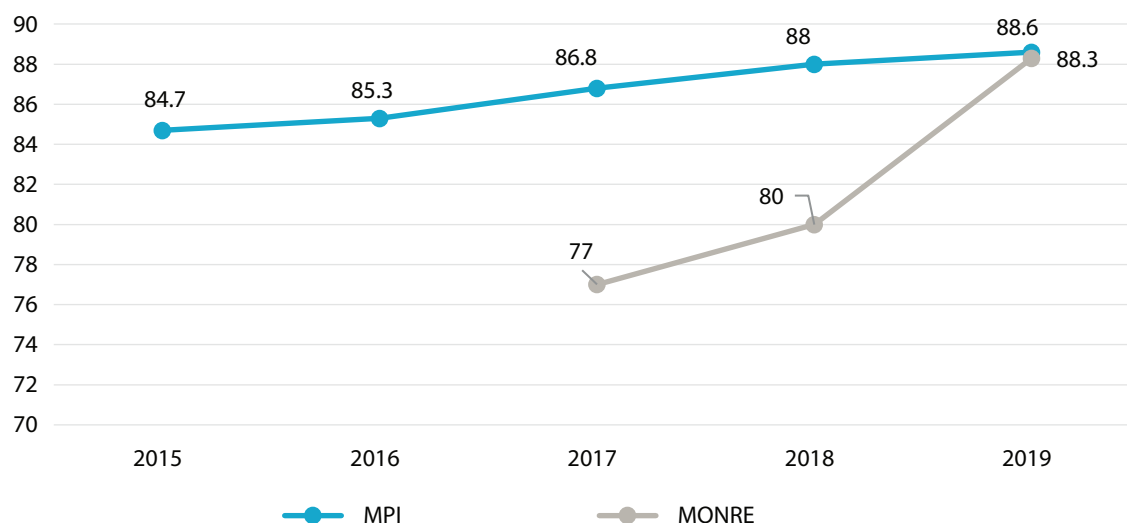
Source: MPI and MONRE

Thus, regardless of the source of the data, Viet Nam has completed the roadmap set for 2020 for indicator 6.3.2 and is likely to complete the roadmap set for 2025 and 2030 for the centralized industrial parks, if the current improvement rate is maintained. However, the current major challenge is treatment of industrial wastewater from industrial clusters and craft villages, where the rate of wastewater collection and treatment is Negligible, requiring breakthrough solutions and policies in wastewater quality control for these places. In addition, it is necessary to further improve the control of water pollution in industrial zones because the high proportion of industrial zones possessing centralized wastewater treatment systems does not mean this system is regularly operated. In fact, there has been a case where the factory has a wastewater treatment system but not in operation and still discharges untreated water into the environment.

Target 6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure a sustainable supply of freshwater in order to address water scarcity, and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity. Ensure that water exploitation does not exceed the exploitation thresholds for rivers and exploitable reserves of water reserve layers (Global target 6.4).

Indicator 6.4.1: The proportion of large reservoirs being monitored and controlled to ensure the maintenance of the river's minimum flow.

Roadmap: By 2020: 70%; By 2025: 80%; By 2030: 90%.

By 2016, all year-round operation processes (flood season and dry season) for 11 river basins were issued, founding a legal basis for more rational and efficient management and use of water resources of hydro-power and irrigation reservoirs, linking the operation mode of the works to the requirements of flood prevention and control and water regulation in the downstream of reservoirs. Currently, the water resource planning for the period 2020-2035 is being developed and finalized for provinces and cities in Viet Nam.

According to MONRE, the proportion of large reservoirs under control and monitoring to ensure minimum flow of the river basin is maintained at 90% by 2020, exceeding the roadmap set out for 2020 and meeting the roadmap set out for 2030.

However, in the context of climate change impacts and water scarcity occurring more often in many places such as the Central Area and the Central Highlands, it will take more efforts for Viet Nam to complete target 6.4.

Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management by river basin, including trans-boundary water sources, through international cooperation (Global target 6.5).

Indicator 6.5.1: Proportion of large-scale and important river basins with automatic and online monitoring and controlling systems.

Roadmap: By 2020: 20%; By 2025: 70%; By 2030: 100%.

Viet Nam has shifted the approach from single-sector management to integrated management of river basins-based water resources. Since 2014, the water resource master plans have been approved for the basins of Bang Giang - Ky Cung Rivers, Red River - Thai Binh River, Sesan – Srepok Rivers; the master plan on water resources on the basin of Dong Nai River is being developed; the master plan on water resources in Bang Giang - Ky Cung River basins has been completed; and the water resource planning for the Red River - Thai Binh and Sesan - Srepok basins is being carried out. Viet Nam has also effectively implemented cooperation activities with member states under the Mekong River Commission.

According to MONRE, it is expected that by the end of 2020, the proportion of large-scale and important river basins with automatic and online monitoring and controlling systems will reach 100%, so Viet Nam completes the roadmap set for indicator 6.5.1 ahead of the schedule.

Indicator 6.5.2: Proportion of large, important reservoirs on river basins operating according to the inter-reservoir coordination regulations.

Roadmap: By 2020: 70%; By 2025: 80%; By 2030: 100%.

According to MONRE, the proportion of large, important reservoirs on river basins operating according to the inter-reservoir coordination regulations in 2020 reached 80%, exceeding the target set for 2020 (which was 70%). In order to reach the roadmap by 2030 naming 100% of large, important reservoirs on river basins operating according to the inter-reservoir coordination regulations, Viet Nam needs to continue to deploying investigation, undertake master planning and detailed planning for the protection and exploitation of surface water sources in an effective way in the coming years, including the large reservoir system nationwide.

In addition, water resources in river basins in Viet Nam are declining due to the increasing demand for water in agriculture, industry, aquaculture, hydropower, craft villages and limited water resources management. Climate change also results in strong impacts on surface water resources in Viet Nam. Water pollution and degradation in river basins occurs in many sections, concentrated in the midstream and downstream regions (especially the sections flowing through urban areas, industrial zones, and craft villages), many of them are suffering serious pollution, such as in the Nhue - Day river basin, the Cau river basin, the basins of the Dong Nai river system. These issues pose great challenges to realizing target 6.5.

Target 6.6: By 2030, protect and restore water-related ecosystems (Global target 6.6).

Indicator 6.6.1: Proportion of nature conservation areas.

Roadmap: Number of Ramsar sites established and recognized: By 2020: 10 sites; By 2025: 13 sites; By 2030: 15 sites.

After 28 years of joining the Ramsar Convention[42] and more than 10 years of implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, Viet Nam currently has 178 nature conservation areas, including 33 national parks, 59 nature reserve zones, 23 national species-habitat conservation zones, 9 biosphere reserves, and 54 landscape protection zones. The MONRE data shows that Viet Nam had 166 nature conservation areas with an area of 2,106,051 hectares, accounting for 6.36% of the total territory area in 2016, this figure was 178 areas, including 33 national parks, 59 nature reserve zones, 23 national species-habitat conservation zones, 9 biosphere reserves, and 54 landscape protection accounting for 12% of the total territory areas in 2019.

In 2016, 8 Ramsar sites were established and recognized in Viet Nam, including Xuan Thuy site (Nam Dinh province), Bau Sau site in the Cat Tien National Park (Dong Nai province), Ba Be National Park (Bac Kan province), Tram Chim National Park (Dong Thap province), Mui Ca Mau National Park (Ca Mau province), Con Dao National Park (Ba Ria-Vung Tau province), Lang Sen Wetland Reserve (Long An province), and U Minh Thuong (Kien Giang province), while by 2020, there are 11 Ramsar sites, with 3 newly established and recognized sites namely Van Long nature reserve (Ninh Binh province), Tam Giang nature reserve (Thua Thien-Hue province), and Thai Thuy wetland nature reserve (Thai Binh province). Therefore, Viet Nam has exceeded the roadmap for 2020.

If this momentum continues, Viet Nam is likely to fulfil its roadmap set out for 2025 and 2030.

Figure 47. Number and proportion of nature conservation areas; Number of Ramsar sites established and recognized
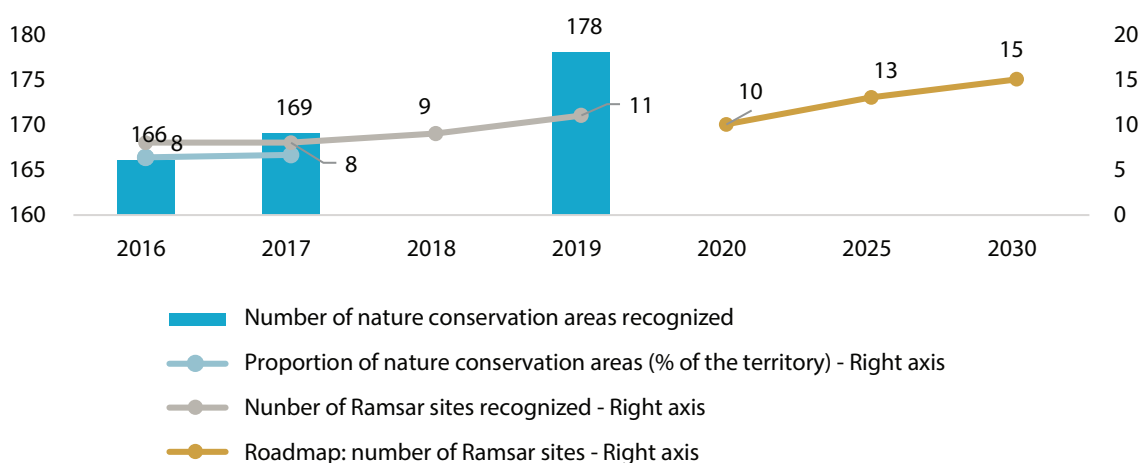
Source: MONRE

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42   Convention on Wetland areas.

SUMMARY

Although Viet Nam can achieve 3 out of 6 targets by 2030, the country will face difficulties and challenges to achieve SDG 6 on "Clean water and sanitation for all". Accordingly, two targets that will be difficult to achieve are target 6.3 on water resource quality and pollution control and target 6.4 on effective use of water. Furthermore, challenges lie in realizing target 6.5 on integrated water protection in river basins, lakes. Hence, in the coming time, it is critical to enhance water resource quality control; water pollution control in urban areas and industrial zones; promoting integrated water management in river basins and effective use of water resources.
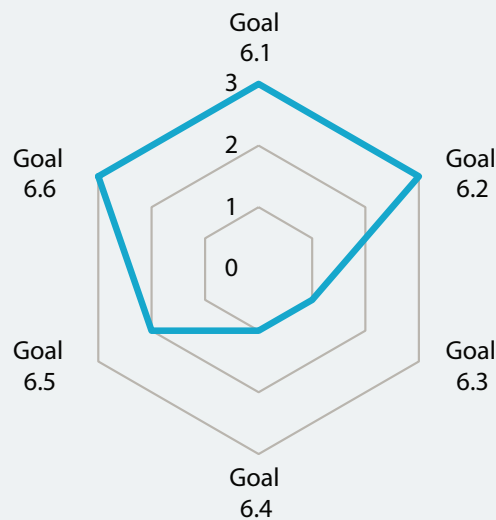
GOAL 7

Ensure access to sustainable, reliable and affordable energy for all

ALMOST ALL OF VIETNAMESE HOUSEHOLDS HAVE

ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL GRID
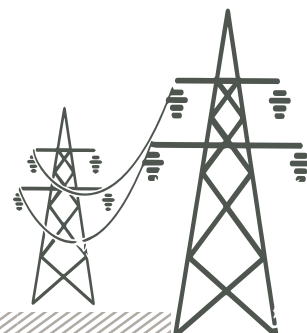
RENEWABLE ENERGY SHARE IN THE TOTAL FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION GRADUALLY **INCREASED**

14.4% 2014	**24.9%** 2015	**26.15%** 2017
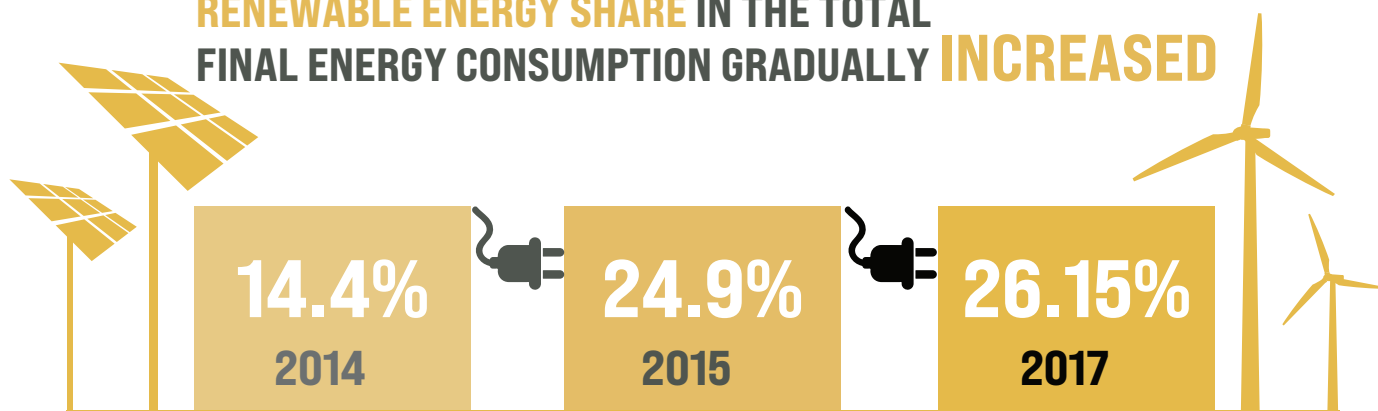
ENERGY CONSUMPTION TO GDP TENDED TO DECREASE BUT IT IS HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE OF ASEAN

400 KOE/ 1000 USD GDP
2015

380 KOE/ 1000 USD GDP
2017
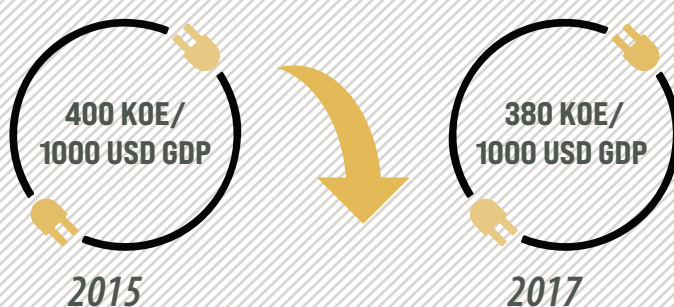
Viet Nam will face challenges to achieve SDG 7 by 2030 because:

⚡ Low efficiency of energy use in some sectors

⚡ Inadequate mechanisms for investment mobilization in renewable energy

⚡ Limited infrastructure and technologies for providing clean and sustainable energy

Target 7.1: By 2020, almost 100% of households have access to electricity; by 2025, 100% of households have access to electricity; by 2030, ensure the entire population can access affordable, reliable and modern energy (Global target 7.1).

Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of households with access to electricity.

Roadmap: By 2020, 2025 and 2030: 100%**.**

Viet Nam currently has a relatively high proportion of households with access to electricity thanks to efforts in reforming the energy sector as well as developing the national power grid, applying information technology in the power supply management operation system, giving priority to investment in electricity networks in disadvantaged areas and islands. Currently, more than 99% of Vietnamese households have access to the national grid. As such, Viet Nam has completed the roadmap set for 2020 and will be able to complete the roadmap for the milestones in 2025 and 2030.

However, achieving the goal of access to electricity by the entire population by 2030 is a significant challenge because areas that do not have access to electricity are often in remote parts of the country. In these areas, it is difficult to build infrastructure to bring electricity.

Figure 48. Proportion of households with access to electricity/using electricity for domestic activities (%)
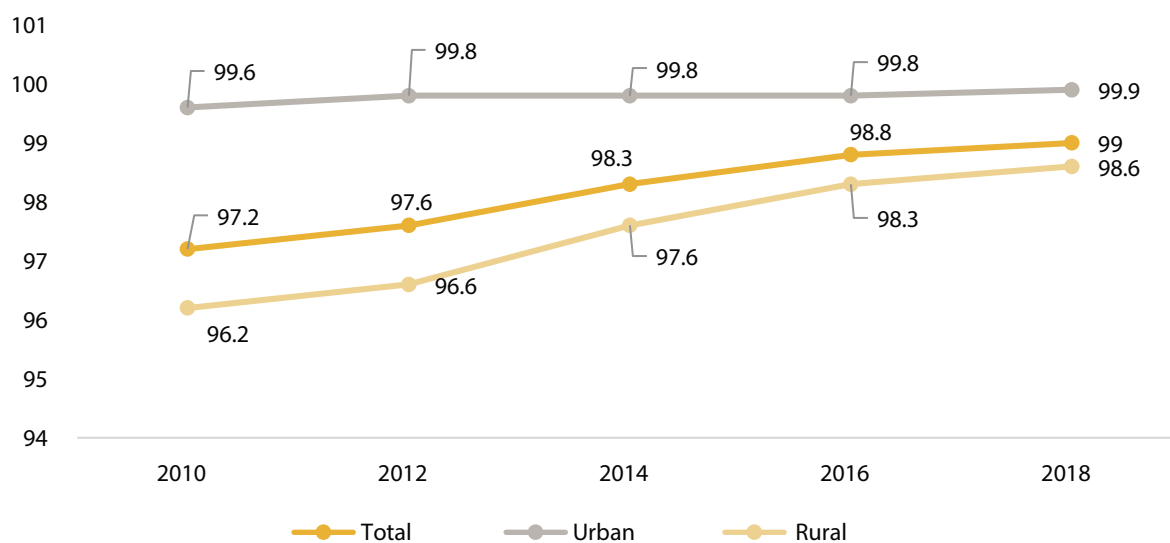
Source: The Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey, Statistical Yearbook-GSO

Indicator 7.1.2: Proportion of households using clean fuel.

Roadmap: Not available.

The Circular 03 assigns the GSO to be responsible for collecting data for the indicator 7.1.2 and for setting a roadmap for collecting and publishing data from 2025. Therefore, there is currently no data available to analyse the trend of this indicator. However, the reality shows that in recent years, the use of clean electricity sources such as rooftop solar power and biomass power is increasingly popular in households in urban and rural areas of Viet Nam, especially upon the issuance of the Government's Decision No.11/2017/QD-TTg on mechanism to incentivize the development of solar power projects in Viet Nam. This is expected to contribute to pushing the proportion of households using clean fuels upwards in the future.

Target 7.2: By 2030, substantially increase the share of renewable energies in the total domestic consumption of primary energies, more specifically to reach 31 % by 2020 and 32.3 % by 2030 (Global target 7.2).

Indicator 7.2.1: Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption.

Roadmap: By 2020: 31%; By 2025: 31.5%; By 2030: 32.3%.

Statistics show that the share of renewable energy (RE) in the total final energy consumption in Viet Nam tends to increase rapidly in recent years and reached 26.15% in 2017 while it was only 14% in 2012. However, it should be noted that this renewable energy comes mainly from hydropower, while non-hydro renewable energy only accounts for a limited proportion of total final energy consumption (approximately 0.5% in 2018). According to revised Power Master Plan VII (2016) for the period 2016-2030, the share of renewable energy by 2020 in Viet Nam is expected to account for 33%, and by 2030 it will account for 38% of the total. In particular, the share of renewable energy other than hydropower will reach 7% in 2020 and 10% in 2030.

Figure 49. Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption [43](%)
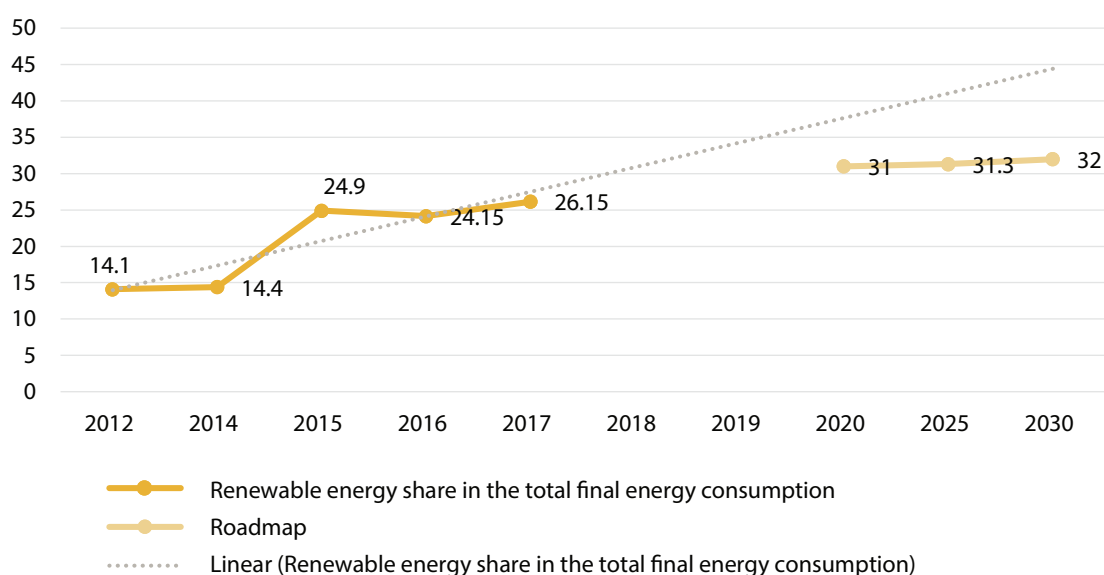
Source: GSO

Meanwhile, Viet Nam has great potential in developing non-hydro renewable energy, particularly wind power and solar power. As shown in the table below, the current level of hydro-energy exploitation has reached the maximum, while the exploitation of other renewable energy is still very limited or subject to on-going research.

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43   Renewable energy includes energy derived from solar, hydropower, wind, biomass, and waste sources.

Table 14: Potential for developing renewable energy in Viet Nam (GW)

| | Hydropower | | | Wind power | | | Solar power | | | | Others | | | | | |
	Total	Large and medium	Small	Total	Inland	Off-shore	Total	Land surface	Water surface	Roof-top	Total	Waste	Bio-mass	Geo-thermy	Tide	Biogas
Technical potential	26	20	6	377	217	160	434	309	77	48	19.9	1.5	13.7	0.7	2	2
Installed capacity	21.4	17.9	3.5	0.43	..	..	..	5	..	..	0.37	0.01	0.38	0	0	0

Source: Electricity and Renewable Energy Agency, MOIT

In recent years, the Government has issued a number of policies to incentivize the development of non-hydro renewable energies[44], which triggered a boom in investment projects in renewable energy, especially wind and solar power. According the Ministry of Industry and Trade report, the current total capacity of RE accounts for over 10% of the total installed capacity of the power system. It is by far exceeding the target of 7% by 2020, set in the revised Power Plan VII[45].

Currently, the Government is building the Power Master Plan VIII, focused on the development of renewable energy in accordance to the Politburo's Resolution 55 on the National Energy Development Orientation to 2035, vision to 2045.

The above analysis shows that there is full basis to confirm that Viet Nam will complete the roadmap set for indicator 7.2.1 by 2020 and 2030.

Target 7.3: By 2030, double the national rate of improvement in energy efficiency; Reduce power consumption by 10 % compared to the baseline scenario (Global target 7.3).

Indicator 7.3.1: Energy consumption to GDP.

Roadmap: Maintain the reduction rate at 1-1.5% annually.

According to statistics, energy consumption to GDP tended to climb in 2016 and then drop in 2017 at 380.4 KoE / USD1000 of GDP. Despite the decrease, it has now exceeded the world average and is even higher than the average of ASEAN countries.

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44   For example: the Decision No.11/2017/QD-TTg on mechanism to incentivize the development of solar power projects in Vietnam; the Decision No.39/2018/QD-TTg amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Prime Minister's Decision No.37/2011/QD-TTg dated June 29, 2011 on the mechanism to support the development of wind power projects in Vietnam; the Decision No.08/2020 / QD-TTg amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Decision No.24/2014/QD-TTg dated March 24, 2014 on support mechanism for the development of biomass power projects in Viet Nam. The most recent one is the Decision No.13/2020/QD-TTg on mechanisms to support the development of solar power projects in Vietnam.

45   See at : https://tapchicongthuong.vn/bai-viet/phat-trien-nang-luong-tai-tao-tai-viet-nam-suc-bat-tu-chinh-sach-75060.htm

Figure 50. Energy consumption to GDP (koE/1000 USD GDP)[46]
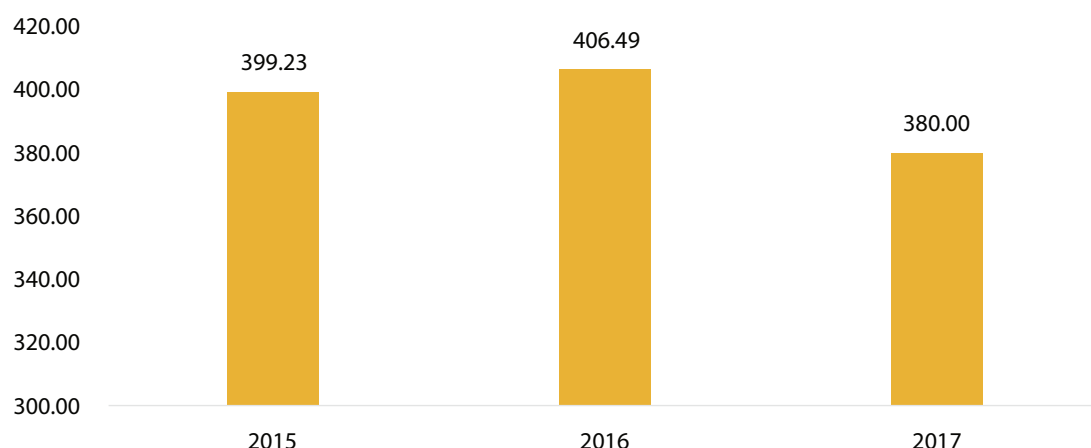
Source: GSO

As such, it is difficult for Viet Nam to meet the proposed roadmap for indicator 7.3.1. In order to improve energy consumption to GDP, which is high mentioned above, Viet Nam needs to implement policies towards sustainable energy use and energy efficiency in a more effective way. In particular, attention should be paid to promotion of sustainable production and consumption (Goal 12).

Target 7.4: By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all, particularly less developed regions, isolated and remote regions, mountainous and island regions (Global target 7.b).

Indicator 7.4.1: Installation capacity and renewable energy production.

Roadmap:

Installation capacity and renewable energy production	2020	2025	2030
- Solar	850MW	4.000MW	12.000MW
- Wind	800MW	2.000MW	6.000MW
- Biomass	1%	1.2%	2.1%
- Hydropower	21.000MW	24.600MW	27.800MW

Currently there are no data on indicator 7.4.1 and the Circular 03 also only plans to collect data from 2025. Therefore, there is no analysis on the implementation of the set roadmap. In recent years, the Government has issued many policies to promote investment in non-hydro renewable power. As a result, installed capacities and clean renewable electricity output are increasing, yet a modest share is recorded. According to EVN, the output of non-hydro renewable electricity reached more than 5.5 billion kWH, accounting for 2.12% of the total domestic electricity production in 2019.

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46   Energy consumption to GDP is calculated by the ratio of energy consumption for production and for living converted to general energy units to total GDP of the country.

SUMMARY

It will be challenging for Viet Nam to achieve SDG 7 on "Affordable and clean energy". Only 2 out of 4 targets are on track to be reached by 2030: target 7.1 on electricity access for all and reliable cum affordable energy services and target 7.2 on renewable energy contribution in the total end-user energy. Main challenges include: i) Low efficiency of energy use in some sectors; ii) Inadequate mechanisms for investment mobilization in renewable energy; iii) Limited infrastructure and technologies for providing clean and sustainable energy, especially to 1% of households living in remote and difficult areas without access to electricity.
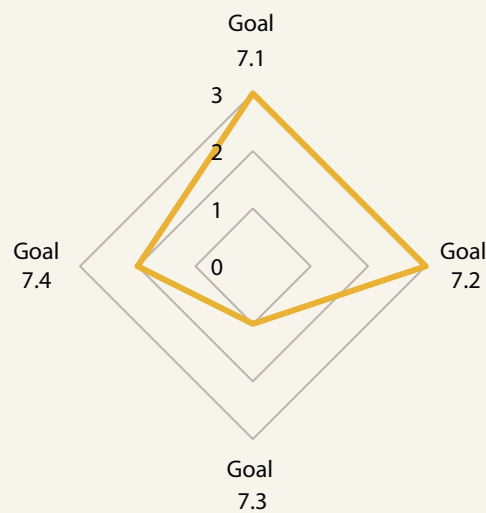
GOAL 8

Ensure sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

GDP GROWTH RATE

6.8% 2016-2019

2.91% 2020
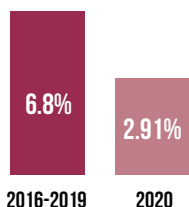
ONE OF THE 10 COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST GROWTH RATES IN THE WORLD IN 2020

LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY GROWTH RATE
in the period 2016-2019

6.3%/year

But still in a big gap with other countries in the region

TFP (2016-2019)
2.93%

Continued efforts are needed to close the gap with more developed countries in the region

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS ALWAYS LESS THAN 3%

2019 — **2.17%**

3.1% Urban area   1.65% Rural area

DIRECT CONTRIBUTION OF TOURISM TO GDP

6.9% **2016**

7.9% **2017**

8.3% **2018**

9.2% **2019**
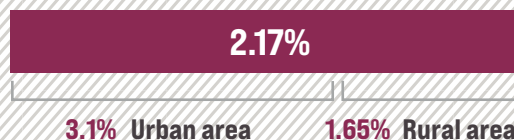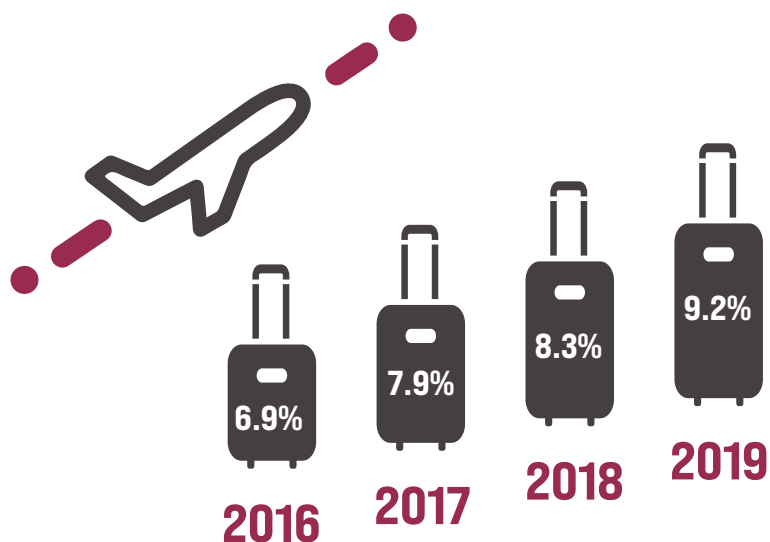
Viet Nam will face challenges to fulfil SDG 8 by 2030. More focus on labour productivity, innovating technology, decent jobs, growth of small, medium, or micro enterprises and ensure safe working environment for all.

Target 8.1: Sustain per capita GDP growth rate of 4.0 to 4.5 % per annum and GDP growth rate of 5.0 – 6.0 % per annum (Global target 8.1).

Indicator 8.1.1: Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Roadmap: Not available.

The Viet Nam's economy keeps growing at high level, reaching USD258.7 billion in 2019. It is 1.3 times and 1.85 times as much as that in 2015 and the ten past years, respectively.

Figure 51. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
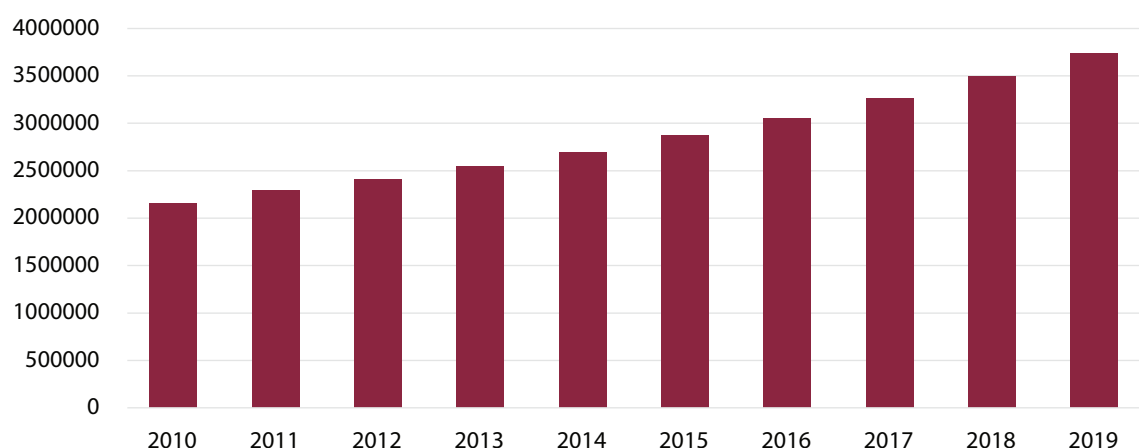
Source: GSO

Indicator 8.1.2: GDP growth rate.

Roadmap: Maintain the growth rate of 5-6% annually.

GDP growth in recent years tends to gradually recover after the decline during 2010-2012. In particular, growth in the past 4 years (2016-2019) was relatively high, at an average of 6.8%.

Figure 52. GDP growth rate (%)
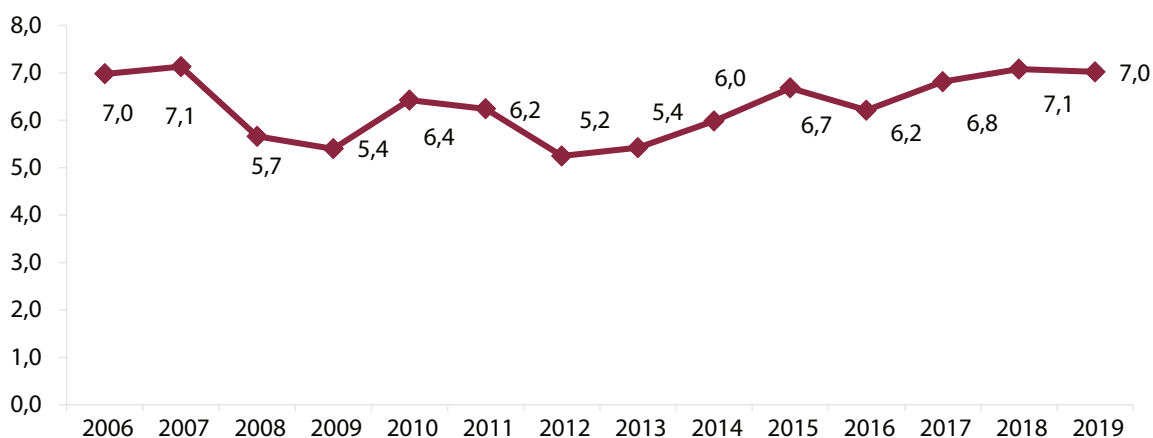
Source: GSO

Indicator 8.1.3: GDP per capita.

Roadmap: Maintain growth rate of 4-4.5% annually.

Along with the trend of annual growth of gross domestic product, the indicator of gross domestic product per capita also shows a growing tendency from USD 1,331 in 2010 to USD 2, 717 in 2019. In terms of growth rate of GDP per capita, GDP per capita increased by an average of 9.6% per year in the period 2010-2015, and only 6.7% in the period 2016-2019. The per capita income in 2019 reached $ 2,717, an increase of $ 619 compared to 2015.

Figure 53. GDP per capita (USD/person) and annual growth rate of GDP per capita (%)
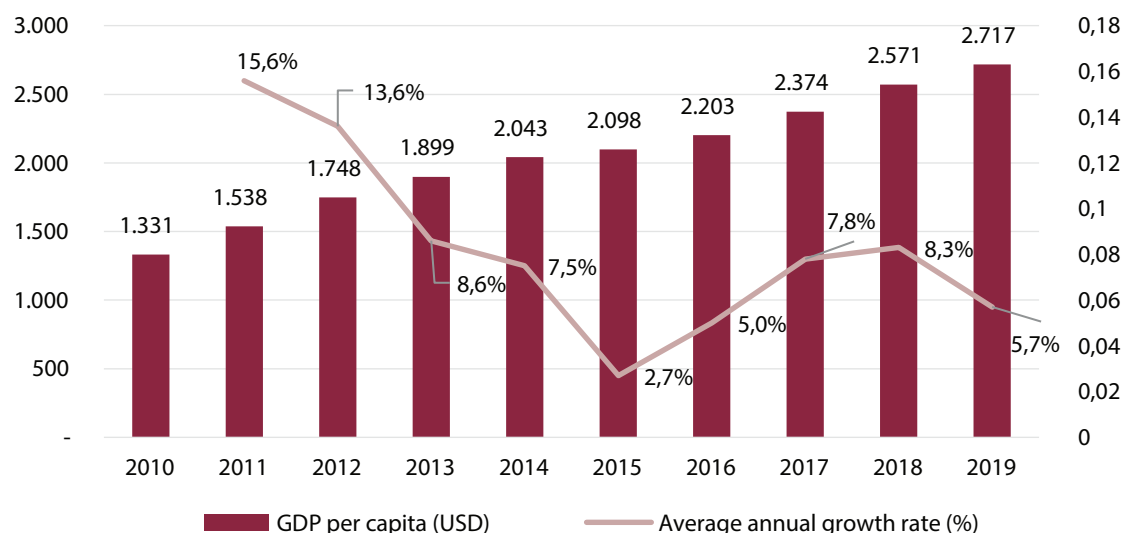
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO and the World Bank

The Covid-19 pandemic that struck in 2020 has been posing serious and direct impacts on the Vietnamese economy and is significantly affecting the implementation of the SDG target 8.1. Viet Nam's GDP growth rate in 2020 reached 2.91%, and Viet Nam is considered as one of the 10 countries with the highest growth rates in the world. However, this is the lowest growth rate in the past decade. Similarly, GDP per capita growth rate in 2020 is estimated at only 1.2% while that in 2019 was 5.7%. However, considering 5-year period 2016-2020 as the whole, the average GDP growth rate could reach 5.8% (that in 2016-2019 was 6.8%) and GDP per capita growth rate could reach 5.5% (that was 6.7% in the period 2016-2019). This is still higher than the roadmap for target 8.1, i.e. 5 - 6% and 4-4.5%, respectively.

If Viet Nam continues to maintain such growth rate in GDP per capita in the coming years, Viet Nam will achieve the roadmap set for target 8.1. However, it is still important to pay attention to the income gap by geographical location and disadvantaged groups as mentioned in targets 1.1 and 1.2 to ensure economic inclusion and social equity (discussed in Goal 10 on reducing inequality in society).

Target 8.2: Increase labour productivity through accelerating economic restructuring, transforming the economic growth model, upgrading and renewing technology, focusing on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors (Global target 8.2).

Indicator 8.2.1: Labour productivity.

Roadmap: Maintain the annual growth rate of 5%.

Labour productivity (measured by the average GDP per employed person) tended to increase sharply in the period 2012-2015 and the growth rate was maintained at more or less 6% per year. In 2019, the labour productivity of the whole economy at current prices reached 110.4 million VND per person (equivalent to $4,738). On average, labour productivity growth rate was 4.3% in the period 2011-2015, and 6.3% in the period 2016-2019, which is higher than the roadmapof maintaining annual growth rate at 5%. This

is the initial result of implementing the Government's policies from 2011 on economic restructuring, transformation of the growth model, improving the business environment, and facilitating the business operations of enterprises and the economy.

However, based on 2011 purchasing power parity, Viet Nam's labour productivity in the period 2011-2019 grew by an average of 4.9% per year, only approaching the target of 5% in the proposed roadmap for the indicator 8.2.1. The biggest challenge is that Viet Nam's labour productivity remains at a relatively low level in absolute value, and the gap in labour productivity between Viet Nam and other countries in the region is still very wide. Specifically, the labour productivity of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia in 2018 was 13.7 times, 5.3 times, 2.7 times and 2.2 times as high as that of Viet Nam, respectively.

Viet Nam needs to make great efforts to improve the labour productivity of the entire economy to be able to fulfil the roadmap.

Figure 54. Social labour productivity (%)
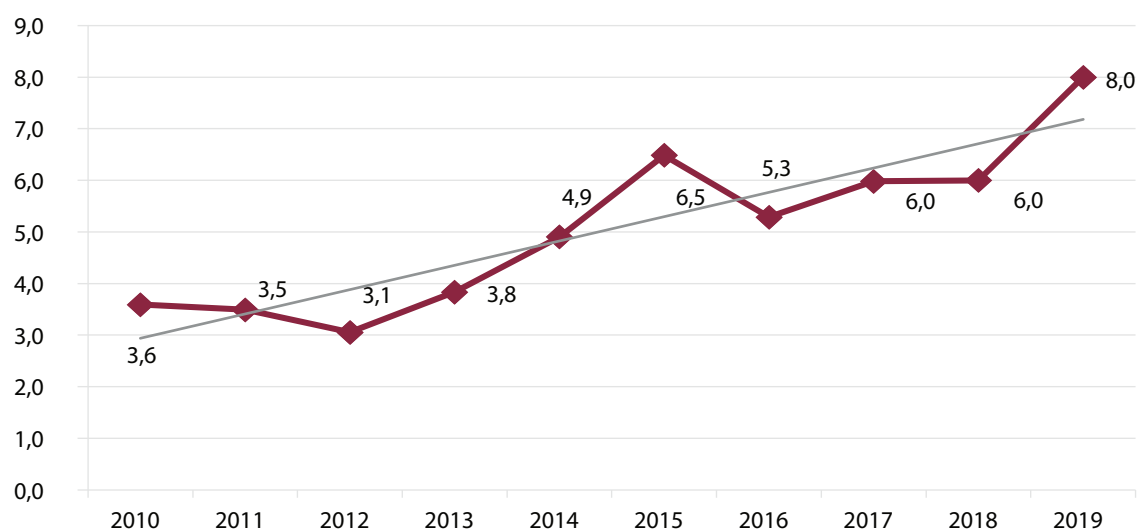
Source: GSO

Indicator 8.2.2: Growth rate of Total Factor Productivity (TFP).

Roadmap: Not available.

Growth rate of TFP improved significantly in the past 5 years. This indicator gained an average 1.98% per year in the period 2011-2015 which improved to 2.93% in the period 2016-2019.

Despite the absence of a roadmap for the indicator 8.2.2, Viet Nam needs to maintain or even improve TFP's growth rate in the coming years to sharply narrow the gap with more developed countries in the region.

Figure 55. Growth rate of Total Factor Productivity (TFP)
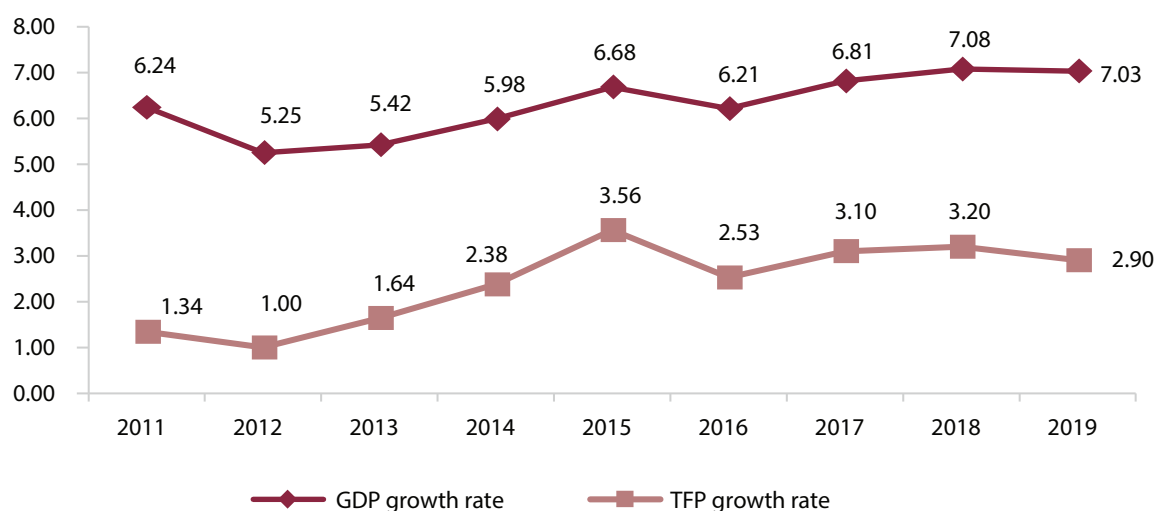
Source: Calculation from the GSO data

Indicator 8.2.3: Contribution of capital, labour force, and total factor productivity to the overall growth rate.

Roadmap: Not available.

The quality of growth has experienced positive changes, reflected in the significant increase in TFP's contribution to the overall growth rate of GDP, from 21.5% in 2011 to 53.3% in 2015 and 42.7% in 2019. Viet Nam's growth has gradually been relying less on capital and labour, with the contribution rates of these two factors decreasing from 52.9% to 49.5% and 25.6% to 7.8%, respectively, during the period 2011-2019. Although the quality of growth has improved, the data in the table 15 still shows that the capital contribution to the growth rate is still high, accounting for nearly a half. This shows that Viet Nam's growth is still heavily dependent on capital.

Table 15. Contribution of capital, labour force, and total factor productivity to the overall growth rate (%)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Contribution of TFP	21.53	19.08	30.27	39.71	53.30	40.68	45.47	45.20	42.68
Contribution of capital	52.92	56.61	52.83	49.41	45.59	50.86	47.91	46.18	49.54
Contribution of labour	25.55	24.31	16.90	10.88	1.11	8.46	6.62	8.62	7.78

Source: Calculation from the GSO data

Target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through improving access to financial services (Global target 8.3).

Indicator 8.3.1: Proportion of informal employment.

Roadmap: Not available.

According to the GSO's data, the proportion of informal employment tended to drop gradually in recent years, from nearly 59% in 2014 to about 55% in 2019. This proportion in rural areas was higher than in

urban areas, and higher among men than women. However, the Covid-19 pandemic occurring in 2020 has recently reversed the decline trend of indicator 8.3.1. For the first 9 months in 2020, the rate of informal employment increased by 1.3 percentage points compared to the end of 2019. This indicates a shift from formal employment to informal employment during the pandemic.

Figure 56. Proportion of informal employment (%)
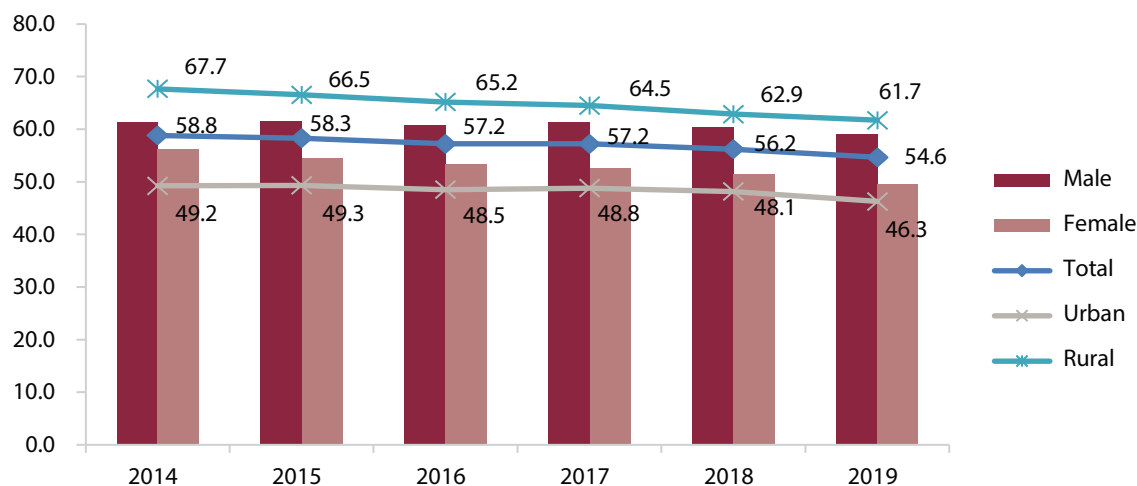
Source: GSO

Informal workers play an important role in the economy. However, according to the GSO's 2016 Report on Informal Employment in Viet Nam, given this workforce has no labour contract, no social and health insurance paid by their employers, no fixed salary, there are no specific and direct regulations for them under the current law. In the informal economy, 97.9% of the workers did not have social insurance, 0.2% had compulsory social insurance paid by their employers and 1.9% participated in voluntary social insurance. Also, according to this report by GSO, on average, monthly salary of the informal economy was 4.4 million VND which is less than that of formal economy (6.7 million VND) in all job positions.

The above analysis shows that the major challenge of Viet Nam when attempting to achieve target 8.3 is how to create decent and sustainable jobs for workers, including those working in the informal sector.

Target 8.4: Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production of Viet Nam (Global target 8.4)

Indicator 8.4.1: Domestic material consumption.

Roadmap: Not available.

Viet Nam has always affirmed its commitment not to trade off environment for economic growth which has been proved by taking many measures to reduce the negative impacts of economic and living activities on the ecological environment. More attention has been paid to resource utilization in production and consumption in the recent years. Yet, the actual results are still far away from the target. Environmental pollution and natural resource degradation are getting increasingly complicated and tend to increase, especially in big cities and industrial zones (more specifically analysed in goals 6, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of this Report).

Viet Nam has not yet collected information and data to evaluate the efficiency of the use of key input materials (such as energy, land, water, minerals, etc.). The Circular 03 provides a roadmap to start releasing data for this indicator from 2025.

In the current context, Viet Nam needs to pay more attention to environmental and natural resource management towards the more efficient use of natural resources and materials for production and daily life in the coming years.

Target 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all men and women, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and ensure equal pay for work of equal value (Global target 8.5).

Indicator 8.5.1: Average income for a person employed

Roadmap: Not available.

The average monthly income of paid workers steadily increased in recent years: from 4.11 million VND per month in 2012 to 4.7 million VND in 2015 and 6.7 million VND in 2019. At current prices, the average monthly income of waged workers grew by 7.2% in the period 2012-2019.

Figure 57. Average income for a person employed
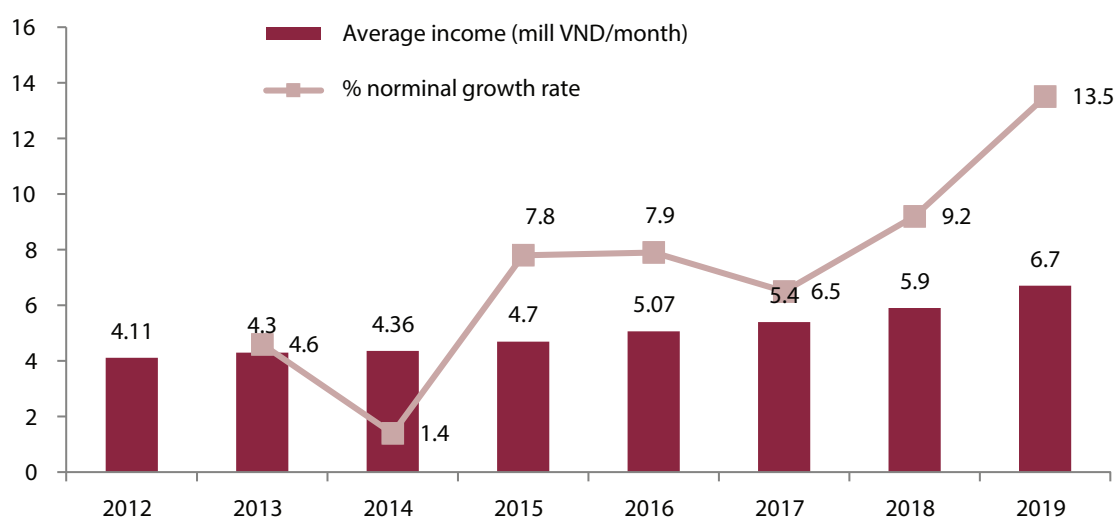
Source: Labour Force Survey, GSO

Among paid employment, a gap (though insignificant) in remuneration existed between women and men. Generally, in 2018, female workers' earnings were only 89% compared to that of male workers. Similarly, there was a small income difference between female and male workers by location and for the same sector. A considerable difference existed in agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors (where women earnings were equal to only 66% of men's).

Figure 58. Differences in remuneration between female and male workers in 2018 (times)
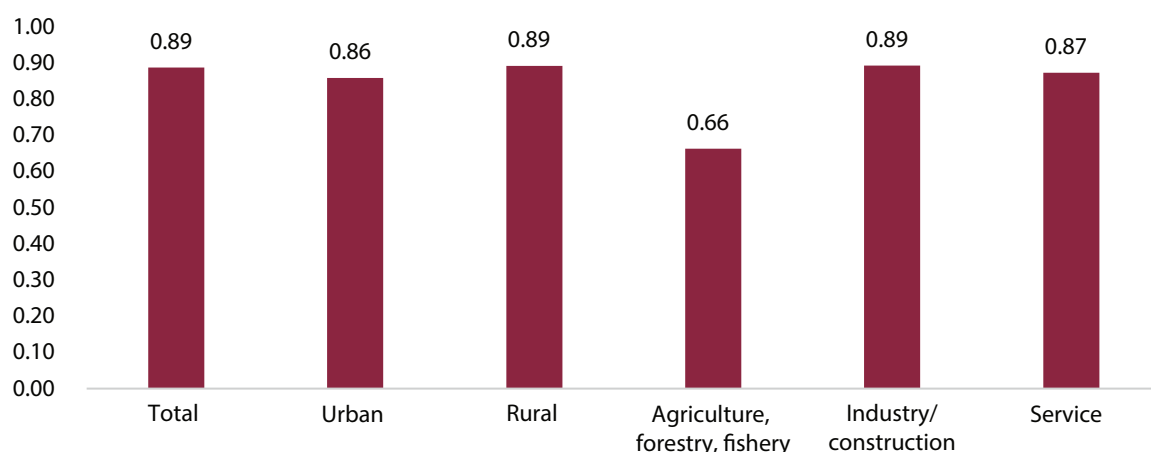
Source: Experts' calculation from the Labour Force Survey report in 2018, GSO

Indicator 8.5.2: Unemployment rate.

Roadmap: By 2020: <3%, By 2025: <3%; By 2030: <3%.

The overall national unemployment rate has always remained below 3% and has tended to decrease in recent years. In 2019, the national unemployment rate was only 2.17%; in which, this rate in urban areas was higher (3.1%) than that in rural areas (1.65%). The unemployment rate was highest in the Mekong River Delta (2.9%) and lowest in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas (1.29%) in 2019.

Figure 59. Unemployment rate of the labour force in the working age (%)
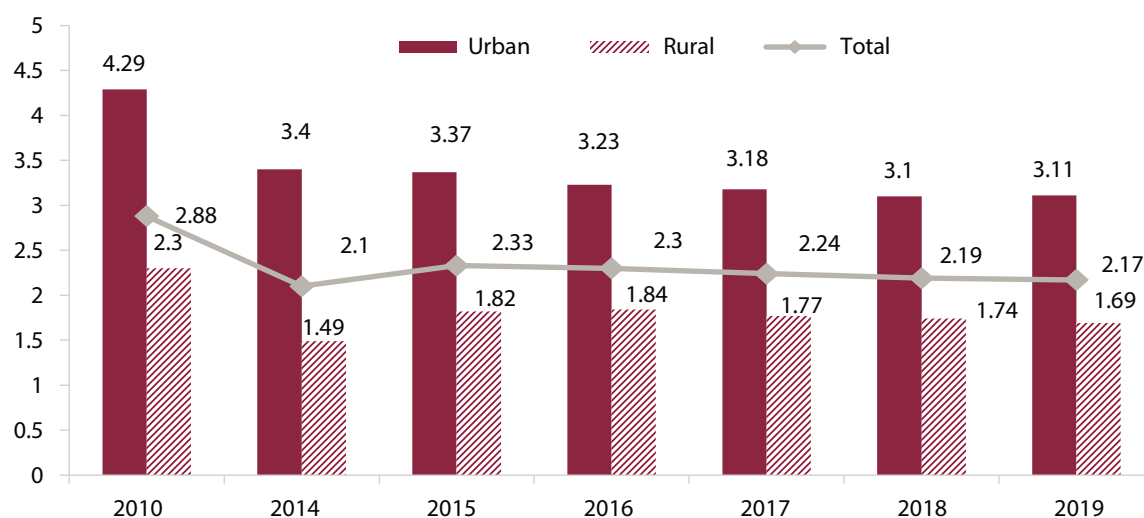
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

Indicator 8.5.3: Underemployment rate.

Roadmap: By 2020: <1.89%; By 2025: <1.89%; By 2030: <1.89%.

The underemployment rate nationwide decreased gradually in recent years, and was low at 1.27% of the workforce in the working age in 2019. Nevertheless, there was a significant difference in this rate between rural and urban areas, corresponding to 1.59% and 0.63% respectively in 2019.

Thus, the unemployment rate is currently lower than the roadmap for 2030. If the underemployment rate maintains at this current low level, Viet Nam will surely meet the roadmap for indicator 8.5.3. However, Viet Nam needs to pay more attention to creating jobs for vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

Figure 60. Unemployment rate of the labour force in the working age (%)
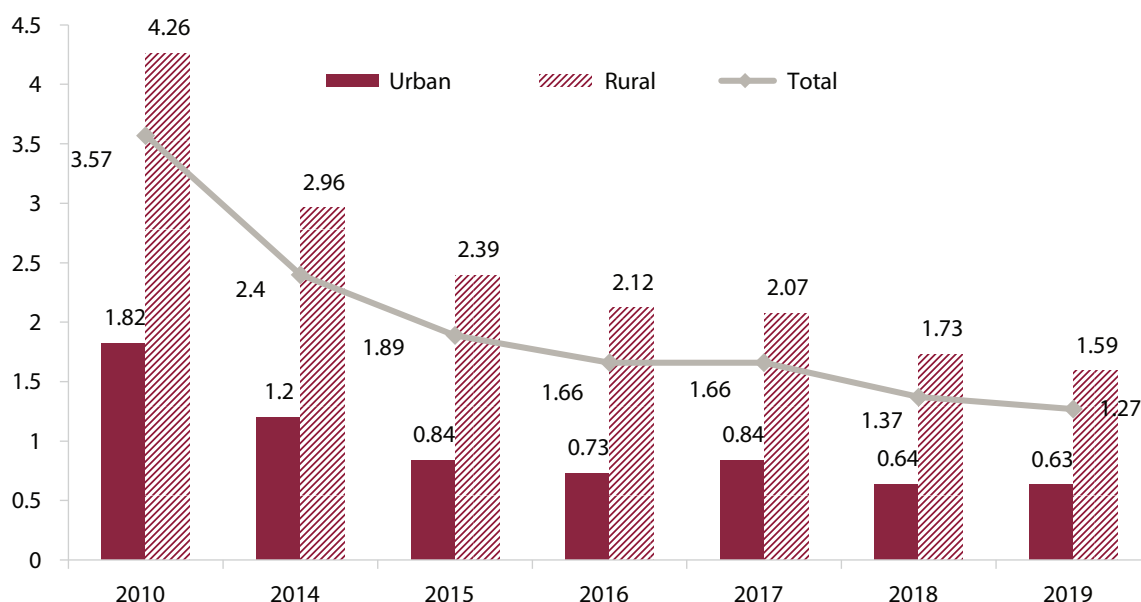
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic had significant direct impacts on the progress of achieving target 8.5 and the roadmap by 2020. Specifically, the Covid-19 pandemic severely affected monthly income of workers. According to data from the GSO's Labour Force Survey in Q3, 2020, income from waged jobs in the first nine months of 2020 decreased by 2% compared to the same period in 2019, and it was for the first time that their income had dropped in the past 5 years. The unemployment rate among people in the working age in quarter 3/2020 rose by 0.33 percentage points over the same period in the previous year and remained at 2.5%, the highest level in 10 years. However, it still meets requirements of the roadmap set by 2020 for indicator 8.5.2 (i.e. 3%). The underemployment rate of workers in the third quarter of 2020 was 2.79%, up 1.2 percentage points from the same period in the previous year, contrary to the downward trend during the past 10 years and higher than the roadmap set for 2020 (1.89%). Of which, nearly half of the underemployed people in working age are working in agriculture, forestry and fishery sector, accounting for 48.2%.

Target 8.6: By 2030, substantially reduce the proportion of young people not in employment, education or training; make proactive efforts in effectively implementing Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organisation (Global targets 8.6 and 8.b).

Indicator 8.6.1: Proportion of persons aged 15–30 years not in employment, education, or training.

Roadmap: By 2020: <7.5%; By 2025: <8%; By 2030: <8%.

Currently, there is no published data on the labour group aged 15-30 not in employment, education, or training as proposed by the indicator 8.6.1. Instead, there is only released data on the percentage of the youth aged 15-24 not in employment, education, or training as described in the following figure. Accordingly, this rate decreased in recent years and stood at only 6.3% in 2018, but rose slightly to 6.4% in 2019. In particular, under the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, this rate inflated dramatically.

According to the results of the Labour force survey in Quarter 3/2020 of the GSO, the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training in the third quarter of 2020 increased dramatically, reaching 12.9%. Thus, this rate is much higher than the roadmap aimed at below 7.5% for 2020. It is noteworthy that the rate of unemployed youth aged 15-24 who graduated from college, university and above was significantly higher than that of youth who just completed short-term vocational education. At the same time, the youth's unemployment rate was 3 times as high as the overall national figure. This shows that the training quality should receive due attention in the coming time to meeting the needs of the labour market.

Figure 61. Proportion of persons aged 15–24 years not in employment, education, or training
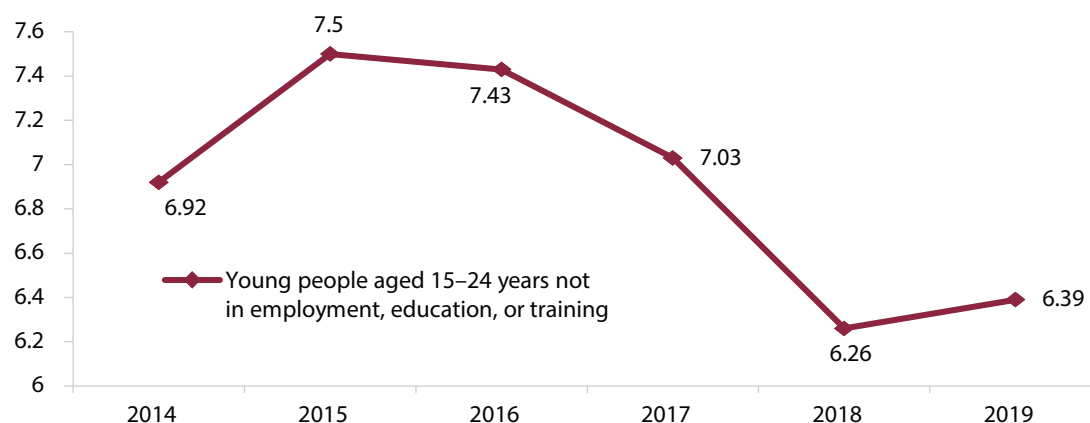
Source: Labour Force Survey, GSO

Target 8.7: Take timely and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and prevent and abolish child labour in all its forms (Global target 8.7).

Indicator 8.7.1: Proportion of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour.

Roadmap: By 2020: <9%; By 2025: <8%; By 2030: <7%.

Viet Nam is one of the countries making efforts to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and has nationalized this Convention into its legal system such as the Law on Children (2016), Program for Child Labour Prevention and Reduction period 2016-2020. To date, there have been two national surveys on child labour conducted by GSO in 2012 and 2018. The results of these two surveys show that the situation of children participating in labour in Viet Nam has experienced positive changes: the scale and trend of children participating in work has decreased sharply, at the same time the school attendance of children participating in work has been significantly improved. While the proportion of working children aged 5-17 years old to the total population of this age group was 9.6% in 2012, the rate dropped to 5.4% by 2018. Meanwhile, the school attendance rate of children participating in work was 43.6% in 2021 and increased to more than 63% in 2018. The findings of the survey in 2018 also showed that the rate of child labour in Viet Nam is at a lower middle level compared to the rate in the region and the world.

Thus, Viet Nam has now completed the roadmap for indicator 8.7.1 by 2030 and set to maintain this result in the coming years.

Target 8.8: Protect labour rights and ensure safe working environments for all workers, particularly women migrant workers and workers in the informal sector (Global target 8.8).

Indicator 8.8.1: Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries.

Roadmap:

Deaths and injuries due to occupational accidents:	2020	2025	2030
- Reduce frequency of occupational accidents every year	5%	5%	5%
- Reduce frequency of fatal occupational accidents every year	5%	5%	4,5%
- Reduce frequency of occupational accidents causing injuries every year	5%	5%	4,5%

Currently, GSO has no data released periodically for indicator 8.8.1 because the Circular 03 set the roadmap not to collect the data for this indicator until 2025. However, MOLISA collected the absolute data for the indicators a), b) and c) used for the roadmap above.

Figure 62. Statistics of occupational accidents during 2014-2019
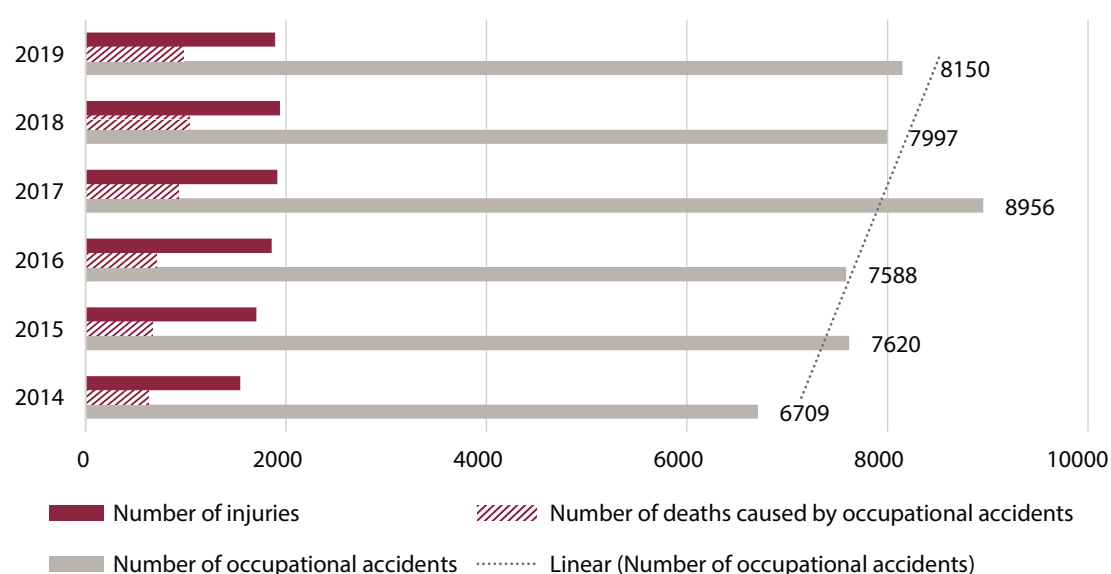
Source: MOLISA

Occupational safety has been gradually implemented by enterprises, especially after the Law on Occupational Safety and Health was promulgated in 2015. However, workplace accidents have not dropped yet. In the period 2014-2019, occupational accidents increased gradually in all three criteria: number of accidents, number of deaths and number of serious injuries. Only in 2019, there were more than 8,000 occupational accidents, causing nearly 1,000 deaths and nearly 2,000 serious injuries.

In fact, the number of occupational accidents and cases of occupational diseases may be much higher than the released figures since only 6% of enterprises reported on their occupational safety and health activities while a variety of enterprises and localities have not actively reported or intentionally concealed information about occupational accidents. Both enterprises and management agencies at localities have not well performed the provisions of the Law on release and reporting of information. In addition, workers in informal sector are not very well managed with the current labour safety regulations. According to the MOLISA's assessment, accidents are caused by both employees and employers. Accidents caused by employees are mainly because they are unskilled, untrained, or low-skilled, inexperienced, and unfamiliar with the mode of industrial production; consequently, they violate labour safety regulations, leading to accidents for themselves and people around them. From the side of employers and management agencies, enterprises have not prioritised investing in or equipping conditions on labour protection, knowledge and skills to analyze, assess, and identify risks of occupational accidents and diseases for employees as well as performing labour safety supervision

at the workplace. More than 80% of establishments have neither implemented working environment monitoring nor conducted check-up of occupational diseases for employees.

Given the above situation, Viet Nam faces many challenges to ensure a safe working environment for workers to reduce the frequency of occupational accidents, and the number of deaths and injuries caused by occupational accidents annually as set out in the roadmap by 2030.

Therefore, in the following years, it is necessary to focus on thoroughly implementing the Law on Occupational Safety and Health, especially for migrant workers and those working in informal areas because they are vulnerable to violations of the existing occupational safety regulations.

Target 8.9: By 2030, develop sustainable tourism, create jobs, and generate tourism products or services that are competitive in the region and in the world; and promote local cultures and products (Global target 8.9).

Indicator 8.9.1: Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP.

Roadmap: Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP: By 2020: 6.5-7%; By 2025: 6.5-7%; By 2030: Total revenue will double that in 2020.

The Circular 03 determines the roadmap to not collect and release the data on indicator 8.9.1[47] until 2025 so to date there is no data to evaluate the status based on the indicator 8.9.1. However, the trend of direct contribution from tourism in the GDP could be reflected in the diagram as follows

Figure 63. Share of accommodation and restaurant services in GDP (%)
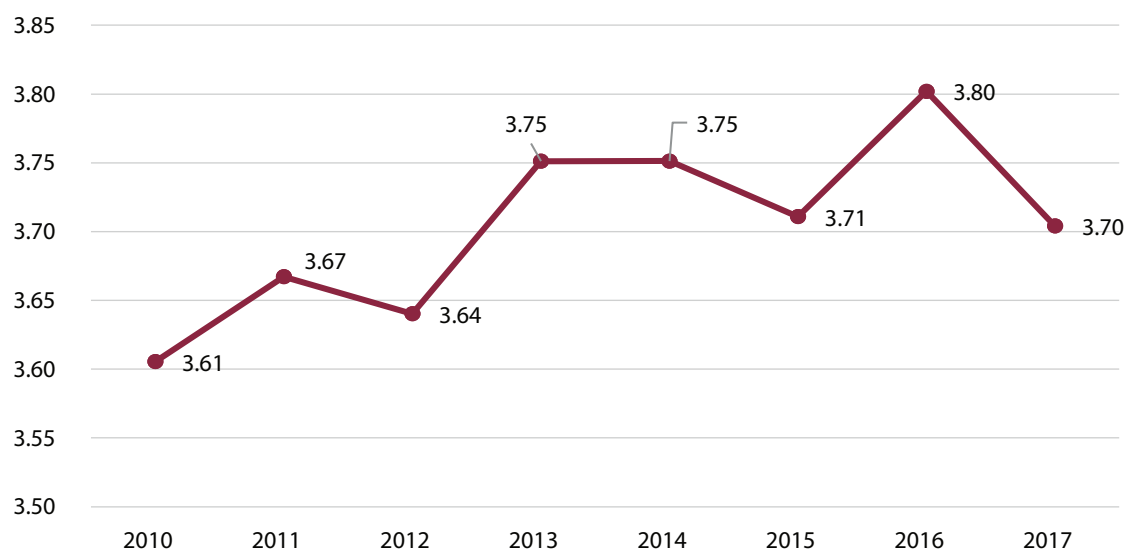
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

The figure above shows that the accommodation and restaurant services alone (as a part of the total value added from tourism) contributed an average of 3.7% to the national GDP[48]. In addition, according to a report by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the direct contribution of tourism to GDP was 6.9% in 2016; 7.9% in 20178.3% in 2018 and 9.2% in 2019.

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47 According to the Circular 03, this is "the sum of the value added generated by all industries to meet domestic tourism consumption plus the net taxes on imports products and goods that are included in the value of these expenses at buyer's prices".

48 Only compute the value added of the accommodation and restaurant services in GDP, not taking into account other tourism-related industries. The full calculation of share of tourism to GDP requires more complete studies.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 has caused severe damage to the tourism industry. Revenue from travel and tourism in the first 9 months of 2020 shrank by 56.3% over the same period in the previous year. Similarly, revenue from accommodation and restaurant services diminished by 15% compared to the same period of the previous year. This will inevitably lead to a decrease in the share of tourism in the national GDP in 2020 and compromise the progress of implementing target 8.9. in 2020. If the pandemic is not controlled soon, the implementation of target 8.9 will continue to face challenges in the coming years.

Target 8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all (Global target 8.10).

Indicator 8.10.1: Indicator 8.10.1: Number of commercial bank branches and number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 population aged 16 years and older.

Roadmap:

Number of commercial bank branches/number of ATMs per 100,000 population aged 15 years and older	2020	2025	2030
Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 population aged 15 years and older	20	>20	>20
Number of ATM per 100,000 population aged 15 years and older	40	>40	>40

According to data of the State Bank of Viet Nam, by the end of 2019, Viet Nam had 10,900 commercial bank branches and about 19,000 ATMs spreading across 63 provinces and cities nationwide. According to indicator 8.10.1, the data for 2019 were: i) The number of commercial bank branches/ transaction offices reached 15.1 per 100,000 population aged 15 and older, a decline compared to 18 per 100,000 population in 2016; ii) The number of ATMs reached 26.2 machines per 100,000 population aged 15 and older, which was higher than the number of 24 machines in 2016.

Figure 64. Number of Commercial bank branches and ATMs per 100,000 population aged 15 and older

Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults from 15 years old

Number of ATMs per 100,000 adults from 15 years old
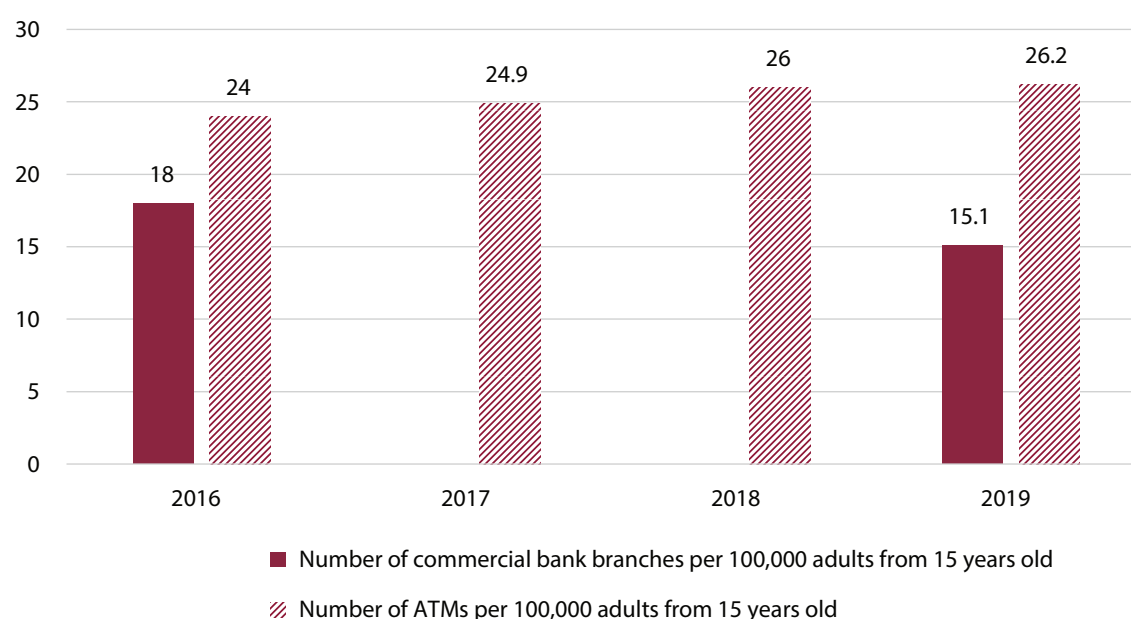
Source: Calculation from the data of the State Bank of Viet Nam and GSO

Although the level of the set roadmap has not been met, thanks to digitization of banking services in recent years, the system of financial institutions and commercial bank branches could well support access to financial services for businesses and citizens more easily and conveniently.

Given the trend of widely applying advanced technology to develop non-cash payments, along with the rapid development of new electronic payment methods such as e-wallet, e-banking, internet-banking, the expansion of ATM network becomes unnecessary and even a waste of resources. Thus, the use of indicator 8.10.1 to evaluate the performance of the sustainable development goal 8.10 may no longer be relevant in the current context.

Indicator 8.10.2: Proportion of people aged 15 years and older with an account at a bank or other foreign bank branches.

Roadmap: By 2020: 70%; By 2025: >80%; By 2030: >90%.

According to the State Bank of Viet Nam, in 2019, Viet Nam had 84.8 million domestic and 14.8 million international circulating cards, equivalent to 87.9%[49] and 15.3% of people aged 15 years while these figures for 2016 were 74 million and 7.5 million cards, respectively. Thus, Viet Nam has completed the goals earlier than the due time set by the roadmap for 2020 and 2025.

Thus, if the current development speed maintains, Viet Nam will surely accomplish the roadmap established for indicator 8.10.2 by 2030.

Figure 65. Number of domestic and international cards in circulation (million cards)

Number of domestic circulating cards · Number of international circulating cards
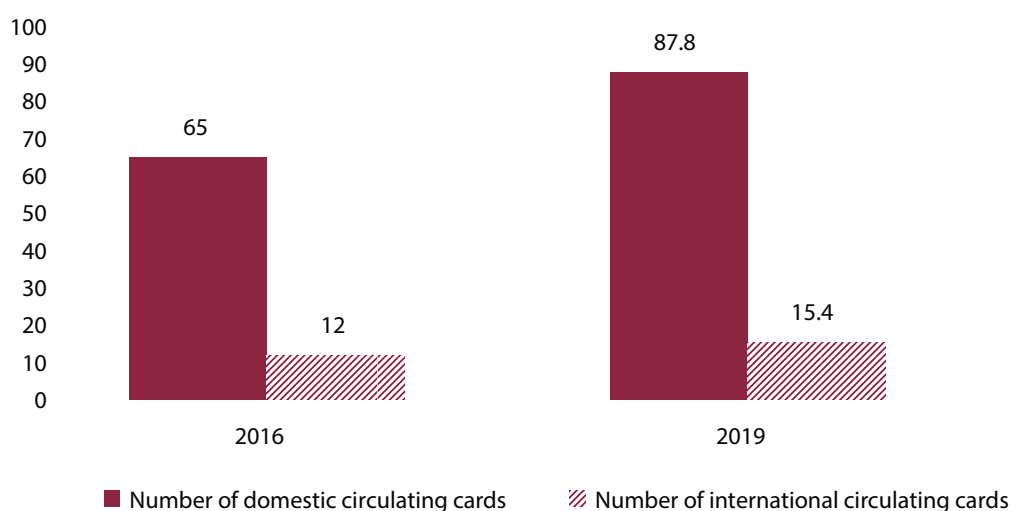
Source: State Bank of Viet Nam

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49   One person may have more than one domestic and foreign spend accounts.

SUMMARY

Many challenges exist in relation Viet Nam's journey to achieve SDG 8 on "Decent work and economic growth". Although Viet Nam is likely to complete 5 among 10 targets (reaching 50%), including target 8.1 (on GDP per capita growth), target 8.5, 8.6 (job generation), target 8.7 (on eradicating forced and child labour) and target 8.10 (on financial institution improvement). However, the remaining 4 targets will be difficult to achieve, including target 8.2 (on labour productivity and technology renovation), target 8.3 (on decent jobs and growth of micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises), target 8.4 (on effective use of resources and decreasing negative impacts from economic growth on environment) and target 8.9 (on growth of sustainable tourism). Target 8.8 on safe working environment for all will be very challenging to achieve. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the current difficulties and resulted in more challenging for sustainable economic growth in the coming time.
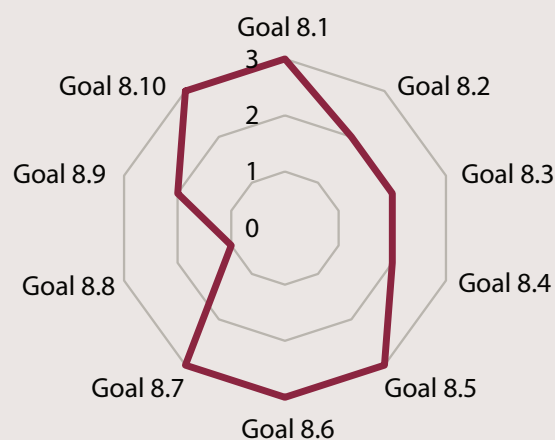
GOAL 9

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

2010-2019

Increased by 9,2% per year
PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION

Increased by 8,8% per year
FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION

THE SHARE OF MANUFACTURING

IN GDP TENDED TO RISE GRADUALLY

REACHED 16.5% (2019)
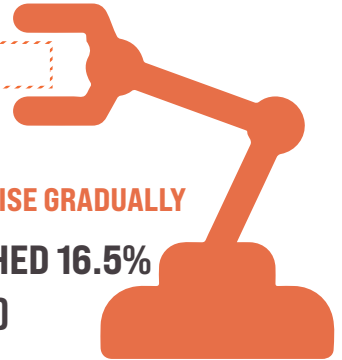
UP TO 31/12/2019

THERE ARE 200,345 SMEs

Have access to credit capital, accounting for 30% SMEs

NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT RESEARCHERS

128,997 PEOPLES — 2013
131,045 PEOPLES — 2015
136,070 PEOPLES — 2017

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE AS A PROPORTION OF GDP

0.37% — 2013
0.44% — 2015
0.52% — 2017

It will be difficult for Viet Nam to fulfil SDG 9 by 2030. More focus is needed on promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, increasing resource efficiency, using clean and environmentally friendly production, enhancing technological as well as R&D capacity.

99.7% OF POPULATION
MOBILE COVERAGE

65.9% OF POPULATION
NUMBER OF INTERNET USERS IS HIGHER THAN GLOBAL AVERAGE (33%)

Target 9.1: Develop a synchronous, quality, reliable, resilient and sustainable system of transportation infrastructure, including inter-regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support socio-economic development and improve human well-being, with a focus on equitable and affordable access for all (Global target 9.1).

Indicator 9.1.1: Volume of passenger transport and traffic[50].

Roadmap: Maintain the growth rate of 8-10% annually for both passenger transport and traffic.

Data released by the GSO shows that in 2019, the transportation system carried nearly 5,000 million passengers, more than 2 times higher than this figure in 2010, equivalent to annual average growth of 9.2% in the period of 2010-2019, contributing to the connection between regions and localities and improved mobility of citizens and businesses. Of which, road system accounted for 94.4% of the total volume of passenger traffic. In addition, the growth of volume in passenger transport was different by forms of transport. The trend also showed a sudden increase in passenger transport by air and road, an average growth of 18.8% and 9.3%, respectively. Meanwhile, a continuous decline in railway has been witnessed since 2013.

Figure 66. Volume of passenger transport by mode of transport (million passengers)
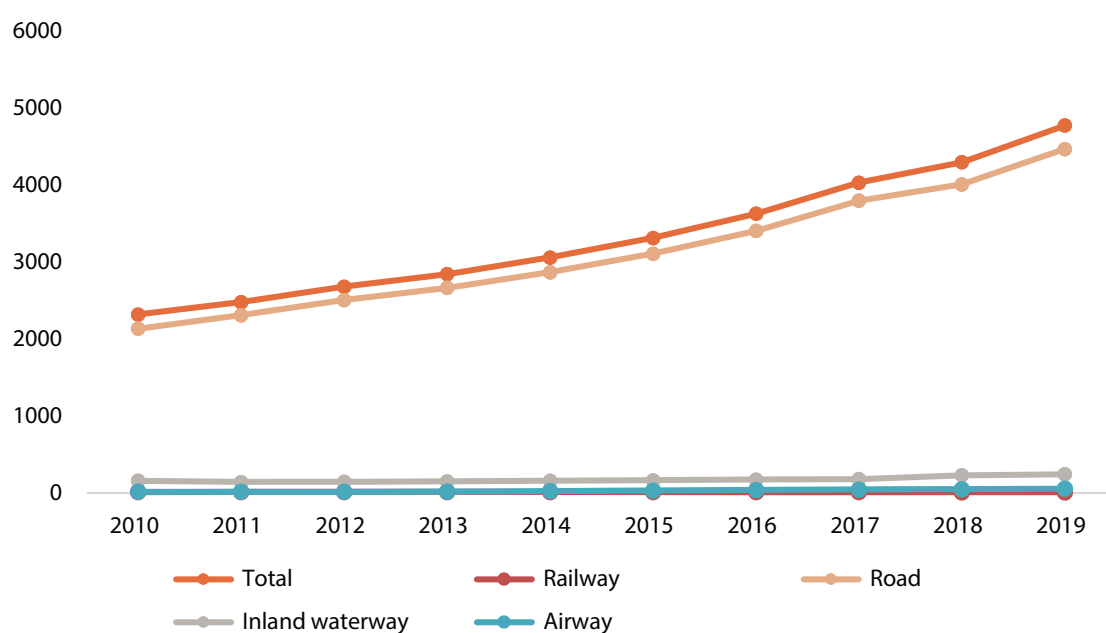
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

A similar trend was recorded for the volume of passenger traffic. In the period 2010-2019, the growth rate of volume of passenger traffic nationwide reached annual average of 10.4%. Of which, air passenger transportation recorded the highest annual growth rate of 16%, road transportation reached 9.4% while railway recorded a downturn in growth.

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50   Volume of passenger transport is the actual number of passengers carried during a period of time, regardless of the distance. Meanwhile, volume of passenger traffic is the number of passengers being transported, calculated by both factors: volume of passenger and the real distance of transport.

Table 16. Volume of passenger traffic 2010-2019 by mode of transport (million passengers.km)

Year	Total	Railway	Road	Waterway	Airway
2010	97,931.8	4,377.9	69,197.4	3,194.5	21,162.0
2011	108,709.0	4,571.0	78,013.3	2,855.7	23,269.0
2012	116,043.7	4,600.6	84,982.0	2,835.1	23,626.0
2013	124,528.2	4,416.6	90,319.8	2,914.1	26,877.7
2014	139,060.4	4,481.9	96,885.3	2,985.7	34,707.5
2015	154,664.7	4,149.6	105,382.2	3,064.5	42,068.4
2016	169,076.9	3,421.6	114,198.8	3,219.9	48,236.6
2017	186,834.4	3,625.1	125,390.3	3,504.6	54,314.4
2018	206,672.7	3,542.1	130,774.7	4,499.9	67,856.0
2019	230,779.9	3,170.5	145,612.6	4,812.9	77,183.9

Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 has impacted the implementation of target 9.1. In the first 9 months of 2020, passenger transport declined by 29.6% over the same period last year; passenger traffic decreased by 35.2% and declined for the first time in the past 10 years. It is estimated that for the 2016-2020 period, passenger transport and passenger traffic experienced only 2% annual growth rate on average, much lower than the target of the roadmap set at 8-10% average annual growth rate to 2020.

Hence, Viet Nam will not be able to complete the roadmap for 2020.

Indicator 9.1.2: Volume of freight transport and traffic [51]

Roadmap: By 2020: Maintain the annual growth rate of 8-10%; during 2020-2030: maintain the annual growth rate of 6-8%.

The total volume of freight transport rose and reached 1.5 billion tons in 2018, an average annual growth of 8.8% in the period 2010-2019, achieving the roadmap of an average increase of 8-10%. Of which, road transport accounted for 78% of the total volume of freight transport in 2019. Similar to passenger transport, freight transport by railway declined gradually and only made up 3.7% of total freight transport in 2019 while this figure was nearly 10% in 2010. In recent years, air freight transport recorded a high growth rate, an average of 13.2% higher than that of other forms of transport, showing that aviation plays a more important role in both passenger and freight transport.

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51 Volume of freight transport is the actual amount of goods carried during a period of time, regardless of the distance. Meanwhile, volume of freight traffic is the mount of goods transported, calculated using two components: calculated using two components: volume of freight transport and actual transport distance.

Table 17. Volume of freight carried during 2010-2019 by mode of transport

Year	Total	Railway	Road	Inland-Waterway	Seaway	Airway
Volume of freight transport (Thousand tons) – Indicator 9.1.2						
2010	800,886.0	7,861.5	587,014.2	144,227.0	61,593.2	190.1
2011	885,681.5	7,285.1	654,127.1	160,164.5	63,904.5	200.3
2012	961,128.4	6,952.1	717,905.7	174,385.4	61,694.2	191.0
2013	1,010,413.9	6,525.9	763,790.0	181,212.7	58,701.6	183.7
2014	1,078,580.9	7,178.9	821,700.0	190,600.0	58,900.0	202.0
2015	1,146,895.7	6,707.0	877,628.4	201,530.7	60,800.0	229.6
2016	1,255,458.2	5,209.0	969,721.0	215,768.2	64,474.4	285.6
2017	1,383,212.9	5,611.1	1,074,450.9	232,813.8	70,019.2	317.9
2018	1,539,271.7	5,717.7	1,207,682.8	251,904.6	73,562.2	404.4
2019	1,689,989.6	5,100.0	1,340,527.9	26,6011.2	77,902.4	448.1
Growth index (Previous year =100)-% - roadmap						
2010	111.9	95.3	114.3	104.7	110.4	136.2
2011	110.6	92.7	111.4	111.1	103.8	105.4
2012	108.5	95.4	109.8	108.9	96.5	95.4
2013	105.1	93.9	106.4	103.9	95.1	96.2
2014	106.7	110.0	107.6	105.2	100.3	109.9
2015	106.3	93.4	106.8	105.7	103.2	113.7
2016	109.5	77.7	110.5	107.1	106.0	124.4
2017	110.2	107.7	110.8	107.9	108.6	111.3
2018	111.3	101.9	112.4	108.2	105.1	127.2
2019	109.8	89.2	111.0	105.6	105.9	110.8

Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

Likewise, the volume of freight traffic also recorded an annual average growth rate of 4.2% during 2010-2019, lower than the roadmap (an average increase of 6-8%). Of which, aviation witnessed the highest growth rate, reaching 15.3% while railway only recorded an annual average growth rate of 1.0%. Notably, maritime transport accounted for the highest share (53.8%) of the total volume of freight traffic, followed by road (25.6%) while railway could only take 1.5% of the total volume traffic.

Table 18. Volume of freight traffic during 2010-2019 by mode of transport

Year	Total	Railway	Road	Inland-Waterway	Seaway	Airway
Volume of freight traffic (million tons.km) – indicator 9.1.2						
2010	217,767.1	3,960.9	36,179.0	31,679.0	145,521.4	426.8
2011	216,129.5	4,162.0	40,130.1	34,371.7	137,039.0	426.7
2012	215,735.8	4,023.4	43,468.5	36,622.5	131,146.3	475.1
2013	218,228.1	3,804.1	45,668.4	38,454.3	129,831.5	469.8
2014	223,151.1	4,311.5	48,189.8	40,099.9	130,015.5	534.4
2015	230,050.4	4,035.5	51,514.9	42,064.8	131,835.7	599.5
2016	241,376.9	3,198.2	57,377.3	44,925.2	135,171.2	705.0
2017	255,932.9	3,616.7	63,459.3	47,800.4	140,307.7	748.8
2018	273,097.0	4,039.3	71,010.9	52,580.4	144,629.2	837.2
2019	294,595.2	3,763.2	78,964.1	55,945.6	154,753.2	1,169.1
Growth index (Previous year =100)-%- roadmap						
2010	109.4	102.5	114.5	101.4	110.2	134.8
2011	99.2	105.1	110.9	108.5	94.2	100.0
2012	99.8	96.7	108.3	106.5	95.7	111.3
2013	101.2	94.6	105.1	105.0	99.0	98.9
2014	102.3	113.3	105.5	104.3	100.1	113.8
2015	103.1	93.6	106.9	104.9	101.4	112.2
2016	104.9	79.3	111.4	106.8	102.5	117.6
2017	106.0	113.1	110.6	106.4	103.8	106.2
2018	106.7	111.7	111.9	110.0	103.1	111.8
2019	107.9	93.2	111.2	106.4	107.0	139.7

Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

With that, Viet Nam is likely to reach the roadmap for indicator 9.1.2 in terms of volume of freight transport, but it is difficult to meet the roadmap for the volume of freight traffic.

In general, the transport infrastructure system has been prioritised by the Government in terms of investment and has always accounted for the highest proportion of the expenditure in the total budget expenditure for the economic infrastructure system. As a result, the capacity of the transport infrastructure system has developed rapidly. According to the Global Competitiveness Report (2018) of the World Economic Forum, Viet Nam's infrastructure system ranks No. 75 out of 135 countries under consideration; it is rated higher than the previous year and higher than the average of the similar middle income economies. Viet Nam's national logistics performance index (LPI) in 2018 ranked No. 39 out of 160 countries, up 25 places from 2016 and ranked No. 3 in the ASEAN region, following Singapore (ranked No. 7) and Thailand (ranked No. 32).

Despite many important achievements in the development of a transport infrastructure system towards a modern and synchronous one, it is still a bottleneck for development towards the goal of industrialization and modernization of the country: The new expressway system has been initially formed but has not yet reached the target by 2020 to put about 2,000 km of expressways into use; the railway system is outdated, high-speed rail has not been invested yet, the very first routes of urban railway system has just been invested in for construction; the seaport system has not been fully exploited with its designed capacity; some airports have been overloaded. Thus, a synchronous and modern transport

infrastructure system has not been formed, especially when benchmarking with international criteria (expressway networks, high-speed railway networks, airports, key seaports).

Target 9.2: By 2030, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization; upgrade infrastructure and develop supportive industries for increased sustainability, improve resource-use efficiency and promote application of clean and environmentally sound technologies and production processes; substantially increase industry's share of employment and gross domestic product (Global targets 9.2 and 9.4).

Indicator 9.2.1: Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP.

Roadmap: By 2030: achieve 30%.

The share of manufacturing in GDP tended to rise gradually over the past 5 years and reached approximately 16.5% in 2019 while this figure was only 13.34% in 2013. However, this share moved up too slowly, even leading to stagnation in the period 2010-2014, showing that the industrialization was too slow, not yet reaching the target set out in the SEDS 2011-2020 "by 2020, Viet Nam becomes a modernity-oriented industrial nation". This is attributed to the following factors: i) Recent economic restructuring has been slow; ii) labour productivity recorded slight increase; iii) Few products and industries of high technology value and competitiveness in regional and international markets have been developed. These will be significant challenges for Viet Nam in the next period.

If Viet Nam keeps the current growth rate, it can only reach the share of manufacturing to GDP at about 20% by 2030, much lower than the roadmap of 30% for the indicator 9.2.1.

Figure 67. The share of manufacturing in GDP
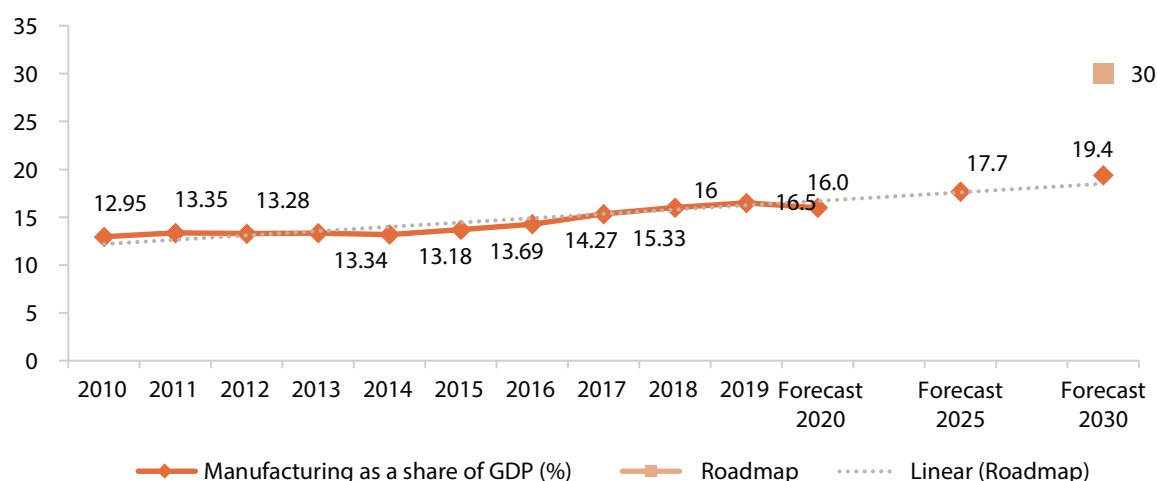
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

Indicator 9.2.2: Value added per capita of manufacturing by purchasing power parity.

Roadmap: Growth rate of manufacturing value-added maintain at >10% per year for period 2015-2030.

According to the GSO, manufacturing value added per capita by purchasing power parity[52] grew gradually with an increase of approximately 2.8 folds in the period 2010-2019, from 0.57 billion VND in 2010 to 1.59 billion VND in 2019. This shows that the manufacturing performance has been gradually more efficient and the industrialization has been strengthened over the past few years.

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52 Measured by the ratio of value added of the manufacturing in the year by purchasing power parity divided by the average population in the corresponding year.

Figure 68. Manufacturing value added per capita by purchasing power parity (billion VND)
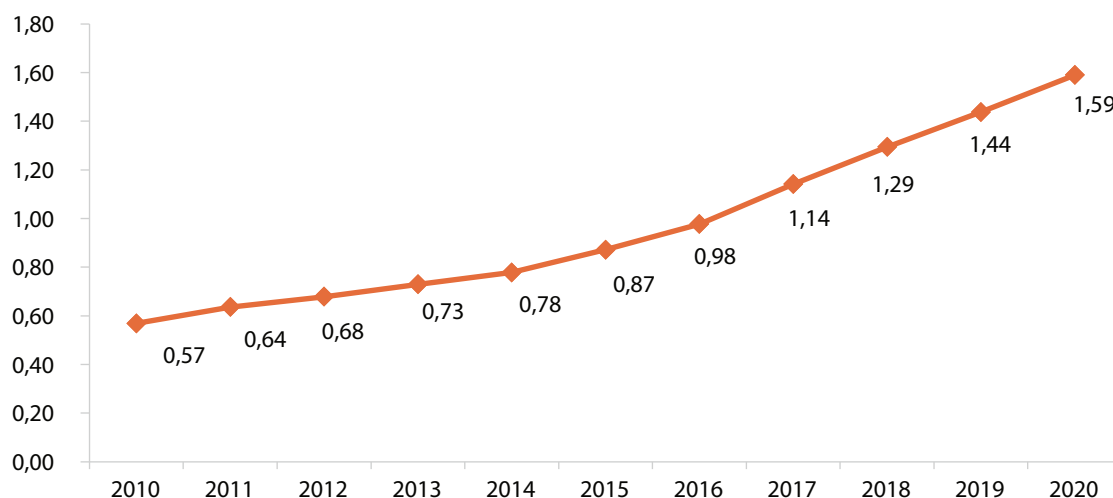
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

Meanwhile, the growth rate of manufacturing (indicator for the roadmap) were always higher than that of GDP, especially in recent years. In the period 2010-2019, the average growth rate of manufacturing of 10.7% shows that manufacturing becomes the driver of economic growth in general and reaches the target set out in the roadmap, at least by 2020. However, it is noteworthy that labour productivity growth rate is still low and mainly characterised by the breadth rather than by the depth.

Figure 69. Manufacturing growth rate versus GDP growth rate (%)
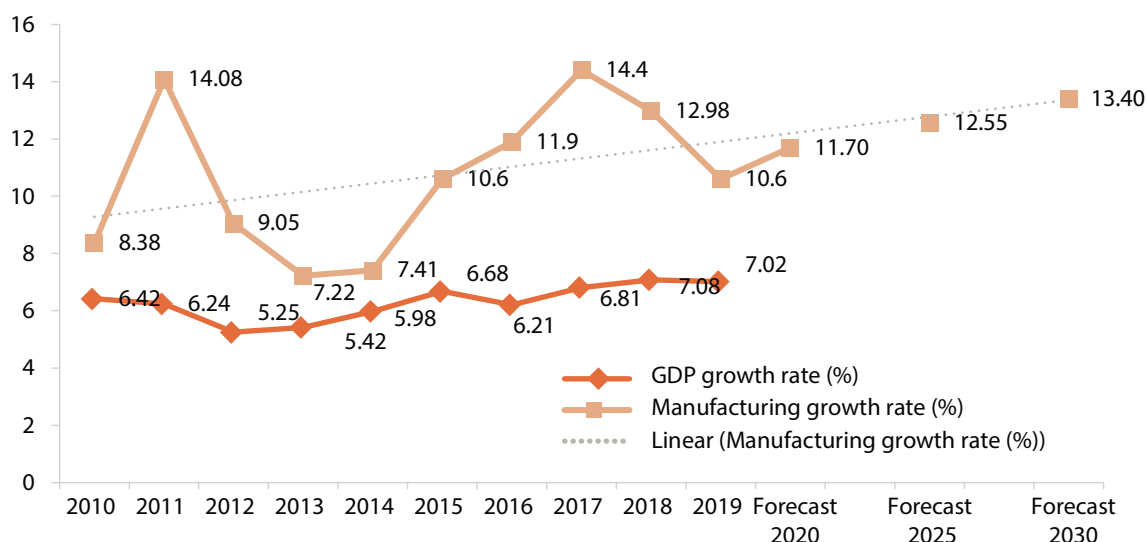
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed a negative impact on the progress of achieving target 9.2. Based on the level achieved in the period 2015-2019, it was forecast that the growth rate of the processing and manufacturing industry would reach about 11.7% in 2020. However, due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the industry growth in 2020 only reached 5.82%, a record low in the past 10 years, much lower than the average rate of 12.3% in the 2016-2019 period. However, the average of the 5-year period 2016-2020 would still meet the set roadmap of 10% per year.

If Viet Nam continues to maintain the current growth rate, the country is likely to complete the proposed roadmap by 2030, which is to scale up the manufacturing by over 10% annually on average.

Indicator 9.2.3: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment.

Roadmap: Not available.

The proportion of employment in the manufacturing as a proportion of total employment increased from 13.5% in 2010 to 20% in 2019, but it is still slow compared to the demand and goals of the Socio-Economic Development Strategy period 2011-2020. It reflects a slow movement of labour from low productivity to high productivity sector is also a factor showing that the recent industrialization process has not met the set target.

Figure 70. Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (%)
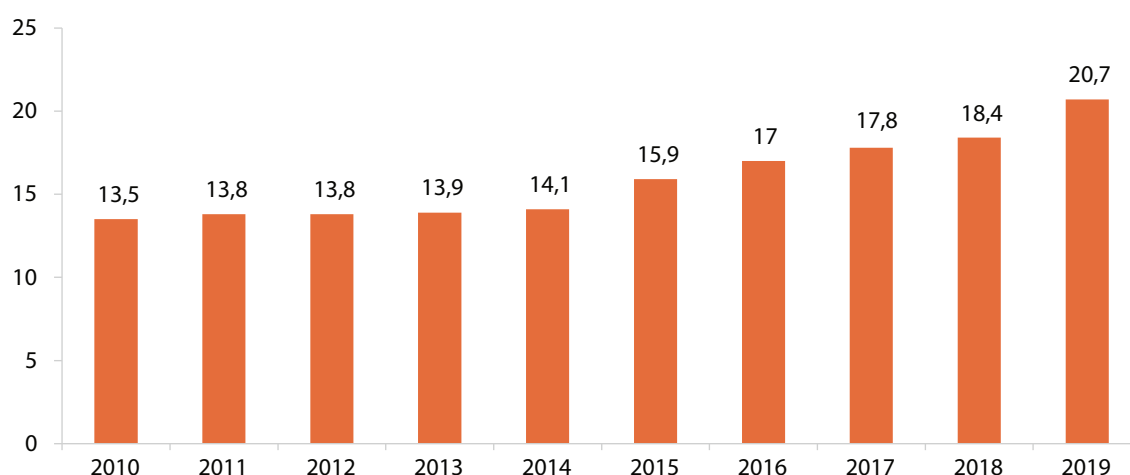
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

Target 9.3: Increase access of enterprises, particularly SMEs, to banking services, including affordable credit services, and their integration into value chains and markets (Global target 9.3).

Indicator 9.3.1: Proportion of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) operating and borrowing capital from formal credit institutions.

Roadmap: "Number of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) operating and borrowing capital from formal credit institutions": 200,000 by 2020; 250,000 by 2025, and 300,000 by 2030.

According to GSO, by the end of 2019, the whole country had nearly 758.6 thousand active enterprises, with a density of 15.4 enterprises per 1000 people of working age or 7.4 active enterprises per 1000 people. In which, SMEs account for over 97% of the total, with a share of 45% in GDP and 31% in total budget revenue. The State Bank of Viet Nam informed that as of December 31, 2019, there were 200,345 SMEs accessing credit capital, accounting for nearly 30% of SMEs. Outstanding loans to SMEs reached 19.53% of total outstanding loans for the entire economy in 2019 and an average of 22% of total outstanding loans in the period 2012-2019. Currently, SMEs mainly access capital through bank credits. The form of capital mobilization through credit funds or SME support programs is still very modest and the actual disbursement is very limited. In addition, credit guarantee is also applied to support SMEs to access bank loans, but the actual capital guaranteed through this channel for SMEs is also insignificant compared to the capital needs of businesses. This is because the implementation of regulations on guarantee for SMEs through the SME Credit Guarantee Fund encountered difficulties and problems,

mainly due to the fact that the guarantee of the Credit Guarantee Fund is a conditional guarantee; accordingly, the Fund can refuse guarantee obligations (Article 32 of the Decree No.34/2018/ND-CP) that lead to risks for credit institutions.

As for indicator 9.3.1, Viet Nam has accomplished the roadmap set out for 2020 ahead of time. In the coming time, in order to continue to expand credit in an effective and timely manner to meet the capital needs for production and business of SMEs, the banking sector will continue to implement proactive and flexible monetary policy management, contributing to curbing inflation and stabilizing the macro-economy to create a favourable business environment for businesses, including SMEs.

Target 9.4: Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capacity of industrial sectors, encourage innovation and invention; by 2030, substantially increase the number of R&D workers; and increase R&D spending (Global target 9.5).

Indicator 9.4.1: Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP.

Roadmap: By 2020: 0.8% - 1%; By 2025: >1.2%; By 2030: >1.5%.

Total national spending on scientific research and technology development as the share of GDP kept growing annually, from 0.37% in 2013 to 0.44% in 2015 and reached 0.52% in 2017. In which, the sources of finance for science and technology has changed significantly. Spending on science and technology from the state budget has gradually decreased, from 56% in 2013, to only 27% of total budget in 2017. Instead, corporate spending has increased dramatically, from approximately 42% to 64% in the same period. This positive change is due to the fact that enterprises have paid more attention to science and technology and invested capital to improve their science and technology capacity and innovation. As a result, Viet Nam's global innovation index (GII) in 2019 improved 3 places compared to 2018 and ranked No. 42 out of 129 rated countries/economies. This ranking improved by 17 places compared to 2016, bringing Viet Nam to no. 1 in the group of 26 low-middle-income countries[53].

Figure 71. Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP by source (% GDP)
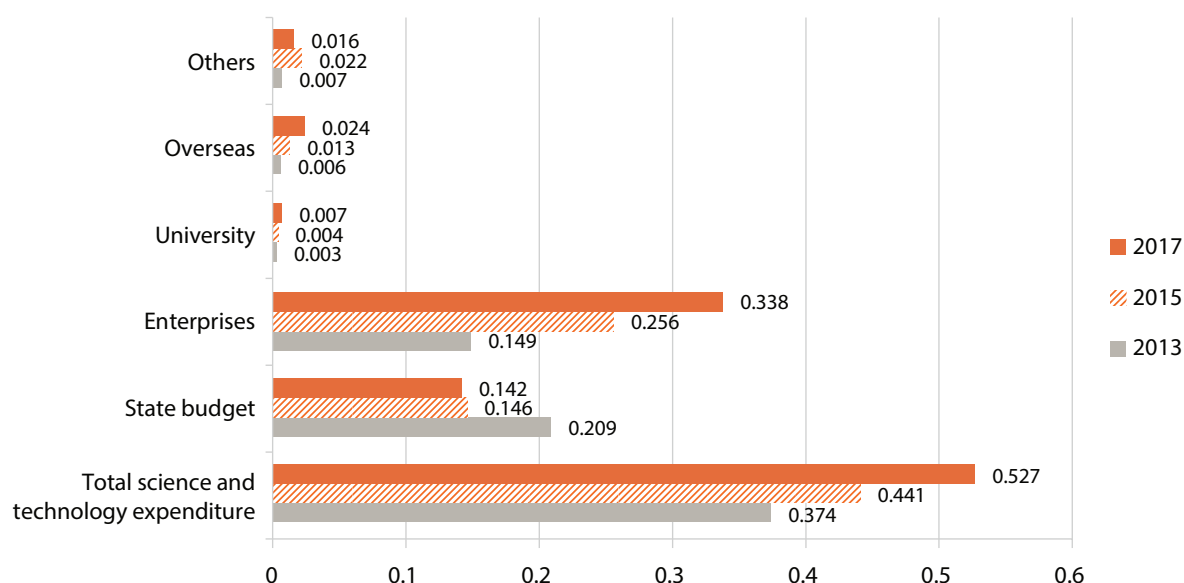
Source: MOST and GSO.

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53   Global Innovation Index 2019. See at: https://www.globalinnovationindex.org/gii-2019-report.

According to MOST, it is not possible to confirm whether the share of spending on science and technology will reach the level set at 0.8-1% GDP by 2020. However, with the current economic situation in the world and Viet Nam, due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is very challenging to reach this level by 2020 due to limited investment resources for scientific research and technology development. The adequate, accurate and timely data collection and dissemination for indicator 9.4.1 should be carried out more frequently in the coming time, especially information on investment in science research and technology from the corporate sector because enterprises in Viet Nam are paying greater attention to improving their scientific research and technology capacity. In recent years, many Vietnamese enterprises, especially large ones, have set up their own scientific research centres or institutes and deployed their own technologies.

Indicator 9.4.2: Number of researchers and technology development workers.

Roadmap: "Number of R&D workers per 1,000,000 population": By 2020: 800; By 2025: >1,000; By 2030: >1,200.

In the period 2013-2017, the country's human resources for scientific research and technological development increased from approximately 129,000 to 136,000 persons. In which, by sector, the number of scientific research and technology development workers in 2017 of higher education institutions accounted for 51.24%; that of scientific research and technology development organizations accounted for 19.8 %; that of administrative and non-business units made up 11.92%; that of enterprises accounted for 15.17%; and that of S&T service organizations accounted for 1.87%. According to calculations by MOST, the number of full-time scientific research and technology development workers per one million people in 2015 was 686 people and in 2017 it was 702 people[54]. Based on the growth rate in the period 2015-2017, it is possible that the roadmap set at 800 full-time science research and technology development workers per one million population for 2020 will not be fulfilled, and challenges will be encountered when trying to reach the milestones for 2030.

Figure 72. Number of R&D workers (persons)
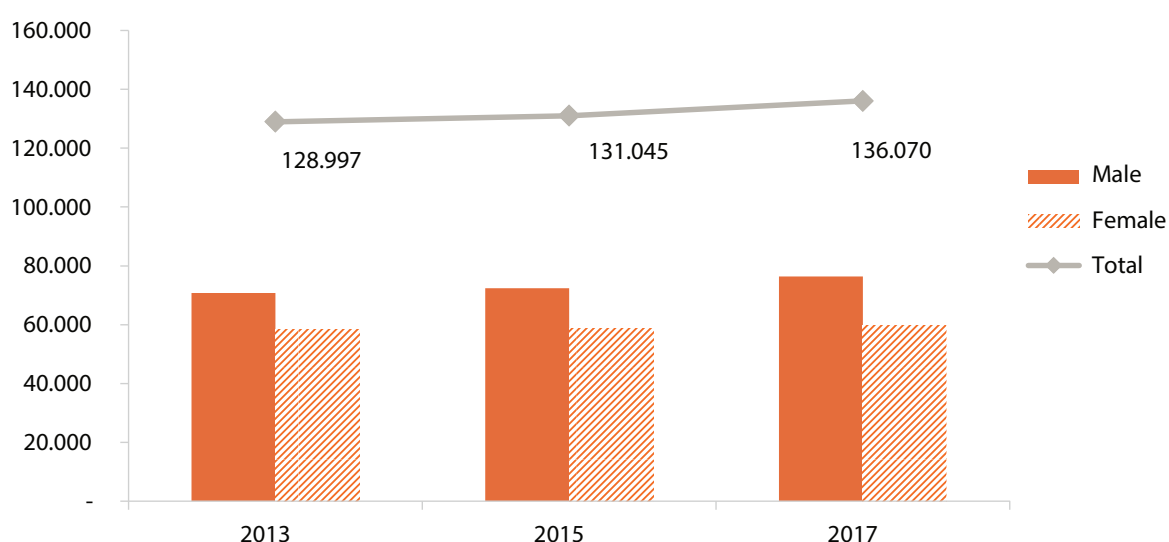
Source: MOST

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54   To calculate the number of R&D workers, different coefficients need to be used. For example, the conversion coefficient for staff working in R&D agencies is 1; for university is 0.25; for enterprise is 0.7, administrative and public services is 0.16, and non-profit is 0.36. (GSO).

Target 9.5: By 2030, ensure that information technology infrastructures are developed in each and every location, particularly in isolated, remote, border, mountainous and island regions. Ensure that 100% of households have access to the information and communication systems (Global target 9.c).

Indicator 9.5.1: Proportion of population with mobile coverage.

Roadmap: By 2020: 95%; By 2025: 100%; By 2030: 100%.

Thanks to the great attention paid to information technology (IT) infrastructure which has improved significantly in recent years, as informed by MOIC (Telecommunications Agency), the telecommunications infrastructure possesses more than 800,000 km of fiber-optic cable connected to villages/ communes/ wards across all 63 provinces. Mobile phone network has covered 99.7% of the population, of which 3G and 4G coverage has been serving over 98% of the population and formed a global highway connection[55].

Viet Nam is considered a country with a high density of telecommunications service compared to other countries in the world. By 2019, the number of Internet users reached 65.9% (equivalent to 64 million users, more than double that of 30.8 million users in 2013), higher than the world average of 33%[56]. Among 64 million internet users in Viet Nam, the number of users accessing to the Internet via mobile devices was 61.73 million persons (accounting for 96% of Internet users). Among 143.3 million registered mobile subscribers, 45% of them already signed up for 3G & 4G.

In the future, Viet Nam will continue to invest in and upgrade telecommunications infrastructure, expand 4G networks, deploy 5G and wide-ranging fiber-optic networks to provide high-capacity and high-quality connections to meet the needs of IT and industrial revolution 4.0 of the country.

Thus, it can be affirmed that Viet Nam has completed the roadmap set out for 2020 ahead of time, and will surely complete the roadmap scheduled for the years 2025 and 2030

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55 Source: https://ictnews.vietnamnet.vn/multimedia/vung-phu-song-di-dong-3g-4g-da-phuc-vu-tren-98-dan-so-viet-nam-26469.html

56 Report of MOIC.

SUMMARY

Overall, Viet Nam is facing a lot of difficulties in completing SDG 9 on "Build resilient infrastructure; promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster renovation". There is a potential to achieve are 3 out of 5 targets under this SDG, including target 9.1 (on synchronous and resilient system of transportation infrastructure), target 9.3 (on increasing enterprises' accessibility to banking services) and target 9.5 (on informatics infrastructure development). However, the two remaining targets will be very challenging to achieve. They are target 9.2 on inclusive and sustainable industrialization, increasing the effectiveness of resources use and applying environmentally clean production process and target 9.4 on improving technology capacity, increasing number of R&D employees as well as investment for science and technology. These two are considered very important in the coming time for Viet Nam to be able to close the gaps in relation to other nations in the region.
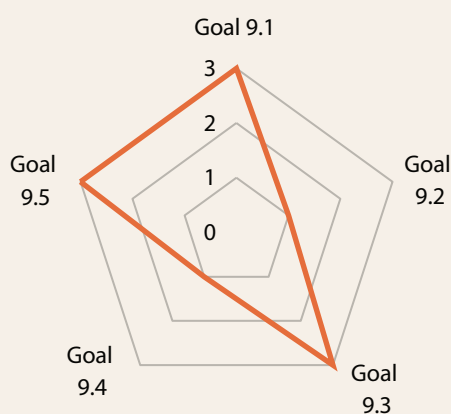
GOAL 10
Reduce social inequalities

THE INCOME GROWTH RATE OF THE LOWEST-INCOME 40% POPULATION ALMOST CAUGHT UP WITH THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. HOWEVER, IN ABSOLUTE VALUE, THE DIFFERENCE REMAINS SIGNIFICANT

- Income growth rate of Q40 compare to national income growth rate (%)
- National income growth rate after each period (%)
- Income growth rate of the bottom 40% of population (%)
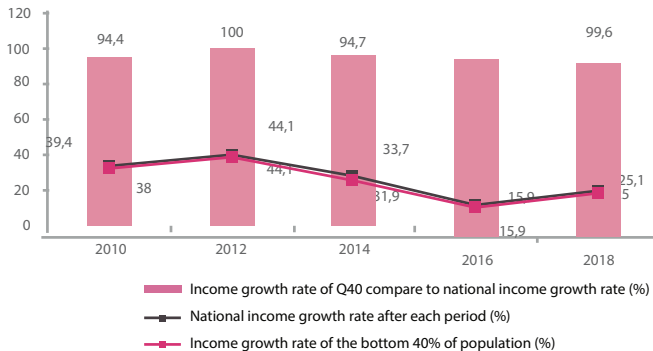
Ensure **equal opportunity** in accessing resources and benefit **for all**, especially through social security policies, education and training, medical and healthcare

According to Viet Nam's law, **all citizen** has the right to participate in policy and law developement

ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA IS 8.6%, IN WHICH MAJORITY STILL ACCOUNTED FOR LIVING EXPENDITURE

Urban area — Rural area — Overall
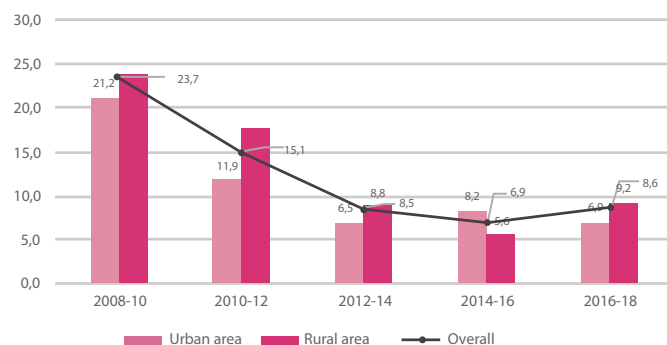
Vietnam's role and position **are increasingly enhanced** in multilateral institutions/forums, especially Viet Nam was selected to be a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2020-2021

Viet Nam still faces a lot of challenges in realizing SDG 10 by 2030.

Areas that need to be focused on including:

Widening income gap between the richest quintile and the poorest quintile

Ensuring equality in wage and fiscal policies

Orderly implement migration policies with good management

Target 10.1: By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average (Global target 10.1).

Indicator 10.1.1: Growth rates of household income per capita.

Roadmap: The income growth rate of the bottom 40% of the population compared to average income growth rate of households: 90% by 2020, 95% by 2025, and 100% by 2030.

According to data from the Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey for the period 2010-2018, the monthly household income per capita has improved significantly, from roughly 1.4 million VND in 2010 to approximately 3.9 million VND in 2018, almost tripled at current prices. Notably, the income growth rate of the lowest-income 40% population almost caught up with the national average (reaching 99.6% in 2018). However, in absolute value, the difference is somewhat larger and tends to increase. For example, if the income gap between the poorest quintile (20% population) and the richest quintile was 9.2 times in 2010, by 2018 the gap was close to 10.1 times.

Figure 73. Growth rates of household income per capita (%)

Income growth rate of Q 40 compared to the national income growth rate (%)

Total growth rate (%) after each period

Income growth rate of the bottom 40% of the population (%)
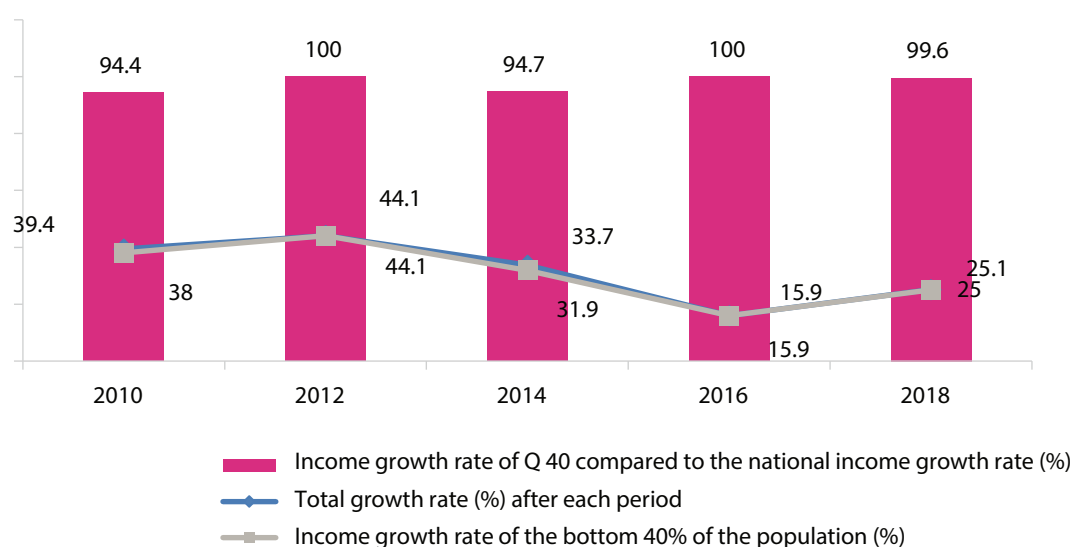
Source: Calculation from the Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey 2010-2018, GSO

As such, Viet Nam is likely to complete the roadmap set for 2030, i.e. the income growth rate of the lowest-income 40% population is equal to the national average household income growth rate (100%). However, meeting requirements of such a roadmap cannot guarantee that target 10.1 has been well performed; and the income gap between the richest and the poorest quintile will not improve given a 1% increase in income of the richest quintile is far different from a 1% increase in income for the poorest quintile.

Indicator 10.1.2: Growth rates of household expenditure per capita.

Roadmap: Not available.

According to the data from the Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey during 2010-2018, annual growth rates of household expenditure per capita tended to drop over the period, from 23.7% during 2008-2010, to 6.9% during 2014-2016 and rose again to 8.6% for the period 2016-2018. The growth rates of household expenditure in rural areas were always higher than that in urban areas (except for the period 2014-2016), standing at 9.2% and 6.9%, respectively during 2016- 2018.

Also from the same source of data, the proportion of expenditure on living of household still accounted for the majority of Vietnamese household expenditures, up to 94% in 2010 and 93.5% in 2018, of which more than half was spent on food (making up 52% in 2010 and 51% in the same period). Notably, the growth rate of household expenditures for living per capita of the bottom 40% of the population in the period 2010-2018 was higher than the national average in each survey period, 1.3 times higher than the national average in the period 2016-2018, indicating that the savings capacity of the lower-income group of households was still very limited, implying that they are not very resilient against economic shocks.

Figure 74. Growth rates of household expenditure per capita at current prices (%)
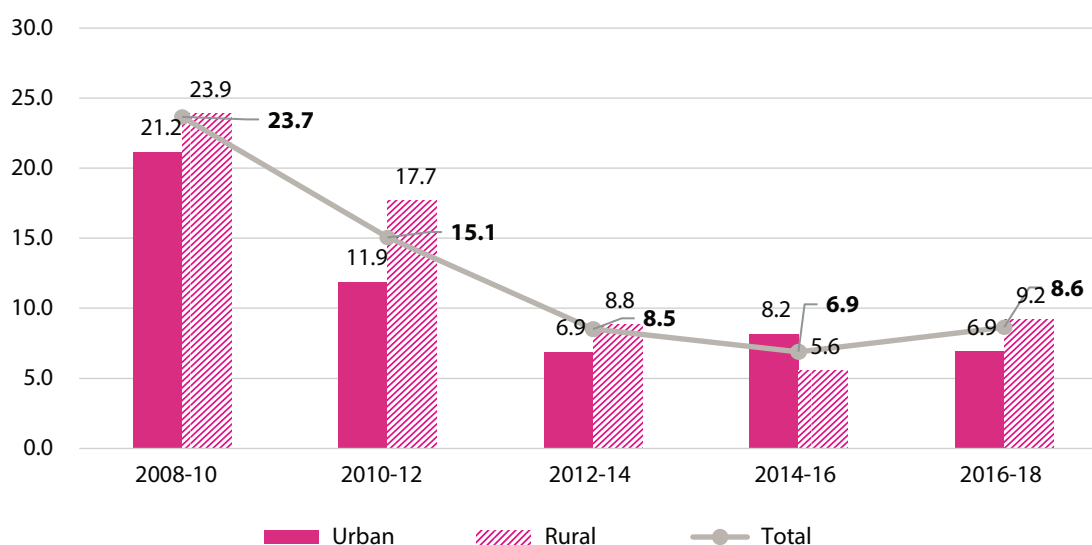
Source: the Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey, GSO

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic imposed direct and immediate impacts on the progress of implementing target 10.1. Specifically, household income fell sharply due to the Covid-19 pandemic when the income in April 2020 was only equal to 29.7% of that in December 2019. It improved to 51.1% in May 2020. The worst impact on income occurred to vulnerable households, especially households of ethnic minorities, households with informal workers and migrants[57]. And, when household income declined due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, consumers tended to be more careful with money when spending which resulted in impacts on the progress of implementing SDG 10.1, at least in 2020.

Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status (Global Target 10.2).

Indicator 10.2.1: Proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income.

Roadmap: Not available.

As of now, GSO has not released the data so there is no basis to analyse the trend of indicator 10.2.1. However, it can be affirmed that under the current law, Vietnamese people regardless of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic status can participate in developing policies and laws through their political representatives (National Assembly, People's Council), socio-political organizations that they are members of or through the mass media. They can also directly make decisions regarding national issues when the State organizes referendums, or directly decide on grassroots issues according to the provisions of law.

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57   Source: Impacts of Covid-19 pandemic on the progress of implementing the VSDGs, report of MPI, September, 2020.

People's participation is facilitated in the entire policy-making process: from the initial proposals, to policy formulation, decision-making, and implementation. However, depending on the nature of specific policies, people can participate in the process directly or indirectly, at different levels.

It can be said that the methods and forms for people to participate in the process of formulating laws and policies as well as monitoring the State's activities are very diverse in all aspects. People have the right to express their will and aspirations to state agencies in the process of lawmaking and law enforcement.

Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunities and reduce inequalities of benefits for all citizens.

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

The content related to target 10.3 has been shown in other relevant VSDG mentioned above, such as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8, etc. A number of indicators related to this target could be named: i) Percentage of population participating in health insurance (Goal 3); ii) Indicators regarding access to general education and vocational training (Goal 4) and so on..

In general, it can be affirmed that Viet Nam has basically guaranteed equal opportunities for all, especially the current policies on social security, education and training and welfare aim at reducing inequality in accessing to resources and benefits. Viet Nam needs to maintain its achievements, but at the same time, the Government should pay more attention to the vulnerable groups in the policy development and promulgation in the coming years to make sure no one is left behind.

Target 10.4: Develop and implement policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality (Global target 10.4).

Indicator 10.4.1: Labour share of GDP.

Roadmap: Not available.

The share of the value of labour in the gross domestic product is the share paid to employees in the gross domestic product. GSO is the agency assigned with duties to collect and publish the data. This indicator is quantified every 5 years through statistical survey and at present the data has not been collected for this indicator.

Ensuring equity in fiscal, wage and social security policies has been presented in other SGD targets, such as target 1.2 on social security or target 8.5 on wages, and it could be seen that there are still some shortcomings in ensuring gender equality and among population groups in these areas. Therefore, Viet Nam needs to improve existing policies on wages and the social security system, especially social insurance in the coming years to ensure better implementation of target 10.4.

Target 10.5: Ensure enhanced representation and voice of developing countries in decision-making processes of prestigious international organizations, in order to safeguard their benefits and create enabling conditions for narrowing development gaps between countries (Global target 10.6).

Indicator 10.5.1: Number of international organizations in which Viet Nam has membership.

Roadmap: Not available.

Indicator 10.5.2: The number of international organizations in which Viet Nam holds leadership positions from subcommittee level.

Roadmap: Not available.

At present, there is no data on indicators 10.5.1 and 10.5.2. In general, Viet Nam's position is increasingly improving in the international arena.

Along with the strengthened position and power of the country, Viet Nam has had an increasingly higher role and position in multilateral institutions/forums, clearly reflected in the fact that Viet Nam has been elected to many important UN bodies, such as a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the 2014-2016 term, the Economic and Social Council for the 2016-2018 term, the Heritage Committee and the Executive Council of the UNESCO for the 2015-2019 term, and most recently it was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2020-2021 term. As a member of international organizations in the framework of the United Nations, Viet Nam has actively participated in and presided over activities related to international cooperation institutions under these organizations, at the same time actively participated in regional cooperation partnerships such as APEC, ASEAN, the International Mekong River Commission, and Mekong Sub-Region Cooperation.

Target 10.6: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned, well-managed migration policies (Global target 10.7).

Indicator 10.6.1: Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of income earned in country of destination.

Roadmap: Not available.

This indicator reflects the ratio of the total cost migrant workers has to pay to work abroad to their average monthly income generated from that job in the destination country. At present, there is no periodic statistical survey related to this issue, and according to the Circular 03, the indicator 10.6.1 will be quantified from 2025 onwards.

Currently, the number of people migrating abroad to live, work and study is increasing. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) [58], the number of workers going abroad to work under contracts in 2018 is more than 142,000 people, of them 50,000 are women. In addition, there is also a large number of workers who have practiced irregular migration, especially to European countries. Labour migration through informal channels puts migrant workers at risk of labour exploitation, limiting their access to assistance and justice while staying abroad. According to a report by the ILO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) [59], Vietnamese workers have to pay the highest cost to work abroad compared to some countries in the region. Workers also have to bear huge debts and have to work for the longest period of time - up to 11 months - to be able to repay the debts.

Thus, in the coming years, Viet Nam should have better policies to create conditions for workers to migrate to other countries through regular channels, while at the same time limit risks occurring in the process of working overseas; have policies available to attract and employ returned migrant workers in an effective way when they return to participate in the domestic labour market.

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58 Source: https://www.ilo.org/hanoi/Informationresources/Publicinformation/Pressreleases/WCMS_725752/lang--vi/index. htm.

59 Risks and benefits: impacts of labour migration in Southeast Asia – Key findings in Vietnam; 2018. See at: https://www.ilo. org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-hanoi/documents/publication/wcms_630873.pdf

SUMMARY

Despite of many achievements in improving social equality, Viet Nam still faces a lot of challenges in realizing SDG 10 on "Reduce social inequalities". It appears possible for Viet Nam to complete 3 amongst 6 targets, including target 10.2 (on empowerment and enhancement of wide participation from all the people), target 10.3 (on assurance of equal opportunities and reduction of inequality of benefit); and target 10.5 (on the representation and voices from developing countries in decision-making process of prestigious international organizations). For other targets, it will be very challenging for Viet Nam to achieve, therefore, there are issues that need enhanced efforts: i) increasing gaps between the richest and the poorest groups (target 10.1); ii) Fiscal and wage policies should assure equality (target 10.4); iii) Migration policies should be well planned and successfully controlled (target 10.6).
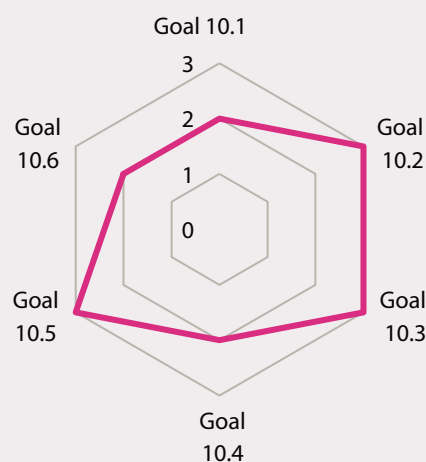
GOAL 11

Promote sustainable, resilient urban and rural development; ensure safe living and working environments; ensure reasonable distribution of population and work force by region

PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS LIVING IN POORLY BUILT HOUSES

5.5% 2010

1.7% 2018
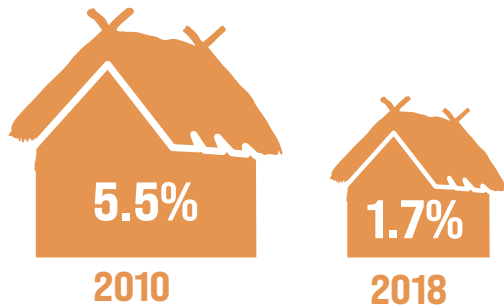
Construction waste accounts for about **10-15%** of **urban solid waste** and attention has not been paid to sort and collect for recycling but normally landfilled with domestic solid waste

Air pollution, especially **PM2.5** and **TSP pollution in major cities**, such as Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City is **increasing**

Propotion of urban solid waste collected **is 84.3% (2018)** **but mostly landfill**
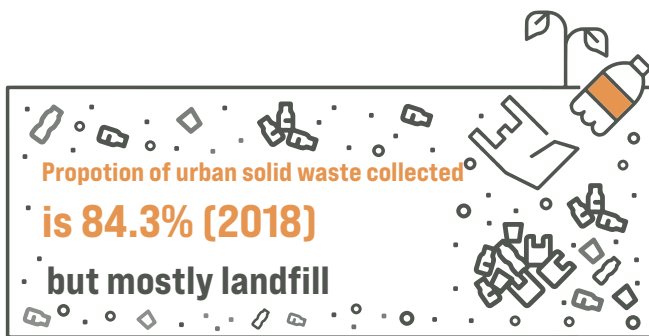
Viet Nam lost an average of **0.6% of GDP** annually due to natural disasters and climate change
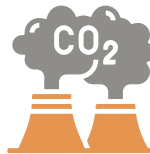
CO_2 emission/person: **1.75 ton** (2010) and **2.81 ton** (2018)

Public transport system has been significantly strengthened but **haven't met the demand especially big cities**

8 world cultural and natural heritages and **13** intangible cultural heritages **recognized by the UNESCO**

THE AVERAGE GREEN SPACE RATIO IN HANOI AND HO CHI MINH CITY

$2m^2$/person **=** equal to **1/10** of the greenery target of advanced cities in the world

Proportion of communes achieving the new rural criteria is

62% (2020)

VIET NAM WILL FACE MANY CHALLENGES TO ACHIEVE SDG 11 BY 2030

AREAS THAT NEED TO BE FOCUSED ON:

- Ensuring a safe and convenient urban traffic system
- Reducing the adverse impacts of environment to people in urban areas
- Strengthening capacity for inclusive and sustainable, participatory urban planning
- Increasing green public spaces

Target 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all citizens to adequate, safe and affordable basic services and housing; eliminate slums; build, upgrade, and improve sub-standard housing areas (Global target 11.1).

Indicator 11.1.1: Proportion of population living in poorly built housing

Roadmap: By 2020: < 2%; By 2025: 1%; By 2030: <1%.

By definition in the Circular 03, "poorly built house" or "slum" can be understood as a house that lacks one of the following attributes: i) Lack of access to hygienic water sources; ii) Lack of access to hygienic latrines; iii) Lack of living area; iv) Lack of housing durability; v) Lack of guarantee of ownership.

According to data from the Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey, the proportion of households living in poorly built houses declined rapidly, from 5.5% in 2010 to 1.7% in 2018. This proportion in urban areas dropped from 1.9% to 0.5% while it decreased from 7.1 to 2.3% in rural areas in the same period.

Figure 75. Proportion of household living in poorly built housing (%)
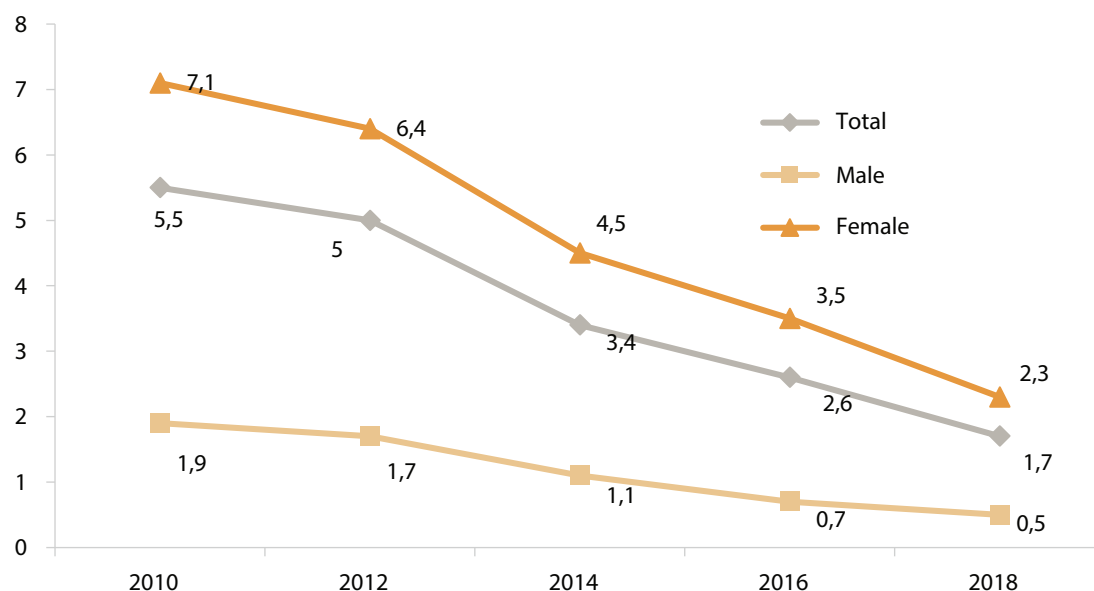
Source: The Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey, GSO

The improvement in housing quality, reflected in a sharp drop in the proportion of household living in poorly built housing, was recorded in all criteria, from urban to rural, in all regions and population groups. Housing development, focusing on social housing according to the National Housing Development Strategy, continues to receive attention, is strengthened, and increasingly meets the housing needs of people, especially people with meritorious services, the poor in storm and flood prone areas, and low-income urban people. However, by 2018, 4.4% of the bottom 20% of income quintile (quintile 1) still lived in poorly built housing while this figure of the top 20% quintile (quintile 5) was 0.2%. Besides, up to 4.7% of households in the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas still lived in poorly built housing. This calls for housing policies that pay more attention to supporting low-income groups and specific areas.

Table 19. Proportion of household living in poorly built housing by urban/rural, region and 5 income quintiles (%)

YEAR	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
NATIONWIDE	**5.5**	**5.0**	**3.4**	**2.6**	**1.7**
Urban	1.9	1.7	1.1	0.7	0.5
Rural	7.1	6.4	4.5	3.5	2.3
By region					
Red River Delta	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas	8.8	9.4	7.2	6.1	4.7
North Central and Central Coastal Areas	3.1	2.2	1.9	1.8	0.8
Central Highlands	2.0	2.5	1.3	0.7	0.8
South East	3.0	2.4	1.3	0.8	0.5
Mekong River Delta	16.8	14.4	10.2	6.8	4.2
By 5 income groups					
Quintile 1	12.7	12.2	9.5	8.1	4.3
Quintile 2	7.9	7.0	4.3	3.5	2.5
Quintile 3	4.9	3.7	2.5	1.6	0.9
Quintile 4	2.5	2.0	1.3	1.0	0.5
Quintile 5	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.2

Source: The Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey, GSO

If the current trend maintains, Viet Nam will surely complete the roadmap for the indicator 11.1.1. However, it is still important to pay attention to housing policies for low-income people, people living in disaster-prone areas and areas strongly affected by climate change, such as the Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas and the Mekong River Delta.

Target 11.2: By 2030, ensure access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons (Global target 11.2).

Indicator 11.2.1: Growth rate of the number of passengers using public transport.

Roadmap: Not available.

The public transport system in cities, especially big cities, has been significantly strengthened to reduce urban traffic congestion and air pollution. In recent years, the Government, the Ministry of Transport and localities have paid attention to promulgate and implement policies to encourage the development of public transport in urban areas, towards a sustainable urban transport system, and at the same time encourage people to use public transport instead of private vehicles. Currently, public transport in urban areas is still mainly based on buses. In big cities such as Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh, Da Nang, Hai Phong, and Can Tho, the public bus network has been strengthened, contributing to improvement of people's accessibility to public transport services, including for people with disabilities.

However, the public transport services have not fully met the needs of people in urban areas. According to current updated reports, the proportion of trips by public transport in major cities is declining, to less than 10% and 5% in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City, respectively. Meanwhile, private motor vehicle is the only option for residents in many areas[60]. A survey conducted in Viet Nam by the International Organization for People with Disabilities shows that most of Viet Nam's current public transport systems do not meet the travel needs of people with disabilities[61]. The reasons are: i) Lack of interlinkage between urban planning and urban transport; ii) Lack of urban land for public transport; iii) The connection between types of public transport has not been resolved, especially in urban areas; iv) People's travel habits of using private vehicles; v) The implementation of the Law on Persons with Disabilities (2010) is still slow in reality.

Currently, data is not regularly released on indicator 11.2.1. Therefore, it is at present not possible to analyse the implementation progress and the trend of this indicator. However, it can be affirmed that Viet Nam will still face many difficulties when implementing target 11.2 in the coming time.

Target 11.3: By 2030, enhance national capacity for inclusive, sustainable urban planning and development with the participation of communities (Global target 11.3).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

Although there are no indicators and roadmaps as a basis for evaluating the implementation results of target 11.3, the legal provisions on community consultation are fully specified in the Law on Urban Planning and the Law on Construction. Currently, MOC is looking into developing a guide book for community consultation in the development of urban development projects and integrating the participation process of communities and stakeholders in the draft of Law on Urban Development Management. Information on planning has been made public step-by-step, and the provision of planning information has been widely disseminated. The approved plans are publicly announced on the mass media and regularly displayed at the relevant state management agencies. In 2019, the National Portal on Construction Planning and Urban Planning has been completed. However, only about 26% of urban areas in the country have issued the regulation on management of architectural planning[62]. In fact, community participation in planning and implementation process and planning management is limited and may be considered a formality. The supervision of the implementation of the approved plans is not strict, leading to arbitrary adjustment of the planning and disruption of the planning, which causes many consequences for the living environment such as overload of urban technical and social infrastructure; traffic jams; reduction of area of green trees and parks etc.

Therefore, the implementation of target 11.3 in the coming years still poses many challenges, requiring the Government and localities to undertake more efforts to achieve the target by 2030.

Target 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard world cultural and natural heritage and intangible cultural heritage recognized by UNESCO (Global target 11.4).

Indicator 11.4.1: Number and percentage of conserved cultural and natural heritage sites in Viet Nam

Roadmap: Percentage of cultural and natural world heritage sites for which heritage protection regulations have been established: By 2025: 100%; By 2030: 100%.

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60   Ministry of Transport.
61   https://baodansinh.vn/nguoi-khuyet-tat-con-kho-khan-trong-tiep-can-voi-giao-thong-cong-cong-63239.htm
62   http://moc.gov.vn/vn/tin-tuc/1184/14902/moi-co-26-do-thi-ban-hanh-quy-che-quan-ly-quy-hoach--kien-truc-chung.aspx

Viet Nam currently has 8 world cultural and natural heritages and 13 intangible cultural heritages recognized by the UNESCO. The protection and preservation of these heritages has been implemented in accordance with the Law on cultural heritages, the Decree No.109/2017/ND-CP dated September 21, 2017 on the management and protection of world cultural and natural heritages in Viet Nam and other guiding documents. At present, 8 localities with world heritage sites have developed, issued and are implementing plans to preserve, restore and promote the heritage value and heritage management plans and regulations on world heritage protection, accounting for 100% of the world heritage recognized by UNESCO, ensuring the implementation of Viet Nam's commitments to UNESCO.

However, the harmonious balance between conservation, preservation and development is always a challenge that is not easy to find out a solution for. Many world heritage sites in Viet Nam have recently been under challenges due to economic development pressure. In order to sustainably protect the world's natural and cultural heritages, in addition to the current legal documents on cultural heritage, the engagement of local authorities and communities is critical. Especially, there should be a mechanism for citizens to raise their awareness of protecting, preserving and benefiting from these heritages.

Basically, Viet Nam has reached the roadmap for the indicator 11.4.1. However, in the coming time, the Government should direct localities to maintain and continue to well implement the established master plans, management plans and regulations to ensure the safety of world cultural and natural heritages recognized by UNESCO.

Target 11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected, and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to GDP caused by natural and other disasters, with due attention paid to the protection of the poor and the vulnerable (Global target 11.5).

Indicator 11.5.1: Number of deaths, missing persons, and injuries attributed to disasters per 100,000 population.

Roadmap: Number of deaths, missing persons, and injuries attributed to disasters: By 2020: < 300; By 2025: < 250; By 2030: <200.

Natural disaster prevention and control is organized more comprehensively for all types of natural disasters; natural disaster prevention and control activities are implemented in three basic steps: from prevention, response to recovery; and regularly moving from passive response to proactive prevention, considering prevention as key. The system of legal documents on natural disaster prevention and control is continuing to be supplemented and completed synchronously to create a legal corridor to improve management effectiveness and implementation efficiency.

The management apparatus at the central level has initially been strengthened in the direction of professionalization. The organization of the apparatus for natural disaster prevention and search and rescue from the central to local authorities has gradually been enhanced towards professionalism, concentration and full competence. The localities have reviewed the formulation of annual, 5-year natural disaster prevention plans and plans to respond to different types of natural disasters according to the level of natural disaster risk.

Thereby, natural disaster prevention and control has gradually shifted from passive response to proactive prevention, considering prevention as key. As a result, although natural disasters in recent years have become more complicated and unexpected, human and property damage has been significantly reduced; in 2019, the damage caused by different types of natural disasters is estimated at nearly 7,000 billion VND, a considerable decrease (70%) compared to 20,000 billion VND in 2018.

According to statistics data in the period of 2013-2019, Viet Nam experienced many severe impacts of natural disasters and climate change, causing great loss of life and damage to the economy. During this period, Viet Nam lost an average of 0.6% of GDP annually. The number of deaths, missing persons, and injuries increased sharply in the period of 2015-2017 but fell dramatically in 2018 and 2019 thanks to efforts to reduce the loss of life and property directly caused by natural disasters and other disasters.

However, by 2020, unusual weather has led to many extreme weather phenomena, especially storms and floods; natural disasters that led to 357 deaths and missing persons, 876 injured people; 3,427 collapsed houses, 333,084 houses damaged with roofs blown off; 511,172 flooded houses ; 198,374 ha of rice and crops were damaged; 51,923 cattle, 4.11 million poultry deaths(and being swept away); erosion and damage of 787 km of embankments and canals; erosion of 272.5 km of coastline, rivers and streams. The total value of property damage is estimated at 37,400 billion VND (in which the damage by flood in the Central is 32,900 billion VND).

Table 20. Economic losses and number of deaths, missing persons, and injuries attributed to disasters

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Direct economic loss due to natural disasters as a proportion of total GDP (%) (*)	1.2	0.1	0.2	1.3	1.2	0.3	0.1
Number of deaths, missing persons, and injuries	258	422	356	695	1057	375	316

Source: (*) Calculated from GSO data and Statistical Yearbook 2019-GSO

Despite many improvements, Viet Nam's ability to respond promptly and effectively to climate change and natural disasters is still limited. Viet Nam will face many challenges when implementing this goal in the coming years, especially in the context of unpredictable climatic extremes due to the impacts of climate change and human activities. Thus, it is necessary to have solutions to improve capacity for disaster risk prevention and response, especially at the local level.

Target 11.6: Reduce adverse environmental impacts on people in urban areas, including by strengthening the management of air quality, urban waste and other sources of waste (Global target 11.6).

Indicator 11.6.1: Proportion of urban domestic solid waste that is collected, transported, and treated according to technical standards and regulations.

Roadmap: By 2020: 87.5%; By 2025: 90%; By 2030: 95%.

The environment in urban areas is being negatively affected by production and daily activities of the people. Albeit great investments in urban infrastructure, including solid waste treatment systems, it has still not met the requirement and speed of urbanization. According to data from GSO, the proportion urban domestic solid waste that is collected and treated according to national technical standards and regulations only reached 84.3% in 2018 while this rate was 75% in 2015. Notably, this proportion is unequal across cities and regions. The Red River Delta and the South East are the leading regions in treatment of domestic solid waste, with a proportion of more than 90% of the domestic solid waste being collected and treated according to national technical standards and regulations. Meanwhile, this proportion in the Central Highlands only reached 61% in 2018.

Figure 76. Proportion of urban domestic solid waste that is collected and treated according to technical standards and regulations (%)[63]

Legend: ■ 2015   ▨ 2016   ■ 2017   ▨ 2018
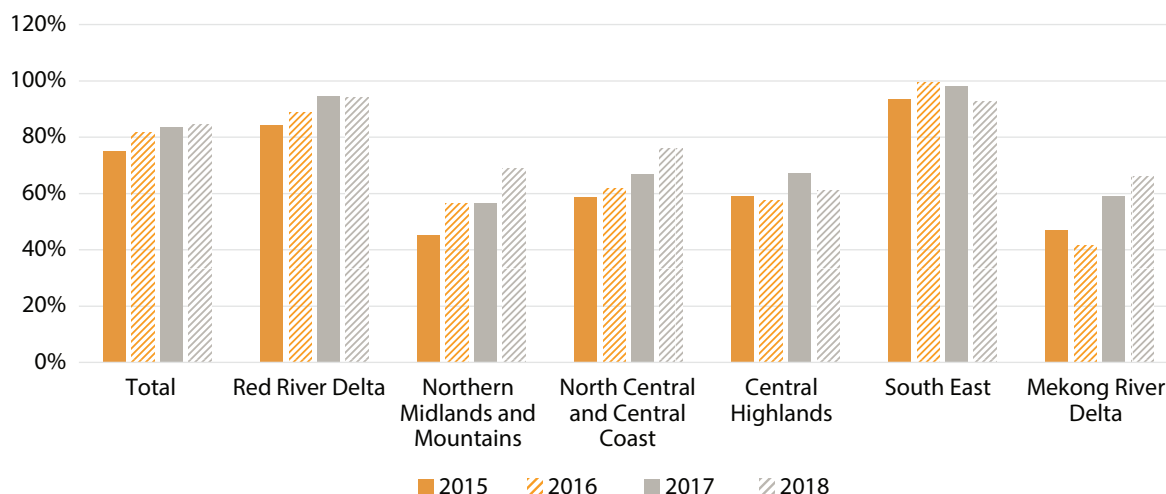
Source: Statistical Yearbook, GSO

However, not 100% of domestic waste in urban areas is collected. Proportion of domestic waste collection in big cities like Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh may reach 90%, but it is lower in other cities[64]. The main reason is that people's awareness is not high and people still throw garbage in public places instead of dumping into a regulated collection place. This not only causes pollution and loss of urban beauty but also seriously affects public health.

Following the current trend, Viet Nam can achieve the roadmap for the indicator 11.6.1 by 2020. However, to achieve the roadmap by 2030, it is necessary to have more efforts. In particular, attention should be paid to the separation of waste at source, raising awareness and participation of people and businesses in complying with regulations on littering in public places. In addition, it should be noted that, although the proportion of solid waste collected has increased, the post-collection treatment is only in the form of landfills, which is mainly unhygienic burials.

Indicator 11.6.2: Proportion of urban construction solid waste collected for reuse or recycling.

Roadmap: Not available.

Currently, frequently released data on the indicator 11.6.2 is unavailable. However, according to data from MOC, the amount of construction waste has increased significantly in recent years along with the speed of urbanization and rapid increase of construction works in major cities across the country. Construction waste accounts for about 10-15% of urban solid waste. Particularly in big cities, such as Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City, this rate makes up 25% of urban solid waste. Notably, attention has not been paid to sort and collect construction solid wastes separately for recycling. Instead, they are often buried together with domestic solid waste. This is a big challenge for Viet Nam as it is one of the reasons leading to the increased pollution in urban areas at present.

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63   According to the Circular 03, the proportion of urban domestic solid waste collected and treated according to prescribed standards and regulations is the percentage of urban solid waste treated according to standards and regulations out of the total volume of urban domestic solid waste collected.

64   http://tapchimoitruong.vn/pages/article.aspx?item=Hi%E1%BB%87n-tr%E1%BA%A1ng-ph%C3%A1t-sinh,-thu-gom-v%C3%A0-x%E1%BB%AD-l%C3%BD-ch%E1%BA%A5t-th%E1%BA%A3i-r%E1%BA%AFn-%E1%BB%9F-Vi%E1%BB%87t-Nam-49458

Indicator 11.6.3: Concentration of substances in the air environment.

Roadmap: Not available.

Air pollution, especially PM2.5 and TSP pollution in large cities, such as Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City is increasing, much higher than the allowable limit of Vietnamese standards. This situation, which is very worrying and seriously affects the people's health and life, requires the Government and related agencies to have more effective solutions in the coming time to improve the situation. In particular, it is necessary to strengthen the enforcement of legal provisions applied to citizens and businesses and also impose strict sanctions on violations. In addition, there is a need to maintain the operation of the air quality monitoring and measurement system, and make it publicly available for people to monitor.

Table 21. Concentration of substances in the air environment at selected monitoring points

Provinces/ cities	Monitoring points	QCVN 05-2013/ BTNMT	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Concentration of PM 2.5 (annual average) - µg/m³								
Phu Tho	Hung Vuong	25	42.7	51.7	50	-	33.8	-
Quang Ninh	Hong Ha		-	34.2	30.2	-	31.7	38.8
Ha Noi	Nguyen Van Cu		57.2	52.5	48.5	38.2	35.5	37.7
Da Nang	Le Duan		18.8	17.5	16.5	-	-	21.8
Parameter TSP (annual average)- µg/m³								
Thua Thien Hue	Northwest Phu Bai industrial zone (IZ)	100				350	365	332
	Đong Ba Market					380	303	451
Da Nang	Northeast Lien Chieu IZ					350	302	317
	West Lien Chieu IZ					370	376	351
	5-Junction Tran Binh Trong str.					520	541	567
	Thach Thang Ward					240	202	233
Ho Chi Minh City	Binh Phuoc Crossroad					336.4	353	222
	Nguyen Van Linh - 1A Highway Crossroad					361.1	407	223
Binh Duong	My Phuoc industrial center					111	56	31
	Chau Thoi T-junction					371.4	262	508
Dong Nai	Dau Giay T-junction					461.8	327	389
	Vung Tau Crossroad					400.3	441	499

Source: MONRE

Indicator 11.6.4: Greenhouse gas emissions per capita.

Roadmap: Not available.

The emission of greenhouse gases is calculated in terms of the amount of CO_2 emissions and its data is collected nationwide. However, Viet Nam has not released information of this indicator regularly. Meanwhile, some international organizations have published data on this indicator for Viet Nam. For example, according to the World Bank (WB) and the International Energy Organization (IEA), Viet Nam's per capita CO_2 emissions have increased from 1.75 tons of CO_2 in 2010 to 2.81 tons of CO_2 in 2018. Data

provided by the MONRE is only available up to 2014, with an increase from 2.86 tons of CO_2 per capita in 2010 to 3.13 tons of CO_2 per capita in 2014. Although the average from these two sources is not high compared to the world average level (5.0 tons CO_2 per capita), attention should be paid to the Viet Nam's recent rapid emission growth to take appropriate measures to control the amount of greenhouse gas emissions according to the indicator 11.6.4 in the coming time.

Figure 77. Greenhouse gas emissions per capita
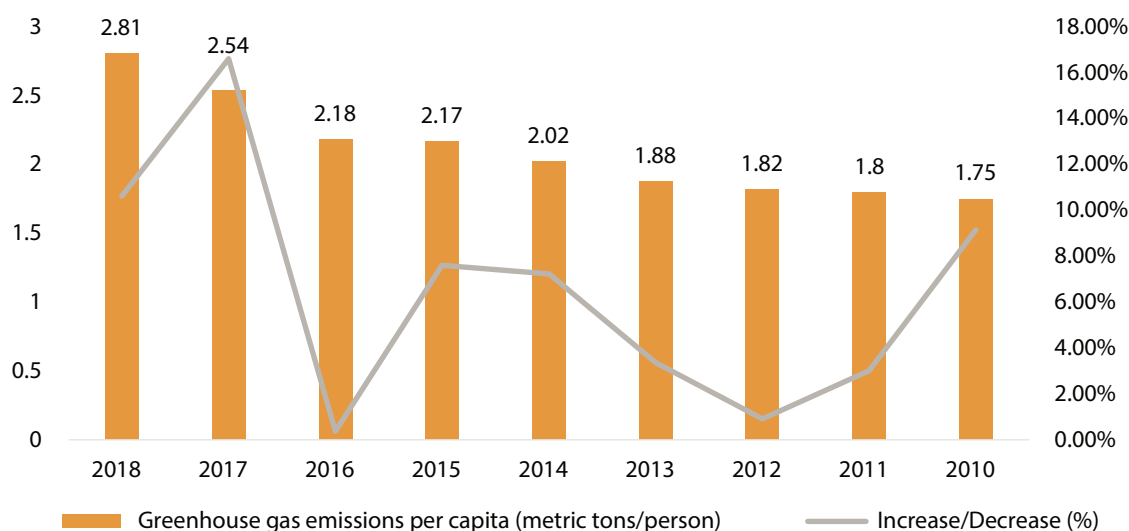
Source: International Energy Organization and World Bank

Target 11.7: By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities (Global target 11.7).

Indicator11.7.1: Public green area per capita in urban areas

Roadmap: Not available.

Public spaces in general and entertainment spaces in residential areas in particular in the cities are in serious shortage. Many existing public spaces have even been encroached upon and narrowed down. The management of these public spaces also faces difficulties and shortcomings. Currently, data on public spaces in Viet Nam have not been officially released; only some separate information is available for large cities, such as Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City. For example, the coverage of trees throughout Ha Noi is 11.7% while that in Ho Chi Minh City is 26.3%, but unevenly distributed. Ha Noi's inner city has the overall coverage of 7% while this figure is only 3.9% in Ho Chi Minh City. In these two cities, the average green space ratio is only about 2m² per person, much lower than national standards and only equal to 1/10 of the greenery target of advanced cities in the world[65].

In recent years, many new urban areas have been built, contributing to changing the face of many cities across the country. However, lack of public spaces such as squares, walking spaces, flower gardens, and parks, etc. in great number of new urban areas has led to under-meeting the needs of urban residents. In addition, the improper exploitation and utilization of tree areas and water surfaces lead to a decline in the quality of living environments for urban residents.

Based on the aforementioned analysis, despite lacking data for indicator 11.7.1, it is clear that the completion of target 11.7 by 2030 will be uneasy.

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65   Report on situation of national environment 2016 - "Urban environment". MONRE.

Target 11.8: Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning (Global target 11.a).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

Economic changes in regions have been positively shifted on the basis of more efficient exploitation of potentials and comparative advantages of each region, in which: The Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas have focused on developing advantageous industries such as hydropower, border economy, mineral exploitation and processing, and agricultural and forestry products The Red River Delta region has focused on attracting many large-scale and high-tech foreign investment projects; The North Central and South Central Coast have attracted a number of large-scale investment projects in coastal economic and industrial zones, tourist zones, renewable energy, and rapid development of marine economy; The Central Highlands have focused on developing hydroelectricity, bauxite exploitation and processing, industrial crops and hi-tech agriculture; The Southeast region has brought into play its leading role, making a great contribution to economic growth, exports and budget revenue of the whole country; The Mekong River Delta has continued to strongly develop advantageous industries such as aquaculture, seafood, fruit trees and tourism.

The regional infrastructure constructions have been completed and put into use, creating favourable conditions for economic activities, accelerating the urbanization process and strengthening regional connectivity. Some of the growth poles, territories and big urban areas continue to maintain their leading role, creating a pervasive development impact. The regulation of piloting linkage for socio-economic development in the Mekong River Delta in the 2016-2020 period has had the effect of promoting linkages among localities in the region. Some regional coordination boards continue to be mechanisms connecting localities in development cooperation.

However, there is still a lack of a synchronous transport structure connecting urban and rural areas, between the center and the open peri-urban.

Target 11.9: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters (Global target 11.b).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: The urban master plan is integrated with the goals of green growth and climate change: By 2020: To be completed for Grade IV Urban Areas; By 2025: To be completed for Grade II & III Urban Areas; By 2030: Completed for Grade I Urban Areas.

The integration of climate change into urban master plans has been initially implemented in recent years. This matter has also been institutionalized in a number of policy documents, such as the Project on Development of Viet Nam Cities in Response to Climate Change, and the National Urban Development Programme 2012-2020. Currently, the Drafted Law on Urban Development Management and the Urban Development Strategy 2021-2030 is being actively prepared by the MOC and stakeholders. The integrated perspective, inclusion, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and resilience to disasters will also be further detailed in these documents.

Target 11.10: Develop sustainable rural areas, ensure the harmony between economic development, urbanization, inclusion; environmental and ecological protection; develop technical infrastructure and improve the quality of life for rural people from economic, cultural, social, environmental and democratic perspectives (Viet Nam's additional target).

Indicator 11.10.1: Rate of communes recognized as achieving new rural criteria.

Roadmap: Not available.

New rural development has become a powerful movement spreading across the country. Rural economic and social infrastructure has had remarkable changes, contributing to the transformation of the rural appearance and basically completing essential works to meet requirements of production development and people's life (such as traffic, electricity, domestic water, schools, medical stations, environmental sanitation ...). Specific investment mechanisms for works and projects of the national target programs have encouraged and mobilized people and communities to participate actively in new rural development (from planning to implementation, supervision, management and operation of works ...).

Rural environmental protection has made a significant breakthrough, especially in treating residential waste and improving the green-clean-beautiful rural landscape. Many localities have prioritized resources allocation as well as focused on environmental pollution treatment and rural landscape improvement. Waste collection has been promoted; most villages and communes have formed domestic waste collection teams (in the form of self-managed teams, cooperatives). In many places, waste collection is handled by private enterprises. The quality of people's cultural life improves and social security continues to be maintained. The movement "All people unite to build cultural life" associated with new rural development has been implemented effectively, creating a healthy and vivid cultural environment in the cultural and psychological life of the rural people.

The rate of communes recognized as achieving the new rural criteria increased rapidly in the past 5 years. By the end of 2020, the country had 5,506 communes (62%) achieving the new rural criteria (an increase of 8% compared to the end of 2019); 12 provinces and cities had 100% of communes achieving the new rural criteria; the national average reached 16.38 criteria/ commune (an increase of 0.72 criteria compared to 2019); there were 173 district-level units in 50 provinces/cities (an increase of 61 units at district level compared to the end of 2019); 03 provinces (Nam Dinh, Dong Nai and Hung Yen) were recognized to complete new rural development missions.

However, the gap in results of new rural development among regions remains quite large. Environmental pollution in some areas is still serious, including pollution of water sources in rivers, canals and ditches; Solid waste from sources has not been classified, collected and treated thoroughly.

Figure 78. Rate of communes recognized as achieving new rural criteria (%)
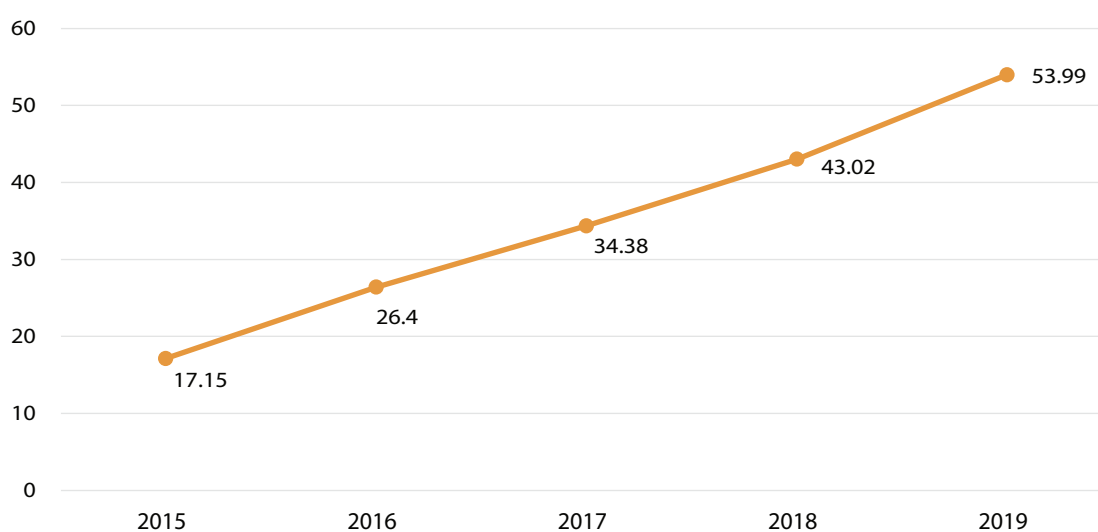
Source: MARD

SUMMARY

Viet Nam faces many challenges in implementing SDG 11 on "Sustainable urban and rural development with resilient capacity for all". Only 3 out of 10 targets are set to be achieved (they include target 11.1 on access to affordable houses; target 11.4 on world heritage protection and target 11.10 on new rural development). Issues that need to be addressed in the coming time are: assurance of a safe and convenient urban transportation system (target 11.2); strengthening the capacity of participatory inclusive urban planning (target 11.3); a significant reduction of losses caused by natural disasters (target 11.5); mitigating environmental pollution impacts on the people in urban areas (target 11.6); assurance of universal access to green public spaces (target 11.7); creating positive links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas (target 11.8); increasing the number of cities and human settlements applying integrated planning and policies (target 11.9).
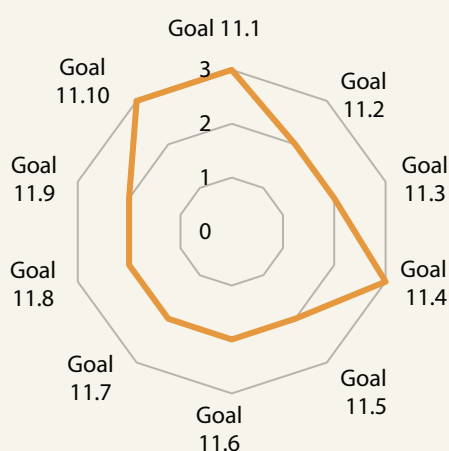
GOAL 12
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

PERCENTAGE OF ENTERPRISES APPLYING CLEANER PRODUCTION SOLUTIONS IN 11 LOCALITIES IS

15% → 40%
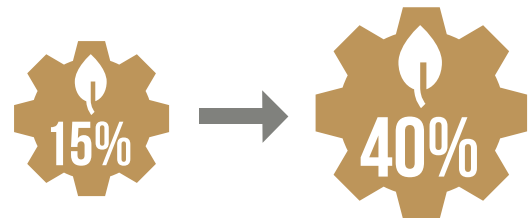
POST-HARVEST LOSSES REMAIN SIGNIFICANT FROM **10-20%**

group of vegetables, fruit and cassava	group of coffee, pepper, cashew and tea	group of fishing	Group of rice
20-30%	**10-15%**	**15-20%**	**5-7%**
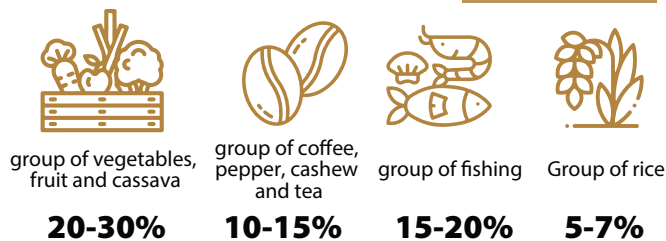
THE PERCENTAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE PROPERLY COLLECTED AND TREATED WAS ABOUT 75% (2018)

THE PERCENTAGE OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILLED REMAINS VERY HIGH, APPROXIMATELY 70% IN 2018

THE PERCENTAGE OF RECYCLING AND REUSE

2016
8-12%
Urban domestic solid waste

2016
3,24%
Rural domestic solid waste
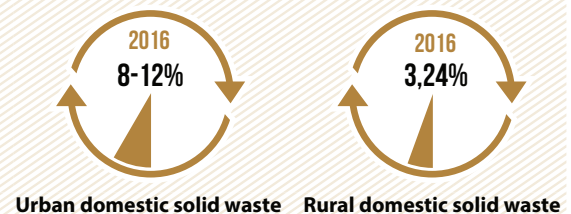
21.84% establishments which have not yet completed thorough treatment measures (2020) (according to Decision No.1788/QD-TTg)

Only **23%** residual pesticide and chemical sites had been completely handled (end of 2018)

Sustainable public procurement practices are limited and has just been piloted

Viet Nam is unlikely to fulfill SDG 12 by 2030

Target 12.1: Implement the Ten-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns in accordance with international commitments (Global target 12.1).

Indicator: Not available.

Target: Not available.

Viet Nam has implemented the Strategy on Cleaner Industrial Production to 2020 (the Decision No.1419/QD-TTg dated September 7, 2009), the National Action Plan Programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption up to 2020, with a vision toward 2030 (the Decision No.76/QD-TTg dated January 11, 2016 of the Prime Minister).

After 10 years of active implementation, a variety of models for sustainable industrial production and product design has also been initially carried out thanks to promotion of cleaner production projects in industrial enterprises through Government programs and supported by development partners. Up to now, there have been 47 industrial promotion and energy saving centres nationwide and all 63 provinces and cities have cleaner production specialists; More than 20 specialized technical guidelines on cleaner production for textile, paper, tapioca, beer, electroplating, casting, cement, roofing, paint, coconut, and NPK have been developed and issued with a variety of applied solutions[66]. However, the ten-year implementation shows that new clean technologies has mainly just been applied in production stage and scattered in small projects. Cleaner production related activities are mainly initiated by the Government and development partners. Good cleaner production models have not yet been popular amongst the Vietnamese business community. According to a recent survey conducted by MOIT in 11 localities, the percentage of enterprises applying cleaner production solutions only ranges from 15% to 40%.

Recently, the Prime Minister has issued the National Action Program on Sustainable Production and Consumption Period 2021-2030 (the Decision No.889/QD-TTg dated June 24, 2020). The program not only encourages state management agencies, enterprises, organizations and individuals to apply science, technology and alter management methods towards cleaner production, but also orientates and changes sustainable consumption behaviour in Viet Nam. In particular, the proposals focus on green and sustainable distribution and consumption, thereby contributing to the achievement of the VSDG 12.

Currently, the circular economy model is attracting the attention of Vietnamese policy-making institutions. Ministries, agencies and departments, especially MPI, MONRE, and MOIT have promoted research on the circular economy. This helps them apply the concept in relevant policymaking with a view of maximizing the value of input materials and minimizing waste through changes in designs, production processes, and consumption of goods.

Target 12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources; moderate exploitation and economical and sustainable use of mineral resources (Global target 12.2).

Indicator 12.2.1: Proportion of geological and mineralogical mainland area mapped at a scale of 1:50,000.

Roadmap: By 2020: 75%; By 2025: 85%; By 2030: 100%.

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66   MOIT

The geological and mineralogical mapping is for discovering and forecasting prospects of mineral resources and other geological resources, determining the current geological environment, and projecting geological hazards, thereby, contributing to the effective management of Viet Nam's mineral resources. By the end of 2018, about 71% of the mainland area (equivalent to nearly 235 thousand km^2) had geological and mineralogical maps at a scale of 1:50,000, with over 5,000 discovered mineral points. According to the General Department of Geology and Minerals of Viet Nam, all grades 1 and grade 2 cities and most grade 3 cities have undergone geological investigation and established geological, mineral, hydrology - engineering geology, environmental geology mapping systems, and land use maps for urban development planning.

Figure 79. Proportion of geological and mineralogical mainland area mapped at a scale of 1:50,000 (%)

Proportion of geological and mineralogical mainland area mapped at a scale of 1:50,000

Roadmap for proportion of geological and mineralogical mainland areamapped at a scale of 1:50,000
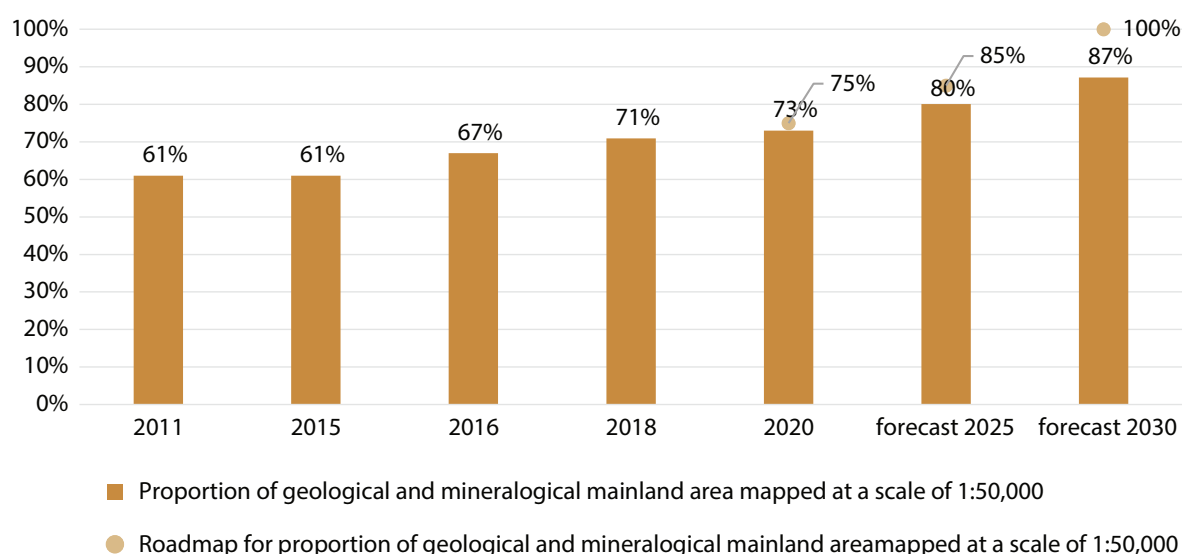
Source: MONRE

In terms of the results of the year 2020, 73% of the mainland area is being geologically mapped at a scale of 1:50,000, nearly reaching the roadmap set for 2020 and making it feasible to reach the roadmap to 2025 and 2030. However, it is necessary to maximize the capacity of management and planning for specific investigating and surveying towards the target of 100% of the mainland area to be geographically and mineralogically mapped at a scale of 1:50,000 by 2030.

Indicator 12.2.2: Proportion of the mainland area of Viet Nam with aero-gamma-spectrometric maps at a scale of 1:50,000.

Roadmap: By 2020: 50%; By 2025: 70%; By 2030: 100% mainland area.

According to MONRE, the mainland area of Viet Nam measured by aero-gamma-spectrum at a scale of 1: 50,000 by the end of 2020 reaches 27.3%, which is very low compared to 50% set for the roadmap by 2020. If Viet Nam does not actively improve the situation in the coming years, it will be at risk of failing to achieve the 100% coverage of Viet Nam's mainland area measured by aero-gamma- spectrum at a scale of 1:50,000, as planned.

Notably, if aero-gamma-spectrometric maps are made only for the purpose of assessing and forecasting mineral prospects towards a more sustainable use of mineral resources, it is unnecessary to achieve the target of aero-gamma-spectrometric maps of 100% of the mainland area, and instead they merely need to focus on areas with high mineral potential, suitable for large-scale exploitation or appropriate with

national land use planning at a highly detailed level. Therefore, the Government may consider adjusting the roadmap for the indicator 12.2.2 in the coming years.

Indicator 12.2.3: Proportion of sea and islands area of Viet Nam with aeromagnetic and gravity maps at a scale of 1:250,000

Roadmap: By 2020: 60%; By 2025: 80%; By 2030: 100% of sea and islands area of Viet Nam by 2030.

According to the MONRE, by June 2019, only 25% of the sea and islands area of Viet Nam had aeromagnetic and gravity maps at a scale of 1:250,000. Currently, approximately 18% of the sea area has not been mapped and charted. Most of the coastal, deep sea and offshore areas have not been investigated for marine geology and minerals. In 2013, the project "Aeromagnetic and gravity maps at a scale of 1:250,000 for Vietnamese sea and islands" was approved by the Prime Minister and assigned to the General Department of Geology and Minerals for implementation, expected to be completed by 2020[67]. Hopefully, when the research results of this project are completed and put into practice as well as when technology and techniques are fully transferred, the proportion of sea and islands area of Viet Nam with aeromagnetic and gravity maps at a scale of 1:250,000 will increase rapidly. Even so, it is forecasted that Viet Nam may not fulfil the roadmap for indicator 12.2.3 by 2020, 2025 and 2030.

In general, in the recent period, the effective and sustainable management and utilization of natural resources have been promoted and strengthened, but there has not been sufficient improvement. The decentralization of licensing to localities has led to widespread, uncontrolled mining and many negative consequences for the environment. Water resources are facing the risk of pollution and depletion due to the negative impacts of climate change and external causes. In addition to the tendency of land resource degradation due to pollution, erosion, desertification etc.., there is also a quality decline due to the conversion of land use purposes. Sustainable exploitation and economical and efficient use of national resources has not been achieved; Illegal or unplanned exploitation and use of natural resources leading to losses, waste and inefficiency also occur in a variety of places.

Target 12.3: By 2030, halve per capita food waste and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses (Global target 12.3).

Indicator 12.3.1: Rate of key food losses after harvest.

Roadmap: Not available.

Viet Nam has great potential for agricultural commodities and has always been one of the leading exporting countries for a number of valuable agricultural products. The agro-forestry and aquatic product processing industry has developed rapidly with the application of high technology to reduce costs and increase added values. By 2020, a variety of types of modern machines and equipment has been applied, such as seeding drones and plant protection spraying. Annual plant mechanization in the land preparation stage reached 97%; sowing and planting 65%; and the caring and harvesting stage will reach 78% (2-8% higher in 2020 than in 2019).

Post-harvest losses are still large, depending on the individual industry, but generally they range from 10-20%; facilities such as means of storage and preservation are inadequate and unsuited; advanced preservation technology has not been studied, transferred and applied much in practice. Up to now, the food losses in the group of vegetables, fruit and cassava are the highest at about 20-30%; the group of coffee, pepper, cashew and tea account for 10-15%; fishing about 15-20%; rice about 5-7%.

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67   The Prime Minister's Decision No.1876/QĐ-TTg dated October 15, 2013 on approving the list of duties and projects in the period 2013 - 2020 to conduct the master project on fundamental investigation and management of marine natural resource and environment to 2010, vision to 2020.

Figure 80. Proportion of food losses in the production and supply chain (%)
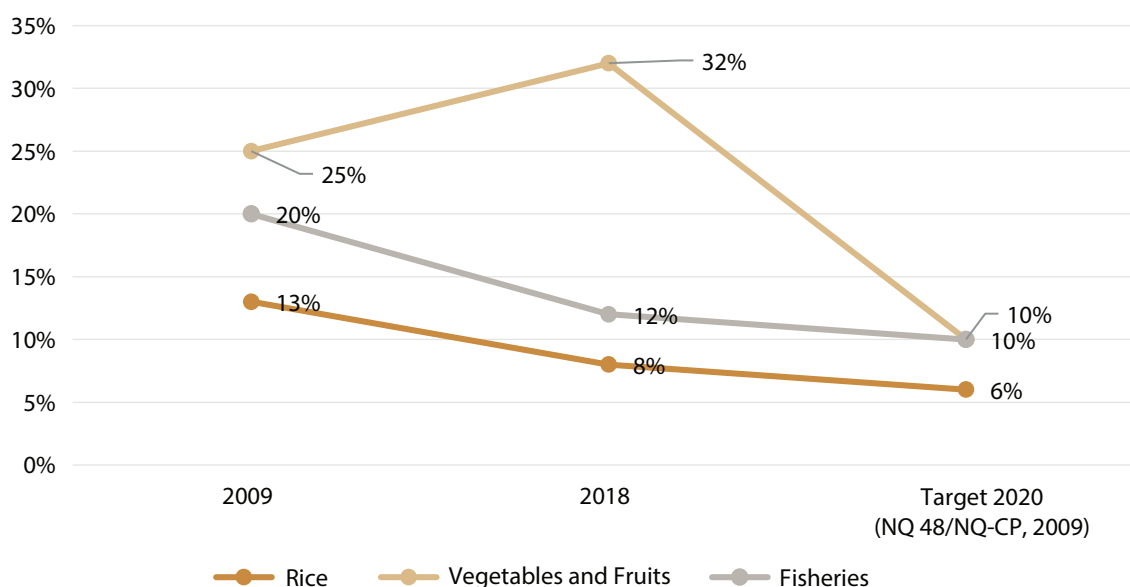
Source: MARD, Financial Magazine

Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with international commitments that Viet Nam has agreed, in order to reduce soil, water and air pollution and their adverse impacts on human health and the environment (Global target 12.4).

Indicator 12.4.1: Proportion of hazardous wastes collected and treated.

Roadmap: The percentage of hazardous solid waste generated from production, business, service activities, medical facilities, and craft villages is collected, transported and treated to meet the requirements of environmental protection**: By 2020: 85%; By 2025: 100%; By 2030: 100%.**

By 2018, the percentage of hazardous waste properly collected and treated was about 75%, of which the rate of hazardous medical solid waste treated reached 99%. Establishments' capacity of hazardous waste collection and treatment was improved. In 2018, Viet Nam had 118 hazardous waste treatment establishments, an increase of 5 establishments compared to 2017, and an additional 500 thousand tons of hazardous waste treated per year. In addition to the national collection and self-treatment of hazardous wastes, Viet Nam started to export hazardous wastes, contributing to reducing the pressure on national waste treatment.

Currently, the amount of hazardous industrial waste generated is about 874,589 tons/year; the amount of hazardous agricultural waste generated is about 10,000 tons/year (packaging, bottles with high toxic content and difficult to recycle and reuse) [68] and medical waste generated about 47-50 tons/day[69]. Hazardous waste collection and treatment capacity has increased from 83 establishments with treatment capacity from 1300 tons/year in 2015[70] (establishments licensed by MONRE) to 118 establishments in 2018 with a total treatment capacity of 1.8 million tons/year (an increase of 7 establishments with a treatment capacity of 500 thousand tons/year compared to 2017). The percentage of hazardous waste collected and treated in accordance with regulations is about 75%, of which the percentage of

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68   Government, 2019, Report on Environmental Protection in 2018.

69   MONRE, 2018, Report on National Report on Environment Status in 2017, Waste Management.

70   MONRE, 2015, National Environment Conference Session IV, Review Report on Environmental Environment in period 2011-2015.

hazardous medical solid waste handled is 99.1%[71]. By 2018, there has been only 34% of hygienic solid waste landfills[72].

Although almost all medical waste has been properly treated, hazardous wastes in industry, agriculture and daily life have not been thoroughly treated due to the lack of a proper sorting and collection systems and closely monitoring systems, especially in rural areas.

Basically, Viet Nam will fail to meet the roadmap on hazardous waste treatment without actively investing in and upgrading the capacity of existing hazardous waste treatment facilities in 2020 and 2025.

Indicator 12.4.2: Rate of establishments causing serious environmental pollution that have fixed the problems.

Roadmap: By 2020: 95%; By 2025: 100%; By 2030: 100%.

According to the MONRE's data[73], by mid-2019, nearly 93% (407/439) of establishments causing serious environmental pollution under the Decision No.64/2003/QD-TTg[74] completed thorough pollution treatment measures. By the end of 2020, 78.16% (339/435) of establishments under the Decision No.1788/QD-TTg[75] have implemented thorough treatment measures. Among the establishments that have not properly treated the pollution, 27/32 establishments under the Decision No.64/2003/QD-TTg and 104/146 establishments under the Decision No.1788/QD-TTg were in the public sector, and responsibilities for pollution treatment were under Government agencies (mainly garbage dumps, hospitals and medical examination and treatment areas, etc.). For these establishments, the Prime Minister issued a targeted support mechanism from the state budget to thoroughly address the problems, aimed at speeding up their progress. Besides, many localities have paid attention to building plans on thoroughly handling local establishments causing serious environmental pollution. The proportion of establishments which completed thorough pollution treatment measures has been improved, thereby contributing to minimizing the negative impact of pollution on communities.

Basically, Viet Nam has completed the target of dealing with 95% of establishments causing serious environmental pollution (according to the Decision No.64/2003/QD-TTg) by 2020. However, according to the Decision No.1788/QD-TTg, Viet Nam, there are still more than 96/435 (~21.84%) establishments which have not yet completed thorough treatment measures. Several facilities have just started to pollute the environment, especially public facilities such as landfill sites and district health facilities that have difficulties in operation and maintenance costs for waste treatment systems. Consequently, after a short time in operation, there are signs of deterioration and damage and risks of polluting the environment again[76]. Therefore, it is difficult to achieve the roadmap for the indicator 12.4.2 of handling 100% of establishments causing serious environmental pollution by 2030.

Indicator 12.4.3: Proportion of residual contaminated land area that is treated and renovated

Roadmap: Not available.

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71   Government, 2019, Report on Environmental Protection in 2018.

72   Ministry of Construction, 2018, Preliminary report on 5-year implementation of Resolution No. 24-NQ/TW on proactively responding to climate change, strengthening resource management and environmental protection.

73   Viet Nam Environment Administration (2019), Report on the implementation of the Environment Protection Strategy.

74   The Prime Minister's Decision No.64/2003/QD-TTg dated April 22, 2003 on the plan to thoroughly handle establishments causing serious environmental pollution.

75   The Prime Minister's Decision No.1788/QĐ-TTg dated October 1, 2013 on the plan to thoroughly handle establishments causing serious environmental pollution by 2020.

76   Viet Nam Environment Administration (2019), Report on the implementation of the Environment Protection Strategy.

Soil pollution in Viet Nam tends to increase due to pesticides, fertilizers, industrial and domestic waste from landfills, which are increasingly expanding, and incompletely treated sewage sources. According to the list of residual pesticide and chemicals sites causing serious and especially serious environmental pollution, while the number of residual pesticide and chemical sites in 15 provinces/cities in 2016 was 240, this figure reached 335 sites in 2018. By the end of 2018, only 23% (77/335) residual pesticide and chemical sites had been completely handled. In 2019, residual dioxin and toxin contaminated land areas were basically treated, particularly at Phu Cat airport (about 1.5 ha) and Da Nang airport (32.4 ha).

Figure 81. Proportion of residual pesticide sites that is thoroughly treated
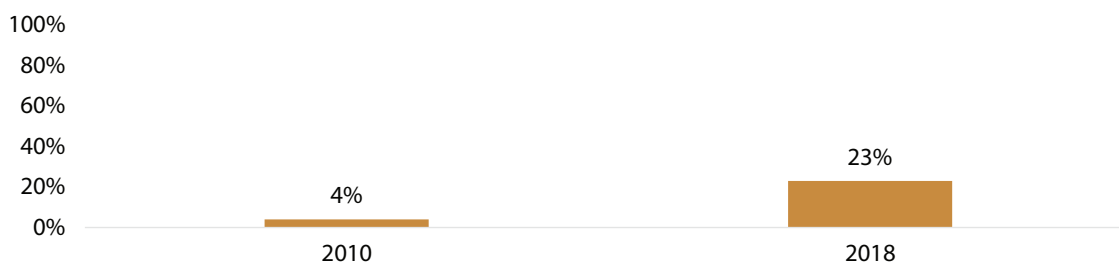
Source: MONRE

Target 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation and increase the economic value of waste resources through prevention, reduction and recycling of waste and reuse, and recovery of energies from waste treatment (Global target 12.5).

Indicator 12.5.1: Total amount of ordinary industrial solid waste.

Roadmap: Proportion of municipal solid waste dumped in landfills as a percentage of total collected waste: By 2020: 60%; By 2025: 30%; By 2030: 10%.

Currently, there is no available data for indicator 12.5.1 on the total volume of ordinary industrial solid waste.

According to the statistics of MOC, the proportion of municipal solid waste collection increased from 85% in 2015 to about 90% in 2019. However, the proportion of the dumping of municipal solid waste compared to the collected waste is still large, accounting for 75% in 2017, 70% in 2018 and still over 60%. Thus, basically, the roadmap set for 2020 is almost achieved. However, it will be very challenging to reach the roadmap to 2030 with 10% of the collected municipal domestic solid waste goes to landfills.

Figure 82. Proportion of municipal solid waste dumped in landfills as a percentage of total collected waste (%)
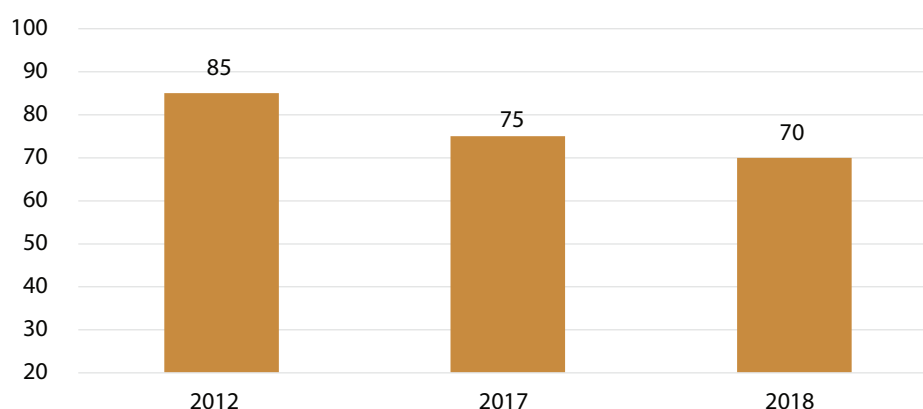
Source: MOC

Currently, although domestic solid waste is mainly handled by landfill methods, advanced treatment technologies are gradually being applied, such as producing compost; burning; combined burning and producing compost; waste incineration and recycling. Collection service has been expanded to Grade V urban centres and many rural residential areas. Collection and transportation services and investment in solid waste treatment facilities (Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Quang Ninh, Hai Phong, Kien Giang, Ca Mau, Ha Tinh, Thua Thien - Hue) have started to be privatized. The proportion of industrial solid waste collected and treated is quite high, reaching over 90% of the total generated volume. The proportion of ordinary solid waste collected and treated in provinces that have early established industrial zones such as Hanoi, Binh Duong and Dong Nai reaches 100%.

Indicator 12.5.2: Percentage of domestic waste plastic, paper, waste oil, and iron and steel scraps that is recycled.

Roadmap: Not available.

The Circular No. 03/TT-BKHDT sets a roadmap to collect data and release information on indicator 12.5.2 by 2025, so data has not been collected periodically. In recent years, the government and enterprises have focused on recycling scraps, especially those with good quality which can be used as raw materials for production.

There have been various emerging models of circulating scraps, where scraps of a group of enterprises can be used as raw materials for another group of enterprises through trading. Some models of circular economy have been carried out with certain effectiveness, such as: Ecological industrial park models in Ninh Binh, Da Nang, Can Tho; The model of seafood processing products (shrimp shells and heads) creates many high-value products in the field of biology, health, agriculture (Nha Trang University); VCCI's Initiative of Zero waste to nature; Initiative of recycling Tiger Beer's caps into iron used for building a bridge in Tien Giang...[77].

However, the management of domestic solid waste still has many weaknesses. Most of the waste has not been sorted at the source and the collection capacity is still limited. Solid waste in many facilities is handled in the form of landfills and pollution is not controlled effectively. Consequently, it results in pressing issues in society, especially the problem of leachate. The percentage of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling is low; Waste to energy recovery has not been as expected. As of 2016, the rate of recycling and reusing domestic solid waste accounts for an exceedingly small proportion, specifically: The rate of recycling of domestic solid waste is only 8-12% of urban domestic solid waste volume and 3.24% of domestic solid waste in rural areas[78]. There is an increased volume of plastic waste and non-biodegradable disposable plastic bags. It is estimated that Viet Nam uses and disposes of more than 30 billion plastic bags per year[79]. The participation of non-state enterprises in environmental protection is still limited. Large recycling enterprises and concentrated recycling industrial zones have not been established. The development of a market for recycled and environmentally friendly products in Viet Nam is still in its inceptive stage. The availability of eco-friendly products in Viet Nam is still limited; it is estimated that only 5% of Vietnamese products qualify for eco-labelling; the price of environmentally friendly products is high; The level of willingness to pay for an environmentally friendly product is still extremely low[80],[81].

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77 Võ Hữu Phước, 2020.

78 Viet Nam Environment Administration (2018), Report on the implementation of environmental protection as defined in the Resolution No. 24-NQ/TW dated June 3, 2013 of the Party Central Committee term XI on proactive response against climate change, strengthening resource management and environmental protection.

79 Viet Nam Environment Administration (2019), Report on the implementation of the strategy off Environment Protection.

80 Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (2017), Synthesis report on the project "Investigating, Surveying and developing a project for Market Development of Environmentally Friendly Products".

81 MOIT (2019), Report on the Draft National Action Plan on sustainable consumption and production for the period 2020-2030.

Target 12.6: Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices, including the use of cleaner production technology, effective use of natural resources and environmental protection; implement corporate social responsibility to the poor and the vulnerable; and integrate sustainability information into their periodical reports (Global target 12.6).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

After 10 years of actively implementing policies to promote cleaner production, thousands of Vietnamese enterprises have had access to cleaner production technologies and methods, contributing to economical and efficient use of resources and pollution minimization. However, the majority of enterprises (mainly small and medium-sized enterprises) still use outdated machines and production lines and intensively use energy which affects the ecological environment.

At the end of 2019, the Prime Minister approved the Plan for sustainable development of private sector enterprises to 2025 with a vision to 2030 (the Decision No.1362/QD-TTg) aiming at effective and sustainable development of private sector enterprises to ensure a close, reasonable and harmonious combination between economic efficiency with social responsibility and protection of natural resources and the environment, especially giving priority to supporting development of small and medium-sized private enterprises.

Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD) under VCCI has developed the Corporate Sustainability Index (CSI) - a tool to help businesses manage and develop sustainability reports since 2016. The CSI Index has been highly appreciated and applied by a large number of domestic and foreign enterprises as good and appropriate business governance practices. Annually, the CSI is used by VCCI in cooperation with MONRE, MOLISA, and the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour to rank sustainable enterprises in Viet Nam.

Target 12.7: Ensure sustainable public procurement practices (Global target 12.7).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

Currently, Viet Nam has regulations to encourage public procurement of environmentally friendly products, such as: Law on Environmental Protection 2014 and revised Law on Environmental Protection 2020; Law on Procurement 2013; The State Budget Law 2015. However, there are no specific regulations in the current legal documents as a basis for public procurement of environmentally friendly products, specifically:

- The Law on environmental protection: There is no definition of "Environmentally friendly products and services"; there are no regulations on encouraging, promoting and planning the production and consumption of environmentally friendly products and services.

- Procurement legislation: There are relatively comprehensive regulations on the public procurement procedures, including regulations on incentives in contractor selection. However, there are no regulation on incentives for the procurement of environmentally friendly public assets, excluding technical requirements for bidding packages or goods purchasing that are compliance with environmental policies.

- The Law on state budget: To regulate environmental protection expenditure is under recurrent expenditures of ministries, central and local agencies. However, there are no regulations on prioritizing the procurement of environmentally friendly public assets.

In fact, up to now, sustainable public procurement has just been piloted and only focused on purchasing several products such as lighting equipment, electrical equipment, electronics etc.

Currently, MPI is cooperating with line agencies to develop a legal framework on green public procurement and propose to supplement regulations on green public procurement in the process of amending and supplementing the Law on Procurement, including preferential policies for domestic green products and development of a list of likely compulsory green product procurement.

The implementation of sustainable public procurement in state agencies is a strong signal to the market of production and consumption for sustainable products, contributing to market orientation and creating a driving force for eco-friendly businesses as well as raising awareness of business social responsibility in Viet Nam. However, achievement of target12.7 by 2030 will be a huge challenge in the current context of Viet Nam.

Target 12.8: By 2030, ensure that citizens everywhere have the relevant information and awareness of sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature (Global target 12.8).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

Advocacy and community awareness raising on environmental protection, climate change and sustainable development has been widely implemented in localities through mass media. People's awareness of environmental protection has been significantly improved through activities and movements of coastal cleaning, neighbourhood sanitation, and especially the increased use of environment-friendly products.

In addition to the coordination in carrying out programs and reportages on radio and television, social networks have been actively used as an effective communication channel, spreading positive behaviours and good and effective solutions to raise awareness of communities on environmental protection and climate change such as "garbage disposal challenge" with the message "stop using plastic bags and limit plastic waste".

Target 12.9: Improve taxation and pricing policies on fossil fuels and at the same time, adopt appropriate policies to protect the poor and other individuals and groups who are vulnerable to likely negative impacts (Global target 12.c).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

In addition to mechanisms to encourage sustainable production and consumption, Viet Nam has adopted economic measures to limit the use of fossil fuels and other high-emission fuels, which are regulated in the Law on Environmental Protection, the Law on Environmental Protection Tax, the Law on Special Consumption Tax, and the Law on Natural Resource Tax.

The tax policy system on fossil fuels consists of two main groups: (i) Measures to limit the use of fossil fuels (including environmental protection tax, natural resource consumption tax, special consumption tax and other fees); and (ii) Measures to encourage environmental protection activities (such as: business income tax, export and import tax, non-agricultural land use tax, registration fee).

Regarding the environmental protection tax: The Law on Environmental Protection Tax regulates the group of gasoline, oil, coal which are subject to the environmental protection tax. According to The Law on environmental protection tax, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly stipulates specific environmental protection tax rates for individual taxable goods, ensuring the following principles: determination of tax level of taxable goods based on the degree of their negative impact on the environment. Currently, several types of taxable gasoline and oil (gasoline, diesel oil, fuel oil, lubricant oil, grease) are regulated by a ceiling tax level in the framework of environmental protection tax in the Law on Environmental Protection Tax. The coal is also adjusted to an increase in the environmental protection tax to encourage the use of alternative fuels with less negative impact on the environment. Therefore, the current environmental protection tax policy has regulated the environmental protection tax for fossil fuels based on the pollution level in terms of releasing carbon emissions into the environment. As a result, it contributes to the gradual limitation of fossil fuels utilization and encourages the use of environmentally friendly renewable energy sources,

Regarding natural resources tax: The Law on Natural Resources Tax stipulates that "crude oil, natural gas and coal gas" are levied natural resource tax. The current law on natural resources tax does not stipulate tax subsidies for these natural resources as they are owned by the State, all organizations and individuals exploiting natural resources are liable to natural resources tax and must pay royalties to the State. The amendment of the natural resources tax policy on fossil fuels will be made based on reviewing the implementation of the natural resource tax policy in the process of improving natural resources tax in general.

Regarding prices of fossil fuels such as gas, coal, gasoline and oil, these are currently under the market price mechanism. The state does not set prices for these items excluding gasoline and oil prices, which are subjected to the market mechanism without losses compensation or price subsidies, but rather regulates prices based on base price according to the provisions of the Decree No.83/2014/ND-CP dated September 3, 2014 on petroleum business. Hence, in terms of price policy, there are no longer subsidies for fossil fuel prices; concurrently, fossil fuel prices have been applied towards transparency in the pricing structure.

Viet Nam should continue to improve tax and price policies for fossil fuels and at the same time come up with appropriate policies to protect the disadvantaged group from possible negative impacts. In the short term, it is necessary to conduct specific macroeconomic studies in the context of energy transition to grasp not only opportunities for developing cleaner energy sources but also to ensure national energy security and social equity.

SUMMARY

It will be very challenging for Viet Nam to achieve SDG 12 on "Sustainable production and consumption" by 2030. There is only one target on track to be achieved by 2030 relating to taxation and pricing policies on fossil fuels (target 12.9). Up to 3 targets considered to be very challenging to achieve by 2030, including: target 12.2 on efficient use of natural resources; target 12.4 on life cycle management of chemicals and wastes; target 12.5 on significant reduction of waste discharge and increase reuse, recycle and energy recovery from waste disposal. The remaining targets (target 12.1 on implementation of 10-year sustainable production and consumption framework; target 12.3 on halving food waste per capita; target 12.6 on encouraging the business community to implement sustainable production and social responsibility; target 12.7 on ensuring sustainable public procurement activities; target 12.8 on ensuring information provided to people on sustainable development) will also face a lot of challenges in the coming time, which requires appropriate efforts and policies.
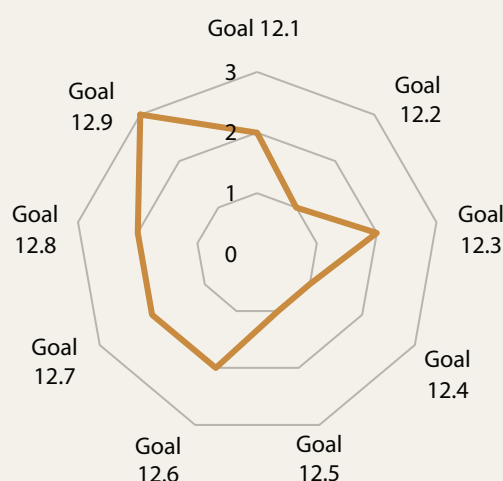
GOAL 13

Respond in a timely and effective manner to climate change and natural disasters

Viet Nam has issued the National Climate Change Action Plan, the National Strategy on Green Growth, Resolution 120/NQ-CP on sustainable development of the Mekong Delta in response to climate change. Viet Nam has updated the Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Scenarios in 2016 and 2020, NDC 2020

52/63 provinces
have issued the Action Plan to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change

7/18 ministries and **37/63 provinces**
have issued Green Growth Action Plans

In addition to domestic resources, Viet Nam has mobilized many international resources for climate change-related projects and programs. Viet Nam has raised US$ **146.5 million** in the period 2017-2019 through the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Hydro-meteorological monitoring network has been invested, Viet Nam has:

- 187 surface meteorological stations
- 242 hydrological stations
- 20 oceanographic stations
- 10 weather radar stations
- 6 wireless detecting stations
- 8 pilot stations
- 782 independent rain gauge stations
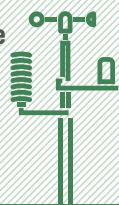
The Law on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control and its under-law documents have been disseminated to **44 classes**, including **1,320 commune-level officials**

Viet Nam has the potential to complete SDG 13 by 2030. However, in the near future, it is necessary to focus on investment and mobilization of domestic and foreign resources in order to develop monitoring, meteorological forecasting system and complete documents and policies related to climate change.

Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and capacity in responding to natural and other disasters (Global target 13.1.)

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Proportion of provinces/cities developing, issuing, and implementing an Action Plan on the implementation of Paris Agreement on climate change: By 2020: 100%; By 2025: 100%; By 2030: 100%.

Implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Viet Nam has issued the National Climate Change Action Plan, the National Strategy on Green Growth[82]. The Government has issued Resolution 120/NQ-CP on sustainable development of the Mekong Delta in response to climate change. Viet Nam has updated the Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Scenarios in 2016 and 2020. Commenced inundation maps have been developed for 28 coastal provinces/cities at scale of 1/10,000. The dike management has always been maintained and developed, especially in 2019, such as assessing the current situation, identifying key points at regional and provincial scale before the rainy season, and on that basis, developing plans for safety. Viet Nam periodically reviews, updates and monitors the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) goals and recently, on July 24, 2020, the Prime Minister approved the updated NDCs for Viet Nam.

In the past period, the Government has implemented the target program to respond to climate change and green growth for the period 2016-2020. In the framework of this program, many mechanisms and policies on climate change and green growth have been formulated and implemented. In addition, hundreds of projects such as forest development and irrigation system consolidation have been invested in, contributing to effective responses to adverse impacts of climate change. Besides domestic resources, Viet Nam has mobilized international resources for projects and programs related to climate change. In particular, through the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Viet Nam has raised US$ 146.5 million for 4 projects in the period 2017-2019. Currently, MPI, the National Designated Authorities (NDA) is asking GCF to consider providing non-refundable aid for the list of 17 project proposals worth about US$ 440 million to increase the enhancement of effective water management and climate change resilience for poor farmers in the Northern Uplands, the Central Highlands and the Mekong River Delta, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD +) in the Central Highlands as well as proposals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in provinces and cities.

Up to September 2020, 52/63 provinces/cities (82.5%) have issued the Action Plan to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change, which have set up tasks and solutions related to communication and information, public awareness, adjustment of plans and resource mobilization. Thus, compared with the roadmap for the target 13.1, it is not completed, but basically, by 2030, Viet Nam is expected to complete target 13.1 on enhancing resilience and adaptation to climate change and natural disasters.

Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national development policies, strategies, master plans, and plans (Global target 13.2.).

Indicator 13.2.1: Proportion of ministries/sectors and provinces/cities issuing Green Growth Action Plans.

Roadmap: Not available.

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82 The Decision No.2053/QD-TTg dated October 28, 2016 of the Prime Minister on the implementation plan of the Paris Agreement on climate change; the Decision No.1055/QD-TTg dated 20/7/2020 of the Prime Minister on the National plan to adapt to climate change period 2021-2030, vision to 2050; the Decision No.1393/QD-TTg dated September 25, 2012 of the Prime Minister on the National Green Growth Strategy for the period 2011-2020 and vision to 2050.

The issue of climate change has been institutionalized and integrated into policies, strategies, development plans, including: The Law on environmental protection and other laws, Socio-economic development strategies and Plans, the policies on disaster risk reduction, coastal zone management, energy supply and use as well as sector policies, master plans and plans.

For indicator 13.2.1, up to now, 7/18[83] ministries and 37/63 provinces/cities (59%) have developed and issued Green Growth Action Plans, and many models are being implemented. The issuance of green growth plans at ministries, related agencies and localities is seen to be relatively slow and needs to be fostered in the coming time to contribute to the orientation of local development and growth models, ensuring mitigation of and timely response to climate change.

Target 13.3: Educate, raise awareness, and strengthen human and institutional capacity on early warning, climate change response and disaster risk reduction (Global target 13.3.).

Indicator 13.3.1: Proportion of the population to whom knowledge about flood and storm prevention and disaster risk reduction is disseminated.

Roadmap: 70% by 2020, 80% by 2025, and 90% by 2030.

Currently, there is no data to evaluate the achievement of indicator 13.3.1. However, in recent years, many communication activities to raise awareness on climate change for officials, communities and people have been carried out in various forms. Education on climate change and climate change adaptation has been integrated into the core subjects of preschool, primary, lower and upper secondary schools, professional secondary schools, and colleges. The Law on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control and its under-law documents have been disseminated to 44 classes, including 1,320 commune-level officials working on disaster prevention and control. Communication to raise community awareness, and mobilization of resources and the entire society's participation in natural disaster prevention has been strongly deployed in recent years, such as the National Week on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control, the activity "Looking back on 20 years of heavy floods in Central Viet Nam (1999 - 2019)", the launching of the National Press Prize on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control, the celebration of the 73rd anniversary of the traditional day of Natural Disaster Prevention and Control, the launching of ceremony "Campaign to prevent natural disaster risks related to water for children and pupils in rainy season", the coordination with VTV, VOV, and VCT14 to develop short video clips and guidance materials for people on natural disaster prevention and control and special programs on community with natural disasters.

In addition, the national hydro-meteorological monitoring network has been invested in to increase the density of monitoring stations, facilities, and modern and automatic monitoring equipment for forecasting. Up to now, Viet Nam has had 187 surface meteorological stations, 242 hydrological stations, 20 oceanographic stations, 10 weather radar stations, 6 wireless detecting stations, 8 pilot stations, 782 independent rain gauge stations invested with modern equipment and technology, asymptotic to the world's advanced technology. As a result, the forecast reports and warning have been compatible in terms of reliability to the advanced countries in the region, and have well served the forecasting and warning of natural disasters. Especially, the forecast and warning of tropical depressions, storms, rain and heavy floods which are considered high risk dangerous types of weather, affecting and causing damage on a large scale, basically meets the needs of natural disaster prevention work, contributing to mitigating the damage caused by natural disasters. The reliability (or forecast error) of storm forecasts (location and intensity) in Viet Nam has gradually approached the level of the advanced countries in the region and the world. Therefore, it has contributed to minimizing the loss of life and property caused by natural disasters.

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83 MOT, SBV, MOF, MOC, MOIT, MARD, and MONRE.

SUMMARY

Viet Nam has the potential to complete all 3 targets under SDG 13 on "Climate action". However, with the increasingly complicated impact from climate change, it is inevitable that Viet Nam pays much attention to the following solutions: (i) Reviewing and completing legal documents and policies on climate change to meet requirements from daily climate change responses; (ii) Focusing on investment in hydro-meteorological monitoring and forecasting systems to meet the demand, especially demand of real-time/very short-notice forecasts and marine forecasts; mobilizing social resources for these important systems; (iii) Enhancing awareness on climate change responses at all levels, in all sectors and for all people, with a focus on localities; (iv) Promoting international cooperation to attract external resources and strengthening cooperation and coordination in realizing the Paris Agreement and projects/programs/tasks on meteology and climate change.

Goal 13.1

Goal 13.3

Goal 13.2
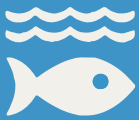
GOAL 14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, the sea, and marine resources for sustainable development
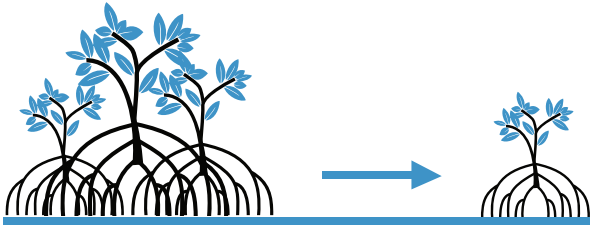
Seagrass ecosystem, coral reefs, coastal mangrove swamps are decreasing in area and in danger of degradation

IN 28 COASTAL PROVINCES

647 UNITS AND ENTERPRISES DISCHARGE DIRECTLY TO THE SEA

DOMESTIC SOLID WASTE GENERATED IS ABOUT **38,500 TONS**/DAY
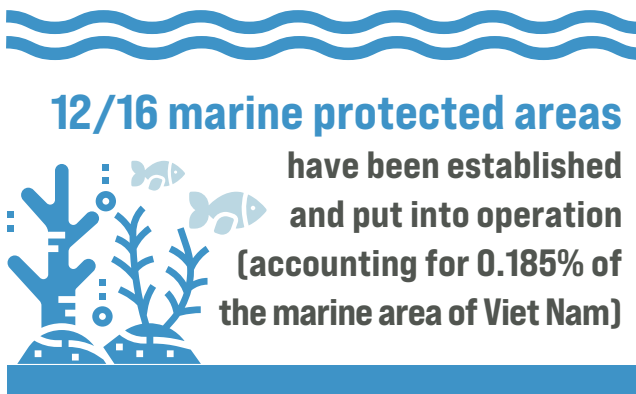
12/16 marine protected areas have been established and put into operation (accounting for 0.185% of the marine area of Viet Nam)

In 2019, **91.3 million** pieces were dropped (more than 2 times compared to 2018)
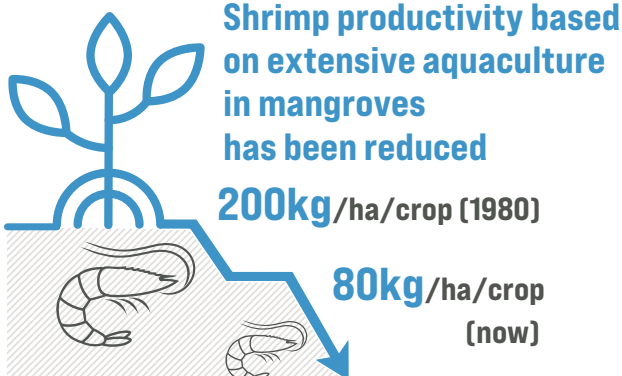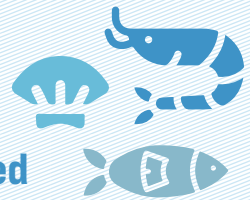
Shrimp productivity based on extensive aquaculture in mangroves has been reduced

200kg/ha/crop (1980)

80kg/ha/crop (now)

There's a tendency in decreasing of marine reservation, fishing quantity and productivity

It will be very challenging for Viet Nam to achieve the SDG 14 by 2030. Marine environment is being significantly and increasingly impacted by coastal tourism and social-economic activities. This is threatening the marine ecosystem and marine resources, thereby affecting the livelihoods of millions of Vietnamese fishermen.

Target 14.1: By 2030, prevent, significantly reduce and control marine pollution, particularly pollution from land-based activities, including solid waste, wastewater and organic substances pollution (Global target 14.1.).

Indicator 14.1.1: Content of substances in seawater environment in estuarine, coastal, and offshore areas.

Roadmap: Not available.

According to Viet Nam Environmental Status Report in 2016 about urban environment, in coastal cities, the quality of coastal seawater is quite good, satisfying most of the typical parameters within the allowable limits of the Vietnamese Standards (QCVN10-MT:2015/BTNMT). However, due to the influence of estuaries and waste reception from coastal economic development activities, some marine areas have high concentrations of total suspended solids (TSS). In addition, the increase in the content of organic matter and grease has also raised concern for coastal water quality in some coastal cities in recent years. The level of organic pollution in the Northern coastal area is higher than in the Central and Southern regions. The content of mineral grease is also detected in some areas such as Ha Long Bay (Quang Ninh), Can Gio Beach (Ho Chi Minh City), Front beach and Back beach (Ba Ria-Vung Tau), but not exceeding QCVN10-MT: 2015/BTNMT. Seawater in Viet Nam is assessed to be of good quality. Most of the parameters typical for offshore seawater quality meet QCVN10-MT:2015/BTNMT.

Indicator 14.1.2: Proportion of monitoring points showing that coastal seawater quality meets the national technical standards for the parameters of pollution of organic matter (N-NH4+) and total grease.

Roadmap:

	By 2020	By 2025	By 2030
Rate of monitoring points showing that coastal water quality meets the national technical standards for the parameters:			
- Pollution of organic matter (N-NH4+)	100%	100%	100%
- Total grease	100%	100%	100%

According to the MONRE's data, the year 2015 witnessed a rate of monitoring sites for coastal water quality that met the requirements of national technical standards reaching 100%. However, in recent years, both the parameters of organic matter (N-NH4+) and total grease in the coastal seawater at some coastal monitoring points have exceeded the permitted threshold. The concentration of organic matter N-NH4+ was found to exceed the threshold in some coastal areas, such as fishing ports, tourist resorts and aquaculture areas in Ninh Thuan province. This is attributed to wastewater from seafood preliminary processing, domestic wastewater, and oil waste from anchored ships etc.[84].

The marine environment is currently significantly and increasingly affected by tourism and socio-economic activities along the coast. According to the data recorded from 28 coastal provinces/cities, currently 647 units and enterprises discharge directly to the sea with a flow of 88,667,902 m3/day and night, of which 154/647 units and enterprises (23.8%) have a flow of discharge of 1,000 m3/day and night to the sea[85]. Besides, the amount of solid waste in key coastal economic provinces tends to increase, especially hazardous wastes in light industries, chemicals, and metallurgy. The current amount of

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84   Source: Monitoring Results: Environmental quality of coastal seawater at fishing ports, resorts and aquaculture zones in Ninh Thuan province in the second quarter of 2019 http://sotnmt.ninhthuan.gov.vn/Ketquaquantrac.aspx?dtdn=143>

85   The MONRE's report on the implementation of SDG in 2019.

domestic solid waste generated in 28 coastal provinces is about 14.03 million tons / year (approx. 38,500 tons/day)[86], which is a factor leading to a very high risk of coastal water pollution. With the current speed of socio – economic development and inadequate infrastructure, the prevention, substantial reduction and control of all kinds of marine pollutions will be very difficult to realize.

Target 14.2: By 2030, strengthen management and protection of marine and coastal and island ecosystems in order to avoid significant adverse impacts and improve the health and resilience of oceans (Global target 14.2.).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

Viet Nam Environmental Status Report in period 2011-2015 shows that the sea grass ecosystem in Viet Nam is distributed from the North to the South and along the islands at a depth of 0-20 m, with a total area of over 5,583 ha, about 100,000 ha of lagoons and bays and 290,000ha of muddy wetlands. In the seawater areas of Viet Nam, about 11,000 species of living organisms have been found in different marine biodiversity (BD) areas. However, the seagrass ecosystem is in danger of degradation, 100 species of marine organisms in Viet Nam, which are endangered and rare, have been included in the Viet Nam Red Book and IUCN Red List for protection measures.

Viet Nam's coral reefs that are of high biodiversity, great primary productivity and considered amazing landscapes are widely distributed from the North to the South on an area of about 1,222 km^2, concentrated in the South Central Coast, Hoang Sa and Truong Sa islands. However, the area of coral reefs is shrinking, concentrating mainly in inhabited areas. The coverage of coral reefs has decreased over time, and in many places, it has dropped by over 30%. Particularly, on the coast of Son Tra peninsula, Da Nang, the coral reef ecosystem declined by 42% in 10 years (2006-2016)[87].

Viet Nam's coastal mangrove swamps are currently severely degraded, with a rapid decline in the area and quality of mangrove swamps. The serious decline of the mangrove swamp area means the biodiversity of the ecosystem is decreasing, especially the aquatic species without spawning grounds and habitat.

Table 22: Distribution of coral species that create reefs in some Viet Nam's sea areas

No	Sea area	Number of species
1	West of the Gulf of Tonkin	176 species
2	Central area	252 species
3	Hoang Sa	201 species
4	Southern area	406 species
5	Truong Sa	333 species
6	South West	251 species

Source: MONRE, Viet Nam Environmental Status Report in period 2011-2015

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86   https://www.thiennhien.net/2019/11/29/moi-truong-bien-viet-nam-bai-1-o-nhiem-va-suy-thoai-gia-tang.

87   Source: Viet Nam fishery. Coastal ecosystem downgrades: Does Da Nang ignore Sơn Trà? < http://www.thuysanvietnam.com.vn/he-sinh-thai-vung-bien-ven-bo-suy-giam-da-nang-co-bo-lo-son-tra-article-21147.tsvn>

Nevertheless, a positive signal is that in the past few years, many tasks and projects on afforestation and mangrove rehabilitation have achieved initial results, contributing to increasing the area of mangroves from 131.5 thousand hectares in 2010 to 149.6 thousand hectares in 2018[88].

One of the solutions that has been implemented to protect marine ecosystem is to plan protected areas for management measures. By 2020, 12/16 marine protected areas have been established and put into operation.

However, the physical facilities of marine protected areas have not met the operation needs, especially patrol boats, scientific research and biodiversity monitoring equipment. There is a lack of human resources in marine protected areas. The marine protected areas are often the places where poor communities live and their living mainly depends on natural resources exploited from protected areas. Policies to support livelihoods for fishermen living in and around marine protected areas are unavailable that makes conservation difficult. Communication on marine conservation is still a challenge due to lack of funds for regular operations.

Given the above situation, Viet Nam is unlikely to achieve the SDG target of 14.2 by 2030 without urgent measures effectively implemented in the coming years.

Target 14.3: Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels, in the context of climate change (Global target 14.3.).

Indicator 14.3.1: Viet Nam marine acidity (pH)

Roadmap: Not available.

Data is currently unavailable for the indicator "Viet Nam marine acidity (pH)". Meanwhile, according to MONRE's data, the proportion of off-shore monitoring stations showing marine acidity (pH) which meets national technical standards reached 100% in 2015. However, there is inadequate foundation to determine whether the roadmap is accomplished or not. Viet Nam has not yet issued specific regulations, so it has not implemented activities to mitigate and deal with the impacts of ocean acidification. In these days, it is considering building a modern and synchronous system of integrated monitoring stations for marine environmental resources, marine radar stations, and sea buoy stations in order to implement the National Natural Resources and Environment Monitoring Network Planning for the period 2016-2025, vision to 2030.

Target 14.4: By 2020, effectively manage harvesting, and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and destructive fishing practices; implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yields as determined by their biological characteristics (Global target 14.4.).

Indicator 14.4.1: Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels.

Roadmap: Not available.

Indicator 14.4.2: Number of illegal fishing cases.

Roadmap: Maintain reduction of 10-12%/year.

Indicator 14.4.3: Proportion of fishing output per reserves of coastal aquatic resources in Viet Nam.

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88   MARD, 2019, Report on the implementation of the Strategy for Environmental Protection to 2020, vision to 2030.

Roadmap: Not available.

There is currently no data to evaluate the indicators 14.4.1, 14.4.2 and 14.4.3. This requires Viet Nam to focus resources on conducting periodic assessments of overfishing activities, timely detecting and preventing illegal fishing activities at sea in the coming time.

The Fisheries Law issued by the National Assembly on November 21, 2017 legalized the contents related to prohibit illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing, including the Europe Commission's recommendation. Over the past years, Viet Nam has actively propagated and mobilized fishermen to comply with the provisions of the Fishing Law, to reorganize the work of issuing Certification, to recognize the origin of aquatic products in provinces, directing the People's Committees of coastal provinces and cities to strengthen management of fishing labour, especially juvenile labour, comply with labour regulations and international laws; prohibiting andending the illegal fishing boats and fisherman in exploiting aquatic products in unauthorized marine areas.

The survey on aquatic resources in the entire sea area has been completed as a basis for formulation of exploitation planning for each sea area and each fishing profession; proceeding to forecast fishing grounds in short term (10 days), monthly term, season term.

In relation to the regeneration and development of aquatic resources, in 2019, there are 54/63 provinces and cities nationwide to drop seed into natural waters to regenerate aquatic resources with a total of 91.3 million pieces more than 2 times compared to 2018, including tiger shrimp seed, rare and precious aquatic species (Plectropomus leopardus, cobia, bronze featherback, coral, giant barb, red tail catfish, tiger shrimp and traditional, indigenous fish species).

Near-shore fishing is gradually managed through measures to control the number of fishing vessels, change the career structure, and encourage the development of offshore fishing. At the same time, localities have actively issued regulations banning destructive fishing methods such as using electric pulses, diving, chemicals,..; prioritize the development of fishing using light, gill net and fishing. Up to now, there are 94,572 fishing boats nationwide, of which 45,950 fishing boats with the length of 6-12m, 18,425 fishing boats with the length of 12-15m, 27,575 fishing boats with the length of 15-24m, 2,662 fishing boats with length > 24m. Wooden fishing vessel accounts for 98.6%, the rest is steel shell and new material shell. The number of fishing vessels categorized by main fishing occupations is as follows: towing net 18,363 units, accounting for 19%; fin net craft 6,556 pieces, accounting for 6.8%; gill net job 34,931, accounting for 36.2%; fishing 15,728 units, accounting for 16.3%; other jobs 17,904 units, accounting for 18.5%; logistics ships 3,127 units, accounting for 3.2%.

Although a number of policies have been implemented towards sustainable fishing, Viet Nam's fisheries sector is also facing many challenges such as: the decline in fisheries resources in the sea area and the hinterland and the pollution of plastic waste, degradation of aquatic ecosystems. Marine resources tend to decrease in terms of volume, yield and size of fish caught (seafood reserves decrease by 16%). Shrimp productivity based on extensive aquaculture in mangroves has been reduced from about 200 kg/ha/crop (1980) to only 80 kg/ha/crop nowadays; one ha of mangrove used to give 800 kg of aquatic products but the current yield only accounts for 5% of such an amount. This is a challenge that Viet Nam needs to pay more attention to in the coming years[89].

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89 https://kinhtexanh.vn/nguon-loi-thuy-san-suy-giam-do-o-nhiem-moi-truong-bien-14696.html.

In addition, the problems related to IUU fishing have not been solved with clear efficiency, including: countering destructive and illegal activities in Viet Nam's sea area and no effective control of seafood on the wharf.

As such, Viet Nam will face many challenges in the coming years when implementing Target 14.4.

Target 14.5: By 2030, ensure that the area of coastal and marine protected areas reaches 3-5% of the total natural area, based on available scientific information and in line with national and international laws (Global target 14.5).

Indicator 14.5.1: Area of marine protected areas.

Roadmap: A percentage of marine protected areas compared to total natural area: By 2020: 0.24%; By 2025: 2-3%; By 2030: 3-4%.

According to Decision No. 742/QD-TTg dated May 26, 2010, by 2015, 16 marine protected areas will be established and put into operation with a total planned area of 270,271 ha, accounting for about 0.24% of the marine area of Viet Nam. However, by 2020, only 12/16 marine protected areas have been established and put into operation, accounting for 0.185% of the marine area of Viet Nam. Up to now, 6/45 national-level inland water conservation zones have been planned[90].

Table 23. List of Viet Nam marine protected areas planned and established

No	Name of marine protected area/province	Total area (ha)	Of which: marine area (ha)	Establishment status
1	Đao Tran/Quang Ninh	4,200	3,900	Established
2	Co To/Quang Ninh	7,850	4,000	Established
3	Bach Long Vi/Hai Phong	20,700	10,900	Established
4	Cat Ba/Hai Phong	20,700	10,900	Established
5	Hon Me/Thanh Hoa	6,700	6,200	Not established yet
6	Con Co/Quang Tri	2,490	2,140	Established
7	Hai Van – Son Cha/Thua Thien Hue – Đa Nang	17,039	7,626	Not established yet
8	Cu Lao Cham/Quang Nam	8,265	6,716	Established
9	Ly Son/Quang Ngai	7,925	7,113	Established
10	Nam Yet/Khanh Hoa	35,000	20,000	Not established yet
11	Vinh Nha Trang/Khanh Hoa	15,000	12,000	Established
12	Nui Chua/Ninh Thuan	29,865	7,352	Established
13	Phu Quy/Binh Thuan	18,980	16,680	Not established yet
14	Hon Cau/Binh Thuan	12,500	12,390	Established
15	Con Đao/Ba Ria – Vung Tau	29,400	23,000	Established
16	Phu Quoc/Kien Giang	33,657	18,700	Established

Source: Department of Biodiversity Conservation, Viet Nam Environment Administration

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Investment in marine protected areas is still very inadequate. The national budget mainly invests in the investigation and formulation of detailed planning of marine protected areas, while investment in infrastructure for marine protected areas is mainly from local budgets and from the support of foreign governments and international organizations.

The development of livelihood conversion models for households who are dependent on exploiting natural resources from marine protected areas has always received attention from MARD and Marine Protected Areas Management Board. Several models of livelihood conversion have been tested and successfully applied in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), contributing to improving the lives of people living in and around MPAs, reducing pressure on resource exploitation in marine protected areas, for example: homestay models, converting a coastal fishing boat into a tourist vessel in Cu Lao Cham MPA; financial support for the Women's Union to develop handicrafts for tourists in Hon Mun MPA, Nha Trang Bay, sand lizard farming at Chua Nui etc.. However, compared to demand in reality, the activities of creating alternative livelihoods for people living in and around MPAs are still very limited, especially the sustainability of the models. Many models only work effectively when supported by a project. When the project ends, these models cannot be maintained, with the main reason being the lack of funds to maintain operations.

With the current speed of establishment and operation of protected areas, it will be difficult to complete the roadmap set by 2030 in terms of area of marine and coastal protected areas reaching 3-5% of natural area.

Target 14.6: By 2030, strictly prohibit all forms of fisheries subsidies that may lead to overfishing or that may contribute to IUU fishing, and create enabling conditions for WTO's fisheries subsidies negotiations (Global target 14.6.).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

The Government has taken many practical actions to prevent, reduce and eliminate IUU. Viet Nam has gradually improved fisheries management institutions towards the prevention of IUU fishing, with the focus on the assessment of marine resources, determination of fishing-allowable capacity to plan fishing strength and the elimination of destructive fishing practices as well as prevention of fishing vessels from illegally fishing in waters of another country. The Fisheries Law passed by the National Assembly on November 21, 2017 has codified the contents related to prohibit(IUU) fishing, including the Europe Commission's recommendation.

If the provisions of the Fisheries Law are well implemented along with the arrangement and mobilization of sufficient resources for the implementation, Viet Nam can likely ensure the achievement of the target 14.6 by 2030.

SUMMARY

In general, by 2030, It will be very challenging for Viet Nam to achieve SDG 14 on "Ocean, sea and marine resources conservation and sustainable usage". Among the 6 targets under this SDG, Viet Nam is only on track to complete target 14.6 on prohibiting all forms of fisheries subsidies. The remaining targets will either very difficult to achieve (target 14.2 on protection of marine, coastal and islands ecosystems; target 14.5 on the area of marine and coastal reservations) or face vast challenges (target 14.1 on prevention, significant reduction and control of all kinds of marine pollution; target 14.3 on mitigation and treatment of impacts from ocean acidification; target 14.4 on sustainable management and restoration of fish stock). Especially, data reflecting the implementation progress of SDG 14 is currently lacking or not collected, leading to difficulties in M&E. Marine pollution becomes increasingly serious as a result of population pressure and economic growth. This is threatening marine ecosystem and marine resources, thereby affecting the livelihoods of millions of Vietnamese fishermen.
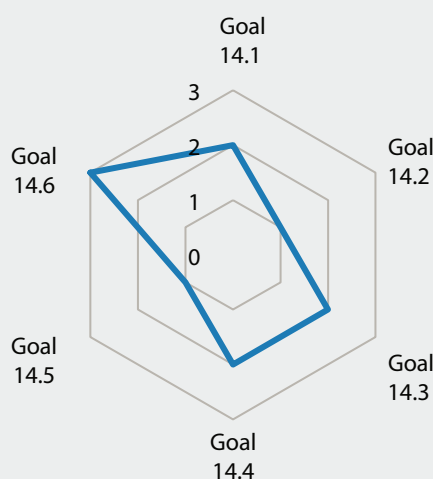
GOAL 15

Protect and sustainably develop forests; conserve biodiversty; develop ecosystem services; combat desertification; prevent the degradation of and rehabilitate land resources

By the end of 2018, **43/63** provinces have completed the development of a **biodiversity action plan** and **19/63** provinces have approved the provincial biodiversity conservation master plan

By the end of 2017, the country had **169 protected areas** (with an area of about **2,108,500 ha**)

Forest area
14.6 million ha
(by the end of 2019)

Forest coverage
41.89%
(by the end of 2019)

Growth rate of forest area
0.26%/year
(2010-2019)

Forest environment services
2,800 billion VND

The area with national sustainable forest management certification
269,163 ha

The proportion of land that is degraded over total land area:

31.7%
(2017)

Total number of endangered precious and rare fauna species prioritized for protection is 99. However, their natural habitats are degrading and facing extinction

53 violating CITES cases were prosecuted (2018-2020) and confiscated:

30,000 genetic resources of agricultural plants have been collected and stored

25 tons of ivory

500 kg of rhino horn

20 tons of pangolin scales

Viet Nam still faces many difficulties and challenges to achieve SDG15 by 2030, it is necessary to have more synchronous and drastic solutions in the coming time, especially deforestration, land degradation, trading and consumption of endangered wild plants and animals.

Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of important wetland ecosystems, ecosystem services, particularly forest ecosystems and drylands in line with obligations under international agreement (Global target 15.1.).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

In the implementation of the Law on Biodiversity, MONRE has reviewed and evaluated the protected areas based on different criteria and classified them to announce the List of protected areas[91] (the Decision No.1107/QD-BTNMT dated May 12, 2015). Accordingly, by the end of 2018, 43/63 provinces and cities have completed the development of a biodiversity action plan and 19/63 provinces have approved the provincial biodiversity conservation plan.[92]. As May 2015, Viet Nam has 166 nature reserves with an area of 2,106,051 ha, accounting for 6.36% of the country's territory, of which there are 31 national parks, 64 nature reserves, 16 species conservation areas, 55 landscape protected areas[93].

Since 2015, MONRE has coordinated with relevant agencies to propose upgrading one natural reserve into a national park, upgrading 1 species and habitat conservation area and 2 marine protected areas into natural reserves and establishing 03 new reserves. By the end of 2017, the country had 169 protected areas with an area of about 2,108,500 ha. Compared to 2015, there have been 3 more nature reserves and an increase of about 2,500 ha. Besides the system of natural reserves in the country, many areas have also met international criteria, including 10 biosphere reserves, 6 ASEAN heritage areas; 2 world natural reserves [94,95,96,97].

In terms of wetlands ecosystems, Viet Nam has about 12 million hectares of SE, distributed in most regions of the country. The biodiversity of Viet Nam has great value with 1028 species of fish, 848 species of birds, 800 species of invertebrates in the freshwater ecosystem and over 11,000 species of marine and coastal ecosystems. Conscious of the role and value of Southeast regions, Viet Nam officially acceded to the Ramsar Convention in 1989. Since then, Viet Nam has nominated and recognized 11 Ramsar sites.

Regarding the promotion of ecosystem services, in recent years, the results of the implementation of the policy on payment for forest environmental services (FES) have achieved many successes. In the period 2011-2017, three types of payments for forest environmental services have been made, including: Land protection services, erosion control, sedimentation of lakes, river and stream beds; Services to regulate and maintain water resources for production and social life; Services of protecting natural landscapes and conserving biodiversity of forest ecosystems for tourism services. The period of 2018 has expanded the pilot implementation of 2 new FES: forest carbon sequestration and storage and provision of spawning grounds, food sources and natural seed, using water from forests for farming aquaculture. From the successes achieved, ministries are continuing to research the methodology and test the implementation of payment for other ecosystem services such as marine ecosystem, wetland ecosystem, etc..

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91   Before the publication of this list, all reports used the list of special-use forests of MARD.

92   Hoang Thi Thanh Nhan (2018) Presentation of the 25-year report accompanying the Convention on Biological Diversity. Building partnerships to implement biodiversity conservation goals, the workshop of the Viet Nam Environment Administration on May 21, 2018.

93   The Decision No.1107/QD-BTNMT dated May 12, 2015 of the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment announcing the List of Protected Areas.

94   Chu Mom Ray National Park (Kon Tum), Kon Ka Kinh National Park (Gia Lai), Hoang Lien National Park (Lao Cai), U Minh Thuong National Park (Kien Giang), Ba Be National Park (Bac Kan), Bai Tu Long National Park (Quang Ninh).

95   MARD (2019), Report on implementation of the Strategy for environmental protection to 2020.

96   Viet Nam Environment Administration (2019), Report on the implementation of the environmental protection strategy to 2020.

97   Viet Nam Environment Administration (2019), Report on the implementation of sustainable development goals.

Target 15.2: By 2020, fundamentally reduce the transfer of forest lands to other usages; by 2030, strengthen the implementation of sustainable management of forests of various types, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, promote afforestation and reforestation, increase the forest cover to approximately 44-45% of the country's land area (Global target 15.2).

Indicator 15.2.1: Current forest area.

Roadmap: Not available.

As of December 31, 2019, national forest area was more than 14.6 million hectares, of which natural forest was nearly 10.3 million hectares, and planted forest was over 4.3 million hectares.

Figure 83. Forest area (thousand ha)*
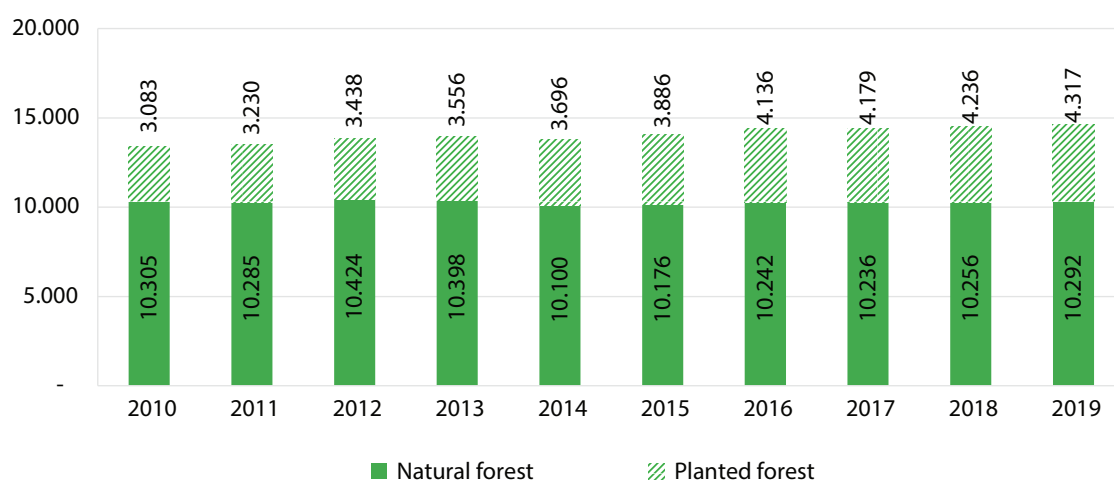
Note (*): include natural forest and planted forest

Source: Aggregated from annual decision on the national forest status announcement of MARDMARD

Indicator 15.2.2: Proportion of forest coverage.

Roadmap: By 2020: 42%; By 2025: 42%; By 2030: 42.8%.

As of December 31st 2019, the national forest coverage reached 41.89%, almost reaching the roadmap by 2020 for indicator 15.2.2. This is due to the efforts in afforestation and forest protection that have been implemented in recent years. The exploitation of natural forests has been managed strictly, including the closure of natural forests nationwide since 2017. Therefore, the natural forest area tends to increase again in recent years, from 10.24 million hectares in 2016 to nearly 10.3 million hectares in 2019.

Given the recent growth rate of forest area (an annual average of 0.26% between 2010 and 2019), Viet Nam can achieve the proportion of forest coverage of 42% by 2020, and of 42.8% by 2030 as set out in the roadmap for target 15.2.

Figure 84. Proportion of forest coverage: (%)
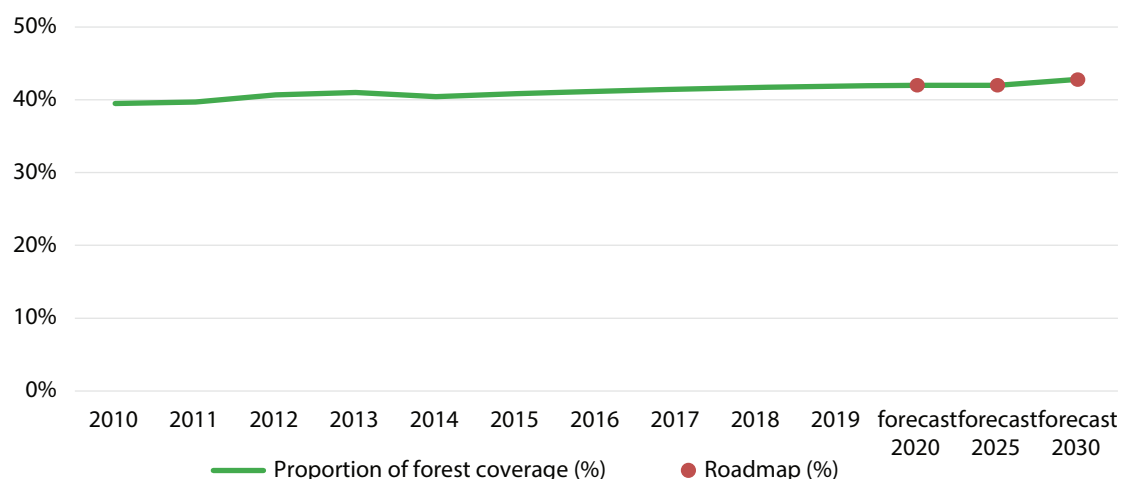
Source: Aggregated from the MARD's annual announcement of the current status of national forest and the expert team's estimates

Forest environment services have become an important financial source, contributing to improving the efficiency of forest protection and development, increasing income for forest owners, and reducing pressure on state budget spending. By the end of November 2019, the country has collected over 2,800 billion VND from forest environment services and spent 636 billion VND in the form of non-cash. Regarding sustainable forest management: The area with national sustainable forest management certification reached 269,163 hectares by the end of 2019 in 24 provinces, of which the area was certified for forest by Viet Nam Forest Certification Scheme is 10,000 hectares. The total area that was newly granted a certificate of sustainable forest management is 42,924 hectares in 2019.

Despite the positive changes in recent years, Viet Nam still faces challenges to reach target 15.2 in the future. Viet Nam should focus more on protecting natural forests, controlling illegal exploitation and deforestation of natural forests, and preventing and controlling forest fires in the coming years. In 2019, 10,039 cases of violation of the Law on Forestry were found; the destructed area was 537 hectares (of which there were 2,595 cases of violations of illegal deforestation, logging and forest land use).

Target 15.3: By 2030, strengthen the prevention and control of desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land and solid affected by desertification, drought, floods and other causes (Global target 15.3).

Indicator 15.3.1: Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area.

Roadmap: Not available.

As of 2017, the proportion of land that is degraded over total land area was 31.7% nationwide. As estimated, with the current growth rate, this proportion could reach 32.6% by 2020, and 35.5% by 2030.

Under the impact of climate change and socio-economic development, degraded land area in Viet Nam is likely to increase both in degradation scale and level due to increased erosion, leaching, landslides, fallow, and inundation, etc. Land desertification has risen due to abnormal climate and weather changes, mainly in the South Central region.

Along with droughts, sea level rise leads to an increase of saline intrusion and alum contamination of the soil. The area of saline and alum contaminated soil is distributed along the coast from the North to the South, in which the largest area is in the Mekong River Delta and some northern provinces, such as Thai Binh, Hai Duong and Quang Ninh.

Given such trends, Viet Nam will face a variety of challenges in the process of implementing the VSDG target 15.3.

Figure 85. Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area over years (%)
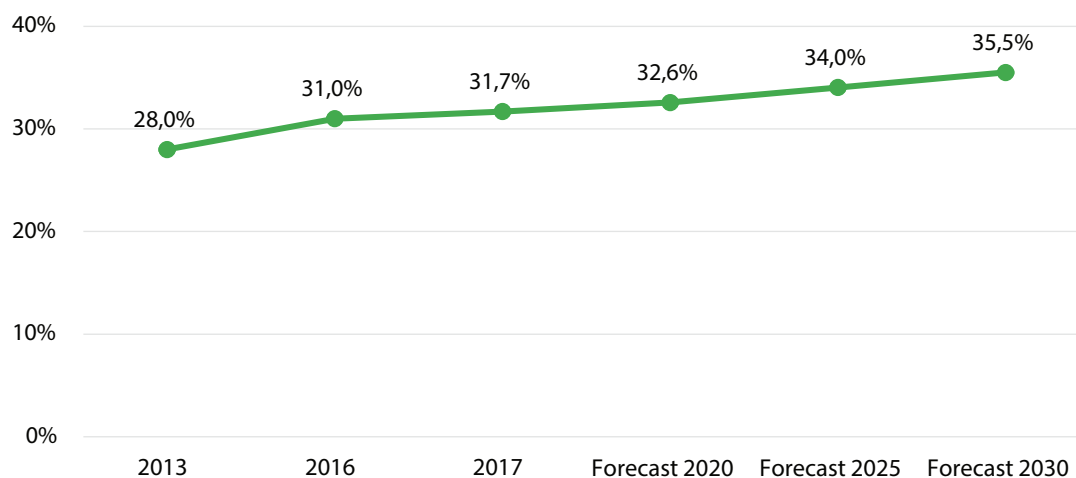
Source: MONRE and Experts' calculation

Target 15.4: By 2030, ensure the conservation of forest ecosystems of national and international importance, including their biodiversity and ecosystem services, in order to support sustainable development (Global target 15.4).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

The system of protected areas was approved by the Prime Minister in the Decision No.1976/QD-TTg dated October 30, 2014, with the goal of developing the area of special use forest by 2020 to reach about 2,400,000 hectares, including: 34 National Parks, 58 Nature Reserves, 14 Species / Habitat Conservation Areas, 61 Landscape Protected Areas and Forest for Research and Experimental Science.

Recently, the total area of special-use forest newly established is 116,144 ha; in which, in the period 2018-2020, 12 special-use forests have been newly established with a total area of 56,257 ha; Reviews have been undertaken for the transitional planning of 146 zones, including: 30 national parks, 52 nature reserves, 08 species and habitat conservation areas, 09 forests for scientific research and experimentation and 47 protected areas for landscapes, culture, and history.

Viet Nam has six recognized coastal and island biosphere reserves including: Cat Ba, Red River wetlands, Can Gio mangrove forests, Cu Lao Cham, Ca Mau, Kien Giang coastal areas and islands; Three remaining areas are Dong Nai biosphere reserve, western Nghe An and Langbiang.

The ASEAN Heritage Garden Program has been unanimously implemented by the ASEAN Ministers of the Environment since 2003. Accordingly, ASEAN heritage gardens are established to conserve biodiversity which is important at regional and international level; contributions have been made to raising environmental awareness and education, and efforts were undertaken to support the expression of aspirations of the people of ASEAN member countries on natural resources conservation towards sustainable development.

Currently, Viet Nam is a member country with the most ASEAN Heritage Parks in the region with 10 national parks recognized as: Ba Be National Park (2003); Chu Mom Ray National Park (2003); Hoang Lien

National Park (2003); Kon Ka Kinh National Park (2003); U Minh Thuong National Park (2012), Bai Tu Long National Park (2016), Vu Quang National Park, Bidoup Nui Ba National Park, Lo Go-Xa Mat National Park and Ngoc Linh Nature Reserve (2019)[98].

Target 15.5: By 2030, take urgent actions to reduce and then end the degradation of natural habitats, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species (Global target 15.5).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Number of programmes on breeding, conservation and re-releasing of protected priority species which are developed and promulgated" as follows: 1 species by 2020; 2 species by 2025, and 3 species by 2030.

Over the years, many documents have been issued to prevent the natural habitat degradation of ecosystems. The National Strategy on Biodiversity Conservation to 2020, Vision 2030 also sets out the objectives, tasks and solutions to be implemented in recovering degraded ecosystems. For mangrove rehabilitation, on January 22, 2015, the Prime Minister issued the Decision No.120/QD-TTg on approving the project on protection and development of coastal forests to respond with climate change in 2015-2020 period.

Until now, there have not been any comprehensive investigations, degradation assessments, and official criteria to evaluate the degree of ecosystem degradation. According to the MARD's assessment, the seagrass ecosystem is currently at risk of degradation, having around 100 endangered, precious, and rare marine species listed in the Red Book of Viet Nam and the List of endangered species of IUCN that urgently need protection. Moreover, the mangrove ecosystem is seriously degrading. To deal with this issue, over the years, many tasks and projects on planting and restoring mangroves have been conducted, improving the quality and area of mangroves which reached 18.1 thousand hectares in the period 2010-2018.

The conservation of wild fauna and flora continues to be of concern. Decree No. 160/2013/ND-CP amended and supplemented by Decree No. 64/2019/ND-CP stipulating criteria and lists of endangered precious and rare species prioritized for protection. Accordingly, the total number of endangered, precious, and rare animal species prioritized for protection has increased from 83 to 99 species. Recently, Decree 06/2019/ND-CP promulgates the list of endangered, precious, and rare forest plants and animals. In addition, many programs and projects have been implemented to conserve rare wildlife species such as elephants, sea turtles, and primates, which are regulated in documents namely Decision No. 940/QD-TTG dated 19 July 2012 on the 2020 Emergency Action Plan on elephant conservation in Viet Nam; Vietnam elephant conservation master project for the period 2013-2020; Decision No. 811/QD-BNN-TCTS dated March 14, 2016, on Action Plan for Viet Nam Sea Turtle Conservation 2016-2025; Decision No. 628/QD-TTG dated May 10, 2017, on the urgent action plan on primate conservation in Viet Nam by 2025, vision to 2030. In addition, many species conservation projects and activities have been implemented by international organizations in many provinces such as the Primate Conservation Project and On-Site Monitoring of Cat Ba National Park, Na Hang National Reserve; Saola in Quang Nam and Thua Thien Hue; elephants in Yok Don National Park; Spoonbills in Xuan Thuy National Park; clams in national parks and marine protected areas in the Central, East and Southwest regions; project "Strengthening biodiversity conservation through policy reform and changing wildlife consumption in Viet Nam". Many biodiversity conservation centres have been established, including medicinal plant gardens; genetic conservation centers and banks; Animal and plant relief centres in national parks and centres in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Nghe An, Khanh Hoa, and Binh Duong.[99]

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98   Report on the implementation of the sustainable development goals in 2019 of the MARD.
99   Report on the implementation of the sustainable development goals in 2019 of MONRE.

However, wildlife habitat has been narrowed due to changes in land use practices. Many species are at an alarming rate, facing high risk of extinction.

Target 15.6: Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as international agreed (Global target 15.6).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Proportion of provinces/cities participating in the national database for genetic resources and traditional knowledge of genetic resources: 20% by 2020; 80% by 2025, and 100% by 2030.

Viet Nam acceded to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2014. The Decree No.59/2017/ND-CP on the management of access to genetic resources and benefit sharing from the use of genetic resources has been issued; Genetic conservation projects and programs continue to be deployed such as the Project to strengthen capacity in managing access to genetic resources and fair and rational sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources; Program on conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources to 2025, with a vision to 2030 (the Decision No.1671/QD-TTg dated September 28, 2015); Master plan for the development of medicinal herbs to 2020 and orientation to 2030 (the Decision No.1976/QD-TTg).

The preservation of genetic resources has achieved goods results. The assessment of genetics and tolerance traits, as well as quality analyses for production are being gradually promoted. Up to now, genetic resources of about 30,000 agricultural plants and over 2,000 forest trees have been collected and stored; 730 species of medicinal plants that need to be preserved, about 70 species of domestic animals, 87 breeds of 75 freshwater aquatic species, 12 genetic resources of marine fishes, 2 genetic sources of crustacean species, 4 genetic sources of mollusc species, and about 22,000 microorganism strains have been listed and stored. As a result, nearly 200 potential objects have been selected to be developed into valuable commodities and products. Among them, more than 20 genetic resources have been studied to successfully develop technical processes for replication to process products, upgrade production scale, and contribute to generate stable revenue for reinvestment in conservation[100].

Target 15.7: Prevent, tackle the poaching, trafficking and illegal consumption of protected fauna and flora under extinction threats and their products (Global target 15.7).

Indicator 15.7.1: Number of detected cases of illegal trading, hunting, transporting, trafficking and storing of wild animals.

Roadmap: By 2020: No increase compared to 2010; By 2025: No increase compared to 2010; By 2030: No increase compared to 2010.

Viet Nam is ranked as one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. However, over the past years, illegal exploitation and consumption of wild animals have become a serious concern, causing a great threat to biodiversity and putting many species of wild animals at risk of extinction or to the brink of extinction.

The management agency of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Viet Nam has actively developed documents, guidance manual for species identification, regulations of the Convention

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on International Trade in Endangered Species and Vietnamese legislation on protection of endangered wildlife species, and equip and update knowledge for law enforcement and justice agencies.

With the active role in the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Viet Nam has shown great efforts in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating violations of the Convention. Since 2018, Vietnamese authorities have discovered and captured 25 tons of ivory, 500kg of rhino horn and more than 20 tons of pangolin scales, many specimens of black coral, live tortoises, and snakes, tiger bone, giant clam shell, wood of all kinds, etc. The judiciary has also prosecuted 53 cases, and tried 31 cases and 34 offenders violating the Convention. All of these efforts have been highly appreciated by the international community[101].

However, to maintain the current results, it is necessary to promote information and communication, awareness raising, awareness of law observance and community involvement in wildlife protection, to socialize the work of biodiversity conservation, and to fight against crimes and violations of legal regulations on biodiversity.

Currently, there is not enough data of indicator 15.7.1, so it is impossible to forecast the possibility of completing the roadmap for indicator 15.7.1.

Target 15.8: By 2020, take effective measures to prevent, control and abolish the invasion of alien species in national land and water ecosystems; and strengthen the management of biological safety related to genetically modified organisms (Global target 15.8).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: A programme for controlling invasive alien species is developed and issued" as follows: 1 species by 2020, 2 species by 2025, and 3 species by 2030.

The control of invasive alien species is regulated in the Law on Biodiversity 2008. Then, on December 17, 2012, the Project on preventing and controlling invasive alien species in Viet Nam to 2020 was approved in the Decision No.1896 /QD-TTg. Recently, MONRE has reviewed, assessed and issued the Circular No. 35/2018 / TT-BTNMT dated December 28, 2018 defining the Criteria for determining invasive alien species and invasive alien species that replaces the Joint Circular between MONRE and MARD No. 27/2013 / TTLT-BTNMT - BNNPTNT dated September 26, 2013 regulating the identification of invasive alien species and issuing a list of invasive alien species. The list of invasive alien species has decreased from 25 species in 2013 to 19 species and the list of possibly invasive alien species has decreased from 56 species in 2013 to 51 species.

Strengthening risk management from genetically modified organisms is regulated in the Law on Biodiversity 2008. The Government issued the Decree No.69/2010/ND-CP dated June 21, 2010 on biosafety for genetically modified organisms, genetic specimens and GMO products and the Decree No.108/2011/ND-CP dated November 30, 2011 amending the Decree No.69. MONRE and MARD have developed and put into operation biosafety management systems. As a result, in the period 2014-2016, the biosafety management for genetically modified organisms has made significant progress, MONRE has assessed and issued biosafety certificates for 05 genetically modified corn events; MARD conducted the evaluation and certification of genetically modified plants eligible for food and feed for 13 genetically modified maize events and 8 transgenic soybean events. In addition, capacity building, awareness raising on genetically modified organisms and public information on genetically modified organisms for the environment, biodiversity, and health of humans and livestock have been carried out.

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SUMMARY

Although gaining great success with 4 targets (target 15.1 on conservation and restoration of wetland ecosystems; target 15.2 on forest coverage increase; target 15.4 on conservation of forest ecosystems of national and international importance and target 15.8 on prevention and control of invasive alien species and genetically modified organisms), Viet Nam is still facing many difficulties and challenges to complete SDG 15, requiring more systematic and stronger solutions in the coming time. Focus should be on addressing problems such as: i) Deforestation and illegally organized logging activities; (ii) Soil degradation; (iii) Decreasing natural habitat areas and high risk for extinction of some endangered species; iv) Ineffective control of endangered wild lives exploitation, illegal trading/trafficking and usage; iii) Limited financial resources for ecology/protected areas and biodiversity conservation.
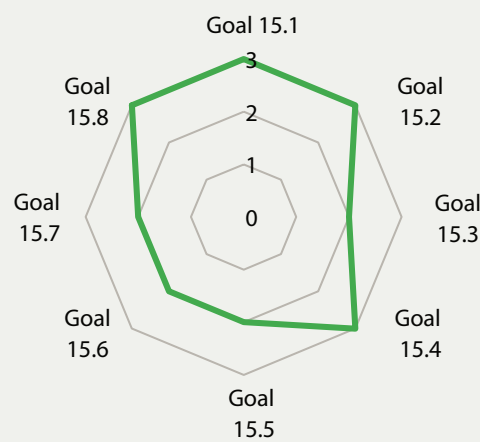
GOAL 16

Promote a peaceful, equitable, and equal society for sustainable development; provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels

2015-10/2020
1,643 human trafficking cases has been detected and rescued 3,912 victims

2016-2020
Criminal cases declined by 3.85%/year on average

Proportion of people having to pay informal costs (PAPI 2015-2019) has been experiencing a downward trend

2016-2019
The number of victims of domestic violence that was detected and supported was 169,496 victims

2016-5/2019
Number of cases of domestic violence and violence against children reported to competent authorities was 513,184 cases

2019, **53.6%** of enterprises had to pay unofficial fees when having to contact and work with public authorities, a **significant reduction** compared to 2015 (PCI 2015-2019)

Corruption control shows significant improvement. Viet Nam's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) has **increased from 31 to 37 points** (2015-2019)

Satisfaction Index of Public Administration Services (SIPAS)

80.9% (2017) → 84.45% (2019)
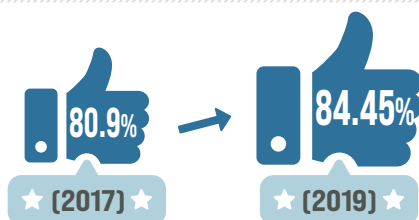
Propotion of children under 5 years were registered for birth

98.8% (2019)
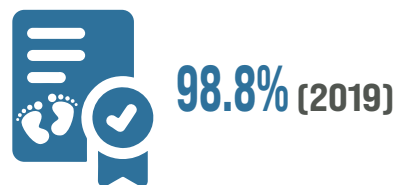
87.58% communal-level units have met the criteria of legal access (2019)

Viet Nam will face difficulties, challenges to achieve SDG 16 by 2030. The violence prevention, especially against children, corruption control, promoting people's roles and responsibilities in participation needs to be drastically implement in the coming time.

Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere (Global target 16.1).

Indicator 16.1.1. Proportion of population aged 15-65 years old subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the past 12 months.

Roadmap: Not available.

For indicator 16.1.1, there is currently no statistical data to evaluate this indicator, the only source of statistics related to this indicator is the National Survey on Violence against Women conducted by the GSO in 2010 and 2019, and the findings of this survey are presented under target 5.2 (indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.1). However, the data from this survey only reflects the physical, emotional and sexual violence against women and girls, while indicator 16.1.1 has a broader scope which covers population aged 15-65 years who experience physical, emotional and sexual violence. Therefore, there should be a national survey with a broader scope to develop a foundation to evaluate the results of the achievement of target 16.1 based on indicator 16.1.1.

In recent years, the Government and the Ministry of Public Security have implemented many specific policies and measures to prevent and combat domestic violence, school violence, to facilitate cultural changes, education, and reform of offenders and law breakers. In addition to implementing the Project "transforming the complex and key locations of social order and safety to 2020", the mobilization of people to participate in prevention and denunciation of crimes and law violations related to violence have been strengthened. The organization of information and communcation and meeting activities in response to "the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women", the "World Day Against Trafficking in Persons" etc. has contributed to raising people's awareness of the law and vigilance and prevention and deterrence of crime, social evils and acts of violence. As a result, the number of criminal cases declined by 3.85% annually on average in the 2016-2020 period and is reducing over the years102.

Although certain results have been achieved in the implementation of target 16.1, the prevention of some types of crimes and violations related to violence is still limited and ineffective, especially social prevention. Although the number of criminal offenses has decreased, the activities related to some types of criminal offenses, drug trafficking and human trafficking are still complicated and tend to increase; crimes related to violence and appropriation of property still account for a major proportion in the criminal crime structure. These issues pose significant challenges in realizing target 16.1 in the coming time.

Target 16.2: Prevent and significantly reduce abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children and young persons (Global target 16.2).

Indicator 16.2.1. Proportion of people under 18 years of age who experienced physical or psychological punishment by their caregivers or nurturers in the past month.

Roadmap: Not available.

Over the past years, Viet Nam has strengthened communication, mobilization and coordination in the implementation of child protection, prevention and handling of child abuse cases in the local areas to minimize harm to abused children. The country has effectively received, protected and supported human trafficking survivors to reintegrate in the community. 100% of cases that are identified as victims, if

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102 Official Letter No. 955/BC-BCA-V01 dated October 8, 2020 of the Ministry of Public Security reporting the results of implementing the SDGs.

needed, are supported with initial assistance, psychological counselling, medical examination, and legal aid; many victims received allowances, apprenticeship, employment for settling down and community integration. According to the Ministry of Public Security, from 2015 up to now, the police has detected 1,643 human trafficking cases, rescued 3,912 victims, and handled 1,846 perpetrators.

The data for indicator 16.2.1 can be obtained from the MICS surveys conducted by GSO and UNICEF, but they are only available up to 2014. In 2020, GSO and UNICEF continue to carry out this survey under the name of Survey for Sustainable Development Goal Indicators on Children and Women. It is expected that by 2021 there will be updated data. Results of the MICS Survey in 2014 showed that over 93% of children aged 1-14 have experienced violent disciplinary actions. In which, the most common punishment is psychological, up to almost 90%; followed by physical punishment accounting for approximately 61%, and severe physical punishment accounting for more than 9% of the surveyed children. According to the Report of the Survey on Voices of the Children conducted by the Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD) and Save the Children (announced in June 2020) in 7 provinces with more than 1700 children participating, up to 82.2% of children have witnessed their friends and/or siblings being punished when making mistakes. This result shows that it is quite common for adults to punish children for making mistakes, in which, the most common form of punishment that the children witnessed was cursing (63.2%). According to this survey, 1 out of 5 children in school witnessed physical and mental punishment at school.

Thus, according to indicator 16.2.1, the implementation of target 16.2 in the coming time will encounter significant challenges because it is still common that young children are punished at home by their parents or guardians.

Indicator 16.2.2. Proportion of persons aged 18–29 years who had experienced sexual violence by age 18.

Roadmap: Not available.

The statistics on this indicator on women can be obtained from the National Survey on Violence against Women in Viet Nam conducted by GSO in 2019 (presented in Goal 5). However, if men are considered as well, there is currently no survey tapping this issue. So, at present, it is not possible to analyse and forecast the trend of indicator 16.2.1.

Indicator 16.2.3. Number of victims of domestic violence who denounced the cases to competent authorities.

Roadmap: Not available.

Domestic violence means an intentional behaviour by a family member causing harm or having potential to cause physical, mental or economic harm to another family member. In the period 2008-2018, there were 293,588 domestic violence cases[103], [104]. However, according to statistics of the Supreme People's Court, from July 1, 2008 to September 30, 2018, out of 1,384,660 divorces handled by the Court, there were 1,060,767 cases stemming from the cause of domestic violence[105].

According to local statistics, the number of cases of domestic violence and violence against children reported to competent authorities from 2016 to May 2019 was 513,184 cases.

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103 http://vneconomy.vn/bao-luc-gia-dinh-so-lieu-tu-toa-an-gap-ba-thong-ke-cua-bo-20181023085534254.htm

104 https://bvhttdl.gov.vn/gia-dinh-620468.htm

105 https://www.sggp.org.vn/80-vu-ly-hon-hang-nam-la-do-bao-luc-gia-dinh-564942.html

Table 24. Number of cases of domestic violence and violence against children reported to competent authorities from 2016 to May 2019

Year	Total	In which	
		Children	Victims of domestic violence with financial difficulties
2016	87,421	3,478*	315
2017	85,987	4,736**	114
2018	50,547	2,684	197
May 2019	16,345	1,584	110
Total	513,184	12482	736

* In 2016: only children without any supporter could receive legal aids; ** In 2017: including both children without any supporter and children under the provisions of the Law on Children 2016

Source: Review Report of Gender Equality Performance in VSDGs, MPI - GIZ, 2019

According to the Report No. 474/BC-CP dated October 6, 2020 on implementing the national targets on gender equality in 2019 and period 2011-2020, the number of detected domestic violence victims receiving psychological counselling, legal aids, health care and other support in facilities supporting victims of domestic violence during 2016-2019 was 169,496 victims.

Although there is no data on indicator 16.2.3 (on the number of victims of domestic violence), the above statistics show that domestic violence is still a painful problem and the main driver of domestic violence is gender inequalities that persist in society and in many families. The people's awareness of the law is still limited, which is combined with the patriarchal ideology. Communities, authorities and mass organizations lack interest, consider domestic violence a private matter, and only intervene when it causes serious consequences. Economic hardship accompanied by social evils (alcoholism, gambling ...) was also mentioned as another driver.

Thus, although there is not set roadmap for all 3 indicators above, through the above analysis, it can be seen that it will be difficult for Viet Nam to achieve target 16.3 without more effective policies and measures in the near future to address the existing shortcomings associated with this target.

Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice for all (Global target 16.3).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

Promoting the rule of law, ensuring equal access to justice is always the top priority that the Party and State embraces, in order to build a country with the rule of law of the people by the people and for the people, specifically:

Firstly, the system of legal policies on criminal issues, civil issues, judicial proceedings, judgment execution, judicial assistance, judicial institutions organization and judicial assistance has been regularly built and improved as defined by the guidelines and directions of the Judicial Reform Strategy. Judicial proceedings law has been gradually improved; the country has promulgated or amended and supplemented the Criminal Procedure Code, the Civil Procedure Code, the Administrative Procedure Law and many guiding documents.

Second, the improvement of the apparatus organization and determination of the functions, duties and authorities of the judicial institutions have been characterized by being innovative and modernized. The following tasks have been performed successfully: improving jurisdiction for the district People's Court, overcoming the backlog of the cases in the Provincial People's Courts, the Court of Appeal, and the Supreme People's Court. The number of lawyers is growing fast in quantity and quality.

Third, the training has met the requirements of standardization of qualifications for judicial officers and judicial assistance officials. The promulgation of the Law on Execution of Civil Judgments and the Law on Execution of Criminal Judgments has created conditions to consolidate the organization of judgment enforcement agencies, improve the quality of judgment enforcement activities, and overcome many limitations and problems in the past.

However, there are still signs of violation of justice in both the institutional aspects of the rule of law as well as in the protection of justice such as: Violation of the provisions of the Constitution, causing harm to the society, abuse of social relations protected by the Constitution; the direction of implementing a number of judicial reform tasks has not followed the roadmap.

Target 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows; strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime (Global target 16.4).

Indicator 16.4.1. Number of illegal weapons, explosive materials, and items of supporting equipment confiscated per 100,000 population.

Roadmap: Not available.

Many solutions have been implemented to mobilize the synergy of both the political system and the entire population to participate in information and communication, prevention and combat against organized crime, and criminal gangs related to "usury", distraining, collecting debts on behalf, forcefully seizing property, acts of violations related to weapons, explosives, and supporting tools. The Resolution No. 96/2019/QH14 dated November 27, 2019 of the National Assembly on the prevention and fight against crime and law violations, including a target of "increasing the rate of property recovery in the corruption cases to over 60%" has been implemented. The progress has been facilitated on investigating the cases of economic crimes, corruption, seizing property, blockade of assets; tens of trillion VND has been recovered to the state[106].

Strengthening international cooperation, timely grasping the situation, preventing, coordinating effectively preventing and fighting crimes, solving non-traditional crime issues, especially organized crimes, transnational crime, and crime related to violence, money laundering, terrorism financing etc constitutes a number of actions undertaken.

In the period 2010 - 2019, there was a significant reduction in the flow of illegal weapons. According to statistics from the Ministry of Public Security, in 2019, 3211 guns were confiscated, a 31% decrease compared to 2018. The amount of explosives and the number of detonators has also decreased significantly. Notably, there was no illegal grenade confiscated. On the other hand, the number of other illegal weapons increased markedly. The confiscated illegal supporting tools were 822, an increase of 10% compared to 2018 and 4 folds compared to 2010. The number of bullets confiscated has surged from 6245 in 2018 to 20600 in 2019. Compared to 2018, the number of bullets, warheads and rudimentary weapons confiscated had doubled in 2019. However, this also reflects the effectiveness of the mobilization of the people to hand over weapons, explosives, supporting tools as well as regular and irregular inspections of agencies and organizations permitted to equip and use weapons, explosives and

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106 Typical one like the case of Huỳnh Thị Huyền Như, case of Mobifone AVG…

supporting tools to detect, prevent mistakes, and promptly correct and handle violations. In addition, the Ministry of Public Security has also strengthened the inspection, control and coordination with the Border Guard, the Coast Guard, Customs, and Market Management etc. to promptly detect, arrest and strictly handle cases of violations.

Table 25. Weapons, explosive materials, and items of supporting equipment confiscated

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Guns	3,003	1,483	6,968	11,841	9,455	6,842	1,121	1,550	4,656	3,211
Supporting equipment	201	997	4,473	2,531	2,051	222	181	559	746	822
Grenade	58	183	660	715	584	275	216	251	807	0
Bomb	9	170	67	1,311	641	45	30	25	13	16
Bullet Bullet, warhead Raw weapon	2,646	6,780	28,646	45,817	31,047	12,577	13,981	4,134	6,245	20,600
Explosive (kg)	140,8	929	4,805.7	4,490	2,175	622	386	135.7	251	29.7
Detonators	3,799	493	0(*)	15,796	8,786	993	432	714	761	420
Bullet, warhead	113	0	1,759	3,014	1,568	1,276	173	160	548	1,087
Raw weapon	1,821	1,000	12,217	12,257	9,725	2,874	1,177	1,058	3,062	7,388

Source: Ministry of Public Security

(*) In 2012, There were no detonators confiscated, but 27,682 metres slow igniter cords were confiscated.

Target 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms (Global target 16.5).

Indicator 16.5.1: Proportion of people who have to pay informal fees when using public services.

Roadmap	By 2020	By 2025	By 2030
Proportion of people who have voluntarily paid informal fees to public servants at least once in the last 12 months	18%	<12%	<5%
Proportion of people who, while contacting public servants, have been suggested to pay informal fees at least once in the last 12 months	<30%	<20%	<MM 10%

According to the results of the sociological survey on the Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) over the years, from 2015 up to now, the proportion of people having to pay informal costs when using public services including health care, education, land use right certificates and construction permits has been experiencing a downward trend.

Figure 86. Proportion of people reported having to pay informal fees when using some public services
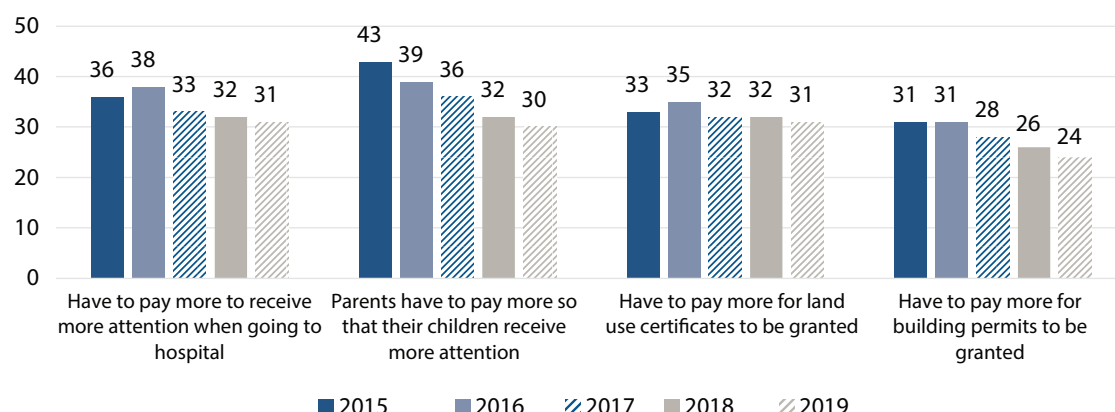
Source: Survey on the Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) 2015-2019 – CECODES, Fatherland Front and UNDP[107]

Indicator 16.5.2: Proportion of enterprises that have to pay informal fees when using public services.

Roadmap	By 2020	By 2025	By 2030
Proportion of enterprises which have bribed public servants at least once in the last 12 months	<50%	<30%	<10%
Proportion of enterprises which, while contacting public servants, have been suggested to bribe at least once in the last 12 months	<20%	<10%	<5%

Figure 87. Proportion of enterprises that have to pay informal fees
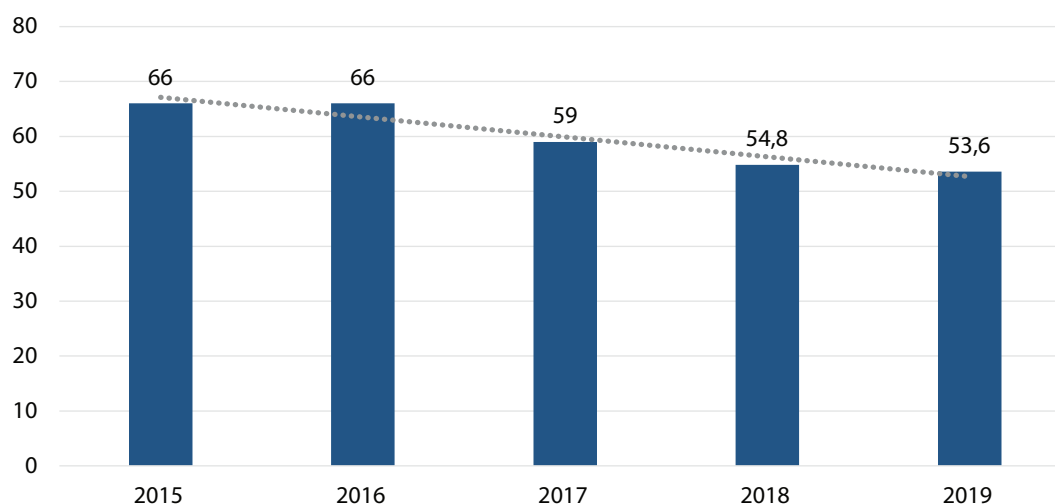
Source: Survey on Provincial Competitiveness Index 2015-2019 (PCI) - VCCI

According to findings of the survey on PCI 2019 published by VCCI, 53.6% of enterprises said that they had to pay unofficial costs, a significant reduction compared to 2015 (66%). However, in the past 5 years (2015-2019), still more than half of enterprises had to pay informal fees when having to contact and work with public authorities.

107 See page 17, PAPI Report 2019 conducted by CECODES, Fatherland Front and UNDP, published in 2020 at http://papi.org.vn/
wp-content/uploads/2020/04/01_2019PAPI_BAOCAO_VIE.pdf.

According to the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) published by Transparency International (TI), in 2019 Viet Nam reached 37/100 points, up 4 points compared to 2018, ranking No. 96 out of 180 on the global rating. In the period 2015-2019, Viet Nam's CPI has continuously improved, improving from 31/100 points in 2015 to 37/100 points in 2019.

Figure 88. Corruption perception index (CPI) of Viet Nam
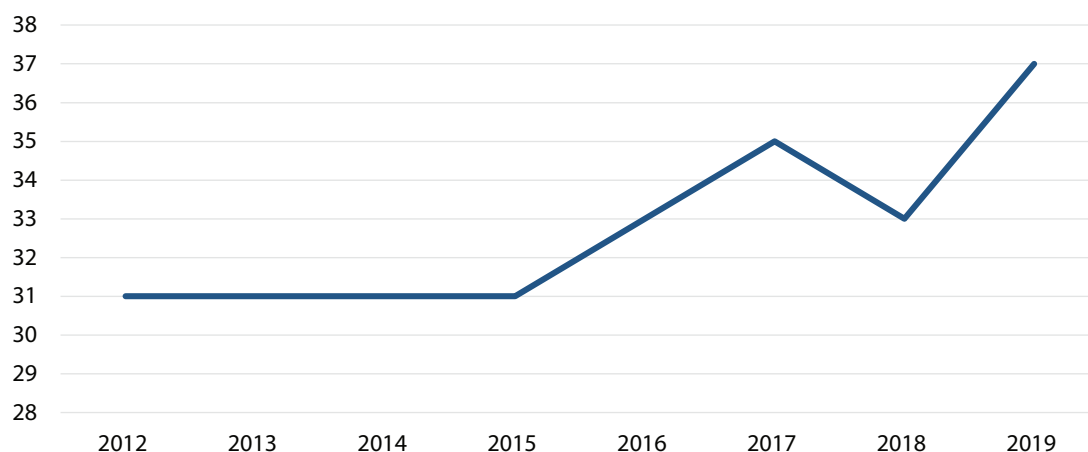
Source: Transparency International

The abovementioned indicators show that the corruption control in Viet Nam in period 2015-2019 has gone through positive changes, recognized by the international community.

The prevention of and fight against corruption and waste has achieved strong progress, with many comprehensive and obvious results, creating positive effects, resonating throughout the society, which is supported and highly appreciated by the people and recognized by international organizations. Since the establishment of the Central Steering Committee for Anti-corruption up to now, procedural agencies throughout the country have prosecuted and investigated 12,178 cases/20,668 defendants, prosecuted 10,397 cases/20,354 defendants, conducted trial of 9,918 cases/19,026 defendants for corruption, economic management order and other crimes related to position. Although many very important results have been achieved, corruption in some areas is still serious, complicated, causing frustration in society and there is a need to continue implementation of more drastic anti-corruption work in the time to come[108].

Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (Global target 16.6).

Indicator 16.6.1. Proportion of population satisfied with their most recent experience of public services.

Roadmap: By 2020: 82%; By 2025: 86%; By 2030: 90%.

According to the Report on the results of the Satisfaction Index of Public Administration Services (SIPAS) 2019 published by MOHA, the proportion of people and organizations satisfied with the services of state management agencies in general in the country was 84.45%; the rate of people and organizations satisfied with the services of state administrative agencies in general of 63 provinces and cities directly under the Central Government ranged from 73.81 to 95.26%; in which, Quang Ninh province had the highest index at 95.26% and Binh Thuan province had the lowest index of 73.81%; with the difference of 21.45%. Thus, the overall national SIPAS in 2019 improved 1.5% compared to 2018, nearly 3.6% compared to 2017.

108 https://noichinh.vn/nghien-cuu-trao-doi/202008/mot-so-van-de-ve-phong-chong-tham-nhung-thoi-gian-qua-308377/

If this trend is maintained, it is forecast that this index will reach 86.2%, 95.1% and 100% by 2020, 2025 and 2030, respectively, and can therefore reach the set roadmap. However, according to many studies around the world, the satisfaction of people and organizations depends not only on the state of public service provision but also on many other factors. Therefore, it may be the case that due to the higher living conditions and the strong development of information technology, people have higher awareness and knowledge of, and needs and expectations for state authorities; and in this case, the satisfaction rate may not increase, instead, there could be a risk of it decreasing. In the past years, the SIPAS of the Government has focused on assessing public services provided in the One-stop shops at all levels in 63 provinces and cities. In the coming period, when the Government enhances the provision of online public services, building e-governance, digital transformation etc,, the Satisfaction Index will be able to change the content and areas of assessment, including online public service reviews. The satisfaction index for online public services would be lower. Experience in implementing SIPAS in our country over the past years has also shown that a number of provinces and cities directly under the Central Government have improved satisfaction rates in an unsustainable way, and some have declined continuously.

Figure 89. Satisfaction Index of Public Administration Services (SIPAS) at national level
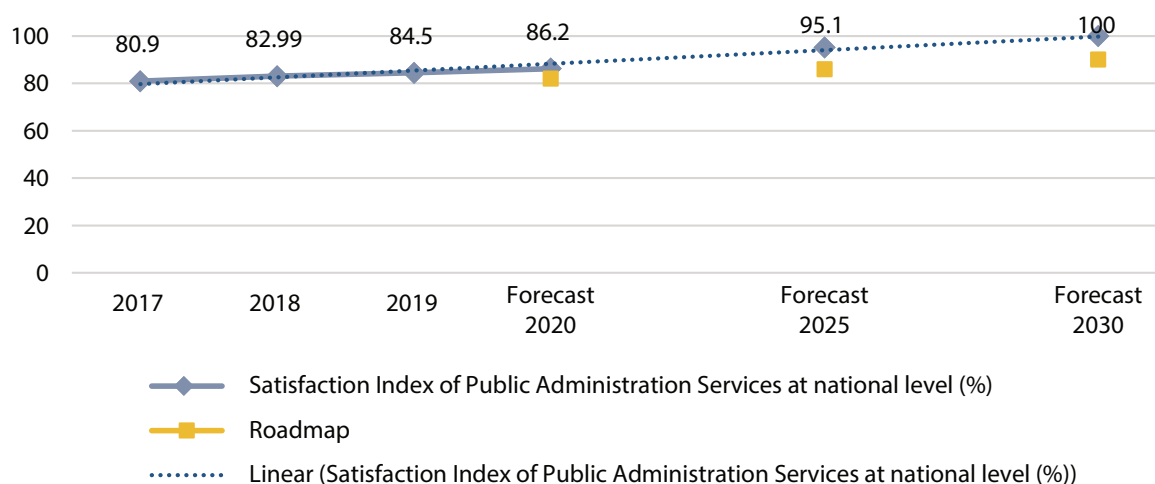
Source: MOHA; Forecast: Experts' calculation

Indicator 16.6.2. Proportion of state budget expenditure compared with the approved state budget expenditure estimates.

Roadmap: Not available.

State budget settlement data for the period 2010-2018 shows that there has been a significant shift since 2016, associated with the implementation of the policy of restructuring the state budget and managing public debt to ensure a safe and sustainable national financial foundation, and to implement the State Budget Law (2015) and the Law on Public Investment (2014). Data for 2019 and 2020 shows the estimated implementation budget, in which the estimated implementation expenditure in 2019 is 7% higher than the budget estimates due to sound growth of revenue, especially the growth of the local budget revenue, according to the regulations stipulating priority given to development investment spending; by 2020, it is estimated that spending reaches 96.5% of the estimate thanks to the requirement of thoroughly saving, cutting and extending expenses that are not really needed (including suspending the growth of base salary, increase of pension and allowance for people with meritorious services) in the context that the Covid-19 pandemic imposed profound impacts on all aspects of socio-economic life, economic growth reached 2.9% (planned to be 6.8%), and state budget revenue (central budget) was lower than the estimates.

Figure 90. Proportion of state budget expenditure compared with the approved state budget expenditure estimates
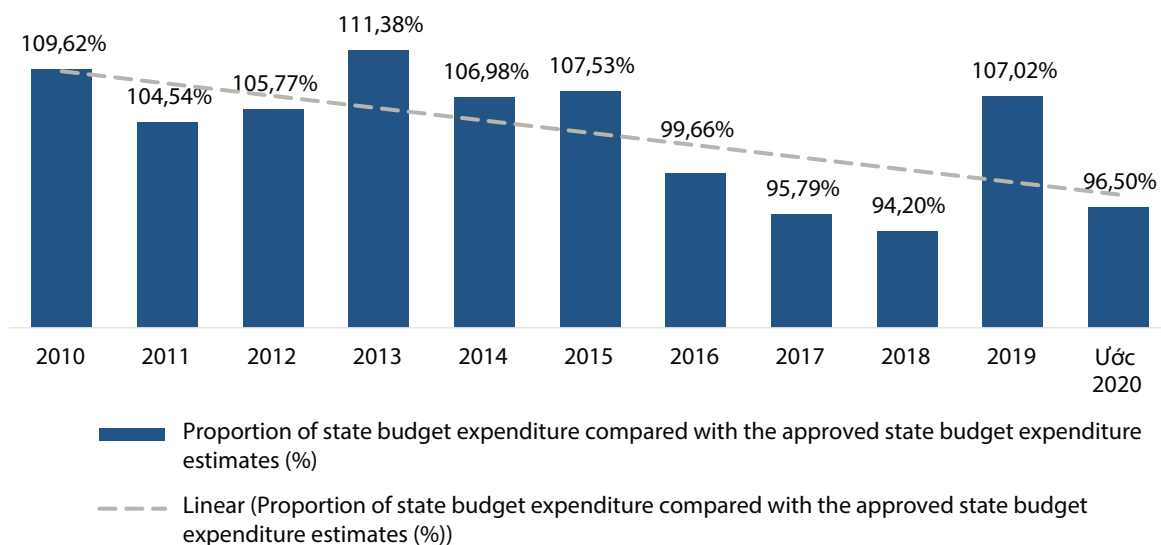
Source: MOF

In summary, building a transparent, effective and accountable institution at all levels is the top priority task of the Party and State. The institution of organization of the administrative system continues to be completed, renewed, eliminating the overlap of functions and duties. The institution on the relationship between the State and the people has received attention for development and implementation. Law dissemination and education has ensured the people's right to access the law and improved law literacy. Application of information technology in handling tasks of ministries, agencies and localities has been gradually improved, management and administration has been more efficient and effective, creating favourable conditions for individuals and groups in addressing administrative procedures.

Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (Global target 16.7).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

The Party and State have always paid attention and provided direction to promote the voice of the people, specifically: (i) Creating a relatively favourable environment and institutions for people's participation in the process of making decisions of state agencies; (ii) The country's deepening international integration along with the State's commitments to the promotion of human rights; (iii) The development of multimedia media and legal framework is increasingly completed, with many important laws passed such as the Law on Access to Information, Law on Referendum, Law on Election, Law on Promulgation of Legal Documents.

There has been improvement in spirit, attitude and ethics of civil servants and public employees when serving the people. People's Inspection Committees, Investment Supervision Boards of communities, and grassroots conciliation teams have been operating quite well, promoting the direct democracy of the people in residential areas. Social supervision, criticism, and suggestions from the Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations for constructing the Party and government have achieved many results. Dialogues, citizen reception; handling of complaints, denunciations, legitimate and legal proposals and aspirations of the people and enterprises have been better implemented. People participate more actively in the construction and implementation of policies and laws. Ownership of the people, different

forms of representative democracy are promoted; direct democracy is expanded; the motto "People know, people discuss, people do, people check" is integrated into many aspects of society.

However, in reality, the participation of people and social organizations in the policy formulation and implementation process is still limited and inadequate. There has not been a mechanism to mobilize efficient participation and coordination among state agencies, between state agencies and socio-political organizations, socio-professional organizations and other organizations and individuals in law enforcement monitoring. There are still limitations in promoting the people's roles and responsibilities to participate in discussing and deciding local issues, and to supervise and contribute to the construction of the Party and government in a number of locations.

Target 16.8: By 2030, provide legal identity for all citizens, including birth registration (Global target 16.9).

Indicator 16.8.1: Proportion of children under five years of age whose births have been registered.

Roadmap: By 2020: 97%; By 2025: 98.5%; By 2030: 100%.

The findings of the survey in 2019 showed that 98.8% of children under 5 years of age were registered for birth, exceeding the target of birth registration set by the National Action Program on Civil Status Registration and Statistics in the period 2017 - 2024. However, there is still a remaining 1.2% of children under 5 years of age who have not been registered for birth yet; this situation is more common in rural areas than in urban areas (1.5% and 0.7% respectively). The Northern Midlands and Mountainous Areas and the Central Highlands are the two regions with the highest rates of under-five unregistered children among the socio-economic regions, with 2.3% and 2.9%, respectively. These two regions are home to many ethnic minorities, with terrain that is difficult to access, and more and communication should be undertaken on ensuring children's rights to birth registration. In addition, there is no sex-based gap in birth registration for under-five children.

Figure 91. Proportion of children under five years of age whose births have been registered during 2006-2019
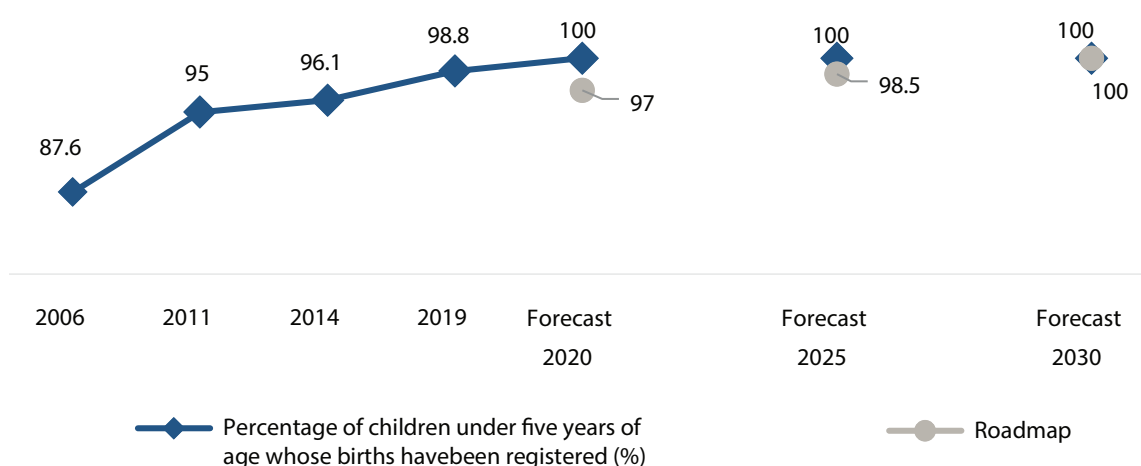
Source: MICS 2006, 2011, 2014 and Calculation from the GSO data (2019).

In addition, children without birth certificates are normally in special circumstances such as abandoned children, street children, children whose parents have not yet had birth certificates. It is challenging in terms of procedures to prove the identity and to collect sufficient papers to issue birth certificates for such children. The lack of identity documents makes children more disadvantaged in their ability to

access public services and assistance for children such as: occupational training, employment, shelter etc., therefore, it is necessary to have solutions available to solve problems in administrative procedures to issue birth certificates for children with special circumstances in the coming time[109].

In fact, the growth in proportion of children having birth registration may be more difficult in the coming period as the remaining cases are from remote, mountainous areas or ethnic minorities. However, Viet Nam is still likely to reach the set roadmap for 2020.

In 2019, the Ministry of Justice continued to implement the Project "Electronic Civil Status Database", to improve software for electronic civil status registration and management for common use, and to expand the scope of software application. By the end of December 31, 2019, the civil status registration and management information system was formed and synchronized in 60/63 provinces and centrally-run cities with 7,272,402 cases of birth registration, 3,198,327 of whom are Vietnamese citizens under 14 years old (by the time of updating data to the software) registering new birth certificates with registration dates from January 1, 2016 and are provided with personal ID number.

Target 16.9: Ensure that public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with Vietnamese legislation and international agreements that Viet Nam is a party (Global target 16.10).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap:

Roadmap	By 2020	By 2025	By 2030
Law on access to information and its guiding documents are issued and implemented	Complete the institution of information access	Complete the institution of information access	Complete the institution of information access
Proportion of communes meeting the criteria of legal access	70%	>80%	>90%

The Law on Access to Information is designed to ensure the exercise of the right to access information as a fundamental right of citizens, as a premise and conditions for the exercise of other rights such as freedoms and democracies of the people or citizens that the Constitution 2013 has stipulated, such as the right to participation in social and state management, the right to vote, the right to run for election, the right to vote when the State holds referendums, the right to complain, the right to denounce, the right to freedom of expression, and the right to freedom of the press. The Law has authorized the Government to detail some contents of the Law regarding the principle "The State creates favourable conditions for persons with disabilities and those living in border areas, islands, mountainous areas, and regions with extremely difficult socio-economic conditions in exercising the right to access information".

The Government also promotes the application of information and communication technology in the work-handling process of each state administrative agency, among state administrative agencies and in transactions with organizations and individuals. This will facilitate development, integration and connection of national-scale information systems, creating a network environment and widely sharing information among state agencies.

In addition to efforts to review legal documents and reform administrative procedures to ensure optimal fundamental rights of citizens and human rights, Viet Nam also participates in a range of international fora and has signed different international treaties as well as nationalized the commitments which

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109 Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD).

demonstrates Viet Nam's determination to regularly implement international commitments on ensuring basic civil and political rights of citizens as well as human rights for sustainable development in general.

Based on statistics and reports of 63/63 provinces and cities, 9.687 out of 10.985 communal-level units have met the criteria of legal access in 2019, reaching 87.58%. Compared to 2018, this number has been up by more than 600 communal-level units meeting the legal access standards. Many localities have the maximum rates of meeting the criteria of legal access such as: Ba Ria - Vung Tau, Da Nang, Ha Nam, and Hau Giang. Some provinces had outstanding improvement of results compared to 2018 such as Son La (reaching 68.09%), Quang Ngai (reaching 75.9%), Dien Bien (reaching 70.43%), and Lang Son (reaching 85.51%)[110]. If this trend continues, it is estimated that about 93.91% of the communal-level units will reach the criteria of legal access by 2020 and estimated that 100% of the units will meet the criteria of legal access by 2025. The roadmap would thus be completed ahead of the schedule.

Figure 92. Proportion of communal-level units meeting the criteria of legal access
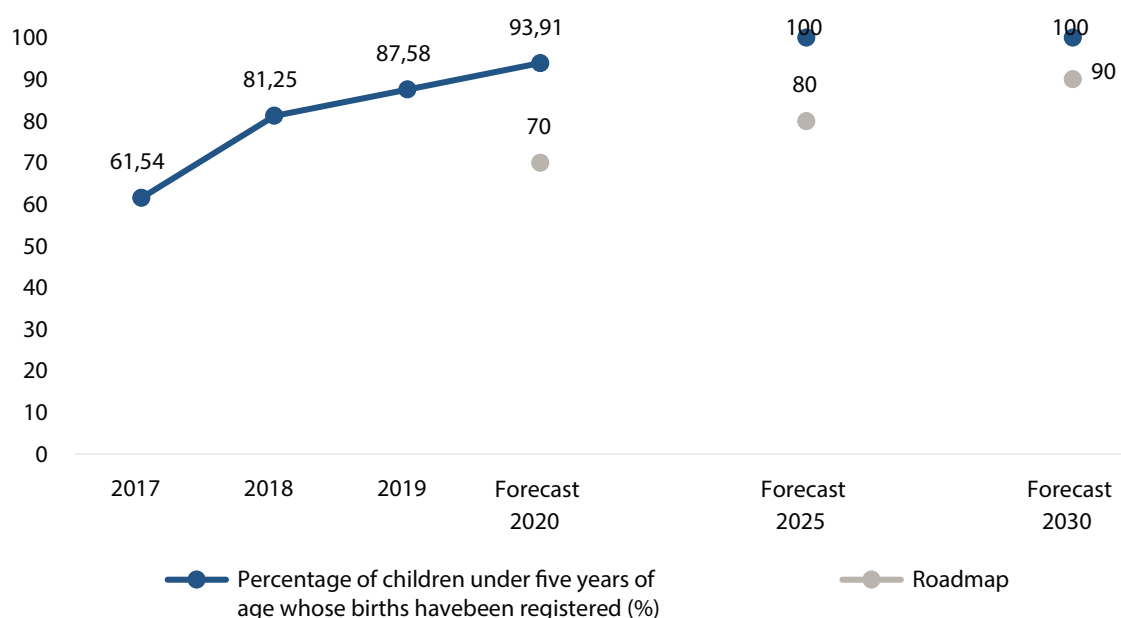
Source: Ministry of Justice; Forecast: Experts' calculation

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110   https://baophapluat.vn/tu-phap/gan-88-don-vi-cap-xa-dat-chuan-tiep-can-phap-luat-511045.html.

SUMMARY

Although possibly achieving 3 targets (target 16.6 on formulation of transparent, effective and accountable institutions; target 16.8 on provision of legal identity for all and target 16.9 on public access to information and protection of fundamental freedom), there are challenges for Viet Nam in general to complete SDG 16 by 2030. These difficulties include: (i) violence under many complicated forms, in particular increases in violence against child and sex abuse (target 16.1 and 16.2); (ii) Leadership for implementing justice reform activities under the roadmap (target 16.3); (iii) Anti-corruption activities , even though these have brought some positive transformations, breakthrough results have not yet been gained. Corruption overall occurs in a complicated ways, especially in sectors of finance-banking, land use management, natural and mineral resources management and public investment (target 16.5); (iv) Limited participation from the people in some provinces in promoting roles and responsibilities of the community in discussing and policy-making process of local issues as well as contributing to the improvement of the Communist Party and government at the local levels (target 16.7).
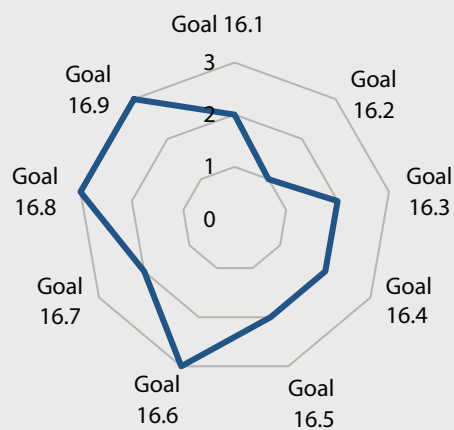
GOAL 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Viet Nam has established relationships with 30 key partners

Promotion of the signing and implementation of new-generation free trade agreements

17 strategic partners

13 comprehensive partners

(CPTPP) **(EVFTA)**

Export and import turnover increased by 1.7 times

527 billion USD in 2020

327.8 billion USD in **2015**

Export growth rate (2016-2020)

Avarage 10.5%/year

By the end of 2018, there were 336 PPP projects in the development of national infrastructure system ~ 1.609 million billion VND

Total ODA and concessional loans: 40 billion USD (2011-2019) and have drastically decreasesed in recent years
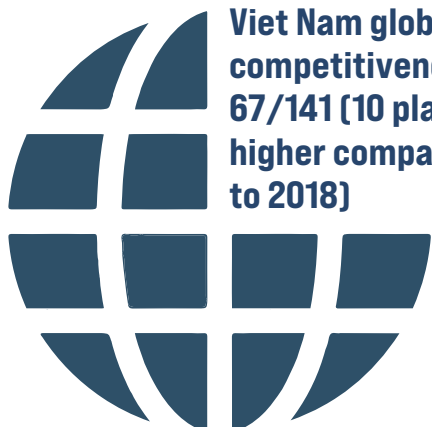
Viet Nam global competitiveness in 2019: 67/141 (10 places higher compared to 2018)

Viet Nam is expected to achieve SDG 17 in 2030. However, more focus is needed on promoting public-private partnerships to mobilize private capital for sustainable development.

Target 17.1: Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of the negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda (Global target 17.10).

Indicator 17.1.1. Average import tax rate.

Roadmap: reducing according to the integration roadmap.

Viet Nam has made progress in international economic integration through the full implementation of international commitments, development and implementation of strategies to join free trade zones with important economic and trade partners, signing and effective implementation of new generation free trade agreements in a comprehensive plan with a reasonable roadmap, in line with the interests of the country. Up to now, Viet Nam is in economic and trade relations with most countries and territories and is a member of many regional and global organizations and forums.

In the 2016-2020 period, the network of strategic partnerships and comprehensive partnerships continues to be strengthened and expanded; relations with other countries have been regularly deepened, with better interwoven interests. The country has promoted the signing and implementation of many new-generation free trade agreements, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and Viet Nam-EU Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA).

Regarding the average Most Favored Nation (MFN) tariff rate: Currently, the average Most Favored Nation (MFN) tariff rate is 11.8% as defined by the Decree No.57/2020/ND-CP dated May 25, 2020 of the Government that amends and supplements a number of articles of the Government's Decree No.122/2016/ND-CP dated September 1, 2016 on Export Tariffs, Preferential Import Tariffs, List of goods and its flat tax, compound tariff, and out- of - quota import tariff and the Decree No.125/2017/ND-CP dated November 16, 2017 amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Decree No.122/2016/ND-CP.

The average import tariff rates of the FTAs are presented in the table below

Table 26. Average import tariff rates in FTAs during 2019-2020

Scope	Effective year	Completion year	Average tax rates in 2020
1. ASEAN	1999	2018	0.06%
2. ASEAN- China	2005	2020	2.9%
3. ASEAN-Korea	2007	2021	1.46%
4. AANZFTA	2009	2022	2.9%
5. ASEAN-India	2010	2024	2.9%
6. ASEAN-Japan	2008	2025	3.2%
7. Viet Nam-Japan	2009	2026	2.5%*
8. Viet Nam-Chile	2014	2029	6.1%
9. Viet Nam-Korea	20/12/2015	2029	4.4%
10. Viet Nam- Eurasian Economic Union	05/10/2016	2027	1.8%
11. CPTPP	14/01/2019	2034	4.5%
12. Viet Nam-EU	01/8/2020	2035	9.3%
13. ASEAN-Hong Kong, China	11/6/2019	2032	6.5%

(*) Average tax rate applied from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 based on Japanese fiscal year (from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 the tax rate was 2.8%)

Source: Report of implementing the SDGs by 2019 of MOF

The reduction of special preferential import tax rates demonstrates Viet Nam's determination in serious implementation of the commitments. Currently, the average import tax rate is being reduced according to the roadmap that Viet Nam has committed.

Target 17.2: Improve the quality and value added of export. Strive to reach an export growth rate of over 10% per annum (Global target 17.11).

Indicator 17.2.1: Goods export value.

Roadmap: Maintain the growth rate at more than 10% annually.

Total export and import turnover increased by 1.6 times, from 327.8 billion USD in 2015 to roughly 517 billion USD in 2019, and in spite of the severe impact of Covid-19 pandemic, it still reached about 527 billion USD in 2020, equivalent to over 190% of GDP. Exports of goods surged from 162 billion USD in 2015 to about 264.19 billion USD in 2019. In 2020, under the serious impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the export growth rate shrank sharply compared to the previous years, with only about 1%, equal to approximately 267 billion USD. However, the balance of exports and imports of goods changed from deficit to surplus at the end of the 5-year period[111], creating conditions for the balance of payments to remain positive, contributing to stabilizing other macroeconomic indicators. Generally, in the 2016-2020 period, the average export growth rate was 10.5%/year, reaching the set roadmap and being an important driving force for economic growth.

Figure 93. Viet Nam's value of export in the period 2015-2019
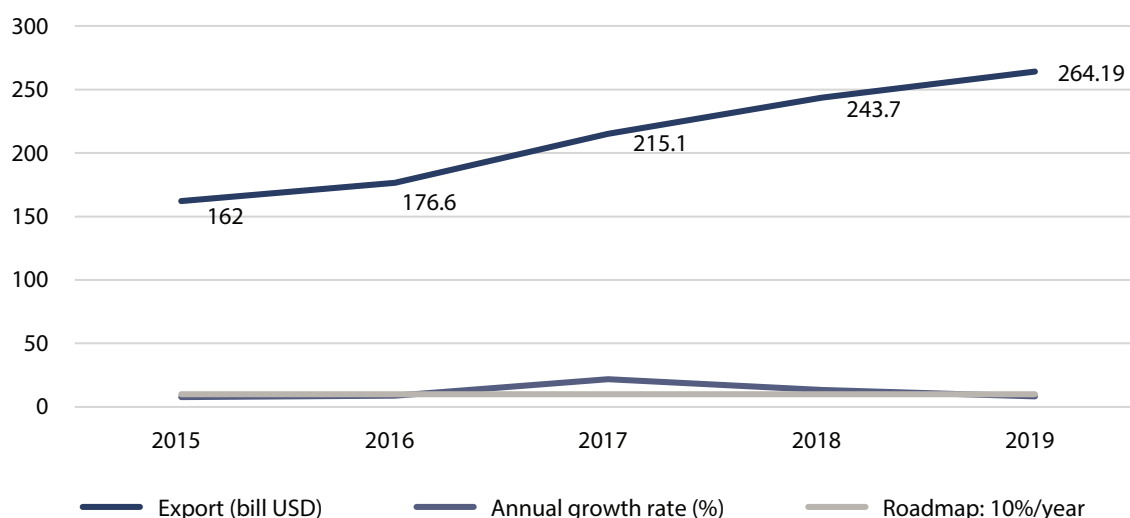
The structure of export and import has shifted towards reducing crude exports, increasing exports of processed and industrial products and expanding imports of goods for production and export. Exports of the domestic sector has increasingly improved in terms of proportion and growth rate. The scale of exported products has been expanded, the number of items with an export turnover from USD1 billion has been on the rise over the years[112]. The export market has been expanded and diversified; many domestic products have gradually gained positions and competitiveness in many markets with high quality requirements, especially some telecom enterprises[113]. Imports mainly focus on goods necessary

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111 The surplus in 2019 was nearly 10.87 billion USD, higher than the surplus in 2018 (6.83 billion USD), more than 5 times higher than the surplus in 2017 (2.11 billion USD), 6 times higher than the surplus in 2016 (1.78 billion USD).

112 In 2016, there were 25 items with an export turnover of over 1 billion USD, accounting for 88.7% of the total export turnover. By 2019, there were 32 items with an export turnover of over 1 billion USD, accounting for 92.9%.

113 Military-run Industry and Telecoms Group has invested in foreign markets in 9 countries. VNPT Group has gradually implemented overseas trade and investment promotion activities, at the same time, established branches or opened representative offices in 6 countries. FPT officially became the first foreign enterprise to be granted a license to deploy infrastructure and provide NFS telecommunications services by Myanmar.

for production, export and investment projects in the energy and electronics sectors[114]. Import market for machinery and raw materials for production has gradually shifted from Asia to Europe and America.

Target 17.3: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development (Global target 17.14).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

During the implementation of MDGs in the past, Viet Nam achieved many results which were highly appreciated by the world. One of the important lessons learned from Viet Nam's success is that the country selected the correct methods to "nationalize" MDGs, including an innovative step when integrating MDGs into socio-economic development strategies and plans of the country, localities and sectors. These successful lessons remain valuable for the implementation of the SDGs.

Viet Nam has nationalized the 2030 Agenda into the National Action Plan for SDG Implementation with 17 VSDGs and 115 targets aligning with the country's conditions and development priorities. The aforementioned SDG NAP assigns the task to "Integrate VSDGs into the process of building SEDP, SEDS, policies and plans of ministries, related agencies and localities; By 2020, fully integrate VSDGs into the SEDS 2021-2030, SEDP 2021-2025, and the development plans of ministries and localities 2021-2030".

In fact, the viewpoints of sustainable development have been thoroughly reflected in the SEDS 2011-2020 and SEDP 2016-2020. A variety of VSDGs have been integrated into the national development policies, from laws, strategies and plans for socio-economic development to action plans of ministries, related agencies and localities. In the coming time, the efficient implementation of the SEDS 2021-2030, SEDP 2021-2025 will play the core role in achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Target 17.4: Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Viet Nam (Global target 17.16).

Indicator: Not available.

Roadmap: Not available.

International integration and diplomacy for development has significantly improved in terms of policies and actual implementation, making an important contribution to the country's socio-economic development and enhancing the position and role of Viet Nam in the international arena. Viet Nam has taken advantage of many great resources for socio-economic development. Viet Nam has signed and implemented a great number of international cooperation agreements from central to local levels. The information and consultation provided to localities and enterprises related to the world economic situation, as well as economic and trade policies of different countries and partners have been promoted on time, and highly appreciated by localities and enterprises. Great resources for development, such as foreign investment, development assistance, and technical assistance have been attracted and maintained. The number of visitors to Viet Nam has been constantly increasing. International cooperation and integration in health care, education and training, technology transfer, environmental protection and climate change adaptation have been promoted. Viet Nam has established relationships with 30 key partners, including 17 strategic partners and 13 comprehensive partners (including 5 countries as

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114 Import of the group of goods serving production for export and essential goods always accounts for almost 90%; Import of the group of non-incentivized goods only accounts for less than 7%.

permanent members of the Security Council of UN); implemented economic diplomacy in synchronous, creative and effective manners; contributed positively and proactively to the international community through bilateral and multilateral channels in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, thereby enhancing cooperation and sharing knowledge and experiences with many different countries in a wide range of areas, especially in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

By 2020, Viet Nam has effectively implemented the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Just after one year of realization, this very first new-generation FTA has helped Viet Nam to significantly escalate the export turnover to members such as Japan, Canada, and Mexico from 2018. Trade Agreement Freedom (EVFTA) and the Investment Protection Agreement (EVIPA) came into force on August 1, 2020; accordingly, the Government has issued the Decree No.111/ND-CP dated September 18, 2020 to implement the commitments of the EVFTA Agreement. Viet Nam also signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) on November 15, 2020 and signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the conclusion of negotiation of the Viet Mam-UK and Northern Ireland Free Trade Agreement (UKVFTA) on December 11, 2020.

Viet Nam successfully organized the 2nd US-North Korea summit in Ha Noi, contributing to promotion of dialogue, reconciliation and peace on the Korean peninsula, which was highly appreciated by international partners and community. Viet Nam has also assumed important international responsibilities such as the 2020 ASEAN Chair. Viet Nam was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the term of 2020-2021 with a record high number of votes in the history of the UN Security Council elections (192 out of 193 votes). Viet Nam's important contributions to the forums of ASEAN, ASEM and the UN as a member, as well as to the G20 Summit as a guest have been positively appreciated by partners.

In addition to the pillar of international economic integration, the integration in the fields of politics-diplomacy, defence-security and culture-society has been strongly promoted. Viet Nam participated in joint maritime exercises for the first time within the framework of ASEAN-US Maritime Exercise; signed the Framework Participation Agreement (FPA) in the EU crisis management; and acceded to Convention No. 98 of the International Labour Organization. Viet Nam's second level-two field hospital was sent to the UN Peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan after the first field hospital had successfully completed its mission. The second ranking in the entire delegations at SEA Games 30 in the Philippines and other outstanding achievements of sports in 2019 also affirm Viet Nam's new position in regional and international sports.

Target 17.5: Encourage and promote effective public partnerships and public-private partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnership (Global target 17.17).

Indicator 17.5.1: Official development assistance (ODA) fund and concessional loans from foreign donors.

Roadmap: Not available.

In order to successfully implement the Sustainable Development Goals, it is very important to encourage and promote partnerships between the State and stakeholders, including the business community, social organizations, international organizations, and development partners.

Regarding public-private partnerships (PPP), since the issuance of Resolution 13-NQ/TW on January 16, 2020[115], the attraction of private capital under PPP model has achieved certain results which has contributed to significant improvement of the country's transport, urban and energy infrastructure system, changing the appearance of many localities[116]. According to Report No. 25/BC-CP dated January 30, 2019 of the Government on the review of the implementation of investment projects in the form of PPP, by the end of 2018, there had been 336 PPP project signing contracts, which helped mobilize about 1,609 million Vietnamese dong to invest in the development of national infrastructure system. PPP has positively contributed to improving quantity, quality, and promptly addressed urgent needs for public services and urgent infrastructure needs for socio-economic development.

However, the reality shows that the implementation of PPP projects still poses some shortcomings such as the selection of investors; PPP projects are not very attractive to investors; project preparation and project appraisal are neither subject to careful survey nor widely consulted. Currently the legal framework on PPP is continuing to be improved to meet the expectations from the community of domestic and foreign investors, which help to consistently and stably direct investment activities under the PPP model and open up new opportunities to attract private capital to invest in national infrastructure in the coming time.

Mass organizations including national and international NGOs play an important role in implementation of the SDGs, including implementing development programs or projects at different levels in the whole country and contributing to ensure that "no one is left behind".

Official development assistance (ODA) and concessional loans from foreign donors are the capital provided by foreign donors to support development and to ensure welfare and social security.

Figure 94. Total ODA and concessional loans to Viet Nam in the period 2011-2019 (million USD)
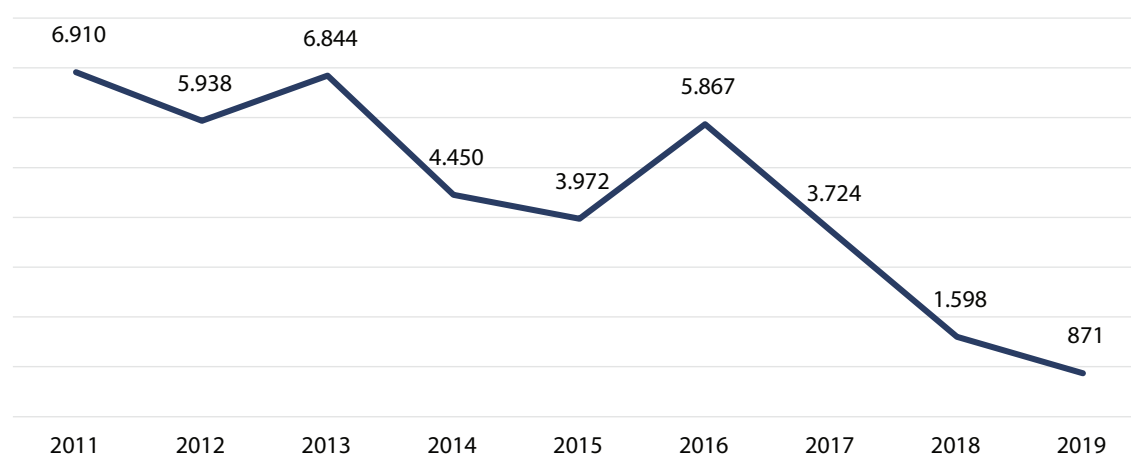
Source: MPI

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115 Resolution No. 13-NQ/TW dated January 16, 2012 of the Central Committee of the Communist Party determined "to strongly attract all economic sectors, including foreign investors to invest in development of infrastructure structure, ensure the investors' interests, expanding the model of collaboration between the State and the people…".

116 https://baodauthau.vn/ppp-gop-phan-quan-trong-phat-trien-ha-tang-quoc-gia-post80239.html.

Figure 95. Structure of ODA and concessional loans by sector in the period 2011-2018 (%)
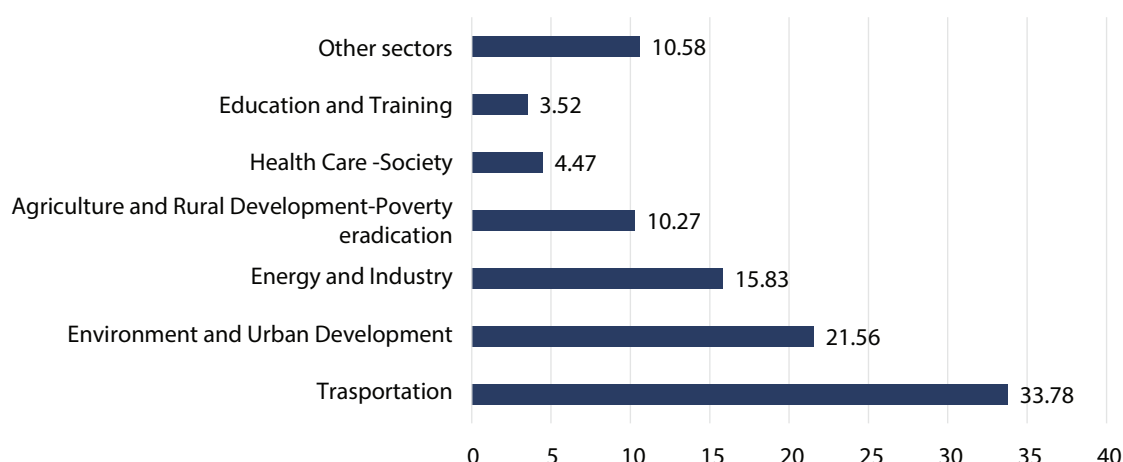
Source: MPI

Total ODA and concessional loans signed under specific international treaties for the period 2011-2019 reached about 40 billion USD, of which ODA loans and concessional loans accounted for about 95.48%, and ODA non-refundable aid accounted for about 4.52%. In which, transportation, environment and urban development, and energy and industry are the sectors with relatively high proportions of ODA and concessional loans, while agriculture and rural development combined with poverty reduction, health care, society, education and training, science and technology, capacity and institutions strengthening etc. are responsible for modest proportions.

It can be seen that from 2016 onwards, ODA and concessional loans have slowed down and dropped sharply to 871.38 million USD in 2019 due to the following main reasons:

+ Gaining achievements in implementing the Party and National Assembly's direction on ensuring the state budget, safe and sustainable public debt, controlling growth and gradually tightening down state budget deficit, thus reducing the need for loans to cover budget deficit in general.

+ There is an adjustment in the structure of domestic and foreign loans of the Government in the context of higher foreign loan costs (through ODA and concessional loans from development partners) because Viet Nam has become a lower middle income country and can no longer access high amount of ODA with low borrowing costs as in the past.

+ The domestic capital market has achieved initial successes, facilitating the mobilization of government loans through the issuance of long-term, low-cost and large-scale government bonds, thereby gradually reducing dependence on foreign loans in general.

Despite a strong downward trend in the past few years, this source of capital plays an important role for development investment in the context of the limited state budget, while the demand for socio-economic infrastructure development is very high. It can be said that in the past period, ODA and preferential loans have been the catalysts for development, supporting Viet Nam to successfully implement socio-economic development strategies and plans of the nation, sectors and localities. One of the biggest problems is the low disbursement rate of ODA and concessional loans, especially in recent years, for example in 2018, the disbursement of ODA and concessional loans allocated from Central budget only reached 53.6% of the plan assigned by the National Assembly. Therefore, in the coming time, it is necessary to have radical solutions to thoroughly solve this problem and optimize the efficiency of this important capital source.

SUMMARY

Participating in a series of bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements (FTA), Viet Nam has entered into the era of an extensive international integration process. The national position and voices in international cooperation forums have been increased in all political, socio-economic, culture and sports aspects. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), Viet Nam's competitiveness capacity ranks 67 out of 141 countries and territories, which is a 10 grades increase in comparison to that in 2018. Viet Nam has become one of the leading high growth rate economies in the region and considered by IMF among the top 20 economies making the largest contribution to global growth in 2019. With the completion of these targets, Viet Nam is set to achieve SDG 17 on strengthening means of implementation and revitalizing global partnership for sustainable development by 2030. It is, however, needs to pay attention to issues of: i) further promotion of public-private partnership in engaging private investment for sustainable development; and ii) enhancement of sustainable development oriented policies.

Goal 17.1

3
2
1
0

Goal 17.5

Goal 17.2

Goal 17.4

Goal 17.3
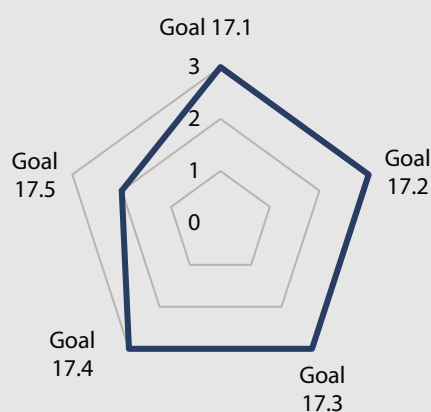
Summary of the forecast about the ability of realizing SDGs by 2030

Summary of the above analysis results reflect the forecast up to 2030:

+ Viet Nam is expected to achieve 5 out of 17 SDGs by 2030 (Goal 1 on no poverty; Goal 2 on zero hunger; Goal 4 on quality education; Goal 13 on climate actions; Goal 17 on global partnerships).

+ However, up to 10 SDGs will still face difficulties and challenges to be completed (including: Goal 3 on healthy life and well-being; Goal 5 on gender equality; Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation; Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy; Goal 8 on economic growth and decent work; Goal 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure; Goal 10 on reduction of social inequality; Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities; Goal 15 on protection and sustainable development of forest and biodiversity conservation; Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions).

+ There are 2 SDGs where it will be very challenging to complete them by 2030 (Goal 12 on responsible production and consumption; Goal 14 on conservation and sustainable utilization of oceans, seas and marine resources).

+ Out of 115 targets, 54 targets are expected to be completed (accounting for approximately 47%), but 48 targets (accounting for 41.7%) will still face difficulties and challenges ahead and 13 targets (11.3%) will be very challenging to realize by 2030 (see the following table).

Table 27. Summary of the forecast about the ability of realizing SDGs by 2030

SDGs	Target realization rating			Goal realization rating
	Achieve	**Still face difficulties and challenges**	**Very challenging**	
1 NO POVERTY				3
1.1	3			
1.2	3			
1.3	3			
1.4	3			
2 ZERO HUNGER				3
2.1	3			
2.2	3			
2.3	3			
2.4	3			
2.5		2		
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING				2

3.1		2		
3.2		2		
3.3		2		
3.4		2		
3.5	3			
3.6		2		
3.7	3			
3.8		2		
3.9			1	
4 QUALITY EDUCATION				3
4.1	3			
4.2	3			
4.3	3			
4.4		2		
4.5		2		
4.6	3			
4.7	3			
4.8	3			
5 GENDER EQUALITY				2
5.1		2		
5.2		2		
5.3	3			
5.4		2		
5.5		2		
5.6	3			
5.7		2		
5.8	3			
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION				2
6.1	3			
6.2	3			
6.3			1	
6.4			1	
6.5		2		
6.6	3			

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY				2
7.1	3			
7.2	3			
7.3			1	
7.4		2		
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH				2
8.1	3			
8.2		2		
8.3		2		
8.4		2		
8.5	3			
8.6	3			
8.7	3			
8.8			1	
8.9		2		
8.10	3			
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE				2
9.1	3			
9.2			1	
9.3	3			
9.4			1	
9.5	3			
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES				2
10.1		2		
10.2	3			
10.3	3			
10.4		2		
10.5	3			
10.6		2		

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES				2
11.1	3			
11.2		2		
11.3		2		
11.4	3			
11.5		2		
11.6		2		
11.7		2		
11.8		2		
11.9		2		
11.10	3			
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION				1
12.1		2		
12.2			1	
12.3		2		
12.4			1	
12.5			1	
12.6		2		
12.7		2		
12.8		2		
12.9	3			
13 CLIMATE ACTION				3
13.1	3			
13.2	3			
13.3	3			
14 LIFE BELOW WATER				1
14.1		2		
14.2			1	
14.3		2		
14.4		2		
14.5			1	
14.6	3			

Indicator				
15 LIFE ON LAND				2
15.1	3			
15.2	3			
15.3		2		
15.4	3			
15.5		2		
15.6		2		
15.7		2		
15.8	3			
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS				2
16.1		2		
16.2			1	
16.3		2		
16.4		2		
16.5		2		
16.6	3			
16.7		2		
16.8	3			
16.9	3			
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS				3
17.1	3			
17.2	3			
17.3	3			
17.4	3			
17.5		2		

At global level, Viet Nam's ranking on the SDGs performance has continuously improved in the period from 2016 to 2020. Viet Nam's ranking was as follows [117]: 88/149 (in 2016); 68/157 (in 2017); 57/156 (in 2018); 54/162 (in 2019); 49/166 (in 2020). Particularly, in 2020, among ASEAN countries, Viet Nam only followed Thailand which ranked 41 out of 166 countries[118].

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117   According to the Sustainable Development Report for the years 2016-2020 prepared by an independent group of experts from the Network of Sustainable Development Solutions and the Bertelsmann Stiftung Organization

118   Thailand ranked No. 41, Viet Nam ranked No. 49, Malaysia ranked No. 60, Brunei No. 88, Singapore No. 93, The Philippines No. 99, Indonesia No. 101, Myanmar No. 104, Cambodia No. 106 and Laos No. 116. Source: https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings
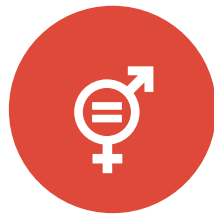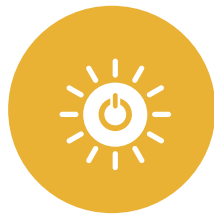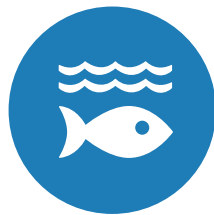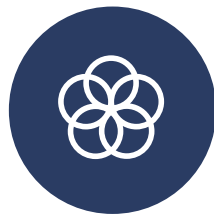
4

ROLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF SOCIETY IN DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Government's role

Sustainable Development has been institutionalized in the National, Sector, and Local Socio-Economic Development Strategy and Plan. Viet Nam always makes the best efforts to fulfill its commitment to global sustainable development through the promulgation and implementation of Viet Nam Agenda 21 (2004), Viet Nam Sustainable Development Strategy 2011-2020 (2012). After countries around the world, including Viet Nam, unanimously approved the 2030 Agenda in September 2015, the Viet Nam National Assembly assigned the Government to develop an action plan to implement the Sustainable Development Goals to 2030. Accordingly, the Prime Minister signed Decision No.622/QD-TTg dated May 10, 2017, approving the National Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda with 17 sustainable development goals and 115 specific targets for Viet Nam.

The National Assembly, which, with its constitutional and legislative responsibility, decides on important issues of the country and has supreme supervision, has established an important legal basis for the national comprehensive renewal. In the period of 2016-2020, the National assembly has amended and issued a number of important laws that are in sync with the 2013 Constitution and international treaties to which Viet Nam is a member. The National Assembly also decides on budget and resource allocation for national development. Accordingly, strategies and policies related to the sustainable development goals have been implemented in ministries, sectors and local authorities, with better attention and integration of disadvantaged groups such as poor people, ethnic minorities, children, and women, to ensure that "No One is Left Behind" along with the country's development. Some important policies have been implemented, as follows:

- In the 2016-2020 period, the National Target Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction and the National Target Program for New Rural Areas mobilized significant resources (about 2,965,199 billion VND) from the state budget, programs, projects, organizations, businesses and people to realize the goals of poverty reduction and new rural development[119]. Mobilized resources have been used to build and maintain infrastructure, provide loans to support production, solidify canals, and implement social security etc. The implementation of these 2 programs has achieved outstanding results, many of which have exceeded the requirements set by the National Assembly; and has made important contributions to the implementation of the socio-economic development plan for the 2016-2020[120] period and is a significant pervasive driving force to achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030. Recently, the National Assembly has approved Resolution 120/2020/ H14 on the National Targeted Program for socio-economic development for ethnic minority and mountainous areas in the period of 2021–2030, which has become an important resource for implementation of sustainable development goals.

- Recent health and education policies have focused not only on strengthening the capacity to provide quality services but also to better reach vulnerable groups such as children, the poor, and people with disabilities. Policies on building and developing grassroots health networks aim to improve the delivery capacity and service quality, and provide full health service provision in primary health care, medical examination and treatment for each citizen, while ensuring fairness and efficiency in protection, care and improvement of people's health. In the education sector, the policy of tuition fees exemption for primary and junior high school students in public schools, and the support for tuition fees for non-public schools as codified in the Education Law 2019, has created the legal basis for children, including poor children, to access universal education services.

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119 In which, the capital from the state budget allocated directly for each program only accounts for 21.3%, as "seed capital" to attract other resources in the society.

120 Report 417/BC-CP dated September 9, 2020 of the Government on the results of implementation of the Resolution No. 100/2015/QH13 of the National Assembly approving the investment principles of national target programs for the period 2016 – 2020.

- The legal system and policies on gender equality have been formed and gradually completed. Access to education, maternal health improvement, and women's participation in the workforce has been institutionalized. Women's rights and leadership in some areas are guaranteed. Notably, introduced gender policy focuses on disadvantaged groups such as girls, ethnic minorities and children with disabilities to create a positive change in the implementation of gender equality amongst these target groups.

- Developing a green and sustainable economy has always been a goal that the Party and the Government are aiming for. In the 2016-2020 period, the Government has issued many policies and proposed solutions to renew the countries growth model, enhance the application of scientific and technological advances, and effectively mobilize and use domestic and foreign resources, constantly improving productivity, quality, efficiency and competitiveness, which is also a priority in the coming years. The Government has also issued and implemented policies and solutions to support and promote the operation of enterprises, created jobs for workers, encouraged start-up businesses, supported SEMs and microenterprises to innovate to improve their competitiveness to survive the competitive environment and enhance international integration.

- Together with the global trend of sustainable urban development and smart cities, the Government has also advocated for sustainable smart city development until 2030 to promote the transformation of urban economic growth model towards green growth, smart cities, and improved competitiveness. This helps improve people's material and psychological life and strengthen capacity to respond to climate change. In addition, sustainable production and consumption activities have been implemented through the National Action Plan for Sustainable Production and Consumption.

- In response to climate change, the most important documents are Resolution 24-NQ/TW on proactive response to climate change issued by Central Party Committee, National Strategy on Climate Change and National Green Growth Strategy, the Government Resolution 120/NQ-CP on climate-resilient and sustainable development of Mekong River Delta.

- The National Strategy on Biodiversity, the National Strategy on Fisheries Development to 2020, the Planning of the System of Protected Marine Areas of Viet Nam to 2020, Planning of the system of inland water conservation zones to 2020 set many appropriate goals for: contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; supporting replication of management models with community participation; rehabilitating; regenerating and developing aquatic resources; formulating and establishing mechanisms and policies to manage inland fishing and fisheries in a sustainable and effective manner.

- Forest sustainable protection and development and biodiversity conservation have recognized achievements as the result of recent issued laws such as the Law on Environmental Protection, the Law on Forest Protection and Developement, the Law on Forestry. In addition, the successful implementation of the policy on forest environmental services payment and the closure of natural forests nationwide in 2017 has contributed to increasing the rate of forest coverage and natural forest conservation.

- Important judicial reforms include the Criminal Code, the Procedure Code, the Law on Enforcement of Custody and Detention, the Law on Anti-Corruption, the Law on Access to Information, the Law on Beliefs, Religion have been implemented to ensure the full realization of human rights. The public administration reform has been implemented, with many synchronous and effective solutions, creating an impressive change in the operation of the administrative system at all levels from central to local levels. Indicators measuring the people satisfaction and organizations of public services have been implemented such as the Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI), Public Administration Reform Index (PAR Index), and Provincial Public Administration Performance Efficiency Index in Viet Nam (PAPI).

- International integration and economic diplomacy for development has led to important progress in terms of policies and orientations as well as in practice. Efforts include promoting, signing and implementing many new-generation free trade agreements, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the Viet Nam-EU Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA). Viet Nam's role in multilateral forums and mechanisms has been strengthened. For example, Viet Nam has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2020-2021 term with almost absolute votes.

The Viet Nam Fatherland Front and its member organizations have promoted great national unity, joining hands to achieve sustainable development goals

In the process of national renovation, development and defend, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front has played an increasingly important role, actively contributing to the consolidation, expansion and promotion of great nation unity, strengthening social consensus, and taking care of people's life. The Father Front Land has encouraged people to promote democracy, enthusiastic participation in patriotic movements; social supervision and criticism; participate in developing the party and government at all level, fighting and preventing corruption; expending relations between Viet Nam and other countries.

The Fatherland Front has fulfilled its role as bridge to connect the Party, the Government, and the people and maintained active relationships with the State. The organization is always active, creative, joins hands with the Government to hold responsibility in handling many important national tasks; upholds the main role in mobilization of national solidarity and spirit of mutual sentiment, thereby spreading the patriotism in the community and firmly consolidating the people's belief in the Party and the Government.

Vietnamese people of all classes, ethnic groups, religions and overseas have upheld the spirit of patriotism, solidarity, response, support and efforts to implement the Party and the Government's orientations and policies, contributing to the achievements of the country, and promoting the realization of sustainable development goals. Over the past 5 years, all classes of people have enthusiastically participated in the patriotic movement, striving to achieve many significant achievements. For example, "The movement for study promotion, talent promotion, building a learning society"; building and replicating the models "Families for learning", "Study and talent promotion fund " .... At present, there are more than 11,000 community learning centres in communes, wards, and towns nationwide.

In addition, in response to the movement "The whole country join hands to new rural development", in the past 5 years, the Vietnamese Fatherland Front at all levels has mobilized the people to donate land for roads and civil works. Following the movement "The whole country joins hands for the poor, leaving no one behind", every year, the Vietnamese Fatherland Front has implemented "Month for the poor" (October 17 - November 18). Through the implementation of this Movement, over the past four years (2017-2020), the 4-level "For the Poor" Fund has mobilized more than 16,410 billion VND from businesses, agencies, and individuals[121]. Before the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, the Fatherland Front has mobilized and received support with a value of over VND 2,105 billion.[122]

 In building a transparent and strong Party and Government, the Fatherland Front has regularly organized social monitoring and criticism activities, creating opportunities for people of all classes to promote their rights and participate in the process of formulating laws, orientations, policies, programs, and national and local socio-economic development plans. Over the past 5 years, the Fatherland Front has compiled 45,051 comments and recommendations from voters and people to report to the National Assembly [123]

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121 http://www.cema.gov.vn/tin-tuc/tin-hoat-dong/hoat-dong-cua-bo-truong/ca-nuoc-chung-tay-vi-nguoi-ngheo.htm.

122 https://dangcongsan.vn/lanh-dao-dang-nha-nuoc/tiep-tuc-khoi-day-suc-manh-dai-doan-ket-toan-dan-toc-563824.html

123 https://dangcongsan.vn/lanh-dao-dang-nha-nuoc/tiep-tuc-khoi-day-suc-manh-dai-doan-ket-toan-dan-toc-563824.html

Business community

In recent years, the number of enterprises has increased rapidly, which has created many jobs with higher income for labourers. The high income and rapid growth of the business sector has contributed to improving and raising the living standards of the whole society and participating in the process of labour restructuring from agriculture to non-agricultural sectorsy and participating in the process of transferring the labour structure from agriculture to non-agricultural sectors. The proportion of investment capital from the non-state economic sector has increased rapidly from 38.3% in 2015 to about 45.6% in 2020[124].

Enterprises have developed in diversified types, including many sectors, in which state-owned enterprises and foreign-invested sectors have accounted for a large proportion; private enterprises have been growing quickly and widely in all sectors and localities throughout the country. Besides, the form of collective economy is being restored and developed in a new direction.

The spirit of entrepreneurship is growing widely; the trend of developing business models based on innovation and creativity actively taken place. In the 2016-2019 period, on average, there were about 126.5 thousand newly established enterprises each year with the average registered capital per enterprise increasing 1.8 times compared to 2015. Many new business models based on science, technology and innovation have been formed, especially information technology. The private economy has made an important contribution to development, especially in tourism, urban areas, automobile manufacturing, high-tech agriculture, modern commerce, education, training and health services. Many private economic groups on science and technology have been formed and developed, with domestic, regional and international brands and competitiveness.

Social organization

Social organizations including non-governmental organizations (hereinafter collectively referred to as SOs) have significantly contributed to the country's socio-economic development as well as the implementation of sustainable development of Viet Nam, as follows:

Firstly, providing services to the community, contributing to the achievement of Viet Nam's Sustainable Development Goals. Over the years, SOs have actively cooperated with people and the Government to implement development programs at the local level across the country, support communities in improvement of food security and nutrition, child protection and development, training and support for employment, livelihoods, clean water and sanitation, gender equality, education, technology improvement and social development, and thus contributing to realization MDGs in the past and Sustainable Development Goals at the present. The widespread operation, outreach and provision of community support services have contributed to meeting the needs of people of all classes, especially the vulnerable groups and those groups at highest risk of being left behind.

Secondly, participating in criticizing, monitoring and contributing to policy development. SOs play an important role in the following aspects: (i) Conduct professional and reputable research and surveys, contribute data sources for access to demand, monitor and evaluate progress towards achieving sustainable development goals; (ii) Effectively carry out the information and communication on the Party and State's orientations and policies, especially in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals at local levels, helping vulnerable groups such as children and women, people with disabilities, the poor, ethnic minorities, etc to access information, their rights and responsibilities in the realization of the sustainable development goals; (iii) Being the voice of the people, especially the vulnerable groups,

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124 Draft Report on assessment of implementation of socio-economic tasks for 5 years 2016-2020 and directions and tasks of socio-economic development for 5 years 2021-2025.

about their problems and challenges, to ensure these groups are not left behind in the implementation of the sustainable development goals; (iv) Evaluate gaps in the policy or in the policy implementation to advise, criticize, contribute to the change or improvement of the policy effectively, create a favourable environment for the implementing sustainable development goals in Viet Nam.

Third, connecting and mobilizing domestic and international resources to contribute to the realization of the goals of sustainable development in Viet Nam. SOs are capable of connecting and mobilizing domestic and international resources, contributing to both human and financial resources for the realization of sustainable development goals. SOs can act as a linkage connecting the Government - SOs - Enterprises in their harmonious efforts of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Development partners

ODA and concessional loans from development partners have positively contributed to the national socio-economic development, contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. ODA and preferential loans play an important role for development investments in the contexts when the state budget cannot satisfy the need of socio-economic infrastructure development to create a breakthrough in infrastructure development oriented by modernization of the Socio-economic Development Strategy 2011-2020.

With the support of development partners, many national key projects and programmes using ODA and concessional loans such as the Noi Bai - Lao Cai Expressway Project, Long Thanh - Dau Giay Expressway Project, Nhat Tan Bridge, International Terminal T2 Noi Bai Airport and other projects have been completed and put into operation. ODA and concessional loans have been used effectively for the development of power systems in terms of power sources, transmission grids and distribution grids; supporting difficult regions such as the Mekong River Delta and the Northern mountainous region, contributing to reducing the rich-poor gap; supporting sustainable poverty reduction through the implementation of Program 135 Phase II, small-scale rural infrastructure development projects in the Northern mountainous provinces and some Central Highlands provinces; developing large irrigation systems such as Phan Ri-Phan Thiet, Phuoc Hoa, ...; implementing projects on afforestation, improving yields, increasing productivity and product quality of a number of plants and animals; supporting to environment protection and natural resources, preventing and reducing risks of natural disasters, and responding to climate change; strengthening material and technical foundations for medical examination and treatment, supporting the implementation of targeted programs of the health sector such as the HIV / AIDS prevention program; supporting the development of education and training sector at all levels from preschool to higher education.

In addition, development partners have provided consulting support and experience sharing for Viet Nam in the process of formulating and implementing national development policies, including the national Social Economic Development Strategy and Plan as well as sectoral strategies and policies in the nationalization of Viet Nam's international commitments, including the 2030 Agenda.

Coordination mechanism/network of inter-agency/sector to promote the realization of Sustainable Development Goals

a. National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness enhancement

The predecessor of the Council is the National Council for Sustainable Development established in 2005. In 2012, the Council was renamed the National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement. The Council is responsible for consulting and advising the Government and the Prime Minister on issues related to sustainable development and competitiveness improvement.

The council currently has 6 committees, including Committee on Sustainable Development, Business Environment Improvement and Competitiveness Enhancement; Social Committee; Environmental Committee; Committee on Science and Technology; Committee on Education and Human Development; Committee on Public private partnership. The Council meets twice a year and organizes 01 annual national conference on sustainable development. In the period of 2014-2020, one of the key tasks of the Council was to advise the Government to issue the Government's annual resolutions on improving the business environment and enhancing the nation's competitiveness. With the drastic implementation of these Resolutions, Viet Nam's business environment and competitiveness has been significantly improved. In 2019, Viet Nam's economic competitiveness increased by 10 places compared to 2018, ranking 67th out of 141 countries and regions globally, according to the World Economic Forum.

b. Inter-agency Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

To promote coordination among ministries, sectors and agencies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Inter-Agency Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals was established in the Decision No.667/QD-BKHDT dated May 21, 2018. The working group is led by the leader of MPI with representative members from 28 related ministries, sectors and agencies.

c. Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD)

The VBCSD, chaired by VCCI, plays an important role in mobilizing the business community to participate in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. This is one of the initiatives to orient, gather and link the business community to share and replicate good practices, business models towards sustainable development. In recent years, VBCSD has carried out many activities to increase awareness and mobilize the business community to participate in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. VBCSD is also the organizer of the annual Sustainable Business Rating Program in Viet Nam based on the CSI.

d. Viet Nam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA)

Viet Nam Union of Science and Technology Associations and its network of member organizations have made positive contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, such as: (i) Providing comments and criticisms on policies and documents of 2030 Agenda, and SDGs reports of Viet Nam; (ii) Strengthening capacity, survey of needs and prioritized activities of member organizations related to the implementation of the SDGs in Viet Nam; (iii) Pilot implementation of monitoring and supervising models of SDGs implementation, related to main orientation of the network. VUSTA's activities have contributed to the allocation and mobilization of resources from its member organizations for the implementation of SDGs in Viet Nam.

e. United Nations Working Group of Sustainable Development Goals in Viet Nam

The working group was established to coordinate with the Government in the implementation of 2030 Agenda. The UN public group has actively participated in the nationalization process and the implementation of SDGs in Viet Nam.

f. Partnership Network Leave No one Behind Viet Nam (LNOB Viet Nam)

Partnership Network Leave No one Behind Viet Nam was established in 2017, currently with 15 members of national and international NGOs, committed to supporting and paying attention to progress and the quality of implementing SDGs in Viet Nam. The members of LNOB Viet Nam exchange experiences of implementing SDGs in Viet Nam, supporting vulnerable groups at risk of being left behind in the development process such as children, women, people with disabilities, the poor, poor immigrants, ethnic minorities, etc…to ensure their participation and voices are included in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in Viet Nam.
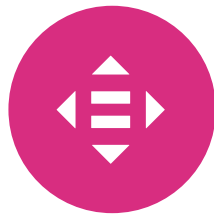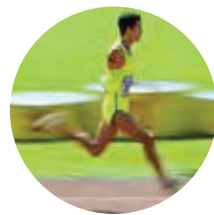
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RESTRICTIONS, LIMITATIONS/ DIFFICULTIES, CHALLENGES AND ORIENTATION TO 2025

Context of implementing the sustainable development goals in the upcoming time

a. At Global Level

Peace, cooperation, association and development are still the main trends, but strategic competition between major countries is complex and fierce; a multi-polar landscape is increasingly emerging. Globalization and international integration continues to be strengthened despite obstacles and challenges; such as waves of populism and protec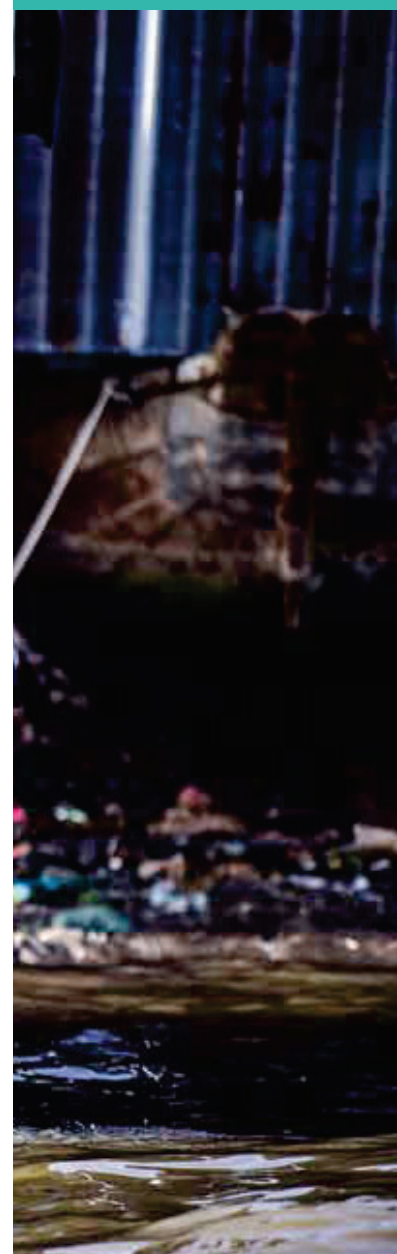tionism; policy adjustments and foreign relations of major countries in the region and the world have been unpredictable. World economic growth and international trade and investment is tending to decrease; global public debt increases, risks in international financial and monetary markets increase.

The fourth industrial revolution, along with globalization and international integration, are two major trends that dominate the human development process. Technological breakthroughs happen rapidly in many fields, such as: artificial intelligence, cloud computing, big data, Internet of things, robots, 3-dimensional printing technology, nanotechnology, biotechnology, energy storage, etc. which have made dramatic changes to the quality of life, employment, production, and businesses. The fusion of integration processes brings the world to a "matrix structure" of free trade agreements (FTAs) on many directions and levels, including new generation FTAs.

Technological innovation is rapidly happening, posing a great risk of dropping back, but it is also a condition for latecomer countries to take a shortened development process by using human development achievements. Although developing countries do not have the same advantages in technology, capital, high-quality human resources, experience in managing and operating the economy, etc. as developed countries, through integration and transition to a market economy, developing countries can take shortcuts by mobilizing and allocating resources more effectively, absorbing international knowledge, technology and experience.

Urbanization and development of smart cities has become more and more popular. Competition among countries in becoming innovation and financial hubs is growing. The Asia-Pacific region has an important position in the world and continues to be an important driving force of the global economy, but also contains potential instability factors due to strategic competition and territorial and resource disputes. Unilateral acts, great power politics and disputes over territory, sea and islands in the region, especially in the South China Sea, have become more intense and complicated. ASEAN has become increasingly important, playing a critical role in economic growth and ensuring regional peace and security. The Mekong sub-region continues to be a thermal area for economic growth thanks to the process of opening up, reforming, transitioning to market mechanisms and strengthening cross-border cooperation. However, problems of environmental pollution, scarcity of freshwater resources and rising sea levels still stand as challenges to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for countries in the sub-region.

The year 2020 makes it a decade for mankind to fulfil the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda. Although some progress has been made, even before the Covid-19 pandemic, the world is facing difficulties to achieve its Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. In such a context, the Covid-19 pandemic has changed all forecasts and posed challenges and risks for the world to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and Viet Nam is no exception.

b. Viet Nam

After nearly 35 years of reform, our country has achieved great achievements of historical significance. The position and power of the country has grown much stronger; the scale, potential and

competitiveness of the economy have been raised; independence has been improved; more experience in leadership has been accumulated, the direction and administration of socio-economic development has been strengthened. The macroeconomic situation has been stable, the confidence of the business community and society has increased. The quality of economic growth has been gradually improved, the economic structure initially shifted to depth and the efficiency of using inputs for the economy has been significantly improved, increasing the openness of the economy and attracting large foreign direct investment. The private sector increasingly contributes and has become an important driving force of the country's economic development.

The political and social setting is stable; culture, society, environment, national defence and security, and foreign affairs have received more attention and have had positive changes; the middle class has grown rapidly; the country continues to take advantage of the golden population opportunities, the results of new rural construction have been strengthened, the lives of people in all aspects have been continuously improved. Aspiration for a prosperous and self-reliant Viet Nam is the endogenous strength for the country to develop sustainably in the coming time.

However, the economy still has shortcomings, limitations and potential risks; the risk of dropping back is still significant; fundamental factors such as institutions, infrastructure, human resources... for Viet Nam to become a modern industrialized country is still not meet the demand; science and technology ability and productivity, quality, efficiency and competitiveness of the economy are still low; high economic openness, weak resilience and adaptation to external impacts are risks; and the capacity to access the digital economy and the digital society remains limited. As GDP growth is tending to slow down, the risk of falling into the middle-income trap and falling further behind in the economy remains a challenge. Capital needs to increase sharply to meet development requirements while concessional capital and aid decreases.

Urbanization continues to happen rapidly, creating more need for infrastructure development and treatment of environmental pollution. There are also challenges in ensuring efficient and sustainable use of water, natural resources and land. Climate change is accelerating rapidly, violently and unpredictably, affecting production and people's lives. The gap between the rich and the poor and the level of development between some regions, areas and localities tends to be widened. The rapidly increasing aging of population leads to pressure on the social security system and on economic growth. The task of protecting independence, sovereignty, and national security faces many difficulties and challenges, in relation to the political security situation, social order and safety in some areas and the opposition of enemy forces is also complicated.

Global problems and Viet Nam non-traditional insecurity will have a more and more direct impact on Viet Nam. In particular, is one of the most vulnerable countries to global climate change and sea level rise. The need of changing development modes in the context of a shortage of resources, energy, etc. will most likely force Viet Nam's economy to face many difficulties. Strengthening capacity to "adapt" to climate change, especially preparing resources to be ready to respond to emergencies and frequent natural disasters will be major challenges. However, new development measures and models such as green growth; the development of the ecological economy, the circular economy, the sharing economy, etc., - together with the advancement of science and technology are also giving the economy many options for rapid and sustainable growth. The commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development expresses new thinking and vision to ensure fairness and inclusion in enjoying the success of economic growth.

The year 2020 is of particular importance, as it is the final year of the Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016-2020, creating momentum for the implementation of the Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021-2025 and the Socio-economic Development Strategy 2021-2030. In 2020, like other countries, Viet Nam is combating the Covid-19 pandemic. The Vietnamese economy is very open with extensive

and deep international integration. Thus, it has been suffering many impacts, affecting all aspects of socio-economic development, causing disruption of supply chains and circulation trade, delaying production, business and service activities; experiencing direct impacts on import, export, aviation, tourism, accommodation, catering, health, education, labour, employment; many businesses have gone bankrupt, been dissolved, suspended operations, and reduced their scale.

As soon as a pandemic broke out, leaders of the Party, the Government and the entire political system acted drastically, together with the unanimity and solidarity of all people, to generally prevent the pandemic and keepit under control. In 2020, the Government had timely policies to support businesses and people to overcome the difficulties of the Covid-19 pandemic; activities of socio-economic life were being restored; the socio-economic situation had positive changes; efforts were being highly praised by the international community, gaining the trust of the citizens in the leadership of the Party and the Government's management

However, the Covid-19 pandemic has also shown complicated and unpredictable developments; the negative impacts of the pandemic on all soci-economic aspects continue to persist. Although there has not been adequate comprehensive assessment of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Viet Nam, it can be assumed that this pandemic is likely to comprehensively affect the results that Viet Nam has previously achieved and progress towards the implementation of the sustainable development goals in the coming years as well as the level of completion of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Covid-19 pandemic showed that Viet Nam as well as other countries in the world need to be prepared to accept and respond to non-traditional challenges and uncertainties that may occur in the future, and the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is one of the best measures.

Restrictions, limitations/difficulties and challenges

(i) Many goals are difficult to achieve by 2030, while the current situation of socio-economic development reveals unsustainable issues.

Although, Viet Nam is rated 49 out of 166 countries in the Sustainable Development Index in 2020, which is 5 places up compared to the 2019 ranking [125] and a higher score than the average of the Asia – Pacific region. However, the analysis based on available data in the 5-year period 2015-2019 in Section 3 of the Report shows that up to 10 SDGs will still face difficulties and challenges to achieve and 2 goals will be very challenging to achieve by 2030 (Goal 12 on sustainable production and consumption and Goal 14 on conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources). 54 out of 115 targets that can be completed (accounting for nearly 47%), but 48 targets (accounting for 41.7%) will face difficulties and challenges and 13 targets (11.3%) will be very difficult to achieve by 2030.

In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic will exacerbate the challenges and difficulties to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has had direct negative impacts on the progress of implementing the goals such as: poverty eradication (Goal 1); hunger eradication (Goal 2); good health and well-being (Goal 3); quality education (Goal 4); gender equality (Goal 5); sustainable economic growth and employment (Goal 8); social inequality (Goal 10). The Covid-19 pandemic will also likely affects the achievement of other SDGs in the mid- and long term. This is because SDGs are intrinsically integrated and related, changes and impacts in one area will affect results in other areas.

In addition, socio-economic development may also reveal unsustainable issues. Economic growth has not resulted in narrowing the gap and catching up with other countries in the region. The productivity,

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125 In 2019, Viet Nam is ranked 54/162.

quality and competitiveness of the economy is not high, and only based on science, technology and innovation to a limited degree. The growth model is still heavily dependent on outside developments; there is still inadequate attention to the value chain and domestic supply. Social management and developments still have many limitations to satisfy development requirements. Some manifestations of moral degradation, lifestyle, cultural behaviours, and domestic and child violence cases cause social indignation. The rich-poor gap tends to widen, and part of the population's lives remain difficult, especially in remote, ethnic minority areas and areas are impacted by natural disasters. The development gap between localities, areas and regions remains significant. Deforestation, illegal exploitation of sand, stone and gravel still occurs in many localities. Environmental quality in many places has deteriorated, especially in urban centres, industrial parks, craft villages, and basins of some rivers. The effect and effectiveness of leadership and socio-economic management in some aspects are limited and inadequate. The capacity, qualification and discipline in some parts of the civil service and amongst public employees is not high; there is also harassment and corruption, which causes frustration for people and businesses. Not taking sufficient advantage of opportunities and favourable conditions in international integration is also a risk.

(ii) The policy system still has shortcomings in the formulating and the implementation process, the effectiveness of the policy is not high

The system of formulating policy documents is cumbersome and complicated; policy mechanisms are not synchronous, even overlapping; Governance capacity of state agencies is weak, especially at local level; Government management and administration, and corporate governance have improved, but have not met all the requirements of the new situation for the countries development. Some policies have not been put into practice due to lack of specific and unfeasible policy goals; the objectives are too ambitious while resources are limited.

The current policy formulation and implementation process is still mostly top-down. The participation of stakeholders, who are directly affected by the policy in the formulation and implementation is still limited. Some policy options have not come from the rights and interests of policy subjects; policy information and communication still has a number of shortcomings, not properly considering the importance of the policy beneficiaries' participation in the implementation process as well as development and issuing of implementation plans. The participation of non-government organizations and the society in the process of policy formulation, organization and monitoring policy implementation have not been initiated and promoted.

Not realizing the importance of the interaction and coordination between agencies and between policy enforcement agencies and policy beneficiaries is a key challenge. For examples: In some places, the superiors do not closely supervise their staff and the lack of inspection, supervision and adjustment to the policy implementation activities of the staff has led to negative consequences; the horizontal coordination between agencies is not good, there is still overlap in tasks as well as unclear responsibility among some agencies.

(iii) Financial resources to achieve the sustainable development goals

In order to maintain the achievements in the coming time, it is required for Viet Nam on one hand to continue maintaining the necessary resources to promote the achieved results for SDGs, on the other hand, the country needs to enhance funding to support effective implementation of SDGs, which are facing many challenges or difficulties to completed by 2030. However, resource mobilization will not be simple, especially in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic that has made a comprehensive impact on a global scale. The main difficulties can be mentioned as follows:

Firstly, budget revenue as a percentage of GDP (current prices) has been on a downward trend over the years, from over 27% of GDP in the previous decade to about 25% of GDP on average in 2010-2019, about the same level as the average of ASEAN region. Increasing the share of state budget revenue in the coming years is unlikely to be feasible when the increase in domestic revenues does not compensate for the decrease in budget revenues due to the fact that Viet Nam has implemented the tariff reduction commitments in the international and regional freedom trade agreements (as described in SDG 17) while crude oil prices are currently low. Meanwhile, the budget needed for development investment and recurrent expenditure is very high, creating a burden on public debt, budget deficit and macroeconomic stability in the coming time.

Figure 96. The share of State budget revenue relative to GDP
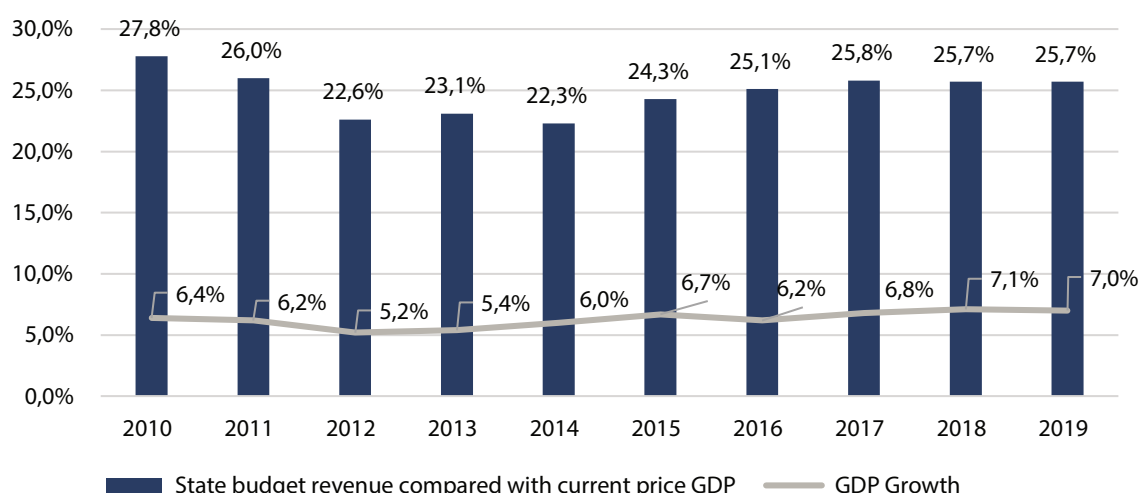
Source: Calculated from GSO data

Secondly, ODA is decreasing significantly, especially after Viet Nam became a low-middle-income country in 2010. Viet Nam is also no longer receiving concessional ODA loans, and will have to switch to commercial interest rates loans.

Thirdly, capital mobilized from FDI and remittances continue to remain at a high level but depend on many external factors and the domestic business environment. Although FDI inflows have increased rapidly in recent years, the quality of FDI capital as well as the role of the FDI sector to the country's sustainable development is still unclear. Viet Nam needs to seize the opportunity to receive quality FDI inflows that tend to move from some countries to Southeast Asian countries due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to FDI, Viet Nam is one of the ten countries receiving the highest remittances in the world, with the remittances to Viet Nam continuously increasing over the years. On average, in the 2016-2019 period, Viet Nam receives remittances at nearly $ 15 billion every year. In 2019, remittances to Viet Nam reached 17 billion USD, the highest ever and accounting for 6.5% of GDP[126].

Fourthly, investment from the domestic private sector has not shown its full potential and role as the driving force of the country's economic growth and sustainable development as expected by the Government. Although the share of private investment has increased from 36% of total social investment in 2010 to 46% in 2019[127], it is still lower than in regional countries such as Laos (53.6%), Malaysia (58.2%), Philippines (80.6%) and Thailand (86.2%)[128]. As well as with other financial sources, especially from the state budget, which will face difficulties, increasing the mobilization of private financial sources should be more focused in the coming time.

126 Source: World Bank Migration and Remittance Report No. 32, 2020.
127 Statistical Yearbook, GSO.
128 Report on Finance for Sustainable Development in Viet Nam, UNDP 2019.

Fifth, the Covid -19 pandemic that has occurred since the end of 2019 and is not yet showing clear signs of being under control globally, will comprehensively affect Viet Nam's economy for many years to come. It is forecasted that if this pandemic has not been prevented globally, the economic growth rate of Viet Nam in the coming years will decrease extensively compared to previous years, leading to negative consequences for other sectors of the economy. Accordingly, in such context, mobilizing capital from the above sources for the economy will be very difficult and a great challenge for the realization of Viet Nam's Sustainable Development Goals.

Orientation to 2025

Viet Nam needs to be determined to overcome immediate difficulties, turn challenges into opportunities, mobilize the strength of the entire nation to continue to achieve success and move towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In the next 5 years, Viet Nam should focus on the following orientations:

(i) Continuing to improve the policy and institutional system and improving the effectiveness of policy implementation

Review and study current policy gaps and complete the policy system towards ensuring the legal basis to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in which it is necessary to study and promulgate policies to ensure the participation opportunity and benefit for all, especially vulnerable groups.

Improve the effectiveness of policy implementation: (i) Strengthening the capacity of policy-making agencies and enhancing the participation of the beneficiaries in the policy-making process; (ii) Prioritize resource allocation to enforce a number of policies related to the interests and lives of many people and that has spillover effects or a driving force for sustainable development; (iii) Enhance interaction and coordination between relevant agencies and between policy enforcement agencies and policy beneficiaries.

Focus on effective implementation of the goals, tasks and solutions of the Socio-Economic Development Strategy period 2021-2030 and the Socio-Economic Development Plan for the period 2021-2025, 2025-2026 and sectoral and local strategies and policies, which are critical to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

(ii) Raising awareness, promoting coordination and cooperation among stakeholders to create pervasiveness in the implementation of SDGs. Ensuring the realization of SDGs is not only the responsibility of the Government, but also of the political system and the entire society.

Strengthen effective coordination between ministries, sectors, localities and stakeholders. Promote the role of the National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness and other cross-sectoral mechanisms in connecting and promoting coordination in the realization of SDGs; Ensuring unification and consistency in action between the central and local levels in the implementation of socio-economic development programs and policies; promote the application of information technology in the activities of governmental agencies, to develop and implement e-government, achieving digital governance. Increase access to public administration services of the people with particular difficulties. Promote e-office to achieve "paperless" government.

Implement SDGs at all levels, effectively localize Sustainable Development Goals in the process of developing and implementing policies, programs, and plans; strengthen the capacity of national and local statistical systems for sustainable development to support M&E of the implementation process of SDGs.

Promote the role of businesses and SOs in the realization of SDGs. Encourage the business community to actively engage in sustainable production and consumption activities; invest in green growth initiatives and projects and perform social responsibility. Strengthen the active and creative role of SOs in providing services to the community; information and communication, awareness about sustainable development; collect information and research to detect emerging issues; criticize and supervise the implementation of SDGs at all levels and of all stakeholders; promote transparency and openness in the realization of SDGs.

(iii) Mobilizing and using financial resources effectively

Continue to adjust and complete the policies and laws system, create a fair, transparent and open business environment; implement policies to encourage enterprises to improve their competitiveness, improve their technological capacities, and strengthen linkages and connections in domestic and global value chains. It is necessary to continue to have more effective policies to promote production establishments in the informal sector to switch to official operations, effectively enforce the law, and upscale production.

Develop and implement policies to support SMEs to upscale, improve management skills, connect markets, and innovate. Accelerate the process of SOE reform, strengthen the market mechanism for this group of businesses to facilitate private sector development, create a platform of fairness and encourage the application of effective business governance principles in both the private and public sectors of a healthy market economy.

Shift the attraction of foreign direct investment from quantity to quality. Prioritize projects that create high added value, have a modern governance model, connect global supply chains, promote positive spillover effects, and closely connect with the domestic economic sector. Develop investment criteria to select and prioritize investment attraction, especially green-oriented investment projects that are capable of promoting job creation.

Use financial resources effectively through improving the efficiency of tax systems and policies; improve the efficiency of public expenditure; reform the public financial management towards openness and transparency. Improve efficiency of public investment to ensure that public investment projects have pervasive effects to promote sustainable development. Public investment plans need to be integrated with SDGs to ensure that the allocated capital is more focused and centered.

Continue to effectively restructure public investment in the direction of reducing public investment in the social investment capital structure, focusing on key sectors and fields of the economy, key projects, with pervasive power, creating a driving force for socio-economic development, creating a breakthrough to attract domestic and foreign private capital in the form of PPP, maintaining the leading role of the central budget and ensuring harmonious development among regions and areas. Strictly control loans for investment in socio-economic infrastructure. Promote public investment in eco-friendly projects such as renewable energy production that contributes to economic recovery, job creation, and capacity building for underdeveloped infrastructure to attract more private investment, including through new PPP.

Continue to restructure the state budget towards a sustainable orientation, increase investment expenditures, reduce recurrent expenditure, and support the effective implementation of socio-economic development goals. Renovate, develop and complete the institutions for state budget management in order to increase the efficiency of allocation, management and use of state financial resources associated with the process of economic restructuring. Strengthen management, accelerate disbursement and improve efficiency in the use of public investment capital. Continue to restructure public debt sustainably. Promote development of "green credit", "green banking"; Increase the

proportion of credit capital invested in renewable energy, clean energy, and low-carbon manufacturing and consumption industries.

(iv) Improving the quality of human resources associated with promoting innovation, application and development of science and technology

Implement synchronously mechanisms, policies and solutions to develop human resources, especially high-quality human resources in major sectors and fields to meet socio-economic development requirements. Focus on improving the quality of human resources associated with rapid labour structure transformation, especially in rural areas. Diversify training methods associated with the market and meet the requirements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Promote skills education, application of scientific – technical approaches, information technology, digital technology in education training. Strengthen education and training for vulnerable groups in society.

Focus on improving institutions, policies and laws to be in line with market mechanisms and international practices to develop science, technology and innovation, promote development of the digital economy and digital society. Continue to promote and encourage the private sector to invest in science, technology, innovation and start-ups. Promote the strong development of the national innovation system and innovative start-up ecosystem, accelerate the establishment of national creative start-up centres.

(v) Increasing resilience to uncertain risks caused by climate change, natural disasters and epidemics

The Covid-19 epidemic along with the serious impacts caused by the historic floods in October 2020 in the Central region shows that risks, climate uncertainties, natural disasters and epidemics can occur at any time, it should be carefully considered and have appropriate adaptation policies.

Strengthening national capacities to prevent and respond to climate change, natural disasters and disease risks should be focused on through: i) upgrading of natural disaster risks, climate and disease databases; ii) propagandizing, raising awareness and skills of all levels, sectors, businesses and communities in responding to risks; iii) strengthening forecasting capacity and early warning of climate risks, natural disasters and epidemics; iv) improving existing risk management systems to reduce vulnerability and increase readiness to respond to climate extremes, natural disasters and diseases of all level of society; v) implementing timely and effective adaptation measures to mitigate losses caused by short-, medium and long term impacts associated with potential risks in the future.

Strengthen the resilience and adaptability to risks of technical infrastructure systems and public services in localities. This should be implemented through integrating climate, disaster and pandemic risk management into relevant strategies, planning, plans and policies at all levels from central to local level. Protect and promptly support areas and objects affected by natural disasters, climate and epidemics so that no one will be left behind in all situations.

Develop and replicate good community-based models of climate and disease resilience and response; increase participation of social organizations and local communities; research and apply science and technology in risk adaptation and prevention; strengthen global and regional cooperation in the prevention and response to climate risks, natural disasters and epidemics.

(vi) Strengthening international cooperation and enhancing the role and status of the country

Promote and enhance multilateral diplomacy, closely combined with bilateral diplomacy, and fulfil international responsibilities, especially within ASEAN, UN and Asia-Pacific cooperation frameworks.

Promote economic diplomacy serving socio-economic development, putting people and businesses as the centre. Make the most of the country's position and external resources for national development. Improve integration capacity, effectively implement international commitments and free trade agreements; integrating SDG implementation with socio-economic development plans and programs. Promote political and external advantages to protect the interests of the Nation, enterprises and people, especially in international economic, trade and investment disputes. Further develop cultural diplomacy, making practical contributions to strongly promoting the national image and strengthening the country's aggregate strength.

Strengthen the role and position of Viet Nam in the international fora of sustainable development; actively participate in the Voluntary National Review of the implementation of the sustainable development goals at the UN High-Level Political Forum. Synchronize common regional priorities in the development and implementation of policies on sustainable development, in order to create a suitable legal environment to take advantage of opportunities for cooperation, sharing experiences and good practices, capacity building and resource mobilization for implementing SDGs.

(vii) Some specific activities

Ministries, agencies, and localities need to actively and proactively coordinate with socio-political organizations, social organizations, domestic and international organizations, and the business community in:

- Seriously and effectively implementing the National Action Plan for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the Decision No.622/QD-TTg dated May 10, 2017 by the Prime Minister Government), the Roadmap for the implementation of the sustainable development goals by 2030 (the Decision No.681/QD-TTg dated June 4, 2019 by the Prime Minister), and the Action Plans of the corresponding ministries, sectors and localities.

- Focus on effective implementation of the goals, tasks and solutions of the Socio-economic Development Strategy for the period of 2021-2030, the Socio-economic Development Plan for the period of 2021-2025, 2026-2030, and sectoral and local strategies and policies to promote the achievement of SDGs by 2030.

- Regularly review and update the implementation of development strategies, master plans, plans, and programs to proactively adjust or report to competent authorities for adjustment to make them relevant.

- Promote information dissemination and communication on sustainable development, pay attention to clarifying specific requirements on sustainable development for each type of organizations and enterprises.

- Promote the implementation of SDGs in localities. Develop and complete a set of performance evaluation tools that are relevant to the regional and local characteristics, with attention to and promotion of sustainable development in the business community.

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