

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INVESTMENT

VIET NAM CONTINUES TO ACHIEVE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

DECEMBER 2008



FOREWORD

Viet Nam's progress toward achieving the benchmarked targets of the Millennium Development Goals stresses the importance of Viet Nam's adherence to the core values and key principles of the Millennium Declaration, which was unanimously adopted by 189 Heads of State at the UN Millennium Summit in September of 2000.

In line with legislative reform and related policies, Viet Nam has integrated the broader Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) into the Socio-Economic Development Plan for 2006-2010. By prioritizing the development of the country's less-developed regions and vulnerable groups through the mobilization of diverse resources, it has been successful in forging a more participatory process for implementing the MDGs. As a result, Viet Nam has seen positive progress in MDG implementation over the last three years, especially in the eradication of extreme hunger and poverty, combating epidemics, universal primary education, gender equity, provision of basic social services for the poor through the social security network, improvement of maternal and infant health, and the establishment of a global partnership for development.

As a developing country with low income per capita, Viet Nam has many challenges in implementing the MDG work plans. Most of the challenges pertain to inadequate resources, limited literacy standards and disparities in living conditions between various social groups. The Government of Viet Nam is fully aware that the implementation of the MDGs can only be successful by mobilizing its domestic resources, reforming its style of management and execution, tapping the potential of people from all levels of society while at the same time, expanding international partnerships through the support of international donors, United Nations organizations, especially the United Nations Development Programme, and other Non-Governmental Organizations.

Viet Nam remains focused in achieving all the MDGs by 2015 through the implementation of innovative and relevant policies and by ensuring sustainable development processes.

To this end, Viet Nam seeks the cooperation and support of the international community in improving the quality of MDG achievement by 2015.

VICE MINISTER MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INVESTMENT



Dr. Cao Viet Sinh

LAND AREA AND POPULATION OF VIET NAM, 2007 BY PROVINCES AND CITIES

Province/City	Popula-tion (1,000 people)	Land area (km2)
WHOLE COUNTRY	85,154.9	331,211.6
<i>Red River Delta</i>	<i>18,400.6</i>	<i>14,862.5</i>
Ha Noi	3.289,3	921,8
Vinh Phuc	1.190,4	1.373,2
Bac Ninh	1.028,8	823,1
Ha Tay	2.561,2	2.198,0
Hai Duong	1.732,8	1.652,8
Hai Phong	1.827,7	1.520,7
Hung Yen	1.156,5	923,5
Thai Binh	1.868,8	1.546,5
Ha Nam	825,4	859,7
Nam Dinh	1.991,2	1.650,8
Ninh Binh	928,5	1.392,4
<i>North - east</i>	<i>9.543,9</i>	<i>64.025,2</i>
Ha Giang	694,0	7.945,8
Cao Bang	523,0	6.724,6
Bac Can	306,0	4.868,4
Tuyen Quang	737,7	5.870,4
Lao Cai	589,5	6.383,9
Yen Bai	749,1	6.899,5
Thai Nguyen	1.137,7	3.546,6
Lang Son	751,8	8.331,2
Quang Ninn	1.097,8	6.099,0
Bac Giang	1.608,5	3.827,4
Phu Tho	1.348,8	3.528,4
<i>North - west</i>	<i>2.650,1</i>	<i>37.533,8</i>
Dien Bien	467,8	9.562,9
Lai Chau	330,5	9.112,3
Son La	1.022,3	14.174,4
Hoa Binh	829,5	4.684,2
<i>North Central Coast</i>	<i>10.722,7</i>	<i>51.551,9</i>
Thanh Hoa	3.697,2	11.136,3
Nghe An	3.103,4	16.498,5
Ha Tinh	1.290,0	6.026,5
Quang Binh	854,9	8.065,2
Quang Tri	626,3	4.760,1
Thua Thien - Hue	1.150,9	5.065,3

Province/City	Popula-tion (1,000 people)	Land area (km2)
<i>South Central Coast</i>	<i>7.185,2</i>	<i>33.166,1</i>
Đa Nang	805,4	1.257,3
Quang Nam	1.484,3	10.438,3
Quang Ngai	1.288,9	5.152,7
Binh Dinh	1.578,9	6.039,6
Phu Yen	880,7	5.060,6
Khanh Hoa	1.147,0	5.217,6
<i>Central Highlands</i>	<i>4.935,2</i>	<i>54.659,6</i>
Kon Tum	389,9	9.690,5
Gia Lai	1.165,8	15.536,9
Đak Lak	1.759,1	13.139,2
Đak Nong	421,6	6.516,9
Lam Dong	1.198,8	9.776,1
<i>South - east</i>	<i>14.193,2</i>	<i>34.807,8</i>
Ninh Thuan	574,8	3.363,1
Binh Thuan	1.170,7	7.836,9
Binh Phuoc	823,6	6.883,5
Tay Ninh	1.053,8	4.035,9
Binh Duong	1.022,7	2.696,2
Đong Nai	2.253,3	5.903,9
Ba Ria - Vung Tau	947,3	1.989,6
Ho Chi Minh City	6.347,0	2.098,7
<i>Mekong River Delta</i>	<i>17.524,0</i>	<i>40.604,7</i>
Long An	1.430,6	4.493,8
Tien Giang	1.724,8	2.484,2
Ben Tre	1.354,1	2.360,2
Tra Vinh	1.045,8	2.295,1
Vinh Long	1.062,6	1.479,1
Dong Thap	1.672,6	3.376,4
An Giang	2.231,0	3.536,8
Kien Giang	1.705,2	6.348,3
Can Tho	1.154,9	1.401,6
Hau Giang	798,8	1.601,1
Soc Trang	1.283,6	3.312,3
Bac Lieu	819,0	2.584,1
Ca Mau	1.241,0	5.331,7

Source: Annual Statistics 2007, General Statistics Office (GSO)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of tables and charts	6
List of acronyms	7
Preface	9
Summary of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) achievement in Viet Nam	10
Part 1: Overview of continued implementation of the Millennium Declaration and MDGs in Viet Nam: 2005 – 2007	13
I. Viet Nam continues to implement its commitments to the Millennium Declaration	13
II. Implementation results of MDGs: 2005-2007	16
III. Implementation results of the Viet Nam Development Goals (VDGs) in support of the achievement of the MDGs	18
IV. Recommendations of Viet Nam	19
Part 2: The implementation of the MDGs	21
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	21
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	28
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	33
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality	43
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	48
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	52
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	60
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development	66
Part 3. Viet Nam's Development Goals in support of the achievement of the MDGs	73
I. Achievement of Viet Nam's support for the MDGs in poverty reduction and hunger alleviation	73
1. Improvement of basic infrastructure for targeted poor and disadvantaged communities	73
2. Employment and job creation	74
3. Reducing vulnerability and developing the social security network to support the poor and vulnerable	75
II. Implementation results of the Viet Nam Development Goals in support of the MDGs	76
1. Enhance culture and information to improve the spiritual life of people	76
2. Improve living standards while preserving and promoting the cultures of ethnic minority groups in Viet Nam	77
3. Reform state administration, promote grass-roots democracy and provide support for the poor	78
Part 4: Challenges to the implementation of MDGs	81
1. Stabilizing macro economics in the context of global downturn	81
2. Coping with the issue of climate change	82
3. The road ahead	83
Annex	85



LIST OF TABLES AND CHARTS

Table 1.1	General poverty rate	21
Table 1.2	Food poverty rate	23
Table 1.3	Gini index by expenditure and proportion of expenditure of different groups	24
Table 2.1	Literacy rate among population aged over 10	29
Table 2.2	Key indicators of primary education	30
Table 3.1	Proportion of female students at different educational levels	33
Table 3.2	Percentage of women in parliaments of ASEAN countries	34
Table 3.3	The proportion of men and women aged over 15 holding a job in selected employment areas	35
Table 3.4	Proportion of females employed against total labour force of 2007	36
Table 3.5	The proportion of social insurance applicants by gender and economic sectors	38
Table 3.6	Use of free time by gender	38
Table 3.7	Work arrangements for families working primarily in agricultural production	39
Table 3.8	Proportion of women taking leadership positions in education sector	40
Table 4.1	Infant mortality rates (IMR under 1 year of age) by region	44
Table 4.2	Under-five child malnutrition rate	44
Table 5.1	Ratio rate of women having access to medical examinations	49
Table 5.2	Rate of married women in reproductive ages, from 15 to 49, using contraception	49
Table 6.1	Provinces with high rates of new HIV cases in 2007	53
Table 6.2	Malaria cases and mortality rate	56
Table 6.3	No. of reported tuberculosis patients	58
Table 7.1	No. of endangered species in Viet Nam and globally	62
Table 8.1	Exports and imports turnover of Viet Nam	68
Table 8.2	ODA funds during the period 2005-2007	68
Table IV.1	Macro-financial indicators of countries with emerging markets	82
Chart 1.1	Poverty rate by urban/rural areas	22
Chart 1.2	General poverty rate by ethnic group	23
Chart 1.3	Income disparity	24
Chart 3.1	Primary education enrolment rate of ethnic minority boys and girls	34
Chart 3.2	Proportion of women in National Assembly	34
Chart 3.3	Proportion of land use right certificates bearing the name of both husband and wife	37
Chart 3.4	Proportion of women holding national leadership positions over two sessions	40
Chart 4.1	Child mortality rate for under 5 years of age	43
Chart 4.2	Child mortality rate under 1 year of age	43
Chart 4.3	Measles cases among children under 1 year of age	45
Chart 5.1	Maternal mortality rate	48
Chart 5.2	Proportion of births attended by skilled staff and comprising of at least three maternal examinations	48
Chart 6.1	No. of HIV cases in Viet Nam from 1990-2007	52
Chart 6.2	HIV prevalence by age group	53
Chart 6.3	Mortality related to AIDS, 2005-2007	54
Chart 6.4	No. of HIV carriers receiving ARV treatment	54
Chart 6.5	Malaria cases and mortality from 2001-2006	56
Chart 7.1	Forest coverage from 1943-2007	61

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADSL	Asynchronous Digital Subscriber Line
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ARV	Antiretroviral
ASEAN	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CPI	Consumer Price Index
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FSW	Female Sex Worker
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GDI	Gender-related Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
GSO	General Statistics Office
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IBBS	Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDU	Injecting Drug Use
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
JBIC	Japan Bank for International Cooperation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDGR	Millennium Development Goals Report
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOLISA	Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MSM	Men Who Have Sex With Men
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ODA	Official Development Assistance

PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PMPC	Program on Malaria Prevention and Control
PNTR	Permanent Normal Trade Relations
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
TB	Tuberculosis
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV and AIDS
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
USD	United States Dollar
VAAC	Viet Nam Administration of AIDS Control
VDG	Viet Nam Development Goal
VHLSS	Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey
VND	Viet Nam Dong
VWU	Viet Nam Women’s Union
WB	World Bank
WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

PREFACE

Viet Nam continues to make remarkable progress in integrating the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) into its socio-economic development strategies. This has occurred through the mobilization of social resources with the consent and participation of all levels of society toward the achievement of these goals.

By promoting national advantages and expanding international relations and cooperation, Viet Nam is gradually overcoming its remaining economic difficulties, as indicated by the high and sustainable growth rate, the critical basis for the full achievement of MDGs.

On completion of the five-year plan for 2001-2005, Viet Nam experienced remarkable growth with an average annual GDP growth rate of 7.5% with notable developments in other economic sectors as well. For the period 2006-2010, the high GDP growth rate remained for 2006 and 2007 at 8.2% and 8.48% respectively. In early 2008, the adverse effects of global recession and internal economic inefficiency seriously affected production, investment and people's lives. Inflation in the same period also had an impact on the progress of the economy. However, with a series of effective measures by the Government to curb inflation and stabilize the socio-economic environment, such difficulties gradually eased and Viet Nam's GDP growth rate for 2008 was 6.23 %.

Along with economic growth and social development, Viet Nam continues its efforts to better achieve MDG targets and has accomplished many positive results over the 2005-2007 period.

Significant MDG achievements were realized in poverty eradication and hunger reduction. More families in Viet Nam have higher average incomes and have risen above the poverty line. This was supported by various strategies to alleviate poverty, which are proving to be suitable and effective. Viet Nam has also made considerable progress in terms of gender equality, education and training, human resource development, prevention of HIV and other diseases, and maternal health. Viet Nam continues to implement Agenda 21 and has initially achieved sustainable development and harmonization of economic development in society and the environment.

Internationally Viet Nam has actively implemented an open-door policy of global and regional integration. In 2007 Viet Nam became an official member of the World Trade

Organization (WTO) and in 2008 was elected a non-permanent member of United Nations Security Council.

Most of the country's initial successes were achieved by mobilizing its domestic resources, reforming the style of management and execution, and tapping into its human resource potential to the maximum extent. Viet Nam has also received support in the form of resources and capacity building from international donors, UN organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

However, Viet Nam is still among the low-income or developing country group and is faced with many challenges from adverse development cycles in the global economy, which may undermine efforts towards achieving the MDGs. In this regard, Viet Nam requires more effective measures to ensure the quality of MDG implementation toward full achievement of the Goals by 2015.

This report aims to review progress in achieving the MDGs and the Viet Nam Development Goals (VDGs) from 2005 to 2007. Data and figures in this report are from statistics contained in the annual reports of relevant Ministries, provinces and other economic sectors, which are systematically collected by the General Statistics Office (GSO).

This report was compiled with information provided by the provinces and cities throughout the country; the Ministry of Planning and Investment; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Education and Training; Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism; Ministry of Information and Communication; Ministry of Science and Technology; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ethnic Minority Committee; National Committee for the Advancement of Vietnamese Women; and the Viet Nam Learning Encouragement Association.

Throughout the report, Viet Nam wishes to share its development struggles and experiences in the implementation of the MDGs with the global community. In the meantime, Viet Nam seeks the cooperation and support of the international community, especially developed country partners, in improving the quality of MDG achievement by 2015.

SUMMARY OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS ACHIEVEMENT IN VIET NAM

	GOALS AND TARGETS	1990	IMPLEMEN TED	TARGET OF 5-YEAR PLAN 2006-2010	LIKELIHOOD OF ACHIEVEMENT BY 2015
MDG 1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger					
1	Proportion of poverty	58% (as of 1992)	15.5% (2006)	10 -11%	Achievable
2	Poverty gap		8.4 (2006)		
3	Malnutrition rate of children under 5 (weight in comparison with age)	41%	20.6% (2006)	20%	Likely to achieve
4	GINI (by expenditure)	0.350 (as of 1999)	0.36 (2006)		Likely to achieve
MDG2. Achieve Universal Primary Education					
5	Net enrolment rate of primary education	87%	95.96% (2006)	99 %	Achievable
6	Primary education completion rate		85.82% (2006)		
7	Net enrolment rate of lower secondary education		81.04% (2006)	90%	Achievable
MDG3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women					
8	The percentage of girls to boys in primary education		94.1% (2006)		Achievable
9	The percentage of girls to boys in lower secondary education		93.05% (2006)		Achievable
10	The percentage of girls to boys in upper secondary education		97.08% (2006)		Achievable
11	The percentage of women in National Assembly No. XII, session 2007-2011	18.48% (Session IX, period 1992- 1997)	25.76% (Session XII, period 2007- 2011)		
12	Percentage of women in provincial people councils		23.88% (Session from 2004- 2009)		
13	Percentage of women in district people councils		23.01% (Session from 2004- 2009)		
14	Percentage of women in commune people councils		19.53% (Session from 2004- 2009)		
15	Percentage of newly-issued land use right certificates bearing both husband and wife's name		90% (2006)	100%	Achievable

	GOALS AND TARGETS	1990	IMPLEMEN TED	TARGET OF 5-YEAR PLAN 2006- 2010	LIKELIHOOD OF ACHIEVEMENT BY 2015
MDG4. Reduce Child Mortality					
16	Mortality rate of children under 5 (o/oo)	58	25 (2008)	25	Achievable
17	Mortality rate of children under 1 (o/oo)		15.5 (2008)	16	Achievable
18	Percentage of children under 1 vaccinated against measles		96.4% (2006)	100%	
MDG 5. Improve Maternal Health					
19	Maternal mortality rate against 100,000 live cases	233	75 (2008)	80	Achievable
20	Percentage of births attended by health care personnel.		92.92% (2006)		Achievable
21	Percentage of married women aged 15-49 using contraception methods		78% (2006)		Achievable
22	Percentage of women receiving at least 3 medical checks during pregnancy		84.5% (2006)		Achievable
MDG 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases					
23	Percentage of pregnant HIV carriers		0.38% (2006)		Unlikely to achieve
24	Proportion of malaria infected per 1,000 population		1.08 (2006)		Achievable
25	Malaria Mortality rate per 100,000 population		0.048 (2006)		Achievable
26	Proportion of tuberculosis cases per 1,000 population		1.17 (2006)		Achievable
27	Tuberculosis Mortality rate per 100,000 population		2.2 (2006)		Achievable
MDG 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability					
28	Percentage of forest coverage		39% (2008)	43%	
29	Areas of natural land with biodiversity preserved		2.5 million ha (2006)	Increase by 11,6% (by 2010)	28% increase compared with prior participatio n in the Biological Diversity Treaty
30	Amount of carbon dioxide emission per capita	0.3	1.2 (2004)		
31	Percentage of urban population with access to clean water supply		91.8% (2006)	95%	Achievable
32	Percentage of rural population with access to clean water supply		68.4% (2006)	75%	Achievable
33	Percentage of population with access to improved hygiene facilities				

	GOALS AND TARGETS	1990	IMPLEMEN TED	TARGET OF 5-YEAR PLAN 2008- 2010	LIKELIHOOD OF ACHIEVEMENT BY 2015
MDG 8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development					
37	No. of telephones /100 population		51.36 (2006)		
38	No. of mobile phone subscribers/100 population		23.47 (2006)		
39	No. of ADSL subscribers/100 population		0.7 (2006)		
	<i>Ensuring basic infrastructure for poor communes and people:</i>				
40	Percentage of poor communes with basic infrastructure			100%	Achievable
41	Percentage of households with proper toilets			75%	
	<i>Job Creation</i>				
42	The number of people in employment (million people)		1.83 (2006)	1.6 million (8 million in 5 years)	Exceeding goal
43	The percentage of females in the labour force		49.4% (2006)	50%	Achievable
44	The proportion of trained labour force		27.8% (2006)	40%	Achievable
45	Unemployment rate in urban areas		4.65% (2008)	5%	Exceeding goal



PART 1

OVERVIEW OF CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION AND MDGs IN VIET NAM: 2005 - 2007

In August 2005, the country's first MDG report "Viet Nam Achieving the MDGs" was published. It highlighted the remarkable early results toward Viet Nam's achieving the MDGs.

Since then, Viet Nam has continued its efforts to achieve the MDGs as an obligation and responsibility to the international community

and to keep its promise to the United Nations (UN), the world's most important multilateral institution.

The accomplishments of each nation have so far proved that the UN Millennium Declaration is designed to serve the basic needs of mankind and to pursue a sustainable and equitable future for all.

I. VIET NAM CONTINUES TO IMPLEMENT ITS COMMITMENTS TO THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION

Together with other countries, Viet Nam has been implementing its commitments to the Millennium Declaration by fully integrating

these goals into its Socio-Economic Development Strategy to ensure growth and progress in achieving quality MDG outputs.

1. Viet Nam continues to respect and endorse the core values and principles of the Millennium Declaration

As an elected non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, Viet Nam maintains a strong stance on achieving the MDGs.

In line with the official announcement by the President of Viet Nam at the UN, describing the country as, "an active Viet Nam contributing, cooperating and taking responsibility in the international community," Viet Nam is committed to effectively participating in the international community and to respect and endorse the core values and principles of the Millennium Declaration.

Viet Nam respects the UN principles of human dignity and equal rights, especially for the most vulnerable groups, including children.

Viet Nam considers the essential core values and principles of international relations in the 21st century as freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect of the natural environment, and sharing responsibility, as enunciated in the UN Millennium Declaration. Those values are reflected in the MDGs, which invite all nations to come together to translate them into specific goals that can be implemented around the world.

Viet Nam highly appreciates the operation and activities of UN agencies and organizations to further support member countries, especially the poor and less developed nations to create better conditions for development and achievement of their development goals.

2. Viet Nam respects and endorses the establishment of sustainable peace and justice throughout the world, in line with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter

Sustainable development for future generations requires the establishment of sustainable peace and justice in all nations; eradication of hunger, poverty, illiteracy and disease; preservation of the environment; as well as combating violence, terrorism and criminal activities.

Viet Nam is committed to respect the sovereignty and political independence of all countries, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. Viet Nam endorses peaceful approaches to resolve conflict in line with international law and justice.

Viet Nam supports UN efforts in condemning terrorism and is committed to joint efforts in the fight against it. Meanwhile, special attention is being paid to combating drug trafficking, cross-border crime including illegal trafficking of women and children, and money laundering.

Viet Nam is committed to further supporting and sharing responsibility in the establishment of an orderly and equitable global economy, society and environment in support of the MDGs.

3. Viet Nam continues to implement the goal of socio-economic development, poverty eradication and hunger reduction with high-quality measures

Viet Nam is aware of its overarching responsibility to foster economic growth in harmony with social development and the environment.

Viet Nam has thus far focused on the implementation of various macro measures to maintain socio-economic stability and to expand foreign markets so that the shifting economic structure does not collapse. This has resulted in high and stable GDP growth over previous years. In 2005, Viet Nam's GDP growth was 8.5%, while in 2006 and 2007 high growth rates continued at 8.2% and 8.48% respectively.

During this period of high growth, Viet Nam changed and improved the strategy and implementation of the MDGs by integrating these goals into its socio-economic strategies. This was achieved by modifying and balancing mechanisms to mobilize resources for development among and between the various sectors of society. Various sectors and social strata have taken part in the implementation of the MDGs. As a result, progress in the goals and targets, such as universal primary education, gender equality, improvement of health care services and protection of the environment, has been encouraging.

4. Viet Nam continues the implementation of global environmental protection

Viet Nam continues to base its national development strategy on the principle of sustainable development, including the principles set forth in Agenda 21 of the UN seminar on the environment and development.

The goal of "fast, effective and sustainable development, economic growth, progressive implementation, social justice and environmental protection" is reflected in the country's policy-making and implementation in all sectors and administrative agencies. These aim to meet the current needs of society without undermining the quality of life for future generations.

Viet Nam was successful in mobilizing participation of all sectors in society in carrying out

Agenda 21 at both central and local levels. All short-term and long-term goals and targets are related to sustainable development and are reflected in the relevant strategies and policies, along with specific resource mobilization measures. In addition, inter-ministerial and inter-sector cooperation to realize such goals has been well established within the scope of a united programme of action. Given that there is a close link between the MDGs, VDGs and the development goals of Agenda 21, the achievement of one goal can have a positive spillover effect on another.

These efforts have had positive impacts so far enabling sustainability and increasing the likelihood of achieving the MDG targets.

5. Viet Nam further meets its human rights and democracy commitments

Viet Nam has been successful in establishing institutions to ensure the protection of human rights, democracy and good governance. Meanwhile, Viet Nam encourages grass-roots democracy by ensuring that the People's Councils and People's Committees at commune level inform all people in a timely

manner; sets out the issues to be decided and discussed by the people before decisions are made; sets out the activities to be reviewed and supervised; as well as the arrangements and the extent of responsibility of relevant agencies and individuals to implement programmes.

Emphasis is also placed on enhancing the leadership of people, tapping their creativity and mobilizing resources to improve economic, social and environmental conditions, while promoting literacy, harmony and solidarity among social groups and consolidating grass-roots institutions.

6. Viet Nam further implements its commitments on the protection of vulnerable groups and provides them with improved, stable living conditions and integrates them within the community

Viet Nam has worked hard to reduce the vulnerability of targeted groups by implementing a series of measures to improve their physical, emotional and spiritual lives. The social security network has also been consolidated. Diverse and appropriate programmes to relieve the difficult living conditions of the poor, disabled, the elderly, orphans and the most vulnerable groups in disadvantaged areas have been developed, i.e. generating new jobs or donating humanitarian housing to such groups. More attention is being paid to the education and protection of children, especially the disadvantaged, victims of dioxins such as

7. Support for the special needs of Africa

Viet Nam believes that the expansion of economic and social cooperative ties, promotion of business based on equal and mutual benefits, will help the least-developed countries in Africa to develop and better utilize their advantages and resources for development.

The relationship between Viet Nam and Africa has evolved and recent bilateral official visits by high-ranking delegates of Viet Nam and many African countries continue to develop positive results. Viet Nam extends its respect and friendship to all African countries, considering it important to retain the solidarity between the continents.

8. Viet Nam supports efforts to increase UN effectiveness

Viet Nam supports the international community by continuing in its effort to reinforce the UN, making it a more effective organization in furthering its objectives of peace, security and development of all nations with respect to international law and national sovereignty. Firstly the Economic and Social Council, particularly socio-economic research organizations and centres under the

The allied interest of local administrations and communities provide a strong incentive for people to mobilize their resources in support of socio-economic development, poverty reduction and contributes to the achievement of the MDGs.

Agent Orange and those living with HIV.

A network of Social Protection Centres, social security funds and emergency relief funds, contributed by the community and charitable organizations, was established, which proved to be effective in supporting the victims of typhoons, floods, droughts and other disasters in a timely manner.

Viet Nam encourages and supports the humanitarian activities of NGOs and social organizations to relieve the problems of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including ensuring improved and stable living and their integration into society.

Viet Nam strongly agrees with the recommendation that developed countries should enhance their bilateral and cooperation ties with Africa. In the context of global integration, support from developed economies, in the form of both technical and capital assistance is of great importance for African countries to reform their economic structures so as to compete in the global market.

There is also a need to promote international cooperation and distribution in terms of production, employment, education and training, health care, disaster relief and other social sectors in order to support the implementation of the MDGs.

UN, should evolve to operate more efficiently so as to provide technical assistance to member countries in developing preventive mechanisms against global downturns and national socio-economic recession.

The General Assembly of the United Nations should issue periodic reports and notices on progress and quality of implementing the MDGs. In addition,

regional conferences should be organized on a regular basis as an experience-sharing platform for both

developed and developing countries with a view to attaining their own development commitments.

II. IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: 2005-2007

The MDG targets have been aligned with national development goals by integrating them into the annual and five-year socio-economic development plans. This provides a basis to enhance their effectiveness by tapping the resources of society to facilitate the implementation of the MDGs in a timely and effective manner. It is accepted that the implementation of the MDGs in Viet Nam is allied with Doi Moi and the ultimate goal of becoming a

prosperous and democratic nation.

As more emphasis is placed on the quality of achievement of the VDGs, which are closely linked to the MDGs, there will be a positive spillover impact on progress toward attaining MDG targets.

The harmonization in implementing the MDGs and VDGs meets the desires and aspirations of society, and has received unanimous support from all social groups.

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Viet Nam has been successful in eradicating extreme poverty and reducing hunger, the overarching component of the MDGs. Poverty alleviation, along with creating wealthy living conditions for all nationwide, especially in disadvantaged areas, is a means to ensure the sustainability of poverty eradication. Over the last four years, the proportion of poor households has been reduced by 13% (from 28.9% in 2002 to 16.0% in 2006) and is targeted to reach 10% by 2010. In addition, the malnutrition rate among children under five years of age was reduced to 20% in 2006 from 41% in 1990. The national poverty line of Viet Nam has been upgraded in line with income growth and is approaching international standards. In addition, the Government considers poverty eradication

and hunger reduction as an encompassing requirement for sustainable development, requiring the joint efforts of all sectors, organizations and individuals.

The resources for poverty alleviation are diverse. Apart from annual budget allocations, a significant source of funding is mobilized from the business sector, organizations and individuals to invest in upgrading facilities, production plants, job creation, provision of accommodation for migrant workers, improving the quality of health care, education and training and cultural and social improvements for poor and remote areas. Subsequently, living conditions and the availability of basic social services for the poor have been improved.

2. Achieve universal primary education

The national programmes on education and training for 2006-2010 are on going with impressive results so far. They are contributing to the goal of, "Ensuring that all primary school aged children, boys and girls alike, will complete primary education by 2015." In 2006, Viet Nam achieved an impressive rate of universal primary education of 96%, compared with 87% in 1990.

In the meantime, much effort is being devoted to attaining universal lower secondary education for all. By 2007, 42 of 64 provinces achieved the national standard of universal lower secondary education. The average time spent at school is now 10.8 years.

The size of the trained labour force is also increasing: from 27.8% in 2006 to 30.5% in 2007 to 37% in 2008. This figure is forecast to reach 40% by 2010.

School infrastructure has been improved and upgraded. The location of schools is evenly distributed, including lower secondary schools in most communes in the Red River and Mekong delta regions. A private school system has been established and has quickly expanded at every educational level. While the provincial and district boarding school network has also been consolidated and expanded.

Investment in education and training is a high priority for the Government, seeing it as an investment for development. The State budget allocation for education and training has increased over recent years, and now

accounts for 20% of total state expenditure. ODA projects in education and training have mainly concentrated on basic education (i.e. primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education).

3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Viet Nam has embraced gender equality and improving the status of women, especially in education and training; socio-economic management and representation of women in management agencies at all levels and sectors.

In Viet Nam, women now account for 50.8% of the total population and 49% of the labour force. They play an important role in public life and in the national development cause.

The proportion of girls at all education levels is approximately 50%. The proportion of women is also high in many areas such as education and training.

The qualifications and perception of women in managerial positions at different levels has been improved. Many are professors, doctors, hold masters and PhDs and are working in such fields as scientific research, literature and the arts and have made considerable contributions to reform and develop the country.

4. Reduce child mortality

Child health continues to improve. The open immunization programme has wider coverage and is of higher quality. The under-five mortality rate has been significantly reduced. In addition, the malnutrition rate is greatly declining, indicating that the nutritional status of children in many regions has been improved over recent years.

Improvements have also been made in health care services for children; however more needs to be done in disadvantaged areas. The success of this goal depends on the establishment of more effective measures to reach children in these areas.

5. Improve maternal health

Women's reproductive health care programmes have been implemented nationwide. Increasingly, trained health personnel are monitoring and assisting during pregnancy and at delivery thus improving maternal health indicators. The local health care network has been strengthened and upgraded while epidemics and dangerous diseases affecting women's health are under control.

The maternal mortality rate has significantly reduced from 203 per 100,000 cases in 1990 to only 75 per 100,000 cases in 2007. The proportion of births attended by health

personnel remains around 95%, while in the urban and delta areas it is 98%.

Viet Nam is making significant progress in improving health indicators such as height, weight and life expectancy. The Government has been financing health insurance for the poor as well as implementing a free medical check-up scheme for children under six years of age.

A system of health care programmes using traditional herbs and medicines was verified with the medical establishment and many private centres, thus giving people greater options.

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

The Government of Viet Nam has issued the "National Strategy on HIV/AIDS prevention and control in Viet Nam till 2010 with a vision to 2020". It established a National Committee for HIV/AIDS, Drug and Prostitution Prevention and Control, and provincial steering committees responsible for HIV and

AIDS prevention and control. At the same time, it also strengthened the preventive health care system to combat the spread of HIV. The approach to HIV prevention and control has evolved to combining health promotion with remedial activities, and by integrating people living with HIV in the

community. Government agencies and social organizations, such as women and youth associations, have implemented joint efforts with local communities and their families in the prevention and control of HIV. However, unless there are more strict and effective measures to combat the current levels of HIV in place, it will be very hard to control the expansion of HIV, thus undermining the possibility of reaching the

7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Viet Nam continues to implement Agenda 21 by linking sustainable development goals to national strategies and programmes with substantial results. Resource management has been strengthened while the use and exploitation of natural resources is under control. The preventive measures against environmental pollution in many regions have helped to protect natural resources and ensure sustainable exploitation of these resources. In 2007, the proportion of

MDG targets in this area.

Malaria has been effectively controlled. During 2000-2007, malaria cases per 100,000 people were reduced by 90%.

Since 1995, the TB prevention programme has been a priority health care programme. It has achieved considerable success and was commended by the international community.

rural and urban people having access to clean water was 70% and 75% respectively, which achieved the target of doubling the amount of clean water supply coverage in 2005. Forest coverage is continuously increasing, reaching 38.3% in 2007 and 40% in 2008.

Natural preservation and biodiversity protection has progressed. Natural reserves have expanded and many of these protected areas have been recognized as world heritage sites.

8. Develop a global partnership for development

Viet Nam has improved its standing through an open-door policy and active integration into the region and the rest of the world.

Viet Nam successfully hosted the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in 2006, during which the leaders of 21 nations approved the "Ha Noi Declaration" to further support trade liberalization. Viet Nam also developed an action plan to realize the Busan roadmap, on the way to achieving the Bogor Goals of Free Trade and Investment in the Asia Pacific Region. In 2006, Viet Nam was successfully granted full membership to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Viet Nam also participated in the World

Economic Forum (WEF), Asia's Future Forum, Asia's Enterprise Association, and Asian Dialogue and played an active role in Mekong Delta sub-regional cooperation programmes.

Viet Nam has established trade relationships with more than 170 countries and territorial areas as well as investment relations with 70 partner countries. In addition, more than 60 bilateral economic agreements have been signed.

Viet Nam continues to devote its best efforts in reforming its economic and legal institutions, as well as the regulatory system to be more consistent with international regulations and practice.

III. IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS OF THE VIET NAM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN SUPPORT OF THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Viet Nam has integrated the MDGs into its own socio-economic development goals, known as the VDGs, and has incorporated these goals into its Socio-Economic Development Strategy for more effective control and support towards the full achievement of the MDGs.

1. Between 2005 and 2007, Viet Nam

continued its high economic growth, which has resulted in positive effects on progress toward MDG achievement. Remarkable growth rates occurred in many sectors such as industry, agriculture and services. In addition, key economic zones demonstrated superior growth and advantages and extended its positive impacts to less advantaged regions. Overall living standards

were also further improved.

2. The unemployment rate was reduced due to the large number of jobs being created as the industrial and service sectors expanded following increased industrialization and urbanization. Better training was made available making the workforce more productive. The average income of labourers increased significantly over the same period.

3. The provision of essential infrastructure services for the most disadvantaged communes and poorest regions resulted in increased socio-economic success. Most disadvantaged communes now have new roads that give them access to commune centres, health care dispensaries, and primary and lower secondary schools, markets and neighbourhoods. The living conditions of these previously disadvantaged groups have been improved.

4. Progress has been made in improving the living standards of ethnic minorities, by eliminating the shifting cultivation practices of semi-nomadic hilltribes. An increasing proportion of leadership positions in people-

elected agencies are now chaired by ethnic minority representatives at all levels. The preservation of the material and non-material heritage of ethnic minority groups has been given priority. For example, the languages, dialects and scripts of ethnic minority groups are now common in schools, cultural activities and mass media.

5. Vulnerable groups, including the elderly, the disabled, the poor and orphans, have also received support from the Government, enterprises and the community to mitigate their vulnerability in terms of food and housing, and access to education and health care. The ultimate objective is to help such groups overcome their difficulties and integrate them within their communities.

6. The regulations regarding grass-roots democracy have been disseminated and implemented in all communes, wards and residential communities. This open and democratic atmosphere has encouraged confidence, harmony and unity in society, which also improves the chances of realizing the country's socio-economic goals and the MDGs.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS OF VIET NAM

The United Nations is playing a more essential role in the coordination and promotion of the implementation of MDGs in all countries. However, progress toward the achievement of the MDGs is based on the specific conditions of each country and region. To date, Viet Nam remains a less developed country with its small economy still in transition. Therefore, the country's competitiveness and living standards are low. In the absence of support from UN member countries, especially the developed countries, international financial organizations, and UN agencies, it will be extremely challenging for Viet Nam to realize all the MDGs by 2015.

1. The acceleration of MDG implementation should be a priority for all as such development targets reflect the desire of all nations, especially the less developed and developing countries.

2. Each country should translate the MDGs into specific goals, matching the real conditions and actual needs of their society. It is important to integrate the MDGs into national policy and development strategies,

based on human development with the real objective of improving the living condition of all people.

3. Viet Nam supports the idea of more effective monitoring and evaluation of MDG implementation in all countries. Periodic reports and notices should be circulated for the purpose of experience sharing among countries, while enhancing the accountability of each country to the international community.

4. Government and local organizations should increase their efforts to link the implementation of the MDGs with their own specific socio-economic development objectives and invite the active participation of the entire society. In the meantime, there should be a mechanism in place regarding financial support for remote areas, where conditions may render it difficult to achieve these goals. Wealthier provinces should be required to share the responsibility of supporting less advantaged areas so as to achieve the MDGs together.

5. Viet Nam should address the need to develop and strengthen an open and transparent international financial system for the purpose of the development of each nation and to enhance financial stability and security worldwide.

6. Viet Nam supports the idea of further consolidating the operational structures of the UN that promote market opportunities for agricultural products and consumer goods from less developed and developing countries, while at the same time, lifting trade

and technical barriers in international trade.

7. Developed countries, international financial institutions, the international donor community and UN organizations should grant more favourable support to less developed and developing countries in the form of funding and technology transfer, helping them to improve their socio-economic status. In particular, there is a need to support these countries in investment, debt relief, promotion of trade and participation in international labour agreements.



PART 2

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOAL 1:

ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

The Millennium Development Goals:

- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day
- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people
- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Viet Nam's Goals (SEDP 2006 to 2010):

- Halve, by 2010, the proportion of people living below new standard poverty line of 2005, from 22% in 2005 to c. 10%-11% in 2010
- Reduce by 75% the proportion of people living below the food poverty line of 2000, from 12% in 2000 to c. 3% in 2010

I. RESULTS

Poverty reduction, on a sustainable and comprehensive basis, is seen as a top priority in Viet Nam and has been thoroughly linked with the socio-

economic development process. Over the last 20 years of Doi Moi, Viet Nam has improved income and poverty alleviation for its people.

Further significant declines in poverty and hunger incidence

Table 1.1. General poverty rate (%)

	1993	1998	2002	2004	2006
General poverty rate	58.1	37.4	28.9	19.5	15.97
Poverty rate based on standard of US\$1PPP per day	39.9	16.4	13.6	10.6	4.9
Poverty gap (calculated by international standards) ⁽¹⁾	18.5	9.5	6.9	4.7	3.8
By urban/rural area					
Urban	25.1	9.2	6.6	3.6	3.9
Rural	66.4	45.5	35.6	25.0	20.4
By ethnic group					
Kinh and Chinese	53.9	31.1	23.1	13.5	10.3
Other	86.4	75.2	69.5	60.7	52.3
By region					
Northern Mountains	81.5	64.2	43.9	35.4	30.2
Red River Delta	62.7	29.3	22.4	12.1	8.8
North Central	74.5	48.1	43.9	31.9	29.1
South Central Coastal	47.2	34.5	25.2	19.0	12.6
Central Highlands	70.0	52.4	51.8	33.1	28.6
South-east	37.0	12.2	10.6	5.4	5.8
Mekong Delta	47.1	36.9	23.4	19.5	10.3

Source: GSO, VHLSS 1993, 1998, 2002, 2004 and 2006, Vietnam Development Report, the World Bank 2003 and 2007 (proportion of households spending less than US\$1(PPP) per day

⁽¹⁾ Poverty gap measures the average difference in average expenditure of the poor compared to poverty line expenditure

1. In comparison with the standard poverty measurement of US\$1 per day, Viet Nam has well exceeded the MDG of halving the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day between 1990 and 2015. This proportion was cut by eight times from 39.9% as of 1993 to 4.9% in 2006.

2. Poverty incidence, measured by standard food poverty of Viet Nam, also declined sharply from 24.9% in 1993 to 15% in 1998. The rate further declined to 10.9%, 7.4% and 6.7% in 2002, 2004 and 2006 respectively.

3. Measured by its national poverty standard, Viet Nam was successful in lifting 375,000 households per year from poverty, an annual reduction of 2.5%.

With a view to approaching the standards of other developing countries in the region in the future, the Prime Minister issued Decision No 170/QĐ-TTg dated April 8, 2005, promulgating the updated national standards for the new development period. According to the new poverty line, by 2005 approximately 3.9 million households were still living in poverty, accounting for 20.2% of the total. High poverty rates are seen in the North-west (42.23%), North-east (31.53%), North Central (31.55%) and Central Highlands (28.54%); meanwhile the South-east region had the lowest poverty rate of 9.2%.

In 2006 and 2007, a further 300,000 households were lifted out of poverty, thus contributing to a reduction of the poverty rate from 15.5% in 2006 to 14.8% in 2007. The most successful provinces in eradicating poverty in comparison with the national standards were Da Nang, Binh Duong and Ho Chi Minh City, who set their own standards of 1.5 to two times higher than the national poverty line.

4. The GDP per capita, as measured based on purchasing power parity (PPP), has increased from US\$402 in 2001, to US\$492 in 2003, to US\$553 in 2004, to US\$639 in 2005, to US\$723 in 2006 and US\$834 in 2007. Accordingly, the living conditions of all levels of society have been improved, especially for the poorest populations. In the meantime, the poverty gap indicator has been successfully reduced.

5. According to UNDP's annual report, significant progress was made in terms of the Human Poverty Index (HPI). Viet Nam's rank moved from 51st of 92 developing countries, to 47/85 in 2000, 45/90 in 2001, 39/94 in

2003, 47/103 in 2005, 33/99 in 2006, 36/102 in 2007." (Human Development 2005, Human Development 2006, Human Development 2007-2008, UNDP). The Viet Nam Development Report of the World Bank (2004) also highlighted that "the achievement of Viet Nam in the area of poverty reduction is the most impressive of developing economies"

6. By all measurement standards and methods of calculation, Viet Nam has achieved poverty alleviation, over and above the related MDG. On that basis, the aim is to fulfil Viet Nam's new development goal, which is to "Halve, by 2010, the proportion of people living below the new standard poverty line of 2005, resulting in a reduction from 22% in 2005 to c. 10-11% in 2010" as stated in Socio-Economic Development Plan 2006-2010.

There are several poverty standards in Viet Nam used for calculation. The national income-based poverty line, promulgated in Decision No. 170/QĐ-TTg, is VND 200,000 ⁽¹⁾ per month for rural areas and VND 240,000 per month for urban areas.

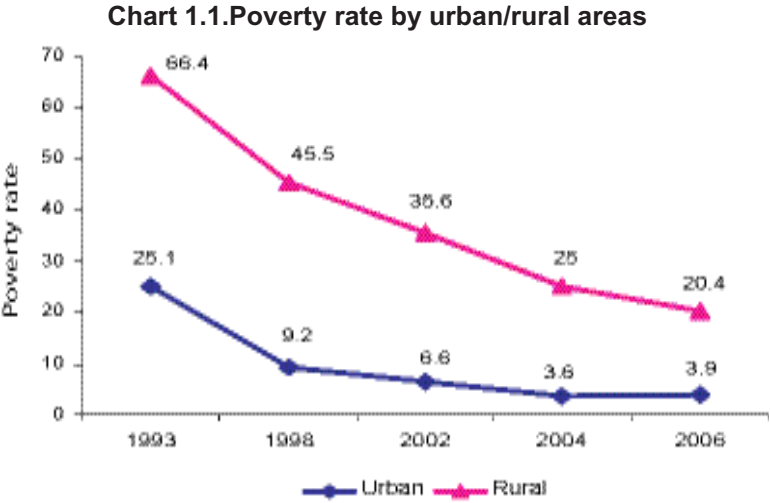
Another poverty measurement adopted by the World Bank and General Statistics Office is a consumption-based and measures the value of a food basket of per capita energy intake of 2,100 kilo-calorie per day and other non-food consumer goods. Accordingly, the poverty line is measured by "US\$1 PPP/day" and has been adopted in many development reports. In order to ensure data consistency, this report opts to use the consumption based poverty measurement, with notes and clarifications of other methods of poverty measurement such as the national poverty line. The Poverty gap index compares consumption with the poverty line.

Food poverty is measured by standardized methods adopted by the World Bank and GSO based on the consumption of a food basket that provides basic per capita energy intake of 2,100 kcal per day. Food poverty as of 2002 and 2004 were: 112,000 VND per capita per month and 124,000 VND per capita per month respectively for rural areas and 146,000 VND per capita per month and 163,000 VND per capita per month in urban areas. In fact, as even the poorest have other non-food consumption, food poverty measures hunger incidence.

⁽¹⁾ The average exchange rate for US\$1 in December 2008 was 17,331VND. 200,000VND is therefore approximately US\$11.50

II. SHORTCOMINGS AND CHALLENGES

Chart 1.1 shows a higher trend of poverty alleviation in rural areas where most of the poor live. The narrowing extreme poverty gap between rural and urban areas and poverty incidence of rural areas (20.4% in 2006) was significantly higher than in the cities (3.9%).



Source: VLSS 1992/1993, 1997/1998, VHLSS 2002, 2004, VHLSS 2006, GSO

1. Remaining poverty gap

1. Despite impressive achievements in poverty alleviation across the country, there remains a large gap between urban and rural areas, including high poverty incidences in mountainous areas and among ethnic minority groups. In 2006, the highest national poverty incidence was in the Northern mountainous areas (30.2%), followed by North Central (29.1%), Central Highlands (28.6%), South Central Coastal (12.6%), Mekong Delta (10.3%), Red River Delta (8.8%), and the South-east region (5.8%). The pace of poverty reduction also varied in different parts of each region. By the end of 2006, there were 58 districts with more than 50% households living below the poverty line (according to the national poverty line from 2006-2010), of which 27 districts had poverty incidence of over 60%, 10 districts of over

70% and one district of over 80%. There are now more than 3,000 districts where the percentage of poor is above 25%, of which 1,378 are beneficiaries of Program 135, one of the National Targeted Programs.

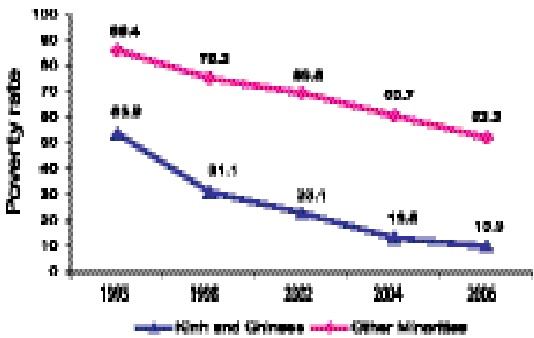
2. A tendency has emerged of a widening poverty gap between Kinh-Chinese and minority groups as reflected in chart 1.2, (i) the pace of poverty reduction among minority groups is slower than that of the Kinh and Chinese people (ii). In 2006 poverty incidence among ethnic minority people was 52.3%, much higher than the rate of Kinh and Chinese groups (10.3%). Even though they amount to one eighth of the total population, ethnic minority people make up over 50% of the poor, especially in terms of food poverty.

Table 1.2. Food poverty rate (%)

	1993	1998	2002	2004	2006
Whole country	24.9	15.0	10.9	7.4	6.7
By urban/rural					
Urban	7.9	2.5	1.9	0.8	1.2
Rural	29.1	18.6	13.6	9.7	8.7
By ethnic groups (%)					
Kinh and Chinese	20.8	10.6	6.5	3.5	3.2
Ethnic Minority	52.0	41.8	41.5	34.2	29.2

Source: GSO (2003) based on VLSS 1992/93, VLSS 1997/98, VHLSS 2002; GSO (2007) based on VHLSS 2004, and VHLSS 2006.

Chart 1.2. General poverty rate by ethnic group



Source: VLSS 1992/1993, VLSS 1997/1998, VHLSS 2002, VHL 2004, VHLSS 2006, GSO

3. Income disparity is measured using the Gini index of consumption expenditure. Between 1993 and 2006, this index slightly increased from 0.34 in 1993 to 0.37 in 2004 but declined to 0.36 in 2006, reflecting worsening income inequality. In 1995 the Gini index was 0.357 and has since increased to 0.42 in 2006.

4. The proportion of expenditure for the poorest 20% dropped from 8.5% in 1993 to 7.2% in 2006.

In the meantime, the difference between

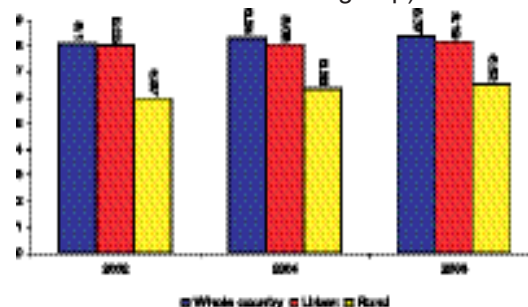
Table 1.3. Gini index by expenditure and proportion of expenditure of different groups

	1993	1998	2002	2004	2006
Gini index (by expenditure)	0.34	0.35	0.37	0.37	0.36
<i>Proportion of expenditure of 20% opulation</i>					
Group 1	8.4	8.2	7.8	7.1	7.2
Group 2	12.3	11.9	11.2	11.2	11.5
Group 3	16.0	15.5	14.6	15.2	15.8
Group 4	21.5	21.2	20.6	21.8	22.3
Group 5	41.8	43.3	45.9	44.7	43.3

Source: VLSS 1992/1993, VLSS 1997/1998, VHLSS 2002, VHLL 2004, VHLSS 2006, GSO

income of the highest and lowest groups has widened. In 1999, income of the 20% of the richest groups was 7.6 times higher than the poorest, which increased to 8.1 in 2002, 8.34 in 2004 and 8.37 in 2006.

Chart 1.3. Income disparity
(Income difference between 20% highest and 20% lowest group)



Source: VHLSS 2006, GSO

According to figures from the Viet Nam Household Living Standard Survey (VHLSS), there is progress in terms of narrowing the gaps between the 40% highest income groups and the rest, which was 21.1% in 1995, 17.98% in 1999, 17.4% in 2002, 17.4% in 2004 and 17.4% in 2006. However, it can be concluded that relative equality with regards to income has not improved significantly.

2. Unsustainable poverty reduction achievements

1. The income of the majority of people living in rural areas, especially ethnic minority groups in mountainous areas, has not improved significantly. Disadvantaged regions regularly suffer from epidemics, natural disasters etc., which cause huge damage in terms of production, assets, housing and living conditions. In the absence of effective and immediate response systems, it is very difficult for poor households to rectify their problems, whatever the cause.

2. As a result of soaring inflation, the issue of increased costs of production and commodities since the end of 2007 has emerged. The increased Consumer Price Index (CPI), especially with regard to food prices, has adversely impacted the living conditions of the poor, and is considered to be a major challenge in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes in the future.

III. SOURCE OF ACHIEVEMENTS

1. High and stable economic growth in parallel with poverty reduction and job creation

1. The goal of poverty reduction in Viet Nam has long been integrated into socio-economic development strategies and plans, and through programmes and projects within them. Viet Nam aims to ensure high and stable economic growth, thus creating favourable conditions for social development and poverty alleviation.

2. Thanks to broad-based and comprehensive economic reform, Viet Nam has had

impressive GDP growth in recent years: 6.8% in 2000, 8.44% in 2005, 8.23% in 2006 and 8.48% in 2007. Accordingly, living conditions have significantly improved. In the meantime, international relations saw positive developments including official accession to the World Trade Organization in 2007. This is a major opportunity to foster export activity, facilitating an expansion of export markets. Export turnover increased sharply with annual

growth of 22.7% in 2006 and 21.9% in 2007. Economic and structural investment is moving towards more efficient job creation, especially for the poor, low-income families and youth.

3. In Viet Nam, the majority of people of employment age participate in the labour

force. It is reported that more than 75% of the population aged 15 and over hold a stable job, 70% of just the 15 to 24 age group. The labour force in rural areas utilizes up to 75% of their time while unemployment in cities is effectively controlled at around 4.6%.

2. Poverty reduction via concrete programmes and policies

1. The poverty alleviation process between 2006 and 2010 has been closely linked with practical measures so as to improve its feasibility and effectiveness. Among others, the implementation of National Targeted Programs in poverty reduction (phase II, 2006-2010) and socio-economic development programmes in the most disadvantaged provinces (Program 135 Phase II) are considered to be key poverty reduction programmes.

In the meantime, the Government has launched many schemes and policies to provide social assistance to the poor and disadvantaged. Health care insurance and free medical examinations are provided for the poor, orphans, the disabled, the elderly, people living with HIV, single mothers from poor families, people aged over 85 and to victims of natural disasters. At the same time the Government financed tuition fees, exemptions and preferential credit programmes for poor students, while maintaining other supports such as housing, arable land and water supply.

2. 90.2% of poor households were nominated by the locality to benefit from the National Targeted Program and Program 135, according to the 2006 VHLSS.

In 2006 and 2007 more than 2.8 million poor

households received preferential credit of VND19,000 billion. At the same time, 1.33 million poor people received guidance and instruction on small business, 347 infrastructure facilities were constructed for 157 disadvantaged coastal, border and island communes (an average of 2.2 construction projects per commune). In addition, many poverty alleviation modalities for special ecological regions as well as cooperation among the state, enterprises and poor households were introduced; 62,000 officials were trained; more than 90% of poor people were provided with health insurance cards; over 4.7 million poor students were exempted from tuition fees; and 20,000 poor people received free vocational training.

The continued implementation of Program 135 Phase II proved to be effective in accelerating production and developing agriculture. The programme also supported the creation of better links between production centres and the market, thus improving the living conditions of poor people in disadvantaged locations. The programme has contributed to the eradication of extreme poverty as well as to narrowing the gap across regions. It is expected that by 2010, those disadvantaged areas will have eliminated hunger and reduced the poverty rate to below 30%.

3. Effective utilization of international assistance in poverty alleviation

The Government of Viet Nam has received active and effective support from other governments, the donor community and international organizations in the joint effort to enhance poverty alleviation. Through the efforts of the Government and international donors, relevant commitments on improving the efficiency of official development assistance within the obligations of the Ha Noi Declaration have been realized. ODA funds have been used to address prioritized issues in the socio-economic development plan. The procedure of receiving and using these funds

has been harmonized and simplified to go alongside the country's plan, aimed at enhancing national progress as well as promoting results-based management.

Many grants in the form of poverty reduction projects have been implemented in remote and disadvantaged areas with good results. Such projects have contributed to improve institutions, work towards completing the Government's poverty reduction strategy and to provide technical and financial assistance.

4. Taking sustainability into consideration

1. Though making progress in poverty reduction, the level of economic development in Viet Nam is still inadequate in terms of its low GDP per capita and state budget constraints, which are ineffective mechanisms of resource mobilization for poverty alleviation. A high incidence of poverty remains, especially in remote areas, and a large proportion of people are living near the poverty line. Agricultural production, the main source of livelihood for the majority of the poor is far from stable and still dependent on natural conditions.

2. Hurt by the recession in the global economy, Viet Nam has to face many difficulties, such as increasing unemployment, uneven income distribution, soaring inflation and food constraints, which are likely to adversely impact the standard of living of the poor. The sharp increase in CPI which

emerged at the end of 2007 and remains at high levels to-date may result in a return to poverty of the most vulnerable individuals.

3. Viet Nam is one of the countries most vulnerable to the effects of global climate change. The occurrence of natural disasters such as droughts, typhoons, soil erosion and penetration of salinated water into agricultural land will ultimately slow the progress of poverty alleviation programmes. This poses a serious threat to the lives of millions of people.

4. Given the current economic context, it will require further efforts to stabilize macro economic conditions, maintain a high growth rate, while providing social security to those adversely impacted by global climate change. These are key factors to ensure the success and sustainability of poverty reduction and hunger eradication programmes so far.

IV. CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF POVERTY REDUCTION

1. Poverty reduction targets

There is a need to:

Create every opportunity for households to move out of poverty by stepping-up the pace of poverty reduction programmes.

Control income disparities across regions and between different groups; improve the spiritual and material conditions of ethnic minority groups in disadvantaged communes to narrow the gap between social groups and regions nationwide to improve standards of living.

In the five-year plan of 2006-2010, Viet Nam's target is to "To reduce the proportion of poor households to 10 - 11% by 2010; increase the average income of poor groups by 1.45 times compared with 2005; ensure that 50% of the most disadvantaged communes located near coastal and border areas are lifted out of poverty with no hunger incidence and a reduction in the proportion of the poor households to below 30% among the most disadvantaged ethnic minorities and mountainous areas".

2. Continuing to ensure stable macro economic conditions, social security and mobilizing resources for poverty alleviation

There is a need to:

Accelerate economic reform and active integration into the global economy with sound control and reasonable distribution of income. Maintain the macro economy while promoting production and encouraging all economic sectors to create legal welfare with priorities granted to the poor.

Implement effective measures to curb inflation as a measure to prevent the downturn of the annual economic growth rate, while ensuring social security, export promotion and maintenance of growth.

3. Continuing to complete poverty reduction policies and supporting institution towards more equity to the poorest quintile and regions

There is a need to:

Provide opportunities for the poor to overcome hunger and poverty by supporting

policies regarding infrastructure, land, preferential credit, vocational education,

employment generation, consumption etc. Improve access to basic social services for the poor such as health care, education, water supply, housing, land and other facilities

Enhance the participation of people in the decision-making process of relevant projects and programmes on poverty reduction.

4. Enhancing investment for poor areas and people, especially in basic infrastructure to close the poverty gap

There is a need to:

Accelerate the construction and upgrading of basic infrastructure in the poorest and most disadvantaged communes, ethnic minority regions and communes located in border and coastal areas and enhance the transparency in investment management.

Accelerate the development and shift of economic and labour structures in

disadvantaged areas.

Diversify resources and resource mobilization methods, prioritize the allocation of funds for communes and districts with high proportions of poor households or ethnic minority groups so as to make a breakthrough in poverty reduction and help them to catch up with the pace of development in the whole country.

5. Implementing efficient supporting policies for the poor and encourage socialization in this area

There is a need to:

Complete the incentive policy framework to ensure minimum living standards are attained for vulnerable groups based on the availability of resources in society. Continue to support disadvantaged groups and further develop a sustainable and accessible social security network, focusing on preventative measures of poverty and reintegration of the poor into the community.

Make plans for residential areas, production infrastructure and social facilities, taking into consideration the special needs of prevention and mitigation of natural disasters.

Organize necessary emergency facilities to prevent and relieve the damage caused by natural disasters in an effective and timely manner. Provide clear instructions to people to mitigate damage during natural disasters.

Enhance the quality of the social security

network, develop and promote social funds. Encourage potential enterprises and investors to invest in poor areas and provide opportunities for local residents to work at businesses, agriculture or forestry plantations or export their labours abroad.

Enhance international cooperation to better mobilize and utilize technical assistance and resources to achieve the goal of poverty alleviation.

Accelerate social support for the poor and mobilize domestic and international development funds for the purpose of poverty reduction. Strengthen communication activities to help society raise their level of awareness of poverty reduction targets, while creating incentives to encourage the disadvantaged in their efforts to overcome hunger and poverty.

GOAL 2:**ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION****Mục tiêu Thiên niên kỷ:**

The Millennium Development Goal:

- Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Viet Nam goals (SEDP 2006 to 2010):

- Increase the net enrolment rate to 99% by 2010;
- Complete the renovation of primary education quality and full-day schooling at primary education level by 2010;
- Increase the net enrolment rate of lower secondary to 90% by 2010;
- Increase the net enrolment rate of upper secondary to 50% by 2010;
- Eliminate illiteracy for women under the age of forty by 2010.

Education and training is considered to be a development priority in Viet Nam. In this area, Viet Nam is successfully converting its relevant international commitments, particularly the MDGs, into concrete targets and strategies, making it an integral part of the

socio-economic development strategy for the whole country.

This has provided a sound basis for obtaining remarkable results in education in Viet Nam.

Legal documents and education development strategy of the Government:

- Education Development Strategy for 2001 – 2010
- Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS)
- Socio-economic Development Strategy for 2001 - 2010
- Five-year Socio-economic Development Plan for 2006 – 2010
- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- Dakar Framework for Action (2000)
- National Targeted Program on Education and Training

I. RESULTS**1. Eradication of illiteracy**

In 2006, about 93.1% of the population over age 10 is literate, of which the rate in urban areas is 96% and in rural areas 92.1%. Across the country, the Red River Delta enjoys the

highest literacy rate of 96.4%, while the North-west region has the lowest at 81.4%. Among young people from 15-24-years -old, 96.98% are literate.

Table 2.1. Literacy rate among population aged over 10

Unit: %

	1993	1998	2002	2004	2006
Whole country	86.6	89.5	92.1	93.0	93.1
<i>By urban/rural area</i>					
Urban	93.3	94.1	96.0	96.3	96.0
Rural	84.8	88.0	90.9	91.9	92.1
<i>By gender</i>					
Male	91.4	93.7	95.1	95.9	96.0
Female	82.3	85.6	89.3	90.2	90.5
<i>By regions</i>					
Red River Delta	91.5	93.7	95.8	96.2	96.4
North-east	85.9	88.5	90.8	93.1	92.9
North-west	n.a.	n.a.	79.9	80.0	81.4
North Central	91.0	93.7	94.2	94.1	94.1
South Central Coast	84.7	86.5	93.1	93.4	94.0
Central Highlands	64.0	76.9	86.0	87.7	88.6
South-east	90.4	92.4	94.0	94.5	94.5
Mekong Delta	82.0	89.0	94.5	90.6	90.8

Source: VLSS 1992/1993, VLSS 1997/1998, VHLSS 2002, VHLSS 2004, VHLSS 2006, GSO

2. In terms of primary education

In 2000, while other developing countries were publicizing their commitments for completion of universal primary education, Viet Nam officially announced the complete achievement of this goal, 15 years ahead of schedule.

Since then, continued efforts have been devoted to gradually improve the quality of universal primary education. Viet Nam aims to have universal lower secondary education by 2010 and universal upper secondary in the delta and urban provinces by 2010. Viet Nam is also working hard toward the improvement of education quality at all levels, ensuring access to education and opportunity for further study for all people, and absorbing advanced science and technology programmes.

1. Viet Nam has achieved a net enrolment rate (NER) of 95.96% in 2005-2006 school years.

2. The proportion of ethnic minority students attending primary schools continues to

increase. The net enrolment rate of primary education among ethnic minority children was 93.8%, just slightly lower than that of Kinh children (95.7%), with no gender variation in either group.

3. The gap between net enrolment rates across the regions has been narrowed. The average NER of primary education of 10 provinces among the lowest NER group was 92.7% (in 2007) including Cao Bang, Quang Nam, Quang Binh, Dak Nong, Tuyen Quang, Thai Nguyen, Dak Lak, Dien Bien, Yen Bai and Thanh Hoa. Meanwhile, the highest NER group was 98.7%, including Da Nang, Ha Noi, Kien Giang, Ninh Thuan, Ha Tay, Thai Binh, Hai Duong, Dong Nai, Hai Phong and Ninh Binh, reflecting a difference of only 6%.

4. Viet Nam continues to consolidate its achievements in universal primary education by gradually improving the universalization and quality of primary education.

Table 2.2. Key indicators of primary education

Unit: %

	2005	2006	2007
Net enrolment rate	94.61	95.04	95.96
Primary completion rate	83.66	92.41	85.62
Students per Teacher ratio	21.30	20.50	20.10
Teacher per class ratio	1.25	1.28	1.29
Students per class ratio	26.80	26.40	26.0

Source: Ministry of Education and Training

3. In terms of lower secondary education universalization

1. The universalization of lower secondary education is being implemented nationwide. By the end of 2007, 42 of 64 provinces reached the national standard on universal lower secondary education. In school year 2006-2007, 96% of children within the appropriate lower secondary age group attended school, in which the rate from urban areas was 96.7% and in rural areas was 95.8%. Gross enrolment rate of lower secondary was well over 90% in almost all regions across the country, except the Mekong Delta (86.8%). The NER of lower secondary education has been increasing from 77.2% in 2005 to 78.25% in 2007. Particularly, 2006-2007 saw a significant NER of lower secondary education of 78.8%, in urban and rural areas it was 82.8% and 77.7% respectively. While the Red River Delta enjoyed the highest NER at 86.9%, the lowest was seen in the North-west region with 61.1%.

The completion rate of lower secondary education in 2004-2005 was 80.6%, followed by a slight increase in 2005-2006 to 81.9%, but this fell to 76.6% in 2006-2007. In the 2006-2007 period the Red River Delta had the highest rate (92%) while the Mekong Delta

region had the lowest (60%).

2. The number of ethnic minority students attending lower secondary schools continues to increase. In 2005-2006, ethnic minority children accounted for 14.2% of total students, which increased slightly to 14.6% the following year. This proportion varied significantly across areas of the country: 45.1% in the North-east areas, 80.3% in the North-west areas and 30.1% in the Central Highlands. For the same period, the proportion of ethnic minority students attending upper secondary education was 9.95%. The percentage of students from ethnic minority groups in the North-east, North-west and the Central Highlands attending upper secondary schools was 34.2%, 67.4% and 17.8% respectively.

3. School infrastructure has been improved and upgraded. The location of schools is evenly distributed with lower secondary schools located in most communes in the delta regions. A private school system has been established and quickly expanded at every educational level, while the provincial and district boarding school networks have been consolidated.

II. SHORTCOMINGS AND CHALLENGES

1. Despite accomplishments in terms of enrolment rates, a small group of children remains who do not have access to schooling and / or do not complete their education.

The net enrolment rate varies across regions and income levels. For example, the Northern Delta region enjoys the highest NER for lower secondary education with 86.9% NER, yet NER is only 61% in the North-west region. This disparity in enrolment rate is partially explained by income differences. While the enrolment rate of the richest group is 85% for

lower secondary education and 60% for upper secondary education, it is only 62% and 20% respectively for the poorest groups.

2. The completion rate of primary education in 2006-2007 was only 85.62%. The completion rates of the provinces with the highest rates (Bac Giang, Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Vinh Phuc, Ninh Thuan, Da Nang, Ninh Binh, Hai Duong) ranged from 97% to 100%. The provinces with the lowest rates (Soc Trang, Cao Bang, Bac Lieu, Ha Giang, Ca Mau, Gia Lai, Son La) only achieved 68 to 71%. This is

a 30% gap between provinces that needs to be addressed.

3. High drop-out rates have emerged at every educational level, especially in disadvantaged and ethnic minority areas. This is becoming more and more serious despite continuous efforts of the Government to address this issue.

4. Education quality is still inadequate, especially in mountainous and remote areas. There is a shortage of teachers, teaching and learning materials and an inefficient arrangement of the curriculum and lesson plans persists. There are also significant differences in terms of access to

education across regions.

5. The facilities, teaching and learning conditions in schools, especially in remote and mountainous areas remain inadequate in both quality and quantity. The utilization of such facilities and equipment is not efficient, causing huge waste.

6. Direct expenditures for lower secondary education remains a high cost for children from poor families. In the meantime, current policies and measures to support their access to schooling and completion of education have not yet been realized.

III. SOURCE OF ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Sources of achievement

1. In Viet Nam, education has been prioritized in national policy and the Government has been implementing many reform programmes. Specifically, national targeted programs on education are on-going and school stabilization programmes that focus on strengthening school facilities are ongoing. These programmes are running parallel to support programmes for poor and disadvantaged children.

2. A sufficient share of the state budget is also allocated for education and training, and accounts for 20% of total state expenditures. This budget plan prioritizes educational development in disadvantaged and remote

areas. In the meantime, there are policies to encourage organizations and individuals to participate in delivering education services and in contributing resources for education and training across all economic sectors.

3. The Government has enhanced access to high quality education for all children; boys and girls alike, with special attention paid to ethnic minorities and disadvantaged children.

4. Teaching methods have improved and have evolved to match the needs and abilities of ethnic minority and other groups. New textbooks have been designed to encourage the creativity of students.

2. Sources of shortcomings and challenges

1. Given the small scale of the economy and poor living standards of the majority of people in mountainous, remote, border areas and islands, there remains a gap between share of state budget for education and training and the actual demands for education in these areas. This is despite the difference in terms of infrastructure, teaching and learning facilities among regions.

2. There are currently not many incentives for teachers to go and teach in remote areas. The decentralization of education and training is not attached to monitoring and supervision

mechanisms in these areas and hence, there is still a delay in resolving these shortcomings and coping with implementation challenges.

3. There is no comprehensive coherent policy framework for education and training and current supporting mechanisms and their beneficiaries do not effectively match.

4. There is a shortage of appropriate facilities to support teaching and learning, especially in disadvantaged and remote areas. For example, teaching without any visual aids is still common. In addition, there remains shortage of teachers in both quantity and quality.

IV. CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIVERSAL EDUCATION GOAL

1. By 2015, Viet Nam will target not only universal primary education but also the universalization of upper secondary

education in more favourable regions, with the goal of achieving or even exceeding the MDG targets. In the meantime, Viet Nam

aims to attain universal lower secondary education nationwide by 2010. Due attention will be paid to ensure equal access to education with support for girls and children from poor families.

2. All primary school-aged children will complete primary education.

3. Update textbooks and curriculum. Students from ethnic minority groups will be taught in both Kinh and their own language. Further consolidation of school facilities, especially in flood-prone regions is planned as is the development of lesson plans to distribute in line with the specific conditions of each region.

4. A package of measures aimed at improving the quality of education will be implemented. Firstly, the curriculum and textbooks will be improved with in-service training for teachers and capacity building for education managers. In addition, there are plans to increase the budget allocation to the education sector.

5. Continue the implementation of the National Targeted Program on Education and Training, including: (1) consolidating universal

primary education and working toward the universalization of lower secondary education, (2) updating curriculum and textbooks; (3) providing in-service training for teachers and education managers, (4) supporting education in remote, disadvantaged and ethnic minority areas, (5) further enhancing the facilities and teaching equipment available to all schools and (6) capacity building for vocational education.

6. Encourage all primary and lower secondary schools to achieve national standards (having subject and multi-function rooms, for example). Accelerate the implementation of the recent educational campaign, namely the “Two No’s: No cheating in examinations and No achievement-driven education.” Enhance the efficiency of timetables between teaching and learning time allocated at schools. Enrol children of five to six years of age in kindergarten prior to primary school. Promote the teaching of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications in primary and lower secondary schools.

GOAL 3:

PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER OF WOMEN

Millennium Development Goal:

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Viet Nam goals (SEDP 2006 to 2010):

- Reduce gender disparity in primary and secondary education among ethnic minority groups by 2010
- Increase the representation of women in elected offices / positions at all levels
- Increase the participation of women in all sectors and agencies (including Government agencies, ministries, enterprises) by 3-5% in the next 10 years
- Ensure that newly-issued land use certificates bear the names of both husband and wife
- Reduce the vulnerability of women to domestic violence

Viet Nam has upgraded its legal frameworks and institutions for gender equity. The Gender Equality Law and Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control have both been approved by the National Assembly and are currently being implemented. Beginning in 2008, a state administration was set up to monitor gender equity matters. The HDI

gender equality indicator ranked Viet Nam 105th of 177 countries in 2004 which but improved to 91 out of 157 countries in 2007. Viet Nam has, for the first time, been listed among countries eligible for measurement of gender improvement, and was 52nd out of 93 selected countries.

(Human Development Report 2007/2008, UNDP).

I. ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Eradication of gender disparity in education

Gender equality in education and training is a priority component of the National Action Plan, Education for All: 2003-2015. The National Action Plan seeks to “eliminate gender discrimination in primary and lower secondary education by 2005, achieve gender equality in education by 2015 and ensure full and equitable access to education and completion of basic schooling with high quality for girls.”

Viet Nam aims to eliminate gender discrimination at all educational levels by 2015.

To this end, Viet Nam provides both lower and higher levels of educational support and facilities for female students, as well as for male students, nation-wide.

According to the result of the 2006 VHLSS, 91% of girls and 92% of boys have access to primary and lower secondary education. As reflected in Table 3.1, there is only a slight difference in the participation of boys and girls across educational levels.

The participation of girls at all educational levels

increased from 2004 to 2007, to 47% in primary and lower secondary education. There was a slight increase in 2007. Interestingly, since 2005 there have been higher numbers of qualified females in tertiary education. For example, female students accounted for 54% of the total in universities and colleges in 2007. This implies better employment prospects for women, especially in managerial and other important positions in the future. Given this, it is likely that Viet Nam can fully attain the target of eradicating gender disparity in education by 2015.

Table 3.1. Proportion of female students at different education levels

Unit : %

	2004 – 2005	2005 – 2006	2006 – 2007
Primary	47.67	48.24	48.48
Lower secondary	48.27	48.57	48.20
Upper secondary	48.93	49.35	49.26
College	50.48	53.09	53.83
University	46.95	47.23	54.99

Source: Ministry of Education and Training, 2007

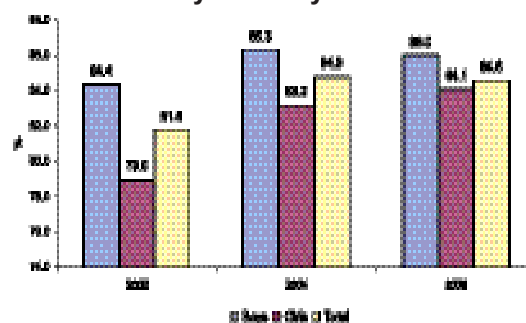
The success of Viet Nam in the area of gender equality is also visible in a comparison of literacy rates for males and females. In 2006, 96.98% of the literate population between the ages of 15 and 24, 96.67% were women and 97.26% were men. The percentage of over-10 years of age literate population was 93.1%, of which women was 90.5% and men was 96%.

The average years of schooling completed for female adults between the age of 20 and 24 was 9.5 years, only slightly lower than the average for men at 9.6 years. Recently, there has been a significant improvement in terms of access to schools for ethnic minority girls. In 2006, 84.6% of ethnic minority children attended primary school, of which 85% were boys and 84.1% were girls.

By the end of 2007, there were 580,000 women employed in the educational

sector, accounting for 70% of all educational staff. In 2006-2007, the proportion of female teachers in primary education was 77.6%, with 67.1% at lower and upper secondary education. In colleges and tertiary institutions women accounted for 49.2% and 42.5% of teachers respectively.

Chart 3.1. Primary education enrolment rate by ethnicity and sex



Source: VHLSS 2002, 2004, 2006

2. Promoting women to leadership and managerial positions

Over the last two decades, Viet Nam has always appointed a woman as Vice President. In the current session of National Assembly (2007-2011), female representation amounts to 25.8%. This is the highest ratio among the ASEAN region and ranked 31st in the world.

Table 3.2. Percentage of women in Parliaments of ASEAN countries

Unit: %

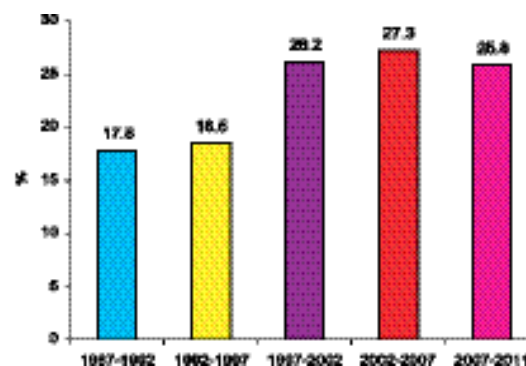
Countries	Percentage of women in Parliament
Viet Nam	25.8
Laos	25.2
Singapore	24.3
Philippines	20.5
Cambodia	19.3
Indonesia	11.6
Thailand	11.3
Malaysia	10.8

Source: World Constitution and Parliament Association, 2008

Though this percentage is 1.5% lower than the last session, the participation of women in key positions of the National Assembly has significantly improved. Women occupy the positions of Vice Chairman of the National Assembly, Vice Chairman of the Ethnic Council, Vice Chairman of National Assembly Committees and membership on another 72

relevant councils and committees. With regards to the level of qualification for women in leadership positions, 30% of female senators had university degrees in the 1992-1997 session. This figure has doubled for the 2007-2011 session. (Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2007).

Chart 3.2. Proportion of women in National Assembly



Source: National Assembly

Female representation has grown in such areas as economics and security as well as in social fields. Particularly, participation of women in the Defence and Security Council amounts to 2.9% and in the Science, Technology and Environment Council women represent 29.7%. This is compared with 0% and 19.4% membership in the same

committees for the last session. The participation of women in the People's Councils at all levels has increased between the two sessions (1999-2004 and 2005-2009), from 22.3% to 23.8% in Provincial People's Committees, from 20.1% to 23.2% in District People's Committees and from 16.6% to

20.1% at commune level.

As of December 31, 2006, female civil servants in government administration agencies at all levels accounted for 31.1% of total staff, of which, 18.4% hold managerial positions. At the commune level the proportion of female officials is now 16.27%.

3. Employment opportunities equally offered to both men and women

In Viet Nam, while women account for 49% of the total labour force, employment opportunities are offered equally to both men and women. Another measurement of gender equity in employment is the proportion of women working in the non-agricultural sector. According to the 2007 job and employment survey, women made up 47.3% of the

workforce. In other production and business sectors, women account for 46.0% of the workforce, while women managed 41.1% of businesses.

However, as reflected in Table 3.3, gender disparity in some key employment sectors remains.

Table 3.3. The proportion of men and women aged over 15 holding a job in selected employment areas

Unit: %

	Female	Male
Total	49.4	50.6
By gender		
Agriculture, forestry and fishery	51.6	48.4
Mineral exploitation	31.1	68.9
Manufacturing and processing	51.7	48.3
Production and delivery of electricity, gas, steam and warm water ...	17.3	82.7
Hotel and restaurants	71.6	28.4
Banking and finance	52.4	47.6
Science and technology	34.0	66.0
Education and training	69.2	30.8
Health care and social activities	59.5	40.5
Culture and sports	48.8	51.2
Administration and support services	50.8	49.2

Source: Job and Employment Survey, August 1, 2007 by GSO

4. Women labourers are making a significant contribution to socio-economic development

Eighty-three per cent of the female population of Viet Nam is employed, just slightly behind the figure for working men at 85%.

According to the 2007 Employment Survey, women accounted for 46.03% of total employees in the manufacturing and business sectors. A significant proportion of women are heading business operations or participating in households businesses, 41.1% and 49.42%

respectively. Female labourers are increasingly involved in non-agriculture sectors, especially in sectors requiring highly technical input as well as service and private sectors.

As reflected in Table 3.4, female employees are still predominant in less-skilled employment areas and hold a smaller share of positions in highly technical jobs.



Table 3.4: Proportion of females employed against total labour force of 2007*Unit: %*

	Women
Proportion of female labour (whole country)	49.40
- Leadership/Managerial positions	20.22
- Highly professional/technical	47.20
- Middle professional/technical	58.44
- Ordinary staff in other areas	45.45
- Personal services, security guards, technical sales	59.30
- Technically-related employment in agriculture, forestry and fisheries	42.64
- Technically-related craft workers	35.98
- Installation and operation	14.76
- Unskilled	53.64

Source: NCFAW, National Committee for the Advancement of Women, MOLISA

5. Viet Nam provides preferential conditions for women's access to resources to reduce poverty and increase empowerment

Viet Nam has further addressed gender equality through legal frameworks for land access. Since the revised Land Law came into effect in 2003, 90% of newly-issued land-use-right certificates have the names of both the husband and wife. This has made it easier for women to access production credits as well as ensure their land-use rights and ownership.

According to GSO's 2006 Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey, 54% of poor households were able to access credit for business investments from banks, employment generation funds and other social and political agencies. Of these households, women headed 46% of them.

Between 2001-2005, with the implementation of National Targeted Program on Employment and Training, which was an incentive policy for attracting Foreign Direct Investment, SME development and other socio-development programmes, Viet Nam was able to successfully provide employment for 75 million people. Of the 5.9 million newly-generated jobs, 42% were given to women, which increased to 48% in 2005 (Mid- term review on implementation of

National Strategy for advancement of Vietnamese women, 2001-2010).

The Viet Nam Women's Union has played an active role in enforcing vocational education, employment orientation and the introduction of new jobs for women, with a view to creating stable employment and assisting women out of poverty. From 2002 to 2007, more than 6,000 women were trained, of which half were given suitable jobs through the support of 36 vocational centres as stipulated under the Viet Nam Women's Union Charter (Resolution of Nation Meeting of Women No.10).

Between 2002 and 2007, there were more than four million poor households in Viet Nam, including 1.7 million female-headed households that received support from the Viet Nam Women's Union. More than 800,000 female-headed households were among the group newly lifted out of poverty, representing almost 50 % of all such households.

Among other supporting activities, the Viet Nam Women's Union disseminated training on business management skills to more than 131,000 women holding managerial positions in enterprises and small businesses. To date, about 760 business clubs for women have been formed.

Land use rights

Since women account for a large majority of the labour force in the agricultural sector, the recognition of their status on land use right certificates is critical in confirming their legal right to the land they live on. It is the Government's objective to ensure that all land use right certificates bear the name of both husband and wife by 2010.

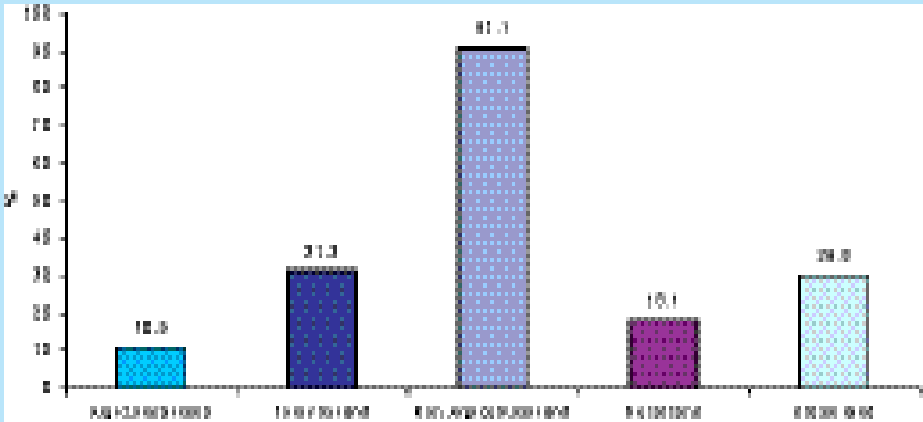
The revised Land Law, approved by the National Assembly in 2003, clearly states that all newly-issued land use certificates should bear the name of both husband and wife. This is an effort to empower the economic rights of women through which their rights to property can be guaranteed and protected. The document can be also used to protect women's rights in other special situations like divorce and property splits.

The number of certificates issued for different kinds of land varies. By the end of 2006, 90% of certificates relating to aquaculture land bore the name of husband and wife, while for agricultural land it was only 10% (Chart 3.3).

Since 2003, 90% of newly-issued land use right certificates have the name of both husband and wife. However, other existing certificates issued before the revised Land Law still remain effective and are used in current transactions. In the meantime, the process of issuing new certificates is slow.

In some ethnic minority areas, many women are still unaware of their legal right to land use, and do not request the recognition of their status on legal documents. As a result, women's rights are not protected in cases of divorce or inheritance settlements.

Chart 3.3. Proportion of land use right certificates bearing the name of both husband and wife as of 2006



6. Measures to reduce women and children trafficking and domestic violence

The Government of Viet Nam has developed various measures to prevent and combat the illegal trafficking of women and children. In this regard, the National Plan of Action against Crime of Trafficking in Children and Women during the period of 2004-2010 was issued, concentrating on various groups of measures such as information campaigns, elimination of criminal networks, reintegration of women and child victims into the community, consolidating the legal framework, training and international

cooperation in combating criminal activities.

Thanks to support from the UN, NGOs and other international organizations, Viet Nam has also successfully carried out many programmes and projects on the prevention and elimination of domestic violence. These activities have had a positive influence, reflected in the decreasing number of cases of domestic violence.

7. Women enjoy more equal access to health care, culture and other public services

Health insurance is considered to be an effective financial support measure ensuring access for everyone to health care services, especially for low-income groups. In Viet Nam, the proportion of all women with health

insurance is 53.9% and for poor women 12.7% (just slightly lower than that of men at 14.7%). The ratio of men and women eligible for compulsory health insurance scheme is identical (22.3% and 22.2% respectively).



The proportion of both men and women holding voluntary health insurance is the same at 9.9% (Viet Nam Households Living Standard Survey, 2006).

More and more employers are following social insurance laws and

respecting the rights of labourers, especially female employees. The proportion of women on social insurance schemes in state and non-state sectors is approximately the same as men.

Table 3.5. The proportion of social insurance applicants by gender and economic sector

Unit: 1.000 people

Sector	2004		2005		2006	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
State sector	2,007	1,923	2,025	1,946	2,029	1,933
Non-state sector	965	924	1,129	1,780	1,375	1,310
Total	2,972	2,847	3,154	3,726	3,404	3,243

Source: Social Insurance Statistics from 2003 - 2006, Viet Nam Social Insurance

The Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control was passed by the National Assembly on November 21, 2007 and came into effect on July 1, 2008. The law covers six chapters and 46 articles, enforcing regulations on the prevention of violence in the home, protection and support of victims, outlines the responsibility of individuals, family and other bodies in the legal process for illegal violations.

The issuance of the Domestic Violence Law is considered to be an effective legal method of protecting the victims of domestic violence, who are mostly women. The passage of this law reconfirmed the determination of Viet Nam to implement its commitment to ensuring gender equality in line with the Millennium Declaration and the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

An increasing proportion of women use their spare time for recreational activities such as sports, entertainment and cultural activities. Statistics from the National Institute for Social Sciences (2006) showed that the proportion of both women and men spending time watching TV or listening to radio was approximately 97%. However only 63% of

women read books and newspapers, compared to 72% of men. In addition 47%, of women spend their time resting or travelling, compared to men at 52%. The same pattern can be seen in health care and physical exercises, as reflected by the fact that 25% of female participate in sports and physical activities as compared to 35% of men.

Table 3.6. Use of free time by gender

Unit: %

Gender	Activity					
	Watching TV/Listening to radio	Reading Books/newspaper	Watching films/plays	Visiting Pagodas, churches	Travel	Playing sports
Women	96.6	62.9	35.3	47.2	47.0	24.6
Men	97.1	72.0	38.5	38.1	51.6	35.1

Source: Viet Nam National Institute for Social Sciences, 2006

II. SHORTCOMINGS AND CHALLENGES

1. Gender discrimination still exists in society

Efforts towards gender equality thus far have been undermined by a traditional gender bias in Vietnamese society. Women have always been considered to

be in charge of housework and caring for the family, while managerial and leadership tasks and positions are assigned to men. Gender discrimination is

most obviously demonstrated in the division of work within the home, especially in rural communities. In these areas, the common view is that women spend the majority of their time taking care of the young and the old, cooking and doing unpaid housework.

According to data from the National Institute for Social Sciences (2006), 82% of women support the statement that, “women are better at housework than men,” compared to 69% of males. Only 11% of women agreed with the opposite compared to 22% of men.

Table 3.7. Work arrangements for families working primarily in agricultural production
Unit: %

Activity	Person in charge		
	Main responsibility of wife	Main responsibility of husband	Equal responsibility
Holding money for expenditure of family	81.7	9.0	6.2
Buying food	88.6	5.5	1.7
Cooking	79.9	3.3	4.3
Washing dishes	71.1	1.8	2.5
House cleaning	70.9	3.7	8.6
Washing clothes	77.3	2.8	6.4
Taking care of ill persons	52.1	3.7	33.3
Taking care of children	54.6	2.7	38.2

Source: VHLSS 2006, GSO

A large proportion of Vietnamese women consider domestic violence to be normal. According to a 2006 Viet Nam multiple indicator cluster survey, 64% of women aged 15 to 49 accepted violent treatments from their husbands as normal. Seventy-two per cent of women living in rural areas believed being hit by their husband is acceptable, compared to 42% in urban areas. In particular, the acceptance of violence was highest in the Northern Coastal region, at 90% and lowest in the South-eastern region at 40%. The average across all other regions was 65%.

Media and educational campaigns to raise awareness among communities on gender equality have not yet been implemented on a regular basis and needs improvement. The same problem was seen among policy makers and implementing officials. The lack of effective information campaigns has resulted in little change in attitudes and perceptions among communities regarding gender violence.

(Source: ‘Viet Nam Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006 - MICS3’, General Statistics Office of Viet Nam, UNICEF, Viet Nam Committee for Population, Family and Children, Ha Noi, July 2007, page 108)

2. The gap in access to education among ethnic minority groups and gender disparity in higher education

The persistent gap in access to education for girls and women from ethnic minority groups and remote areas needs to be addressed. In higher education, considerable gender disparity still exists in terms of qualifications, particularly, the proportion of female professors, which in 2006 was only 5.1% and associate professors 11.6%.

Poverty remains the most serious obstacle for ethnic minority girls to access quality education. Due to the inappropriate attitudes of some families, many girls from ethnic minorities cannot pursue lower secondary education after completing primary as they are forced to work.



3. Income difference among women and men

It has been shown that the salaries of women are only 87% that of men for the same job. Particularly, in mid-level technical fields, women earn only 82.9% of men's incomes. In the processing industry, females earn only 77% of their male

counterparts. Women with the same qualifications as men employed at the junior technical or vocational levels are paid only 78.5% of men's salaries, and 62% of men's salaries for the same qualifications from college or university (MOLISA).

4. Violence against women persists

Domestic violence toward women is still prevalent in both urban and rural areas. According to a survey by the National Assembly Council for Social Issues, of eight cities/provinces in 2006, physical violence was witnessed in 2.3% of families while emotional violence was recorded in 25% of families. Involuntary sex occurred in 30% of couples overwhelmingly perpetrated by men against women.

and domestic violence occurs in 21% of families. In 2006 many women, 64%, according to a survey among women aged from 15 to 49, considered violence at home to be normal. Seventy-two per cent of women living in rural areas feel that being assaulted by their husband is acceptable.

(Source: Survey on Viet Nam family, 2006, page 36, Ha Noi, 2008 Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, GSO, UNCEF, Institute for Research on Family and Gender issues).

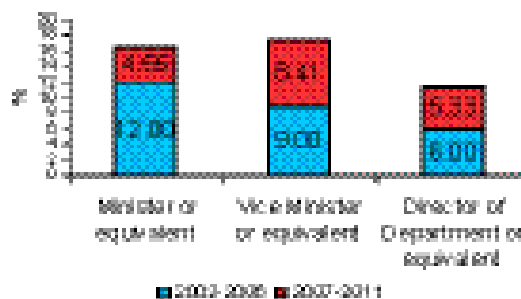
Another recent survey showed that disputes

5. Lower proportion of women holding Minister and Vice Minister positions compared with last session

While there is a significant increase in the quantity and quality of the female labour force, the proportion of women holding managerial and leadership positions is still small. Figures from the Ministry of Internal Affairs showed a sharp decline from 12% to 4.55% in terms of the proportion of female ministers and vice ministers at central level from 2002 to 2006 compared with the following session of 2007 to 2011. The ratio of females holding vice ministerial positions, or equivalent positions, declined from 9.0% to 8.41% and the proportion of women holding positions as Directors of Departments, or equivalent positions, also fell from 6.0% to 5.33% (Chart 3.4).

In the educational and training sectors, despite the high proportion of female staff, the participation of women in decision-making positions is still low. By 2008, no women held a leadership position in the educational sector. Female heads of department, or equivalent, accounted for only 10% across ministries and sectors and 15.9%, for deputy heads and equivalent. The proportion of female heads and deputy heads of divisions or equivalent was 23% and 50% respectively.

Chart 3.4. Proportion of women holding national leadership positions over two sessions



Source: National Assembly

Table 3.8. The proportion of women taking leadership positions in education sector

Unit: %

	2005
Vice Minister	2.0
Director of Department or equivalent	12.5

Source: Ministry of Education and Training, 2007

6. Delay in implementation of a regulatory system and gender-based policies

There has been a considerable delay in issuing detailed instructions for current gender-related laws, thus a gap remains between legal frameworks and gender policy application.

The implementation of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Women has proved to be ineffective. Gender equality has not been considered sufficiently in policy making and implementation.

III. SOURCE OF ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Viet Nam's commitment with regard to the implementation of the gender equality law

Viet Nam has adopted gender-based policies and strategies in recent years and successfully implemented its obligations as set out in the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The passage of the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control and the gender equality laws of 2006 and 2007 were considered to be important legal steps demonstrating the commitment of Viet Nam to achieve the goals of gender equality and social development.

The Law on Gender Equality, approved by the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on November 29, 2006, is the first legal instrument offering the a comprehensive and complete regulation related to the gender equality issue.

The Law includes six chapters and 44 articles, which institutionalizes policies and strategies in Viet Nam with regard to gender equity and the advancement of women. The policy integrates the principles of CEDAW. For the first time, such terms as gender, gender equality, gender discrimination, and gender-based integration are precisely explained in legal terms.

The Law stipulates gender equality issues in social and family life, with measures to ensure gender equality, inspection and resolution of violence.

The Government has united the administration on gender equality issues, in which MOLISA is assigned to be the lead administrative ministry.

2. Strengthening national governance for the advancement of women and the promotion of gender equality nationwide

The National Committee for the Advancement of Women has developed an inter-ministerial cooperation framework that regularly monitors the implementation of gender-related laws and regulations. The establishment of a national administrative agency is seen as an important step in implementing the legal frameworks for gender equality in Viet Nam

The Viet Nam Women’s Union, another agency focusing on women empowerment, is making an important contribution in improving the living conditions and social status of women, especially in the areas of poverty alleviation and social injustice

3. Establishing monitoring mechanisms to supervise gender equality oriented activities

Under the current system, the National Assembly regularly monitors the implementation of gender-based laws, while the National Committee for the Advancement of Women monitors and supervises the implementation of gender-related regulations.

4. Enhancing international cooperation on gender-related matters

In recent years, Viet Nam has received active support and contributions from foreign governments and international organizations to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. Viet Nam has been successful in establishing effective models to combat the trafficking of women and domestic violence particularly the “Credit and saving for women’s' groups,” the “Reliable destination,” the “Happy family clubs” and the “Consultancy club to support victims of domestic violence.”

IV. CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER EQUALITY GOALS AND MEASURES

1. Further improvments on gender-based and gender equality oriented strategies and policies

There is a need to:

Issue a complete and comprehensive instructional paper for the implementation of

the Gender Equality Law and Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control, while continuing to review and update gender-related policies and regulations.

Integrate gender issues in policy making for socio-economic development.

2. Improving the number and qualifications of the female labour force

There is a need to:

Develop a strategy for building the capacity of the female labour force.

Customize and develop incentives for women working in mountainous, remote or isolated

areas, borders and islands as well as those rearing children to increase their level of employment qualifications.

3. Building the capacity and improving the efficiency of national governance agencies on gender equality

There is a need to:

Effectively improve the efficiency and capacity of the national administrative agency for gender equality, improve capacity of the National Committee for the Advancement of Women and its sub-

committees, as well as improve the capacity of the Viet Nam Women's Union to enhance their role as representatives of women's interests and in monitoring gender-oriented policies.

4. Enhance activities to raise awareness on gender equality

There is a need to:

Enhance lines of communication and awareness of the community on gender equality and gender-oriented policies, especially in rural and remote areas. Efforts should also be made to customize information campaigns to match the context of different ethnic communities.

Improve family education with support from schools and society in terms of materials and methodology and reduce the one-size-fits-all gender model by moving towards a more flexible and customized model for men and women.

5. Issue effective measures to combat trafficking of women and children, and domestic violence

There is a need to

Implement and monitor the National Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Women and Children (2004-2010).

Implement the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control and the Law on Gender Equality. This includes the dissemination of good models and inviting the participation of men and women within the home, community and society.

Enhance provisions of legal support and assistance to the victims of domestic violence, mostly women and children.

Enhance national capacity for communication and raising awareness of gender issues. Promote the institutionalization and coordination of a gender integration network via policy making, implementation and the monitoring of relevant laws, policies and programmes.

GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Millennium Development Goal:

- Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Viet Nam's Goals (SEDP 2006 - 2010):

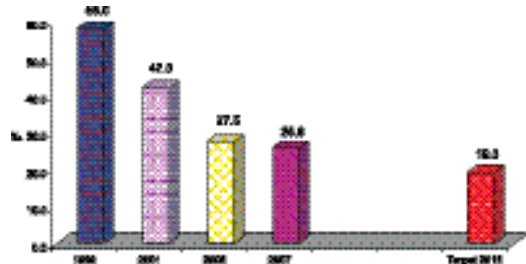
- Reduce the birth rate to achieve a natural average substitution rate no later than 2007 for the whole country and in remote, isolated and poor areas no later than 2010
- Reduce the infant mortality rate to 16/1,000 by 2010
- Reduce the under-five mortality rate to 25/1,000 by 2010
- Reduce the under-five malnutrition rate to 20% by 2010
- Reduce the underweight birth rate (under 2.5kg) to 5% by 2010

I. ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Lower Mortality Rate under-five years of age

Meeting the target for reducing the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds by 2015 means the rate must fall from the 58‰ level in 1990 to 19.3‰ by 2015.

Chart 4.1. Child mortality rate for under five years of age



Source: Ministry of Health

Significant reductions in the under-five child mortality rate have been occurring since 1990 with a drop to 42‰ in 2001, 27.5‰ in 2005, and 25.9‰ in 2007. In the three year period from 2005 to 2007, the average rate of decline was 0.8‰ per annum. If this trend in steady reductions continues for the next eight years between 2008 and 2015, the goal for reductions in under-five mortality will be achieved.

The targets set out in the national health care and protection strategy for 2001 to 2010 also aim to reduce the under-five child mortality rate by 36% by 2005 and by 32% by 2010.

2. Lower mortality rate for children under one year of age

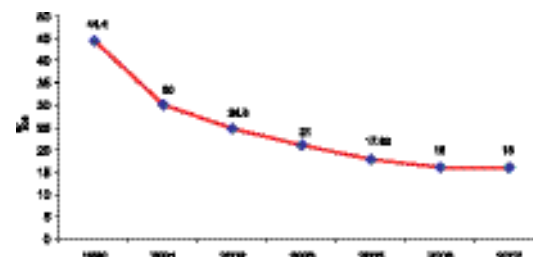
The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) has directly and massively improved the Child Mortality Rate for children under the age of one.

The infant mortality rate dropped from 31‰ in 2001, to 24.8‰ in 2002 and to 21‰ in 2003. It again further decreased to 16‰ in both 2006 and 2007 from 17.8 ‰ in 2005.

Chart 4.2 shows that the infant mortality rate has steadily declined against the projection of the National Health Care and Protection Strategy, for 2001-2010 (by 2010 with an estimated 25‰ and lower) and indicates a major achievement. This is one of the key

achievements among the many efforts to reduce infant mortality rates.

Chart 4.2. Child mortality rate for under one year of age



Source: Ministry of Health

Chart 4.2 shows that, by 2007, the national infant mortality rate had declined to 16‰. However regional disparities remain a big challenge. In 2007, the highest regional rates of infant mortality were in the North-west (29 per 1,000 live births) and the Central Highlands (27 per 1,000 live births) whereas the lowest regional rates were in the Red

River Delta and the South-east (10 per 1,000 live births). The highest infant mortality rates were in Kon Tum and Cao Bang. The gap between the highest and lowest performers is 19‰. Therefore, more attempts in terms of public investment and health care priorities should be given to higher risk provinces in order to reduce infant mortality rates further.

Table 4.1. Infant Mortality Rates (IMR) under one year of age by region

Unit: ‰

Region	2005	2006	2007
Whole Country	17.82	16.0	16.0
Red River Delta	11.5	11.0	10.0
North-east	23.9	24.0	22.0
North-west	33.9	30.0	29.0
North Central Coast	24.9	22.0	20.0
South Central Coast	18.2	18.0	17.0
Central Highlands	28.8	28.0	27.0
South-east	10.6	8.0	10.0
Mekong River Delta	14.7	11.0	11.0

Source: Ministry of Health

3. Lower child malnutrition among children under 5 years of age

Child nutrition and disease prevalence are closely related. Recent successes of the Malnutrition Prevention Program have

contributed to a remarkable decrease in the under-five Child Malnutrition Rate and the under-five Child Mortality Rate.

Table 4.2. Under-five Child Malnutrition Rate

Unit: (%)

Region	2005	2006	2007
Whole Country	25.2	23.4	21.2
Red River Delta	21.3	20.1	19.4
North-east	28.4	26.2	25.4
North-west	30.4	28.4	27.1
North Central Coast	30.0	24.8	25.0
South Central Coast	25.9	23.8	20.5
Central Highlands	34.5	30.6	28.7
South-east	18.9	19.8	18.4
Mekong River Delta	23.6	22.9	20.7

Source: Institute of Nutrition, Ministry of Health

Table 4.2 shows that the under-five child malnourishment rate has declined significantly. In 2006, the rate of decline was 1.8% compared to 2005, and dropped another 2.2% in 2007. The Socio-economic Development Plan for 2006-2010, has projected a 20% reduction in the under-five child malnutrition rate by 2010 and had already achieved the 21.2% by 2007. With an

average rate of decline of 2% per annum, Viet Nam should achieve the target between 2008 and 2010.

Table 4.2 shows that the child malnutrition rate is highest in the North-west and Central Highlands, at 27.1% and 28.7% respectively. The South-east region has the lowest malnutrition rate at 18.4%. The gap between

the best performing and worst performing regions with regards to child malnutrition rates is 10.3%. Provinces with high rates of child malnutrition include Kon Tum with 46.9%, Lao Cai with 44.2%, Đak Nong with 42.5% and Quang Binh with 41%.

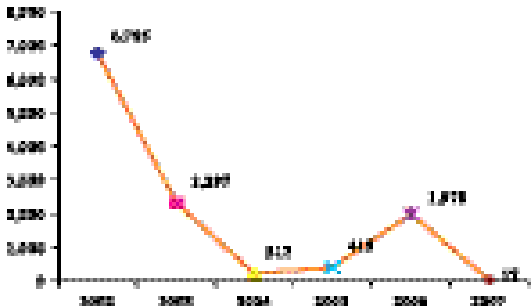
4. Implementation of the under- 1 child measles immunization programme

Viet Nam is recognized by the international community as one of the most successful developing countries addressing immunization, through its Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI). The vaccination programme has set targets of administering six vaccines to children under one year old. To date, more than 90% of children in all regions have benefited from this programme, with some regions immunizing more than 99%. As a result of the EPI the number of children suffering from diseases has declined significantly, which has contributed to the

It is alarming to see that 5% of children under-five are critically underweight. Of these one third are ethnic minority children. Altogether 8.7% of ethnic minority children of all ages are seriously underweight.

reduction of the under-five mortality rate.

Chart 4.3. Measles cases among children under one year of age



Source: Ministry of Health

II. REASONS

1. Sources of Achievements

1. Prioritizing local preventive and health care systems.

Recent achievements in reducing the under-five child mortality rate are attributable to investments in health care that address the needs of society and focus on children. Improved in-service training for medical staff and effective health programmes such as the Expanded Program of Immunization, Child Malnutrition Prevention Program and Acute Respiratory Contamination Program, have also been critical steps to better child health. Commune health clinics have also been upgraded with better medical facilities. For example, by 2005, 35% of commune centres had been upgraded to meet government standards. This increased to 46% by June 2007 and to 52% by the end of 2007. Additionally district hospitals have been upgraded with better medical facilities. The Government of Viet Nam has also worked toward continuously increasing state budget allocations to the health care sector.

2. Narrowing regional disparities in access to health care services

Huge disparities exist in terms of access to health care services across regions and different social strata. While urban areas generally have good health care access, people in remote and disadvantaged regions still face difficulties in accessing primary

medical care. This is partially due to distance and insufficiently equipped hospitals.

According to a 2002 World Bank report on the health care system in Viet Nam the South-east and Red River Delta have the best public health care service while the Northern mountainous areas and the Central Highlands are the most health care disadvantaged regions. There is a large disparity with regards to infant mortality rates across these regions.

The highest infant mortality rates are in the North-west, Central Highlands and North-east regions.

Thanks to better health care service provision, infant mortality in the Red River Delta, Mekong Delta and South-east regions are among the lowest in the country. Relevant propaganda activities are seen as ineffective, especially in remote and disadvantaged areas where campaigns have failed to raise the awareness of child health for young mothers, which ultimately undermine efforts to alleviate incidence of malnutrition.

In recent years, the Government has tried to close the gap in access to health care services through a series of measures such as supplementing health care personnel for remote areas and giving priority to the poorest communes and districts. These activities have been implemented in parallel to programmes promoting informational

campaigns on child bearing and education in remote and ethnic minority areas.

3. Ensuring access to health care services for children and the poor.

Due to state budget constraints for the health care sector and severe income disparity, Viet Nam is faced with many obstacles in ensuring equality in medical care, especially for children.

The current policy on salaries for health care personnel seems to be inadequate. In the meantime, medical fees and medical insurance remain high compared to average incomes for a large majority of the population.

According to 2000-2001 MOH research on the provision and use of health care services, the frequency of illness among children under

5 years old is 1.86 times per year for boys and 1.45 times for girls. Poor households needing medical care face higher risks of sinking deeper into poverty.

However, the issuance of health insurance cards for children up to six years of age now allows them to access free medical treatment and health care. This has contributed to significant improvements in health care access among children in Viet Nam. Changes in the level of health awareness among parents has had positive benefits for children, as parents are now more likely to address their children's health problems. This combined with improved diagnosis and treatment has consequently contributed to a decline in child mortality.

2. Reasons for shortcomings

1. Existing disparities in accessing health care services among regions and social classes remain significant. Urban populations have better access to health care and services compared to remote and mountainous areas. Some of the obstacles to reducing disparities include low investment in medical facilities and travel distances to district clinics.

According to a 2002 World Bank report on the health care sector, the South-east and Red River Delta regions have the highest levels of access to public health care services, whereas Northern and Central Highlands regions were among the lowest. A similar pattern by region is seen in infant and young are mortality rates.

Current salaries, health care costs and social insurance policies are not sufficient to keep medical officers in rural areas. The market-driven economy has caused further disparities between the regions as resources and facilities are not evenly distributed.

2. The cost for health care services is high relative to the income of poor and low-income families and when medical treatment is essential patients must pay "out of pocket"

only being able to do so if it is affordable. These lower income groups have higher risks of disease, disability and early death.

3. High frequency of illness remains a challenge for poor households and for directing public expenditures. Data obtained from a 2000-2001 small-scale survey on health care services revealed that the annual frequency of illness of boys under-five is 1.86% and for girls 1.45%.

4. Public information and outreach programmes about child health care services are limited in many rural and mountainous communities. A general lack of basic knowledge of child-rearing practices among mothers and family members tends to undermine the effectiveness of the malnourishment prevention programme.

5. Due to unexpected problems with vaccines in 2006 and 2007, the rate of immunization has declined. Improvements in communication and vaccine quality assurance should be reinforced so that all children are vaccinated.

III. CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION GOALS AND MEASURES

There is a need to:

1. Continue free medical treatment and health care access for children under six years of age and Implement the National Strategy on Nutrition 2001-2010 following "Decision No. 21/2001/QĐ-TTg dated 22 February 2001" on the improvement of child health care services.

2. Continue successful implementation of EPI, especially in remote rural areas. Promote the production of vaccines domestically and mobilize more resources for child health care.

3. Ensure the delivery of reproductive health care services and encourage mothers to access clinics upon delivery as well as promote infant health care services in order to reduce the mortality rates of both mothers and infants. Efforts are also needed to ensure effective supervision of reproductive health care services.

4. Develop and implement pre and in-service training programmes for local medical staff and for coordinators of the Mother and Child Protection Program at commune and district levels.

5. Strengthen education and information campaign efforts concerning reproductive

health and implement outreach programmes for pregnant women. Efforts need to include encouraging pregnant women to access primary health care for regular maternity check-ups.

6. Implement and utilize funds from National Targeted Programs to address the needs of targeted beneficiaries, including women and children.

7. Increase public expenditure and further mobilize resources on child health care and prevention. This needs to be combined with an improvement of clinical equipment to facilitate quality health care for women and children.

GOAL 5:**IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH****Millennium Development Goal:**

- Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
- Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

Viet Nam's Goal (SEDP 2006-2010):

- Reduce the maternal mortality rate to 60 per 100,000 live births by 2010 with special attention to remote and disadvantaged areas
- Improve postnatal health of mothers

Viet Nam continues to implement various reproductive health programmes across all regions of the country, such as the Safe Motherhood Program, and the National

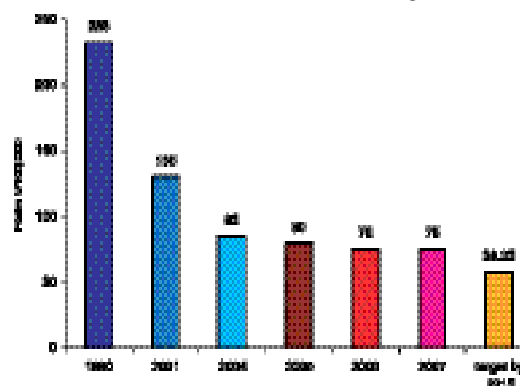
Strategy on Reproductive Health Care. As a result, maternal health has improved significantly evidenced by a considerable decline in maternal mortality.

I. ACHIEVEMENTS**1. Reduction of the Maternal Mortality Rate**

According to the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) and World Health Organization (WHO), Viet Nam's maternal mortality rate in 1990 was 233 deaths per 100,000 live births. Viet Nam is on-track to reach the Millennium Development target of a 75% reduction in the maternal mortality rate, meaning a reduction to 58 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2015. By 2004, the rate had already dropped to 85 per 100,000 live births, with a further drop to 80 per 100,000 live births in 2005. In 2006 and 2007 maternal mortality was 75 per 100,000 live births, which suggests that Viet Nam will achieve this target by 2015.

Between 2004 and 2006, the average annual decline was 5 deaths per 100,000 live births,

however this positive trend slowed during 2006 and 2007.

Chart 5.1: Maternal Mortality Rate

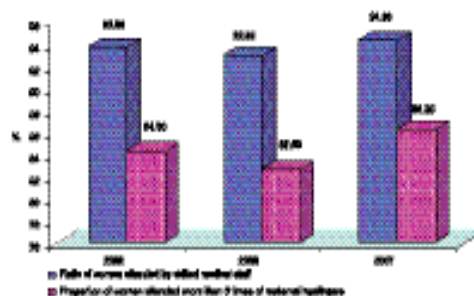
Source: Ministry of Health

2. Increasing the proportion of births attended by skilled health staff

Maternal mortality rates depend heavily on factors such as health care access and quality of care before, during and after birth. The increased numbers of mothers receiving support and interventions by skilled health staff has made a significant contribution to reductions of the maternal mortality rate.

The proportion of women who took advantage of maternal health care services more than three times has grown over the past few years from 84.3% in 2005 to 86.2% in 2007.

The ratio of women who were attended by skilled medical staff has remained high and averaged 93.5% between 2005 and 2007.

Chart 5.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled staff and comprising of at least three maternal examinations

Source: Ministry of Health

The ratio of women who had at least three medical examinations during pregnancy and were attended by skilled staff at birth is relatively high in all regions.

The Red River Delta and South-eastern regions have the highest maternal health indicators. Some provinces have achieved almost 100% in these indicators, such as Nam Dinh, Hai Duong and Thai Binh Provinces. (Table 5.1).

The North-west and Central Highlands regions have the lowest rates of maternal health indicators. Lai Chau and Dien Bien provinces have rates under 70% for these selected indicators.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Health the ratio of woman who have been immunized against tetanus averaged around 93.4% between 2005 and 2007.

3. Using contraceptive methods

Table 5.1. Ratio of women having access to medical examinations

Unit: (%)

All regions	2005		2006	
	Proportion of births with at least three medical examinations	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Proportion of births with at least three medical examinations	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
Whole Country	84.30	93.38	84.5	92.92
Red River Delta	97.28	99.93	98.48	99.92
North-east	80.64	88.41	78.80	88.95
North-west	70.42	81.21	62.85	84.26
North Central Coast	92.41	96.09	94.06	90.97
South Central Coast	92.90	97.85	76.77	96.89
Central Highlands	70.70	86.89	72.04	85.25
South-east	84.52	98.90	90.95	99.14
Mekong River Delta	85.56	97.78	86.80	97.97

Source: Reproductive Health Department, MOH

The ratio of couples who use contraception grew to approximately 78% of all sexually active couples in 2007. The 35-39 age groups had the highest rate at 89.6%. Of the various kinds of contraceptive methods, intrauterine contraceptive devices are the most popular (55.3%-55.4%), followed by fertility awareness / Coitus Interruptus (13.2-13.6%),

hormonal methods (12.5-13.2%) and barrier methods (9.7-10.5%).

According to Ministry of Health statistics, the proportion of couples using modern contraceptive methods account for 86% of the total population practicing contraceptive methods, while the remaining 14% use traditional methods.

Table 5.2. Rate of married women in reproductive ages from 15 to 49, using contraception

Unit: (%)

	All contraceptive methods			Of which: Modern contraceptive methods		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Total	76.9	78.0	79.0	65.8	67.1	68.2
Age Group 15-19	23.4	25.8	28.2	20.2	22.6	24.7
Age Group 20-24	51.1	54.8	55.4	45.2	48.3	48.9
Age Group 25-29	72.4	73.9	73.4	63.6	65.0	64.8
Age Group 30-34	83.5	84.3	84.4	72.7	74.1	74.3
Age Group 35-39	88.3	89.1	89.6	75.7	76.9	77.8
Age Group 40-44	88.0	88.4	89.4	73.3	74.4	75.8
Age Group 45-49	70.9	71.2	75.2	57.9	58.5	62.0

Source: Reproductive Health Department, MOH

II. REASONS

1. Sources of achievements

The maternal health MDG in this area has been fully integrated in different national health care strategies and plans. Strong emphasis has been paid to antenatal care and women's maternal health care rights through the implementation of the National Strategy on Reproductive Health Care (2001-2010). These programmes have been implemented in combination with other on-going programmes, namely the "Safe Motherhood Program" and the "Prenatal Care Program."

Coverage through the reproductive and

antenatal care program has been reinforced through various information campaigns raising awareness on maternal and child health care issues for communities and leaders across Viet Nam. Disadvantaged areas are particularly targeted.

The Safe Motherhood Program has been widely implemented across the country and practices of safe antenatal care have been strictly followed to ensure a safe pregnancy and health of newborns and infants.

2. Reasons for shortcomings

In recent years, there has been a decline in the maternal mortality rate, especially in remote and disadvantaged areas. In these areas limited access to health care services has caused otherwise preventable maternal deaths.

The rising numbers of maternal deaths are attributed to five main medical problems during pregnancy, which remain a major challenge to maternal health improvements. The leading problems are haemorrhage, pre-eclampsia, and prepulse inhibition (PPI). The number of haemorrhage cases was 2,426 in 2005, which increased to 2,941 in 2006. Cases of death associated with PPI were six in 2005 and 17 in 2006.

In practice, medical equipment and infrastructure has not met the demand of maternal health needs. Many commune clinics are below standard and need upgrading. Primary and antenatal health care services for women are also limited.

The professional skills of medical staff

remain a major challenge to meeting rising demands for quality health care. Further efforts are needed in the supervision and monitoring of pre-delivery, which is currently lagging behind needs.

The educational level of many mothers is limited, as the many mothers are from agricultural backgrounds with an education level of lower secondary school.

So, raising awareness and furthering their maternal education is essential. A small proportion of ethnic women continue to use primitive practices in un-hygienic conditions without proper medical examinations or delivery, which increases the risk for mothers and infants.

Increasing numbers of pregnancy, abortions, births and marriages among adolescents has also been noted recently. Limited awareness of reproductive health knowledge among this group is a major contributing factor.

III. CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION GOALS AND MEASURES

Targets set for 2010 include: 95% of pregnant women should have regular medical examinations; 60% of women should have at least three prenatal examinations; 95% of women should be immunized against tetanus; and 95% of women should take iron tablets daily.

The monitoring of improvements in prenatal health care at commune and district clinics is required to ensure antenatal care is provided and that the quality of maternal health care

services is constantly improving. This also requires the development and implementation of pre- and in-service training programmes for local medical staff and coordinators of family planning programmes at commune and district levels.

Education, awareness and information sharing programmes need to be established on maternal health care, especially about support available in pre-delivery periods. Increasing awareness of maternal health care

is needed to encourage early and regular medical examinations during pregnancy. Women should also be encouraged to give birth in hospitals or medical centres, ethnic minority women being the top priority.

Efforts should also be devoted to improving the availability and quality of health care services and contraceptive methods, while at the same time raising awareness of reproductive health for both genders, especially adolescents and young adults in ethnic minority areas.

It is also essential to improve the management capacity and systems for fund management of key projects and programmes in the health sector. In particular, the Health Support Project for Mekong River Delta, the Health Support Project for Central Highlands, the Preventive Health System Development Project (funded by ADB), the Support for mountainous health care system (funded by WB) and the Provincial Hospital Development Project (funded by JBIC – Japan).

There is also a need to improve the

management capacity and systems for the utilization of funds to effectively develop health care infrastructure from the state budget. This includes effective implementation of Decision No. 950/QĐ-TTG on the improvement of the health sector at the commune level, Decision No. 225/QĐ-TT on the improvement of health sector at the district level and Decision No. 47/QĐ-TTg on state bonds.

The socialization of maternal and children's health care should also be encouraged by all sectors and levels of society. This can be implemented by: (i) addressing targeted groups and effectively implementing current Government programmes and projects such as the Safe Motherhood Program and Prenatal care program, (ii) effective coordination of programs across different sectors and social groups; (iii) regular monitoring and evaluating of the results of programme and project efforts to provide immediate responses to the management and policy implementation process.

GOAL 6:**COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES****Millennium Development Goal:**

- Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it
- Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Viet Nam's Goals (SEDP 2006 – 2010):

- Slow the spread of HIV/AIDS to a prevalence rate of less than 0.3% of population by 2010
- Continuing improving polio eradication and minimize the incidence of chorea and related deaths, typhoid, petechial fever, malaria and the bubonic plague.

I. COMBAT HIV AND AIDS

Despite progress in recent years in consolidating a legal framework and policy to combat HIV, the implementation has so far failed to halt the spread of the HIV epidemic

in Viet Nam. Reducing the spread of HIV will require prioritized attention from government as well as joint efforts from all sectors and social strata.

1. Current situation of HIV prevalence

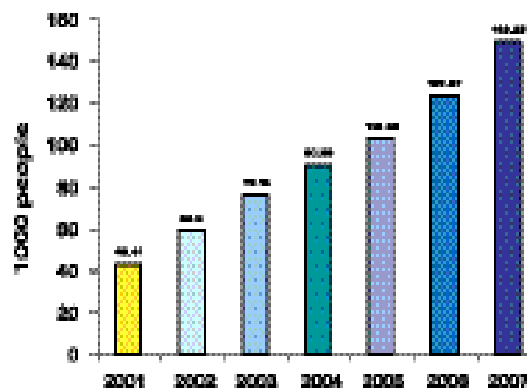
The spread of HIV is becoming increasingly complex in Viet Nam. In 2005 the number of new cases detected was 20,700, 26,900 in 2006 and 25,600 in 2007. The HIV situation can be divided into 4 phases:

- (1)1990-1993: the epidemic was concentrated in a few provinces with some 1,500 HIV cases detected annually;
- (2)1994-1998: the epidemic started spreading nationwide with 5,000 new cases annually;
- (3) 1999-2005: The number of HIV cases detected annually increased to 10,000 and had spread to remote communes and villages and;
- (4) 2005-2007: large number of cases detected annually (more than 20,000 cases per annum).

By the end of 2007, HIV infections were found in 66% of all communes and 96.4% of all districts in all 64 provinces/cities in Viet Nam. This was true in particular in areas of high population, including the districts of Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh City, Thai Nguyen and An Giang. In 2007, Ho Chi Minh City recorded the highest number of new cases at 8,850 contributing one third of all new HIV cases

nationwide. Provinces that have low levels of people living with HIV include Ninh Thuan and Gia Lai with only 19 new HIV infections reported annually by each.

Chart 6.1. No. of HIV cases in Viet Nam during 1990-2007



Source: Ministry of Health

Disparities exist in terms of HIV cases among provinces. The 16 provinces with the highest concentrations account for 72% of the total cumulatively detected cases. The majority of people living with HIV live in urban areas.

In 2007, the largest number of new cases detected were in the provinces/cities of

Ho Chi Minh City, Ha Noi, Thai Nguyen, An Giang, Nghe An, Thanh Hoa, Dien Bien and Can Tho. Differences in distribution of HIV infections in provinces can be seen in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1. Provinces with high rates of new HIV cases in 2007

Unit: Case

	New HIV cases detected in 2007
Ho Chi Minh City	8,850
Ha Noi	1,956
Thai Nguyen	1,271
An Giang	1,062
Nghe An	737
Thanh Hoa	625
Dien Bien	623
Can Tho	528

Source: Ministry of Health, 2008

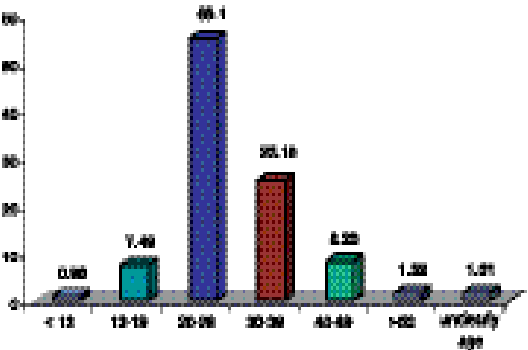
Trends in prevalence by gender are varied. The number of men living with HIV is generally higher than women, yet this gap has decreased in recent years. In 2005 the proportion of men with HIV was 80.5%, 79.7% in 2006 and 76.5% of the total number of people living with HIV (2007). Conversely, females have a lower overall prevalence of HIV but it is increasing: 19.5% in 2005, 20.3% in 2006 and 23.5% in 2007.

Although national data on HIV among 15-24-year-olds has not yet been completed, Viet Nam's progress in achieving this target can be seen in the Third Country Report on Following up the Implementation to the Declaration of Commitmen on HIV and AIDS (UNGASS Report) of 2008. The Viet Nam UNGASS Report shows that the HIV prevalence among the 15 – 24 year old age

group is 0.3% in Hai Phong, 0.6% in Ho Chi Minh City and 0.4% in Thai Binh. This data is consistent with survey data collected from women receiving maternal examinations in 40 provinces and medical examinations for military services in 2005 and 2006. The proportion of women living with HIV detected during maternal examinations in 40 provinces (of all ages) was 0.37% in 2005 and 0.38% in 2006. The proportion of young people living with HIV detected during medical examinations for military services was 0.31% in 2005 and 0.16% in 2006. The distribution of HIV infections by age group suggests that HIV prevalence in Viet Nam is mainly focused in the 20-39-year-old age group (80.28% of all cases), of which 55.1% are between 20-29-years-old and 25.2% 30-39-years-old.

Chart 6.2. HIV prevalence by age group

Unit: people



Source: Ministry of Health, July 2008

• HIV among women receiving maternal care

The proportion of women receiving maternal care that were found to be HIV positive was 0.37% (2005), 0.38% (2006) and 0.34% (2007). Quang Ninh province has the highest ratio at 1.31%, followed by Dien Bien with 1.13% and Ho Chi Minh City with 1%.

The highest seroprevalence of Viet Nam's HIV epidemic is among high-risk populations, including injecting drug users (IDUs), female sex workers (FSWs) and men who have sex with men (MSM)

The HIV prevalence rate is very high among injecting drug users. The average prevalence nationwide among this group is 28% but the rate differs between cities/provinces. In provinces such as Quang Ninh, Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong, Can Tho, Thai Nguyen and Dien Bien, the prevalence rate among IDUs has reached 54.5%, 47.61%, 46.25%, 45%, 40.75% and 36.83% respectively.

The average prevalence rate among FSWs nationwide is 4.4%, and also varies by location. For example, in the city of Can Tho, the prevalence rate was 33.86% in 2006 while in the Ha Noi it was 14.25%.

According to Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS), HIV prevalence among a small sample (790) of MSM in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City was reported at 9% and 5% respectively.

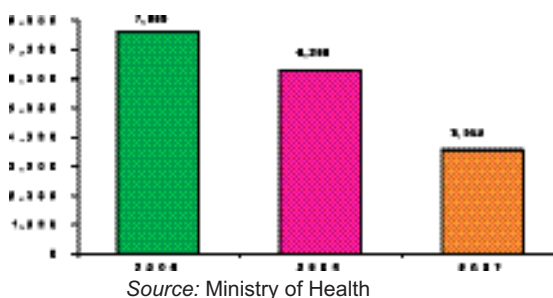
Source: Third report of UNGASS Viet Nam, page 7. January 2008

• Mortality related to AIDS

The number of deaths due to AIDS and related diseases is decreasing from 7,603 deaths in 2005, to 3,553 in 2007.

The provinces with the highest number of deaths due to AIDS in 2007 were Ho Chi Minh City (588 deaths), Hai Phong (306), An Giang (245), Dien Bien (218) and Ha Noi (159).

Chart 6.3. Mortality related to AIDS
2005-2007



2. Access to ARV

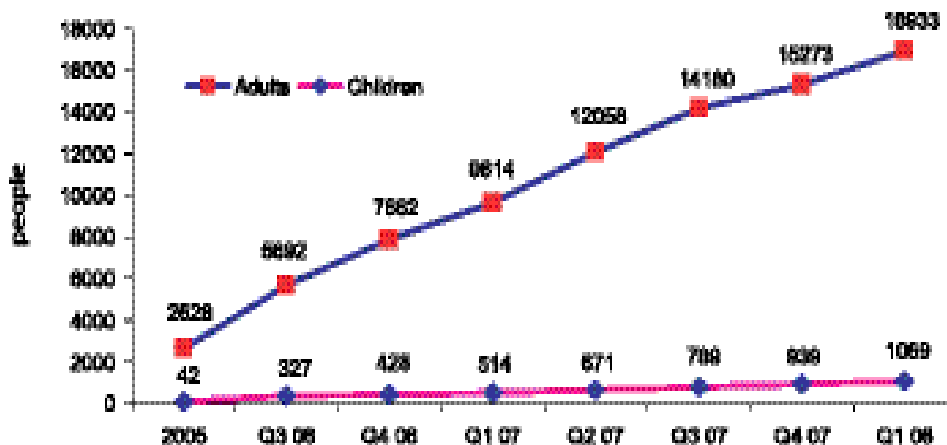
It is estimated by the Ministry of Health (MOH) that the number of People Living with HIV in need of ARV treatment will increase from 42,480 in 2006 to 72,970 in 2010. The National Action Plan states that 70% of adults and all children infected with HIV will be eligible to receive ARV by the year 2010.

To achieve this objective, MOH, with support from International donors (e.g. PEPFAR and GFATM and the Clinton Foundation), has made considerable efforts in the past few years. These efforts resulted in a significant

increase in the level of ARV coverage between 2001 and 2007. By 2007, ARV treatment was available in all 64 provinces and by the end of the first quarter of 2008 a total of 18,000 people, including 1,069 children, were receiving ARV's. This is a 6.7 fold increase compared to the end of 2005 (See Chart 6.4).

Recent research suggests that the ARV treatment programme in Viet Nam is very effective with 81% of adults and 93.1% of children on ARV still living 12 months after beginning treatment.

Chart 6.4. No. of HIV carriers receiving ARV treatment



Source: HIV/AIDS Prevention Department, Report on HIV/AIDS care and treatment, 2008

3. Perception and behaviour in prevention of HIV widespread

Educational campaigns regarding prevention of HIV transmission and spreading awareness about the misconceptions related to HIV transmission is essential to halting the spread of HIV. Hence, there is an urgent need to monitor perceptions and behaviour on a regular basis.

The IBBS survey shows that a high proportion of sex workers, both male and female, used a condom when they most recently had sex with a client and injecting

drug users used a safe needle for their last injection, 97.1% and 88.8% respectively. However, within the MSM community the percentage that used a condom the last time they had sex was only 61.3% and for drug users, only 36.4% used a condom when they last had sex.

The IBBS (2005-2006) found that the proportion of female sex workers, men who have sex with men, and male injecting drug users who are aware of

methods to prevent HIV transmission is very low at 35.4%, 54.9% and 37.6% respectively. More effort is required to

promote behavioural changes through information campaigns among these most-at-risk groups.

4. Sources for achievements

Establishing a legal framework to prevent HIV transmission.

Viet Nam has made considerable progress toward finalizing a relevant legal framework and relevant policies in recent years. In particular, the National Strategy on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control to 2010, with a vision to 2020, clearly outlines methods of effectively responding to the HIV epidemic. In terms of the legal framework, Decree No. 54 on the prevention of HIV/AIDS (2005) and the HIV/AIDS prevention law (2006) form a sound legal basis for developing a multi-sectoral participatory approach that addresses HIV and AIDS issues as well as other interventions, such as behaviour change information campaigns. Current policies as well as the legal framework also

serve to protect the legal rights of people living with HIV, as well as to mobilize their contribution to decision making and implementation phases of HIV and AIDS-related programmes. With the establishment of the Viet Nam Administration on AIDS Prevention and Control (VAAC), nine national action plans have been designed with detailed plans on how to implement the National Strategy on HIV/AIDS prevention. With a comprehensive legal framework in place, Viet Nam is able to implement the “Three Ones” mechanism: one single national coordination body, one action plan and one monitoring and evaluation system. This way Viet Nam can implement its commitments for a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

5. Shortcomings and Challenges

Despite a well-established legal framework and sound policies, namely the National Strategy and national action plan on prevention of HIV/AIDS, Viet Nam still has a major challenge in the implementation of these policies. There needs to be a joint effort and more effective coordination at both central and local levels.

The coverage of HIV awareness education through programmes on condom use is still limited. While programmes promoting safe sex and harm reduction for the most-at-risk groups are on-going, there is also a need to draw-up a comprehensive and detailed plan targeting all young people, especially street children and other youth most at risk.

The approach to behaviour change campaigns should evolve from a programme that serves and protects different groups, including the most-at risk populations.

In addition, there remain huge challenges with regards to the provision of preventive measures as well as treatment and care of people living with HIV. Particularly, the establishment of treatment and rehabilitation centres, temporary and other institutions under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Security and MOLISA has been delayed.

The limited number of qualified personnel within the HIV and AIDS sector is a further challenge. More qualified staff in HIV prevention and care is needed in each city/province to provide immediate support to HIV positive people. Currently, existing HIV and AIDS supporting centres in rural areas are operating with limited effectiveness, which undermines the coverage of HIV intervention programmes and remedial treatment.

6. Continued implementation of the goal and measures

In order to further implement the goal related to HIV and AIDS there is a need to:

Further strengthen the management capacity of the National HIV Prevention Committee and to reform current implementation activities. Reforms need to be guided by

action plans allowing for the implementation of the National Strategy on HIV Prevention within the framework of the so-called Three Ones: one central coordination institution, one action plan and one monitoring and evaluation system.

Strengthen Information Education Communications programmes to raise awareness and change the behaviour of individuals and communities. A special emphasis should be placed on the 20-29-year-old age group.

Improve the counselling skills of HIV local counsellors to help them advise and consult their clients during HIV diagnoses and treatment.

Reinforce the importance of leadership at all levels; regularly supervise, monitor and review the implementation of the HIV prevention program; make HIV prevention a priority in socioeconomic development strategies.

Encourage HIV prevention programmes; mobilize participation of social organizations, communities and individuals in the effort to eliminate the spread of HIV.

Integrate HIV prevention activities into community activities, sport and art performance events and training workshops and organize forums to draw the issue to society's attention to the prevention and eradication of HIV and AIDS.

Develop HIV positive health care services based on close coordination with inter-sector agencies and different levels of local health

bodies, including having family and community members as key participants in the delivery of quality treatment for people living with HIV. The MOH will cooperate with central and local government agencies to ensure the delivery of diagnoses, treatment and counselling services for people living with HIV and strengthen assistance to them and their families to enable them to settle.

Reinforce the national monitoring system on HIV and AIDS by developing a regional and international laboratory of international standards for the detection of HIV in institutes and central hospitals. To achieve this MOH will need to provide advanced medical equipment, upgrade facilities and further develop medical staff training. Furthermore, Viet Nam needs to continue to develop sound legal and policy frameworks on the instruction and direction of a national monitoring system and on extending and improving HIV testing practices.

Increasing equal access to ARV treatment and further supporting the treatment system, though improvement of the National Centre for AIDS treatment and other treatment facilities will be key in continuing to reduce HIV prevalence in Viet Nam.

II. MALARIA PREVENTION AND CONTROL

1. Achievements

Viet Nam has continued its efforts to halt and reverse the incidence of malaria and plans to have malaria eradicated by 2015.

The number of malaria cases has dropped in recent years from 99,200 cases in 2005 to 70,900 in 2007. The five provinces with the highest numbers of cases are Lai Chau (4,685 cases), Binh Phuoc (3,742 cases),

Thanh Hoa (3,471 cases), Phu Tho (3,392 cases) and Gia Lai (3,248 cases). Provinces with the lowest numbers include Can Tho and Hau Giang.

Mortality has decreased to between 18 and 41 cases per year between 2005 and 2007.

Table 6.2. Malaria cases and mortality rate

	2005	2006	2007
Morbidity			
Number of cases	99,276	91,635	70,910
Ratio/1.000 pop.	1.19	1.08	0.83
Malaria death			
Number of deaths	18	41	20
Mortality/100.000 pop.	0.02	0.048	0.02

Source: Malaria Prevention and Control National Project – Ministry of Health

Chart 6.5. Malaria cases and mortality from 2001- 2006



Source: Ministry of Health

In general malaria in Viet Nam is under control. Anti-malaria drugs and indoor spraying have been effective when provided in a timely manner. Targeted provinces in the Central region and Central Highlands, as well as flood-prone areas have been prioritized and receive supplies of anti-malaria drugs, chemicals and necessary commodities to combat malaria.

2. Shortcomings and Challenges

1. Compliance in collecting blood test samples to test for malaria parasites in communes and villages has declined from 60-70% to 30.2% in 2007.

2. The supervision and implementation of prevention activities against malaria for nomadic farmers and forestry workers

The MOH regularly sends missions to monitor and review epidemics and outbreaks as well as supporting the implementation of PCSR to targeted areas in the Central Highlands, Centre, Southeast and some Northern mountainous provinces such as Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La and Ha Giang. Many provinces are also capable of diagnosing and treating malaria with high rates of success.

remains a major challenge.

3. Limited capacity to detect the early stages of malaria at district and commune levels due to a lack of access to information of the National Program on Malaria Prevention. This continues to be a major challenge.

3. Continued implementation of the goal and measures

In order to further implement this goal, there is a need to:

1. Improve the current practices of the National Targeted Program on Malaria Prevention with increased participation at all levels from village, to commune, to district, to province and central authorities.

Programmes will also need to set priorities to focus resources on malaria prevention and to enhance malaria prevention effectiveness in key target areas such as the Central Highlands, Southern Coastal provinces, Mekong River Delta and South-west.

2. Strengthen preventive methods, such as vector prevention, for the 11 million people in target areas. Preventive methods include anti-malaria outdoor spraying, treated bed nets, provision and delivery of anti-malaria drugs to targeted villages and communes and encouragement in using combined anti-malaria drugs, including clinical and parasite treatment.

3. Strengthen epidemic surveillance monitoring and early treatment to reduce malaria-related deaths. Actively deal with epidemics, apply new anti-malaria drugs and monitor the use of anti-malaria chemicals, and distribute and encourage the use of insecticide impregnated bed nets.

4. Study the high-risk groups and introduce appropriate preventive methods.

5. Raise awareness through information, education and communication, strengthen the PCSR in-service and retraining for local medical personnel and support early detection so that timely interventions can be made during outbreaks.

6. Support interventions by providing sufficient qualified medical staff with advanced equipment and improve the efficiency of statistical collection and forecasts.

7. Coordinate with the People's Army in implementing malaria prevention programmes in high risk and border areas.

III. TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION AND CONTROL

1. Achievements

In the past few years Viet Nam was able to implement good practices and achieve positive results in the prevention and control of tuberculosis (TB). Viet Nam has exceeded targets set by the Ministry of Health and the WHO in terms of detection and treatment of tuberculosis patients.

Despite these successes, the issue of TB infection, drug-resistant TB cases, cooperation between public and private health care services and access to medical treatment in remote and disadvantaged areas remain major challenges.

Table 6.3 shows a slight increase in the number of recent cases with 95,970 TB cases being reported in 2005 and 98,344 in 2007. The number of annual deaths

has decreased, though not significantly. 1,936 TB deaths were reported in 2005 compared to 1,852 and 1,865 in 2006 and 2007.

Table 6.3. Number of reported tuberculosis patients

Unit: people

	2005		2006		2007	
	Infected	Death	Infected	Death	Infected	Death
Whole country	95,970	1,936	98,284	1,852	98,344	1,865
North	33,754	492	34,044	461	34,410	474
Central	13,000	171	13,084	168	12,922	144
South	49,216	1,273	51,156	1,223	51,012	1,247

Source: Program for Prevention and Controlling Tuberculosis, Ministry of Health

The prevalence of tuberculosis tends to be higher in the Southern part of the country. In 2007, the number of TB cases detected in the South accounted for nearly 52% of all national cases. Especially, in comparison to the Northern and the Central regions, where the number of infected cases is 2.2 times and 1.8 times lower respectively than in the South.

The highest numbers of tuberculosis cases in 2007 were found in Ho Chi Minh City, An Giang, Thanh Hoa, Dong Nai and Dong Thap provinces.

Viet Nam has employed the Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course (DOTS) as a strategy for the detection and treatment of tuberculosis. Currently, the DOTS strategy covers all districts across the country. Owing to this success, the treatment of AFB (+) has been sustained at over 90%. The quality of TB detection, TB/HIV activities and coordination

between private and public health sectors has been promoted and supported. Monitoring and evaluation, reporting, in-service training and health education are exercised on a regular basis.

Viet Nam was the first country in Asia to reach the WHO goal of prevention of tuberculosis in 1996. The national programme for prevention and control of tuberculosis has therefore been effectively implemented, and the WB and the WHO acknowledge the results achieved.

Under DOTS, many tuberculosis patients are cured at home successfully under the direct supervision of staff who ensure that anti-tuberculosis drugs are used and administered correctly. The participation of the community as a whole, including commune medical staff, private pharmacists, volunteers and students is essential.

2. Shortcomings and Challenges

The task ahead to sustain the achievements in the prevention and control of TB lies in the implementation of DOTS in remote and disadvantaged areas, border provinces and islands, as well as with hard-to-reach populations such as prison populations, the homeless, immigrants and mentally ill.

Another threat to the efforts of the National Targeted Program to decrease transmission

of TB in the community is the increasing prevalence of HIV patients infected with TB. Coordination with the HIV/AIDS Program in TB control among HIV infections needs to be actively developed.

Another challenge to TB control will be to ensure the quality of TB drugs across all provinces is of the proper quality and will not cause unforeseen complications or TB drug resistance.

3. Continued implementation of the goal and measures

In order to further successfully implement this goal, there is a need to:

1. Actively call for the involvement and support from relevant social organizations in fostering the legal framework for TB control and prevention.
2. Strengthen the detection and diagnosis of capabilities for TB, including Intensifying TB detection efforts at the district and inter-commune clinics. Foster the implementation of TB control and prevention in remote and disadvantaged areas, border areas, islands, prisons and rehabilitation centres.

3. Improve IEC campaigns and mobilize social resources for the TB prevention programme. Develop a collaboration network with different social organizations and TB families to assist in taking care and supporting TB patients.

4. Develop and encourage cooperation between private and public health sectors in urban areas, deliver treatment and diagnostic services for TB drug resistant patients, improve infrastructure and develop the capacity of TB laboratories in implementation, monitoring and evaluation on a regular basis.

GOAL 7:

ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Millennium Development Goal:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources
- Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss
- Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Viet Nam's Goals (SEDP 2006 – 2010):

- Increase the proportion of land covered by forest to 42-43% and initiate tree-planting schemes in urban areas;
- Introduce clean technology in all sectors. By 2010, all new factories and processing areas shall apply clean technology or environmentally friendly equipment with proper sewage systems. By 2010, 50% of business organizations should meet the set environmental standards;
- Generally, complete the improvement and upgrading of rain drainage and sewage systems in urban areas, industrial centres and processing zones. Targets by 2010 include:
 - 100% of industrial and processing zones to be furnished with centralized sewage systems meeting environmental standards;
 - 90% of solid waste will to be collected;
 - 80% of poisonous waste to be collected and processed properly and;
 - 100% of medical waste to be collected and processed properly.
- Increase capacity to handle water pollution in major rivers;
- Ensure that 95% of urban and 75% of rural populations have access to safe drinking water.

I. ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Viet Nam's approach to sustainable development emphasizes a mutually beneficial link with socio-economics and culture to environment sectors that focuses on gradually improving living standards.

Prioritized areas for sustainable economic development include; (1) environmentally friendly production and consumption systems, (2) implementation of clean industrial production processes, (3) sustainable rural and agricultural development and (4) sustainable environmental development. Viet Nam has already integrated principles of sustainable development into the country's policies and programmes.

The Five Year Socioeconomic Development Plan (SEDP) 2006-2010, highlights three

broad areas for strategic focus: economics, society and environment.

The national targets on sustainable development and environmental protection in Viet Nam, including preservation of biodiversity have been integrated into development strategies and official plans. This legal framework includes the Communist Party Resolutions on environmental protection in the process of industrialization and modernization. Examples of such regulations include the Law on Environmental Protection (approved in 1995 and 2005), the Law on Biodiversity (approved in 2008), and the National Strategy for Environmental Protection.

2. Forest coverage

1. Forest coverage has now almost reached pre-war levels. By 1943, the earliest data on forest coverage available, forest cover was 43 per cent of national territory. In subsequent years, forest coverage decreased rapidly, especially during the war. In the post-war period there were further substantial losses due to unplanned agricultural expansion and production. The result of these events was a forest coverage drop to 27.2% by 1990.

For the period between 2001 and 2005, forest losses per annum were estimated at 24,100 ha (equivalent to 2% per year). Annual forest losses in the Central Highlands were estimated at 10,000 ha. Preserved watershed forests have nearly faced extinction with a low coverage of 20%. Around 9.3 million (28%) hectares of land are at risk of desertification. This includes more than 0.4 million hectares in the South Coast region that are at risk from the movement of giant sand dunes moving along the coast.

3. Biodiversity

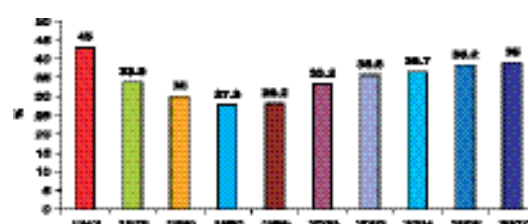
Viet Nam is home to some 12,000 plant species, 27 species of animals, 800 species of birds, 180 species of reptiles, 80 species of amphibians, 2,470 species of fish and 5,500 species of insects. More than 40% of the plants in Viet Nam are not found in other countries in the region.

Numerous endangered species in Viet Nam are now protected, yet there are still concerns for their survival. According to the Red Book of Viet Nam (1992, 1996, and 2000), the number of species that are likely to disappear has increased from 700 in 1992 to 880 in 2007. Many of these endangered species are also threatened on a wider scale at the global level (Table 7.1). Forty-nine species in Viet Nam are listed among the most at risk of extinction in the world. It is critical to put appropriate preservation measures in place in

2. Recent national programmes promoting forestation and preservation have paid off with increases to 33.2% in 2000 and 36.7% in 2004. By 2006, the proportion of forest coverage, against total land area, reached 38%. Forest coverage is expanding by 0.6% per annum.

Viet Nam's current project is to plant a further five million hectares of forest, while protecting existing forests and improving the quality of exploitation processes to prevent degradation.

Chart 7.1. Forest coverage from 1943-2007



Source: MONRE

order to prevent the extinction of these species.

Viet Nam has been making great efforts to retain its natural land area in order to sustain its unique biodiversity. Since adopting the International Convention in Biodiversity, Viet Nam has established 126 reserve areas. Reserve areas are divided between 28 national parks, 59 nature reserves, and 39 landscape-protected areas. The total land area of the reserves is 2,541,675 ha. Through this focus on reserve areas, natural forests have been protected and biodiversity sustained. Following projections to 2010, the protected land area will reach 11.6% while investment in biodiversity protection will increase from its current budget of 20-30% of the environmental protection budget.

Table 7.1 No. of endangered species in Viet Nam and globally

Species	No. of species in Viet Nam	Likely No. of species to be Endangered in Viet Nam	Likely No. of species to be Endangered around the World
Mammals	310	78	46
Birds	840	83	41
Reptiles	286	43	27
Amphibians	162	11	15
Fish	3,170	72	27
Non-spine species		72	n.a
Plants	14,000	309	148
Mushrooms		7	n.a
Algae		9	n.a
Total		684	204

Source: Red Book of Viet Nam (1992, 1996, 2000) (Viet Nam's figure); International Committee for Conservation of Nature (2004) (international figure)

4. Access to safe drinking water and improvement of hygienic conditions

1. Viet Nam is in its second phase of the environmental hygiene and clean water program (2006-2010) (Decision No. 277 of the Prime Minister, December 2006). Under this programme, local communities develop and manage clean water and environmentally friendly sanitation by the technical and management policies listed in the "Guidelines Handbook." Viet Nam has also worked toward the development of clean water supply infrastructure and improved environmental standards in rural areas.

2. At the end of 2007, almost 260,000 clean

water supply plants were upgraded or newly constructed. Of these plants, 1,800 are community common-sharing projects. As a result, access to clean water has been substantially improved over time with an estimated 75% of rural households having access to clean water in 2008. This is an increase from 70% in 2007, 58% in 2004 and 28% in 1996.

As many as 75% of households in cities and urban areas can now access clean water. In big cities such as Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City, the figure is more impressive, 89% and 78% respectively.

Support for disadvantaged households to access clean water and better sanitary conditions

The baseline survey of P135-II shows that only 14% of targeted disadvantaged households are able to access protected water resources or filtered water for cooking and drinking. As for sanitary conditions, more than 45% of these households use wells or sand-filtered water and 40% depend on unsafe water from rivers, lakes and ponds for cooking. There remains a gap in these figures between the members of the Kinh and Hoa ethnic groups compared to other ethnic groups. Among Kinh and Hoa ethnic groups, only six per cent of households use unsafe water from rivers, lakes and ponds for drinking compared to other ethnic groups using some 57% from these sources. This situation will remain a big challenge to be addressed in P135-II if the country is to meet the target of 80% of households accessing clean and safe drinking water by 2010.

The proportion of households under P135-II using hygienic and proper latrines is only 13% (2007) whereas 87% of the remaining targeted households use other types of latrines. According to the P 135-II baseline survey, 74% of targeted households dispose their litter locally or directly into rivers and none of the targeted households use or practice methods of waste and litter collection.

Source: Baseline survey of P 135 –II, CEMA, to be published

3. Viet Nam has set the target that 85% of rural populations will have access to clean and safe water, of which 50% can access safe water following MOH's standards. All kindergartens, primary schools, local clinics, markets, commune offices and other public places in rural areas will be supplied with safe water.

4. The proportion of the rural population

5. Improvement in quality of housing and eradication of slum and temporary houses

1. At global level, it is planned that by 2020, at least 100 million slum and temporary house dwellers are to be relocated. In big cities, the inhabitants of slum dwellings and temporary houses, usually located along narrow alleys or sewage channel banks, have been relocated to new urban areas. The proportion of households living in temporary houses, including rural households, has declined from 37% in 1993 to 25% in 2005.

2. According to GSO figures, in 2006 houses built primarily with concrete made up 24% of households, with semi-concrete houses representing 60%. Sixteen per cent of households were considered temporary. In rural areas, the proportion of temporary houses accounted for 19%, compared to seven per cent in urban areas.

The regions with the highest proportions of temporary houses were the Mekong River Delta (43%), the North-west (20%), Central Highlands (17%), and North-east (16%). Regions with low proportions of temporary houses included the Red River Delta (3%), Southern coast (8%), North Center (9%);

using hygienic latrines has increased from 43.2% (2001) to 50% (2004). In urban areas, the proportion is steadily increasing from 49.3% (2001) to 90.0% (2005). Under the environmental hygiene and clean water program for 2006-2010, 70% of rural households will have hygienic latrines and 70% of animal breeding farmers will be equipped with hygienic and proper animal shelters.

South-east (11%). Among ethnic groups, the Kh'me have the highest proportion of temporary houses (62%), while the lowest proportion were the Chinese (10%). The proportion of temporary houses among Kinh was 14%.

A survey of 95 cities under the "City Improvement National Program" found that 44,000 households are living in unsafe areas with an estimated 1.8 million households in rural areas living in temporary settings.

3. To achieve the MDG target and re-house at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, Viet Nam will need to continue its efforts in developing community houses. Particularly strong focus needs to be paid to poor households; encouraging investment in construction of civil works in locations at high risk of natural disasters and to support poor people to access affordable houses through instalment and credit plans.

By 2010, Viet Nam should have eradicated more than half of the slums with the objective of obtaining entire slum eradication by 2020.

II. SHORTCOMINGS AND CHALLENGES

1. Although forest coverage has increased in recent years, the quality of forests is at risk of declining. Primeval and dense forests accounts for less than 13.7% of total forest cover, whereas thin and commercial forest plantations account for 55%. Some forests are still vulnerable to illegal logging and fire.

Natural persevered areas with high biodiversity, such as natural reservations, and marine and coastal life, are overexploited despite efforts to manage them. Overexploitation and inefficient use of natural resources will define the level of forest coverage in the future.

2. Rapid economic development has challenged sustainable environmental

development. The development of construction, industry, energy, transportation and agriculture sectors in recent years has had negative affects for the environment as natural resources are exploited leading to environmental pollution and health hazards. Rapid urbanization has also caused a strain on underground water and waterways, and levels of air and solid waste pollution. This has threatened environmental quality with massive environmental pollution in some areas becoming a major health risk.

3. Legal frameworks and policies for environmental protection have not yet been successfully integrated into socioeconomic programmes that balance both environmental

protection and economic development. The management capacity of environmental managers remains limited. There also is a lack of inter-level and inter-sector environmental management mechanisms. State management of the environment has been implemented only at central levels, but has not yet been decentralized to community levels, such as districts, communes and villages.

4. Waste processing remains difficult in industrial zones, processing zones, industrial complexes, handicraft villages, urban residential areas and hospitals. The Government of Viet Nam has approved a "Strategy on Solid Waste Management in Urban and Industrial Zones by 2020." It is important to note that the proportion of solid waste collected and processed has also been greatly improved in recent years. Some solid waste management factories have been constructed in big cities. Across the eight economic regions, the highest numbers of solid waste processing centres are in the South-east (54%), Red River Delta (44%), with the lowest in the North-west (12%) and Mekong River Delta (13%).

5. Climate change, particularly global warming and rising sea levels, is one of the greatest challenges facing mankind in the 21st century. Over the past 50 years the sea level has risen by 20 cm in Viet Nam. The

cyclic effects of El Niño and La Niña are causing more direct damage to the country. Climate changes have made natural disasters such as typhoons, floods, flash floods and permanent drought harder to predict and control. According to a World Bank report Viet Nam is classified as one of the "hardest hit countries" due to sea level rise and climate change. This is partially due to the fact that the Red River and Mekong Deltas are below sea level. It is estimated that, by 2100, Viet Nam's average temperature will increase by 3oC and sea levels will rise one metre further. Thus 10% of the population is at a high risk. GDP losses are estimated to be about 10% and around 40,000km² of the coastal delta will be under sea level (90% is made up by the Mekong Delta). If the sea level rises are higher than predicted and rise by another three metres, about 25% of the country's population will be affected and GDP loss could be as high as 25%.

6. The wildlife trade has been increasing in recent years. Poaching to supply domestic and international markets is a major threat to protected species and is considered among the greatest threats to biodiversity in the country. No effective measures have yet been introduced to deal with this challenge of poaching. Wildlife consumption in Viet Nam is unsustainable and directly threatens many species with local or global extinction.

III. CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOAL AND MEASURES

The MDG related to the sustainability of the environment, the Environmental Sustainable Strategy of Viet Nam aims to ensure that by 2010:

(i) All-newly established production plants use clean technologies and are equipped with pollution mitigation and waste processing facilities;

(ii) 50% of business plants are awarded environmentally friendly certificates (or ISO 14001);

(iii) 40% of residential areas and 70% of industrial and export processing zones have sewage processing systems;

(iv) 80-90% of solid refuse from households, industry and service sectors is collected with over 60% of toxic and all hospital waste processed;

(iv) There are strict punishments in place for

production plants that cause serious environmental pollution.

The Strategy also aims to provide 95% of urban and 85% of rural residents with access to clean water supplies; increase forest coverage to 43% of the total land area and increase the preservation / protection of 11% of natural areas. In addition, it will address the issue of environmental deterioration in industrial zones, crowded residential areas, big cities and some rural areas through effective environmental control and timely action to resolve environmental issues.

In the meantime, it calls for the effective use and sustainable preservation of natural resources, ecological balance and biodiversity in river basins and a continued focus on raising awareness of environmental protection.

Viet Nam continues to finalize the regulatory

framework on environmental management, to enhance the capacity of government agencies on the environment and focus on decentralization schemes. In addition, there is a need to raise awareness of environmental protection in society and to integrate the concept of a sustainable environment into the educational curriculum.

Investment in environmentally sustainable development can be achieved through mobilization of resources from both private and public sectors. With increased environmental awareness it will be clear that socioeconomic development is equally as important as environmental sustainable development.

Fiscal reform and application of new economic tools in environmental management for environmental protection should be introduced. Management and administration of financial resources and implementation of environmental taxes should be reinforced. Implementing legal procedures

against polluting activities and the wider socialization of environmental protection in order to involve the community as a whole is the ultimate goal of environmental management.

Policies, legal frameworks, programmes and awareness campaigns need to be set up quickly to ensure sustainable economic development does not negatively impact on the environment. It is also increasingly important to coordinate with the international community on reducing the effects and combating climate change.

There should be an improvement of geological and geomorphologic studies on environmental issues in Viet Nam.

In the meantime, there is a need to enhance cooperation with the international community with regards to financial aids and technology transfers to assist in environmental policy and plans.

GOAL 8:

DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Millennium Development Goal:

- Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system;
- Address the special needs of the least developed countries;
- Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;
- Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term;
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries;
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.

Viet Nam has been making continuous progress towards establishing a global partnership for development. Viet Nam recently became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and a non-permanent member of the United Nations' Security Council 2008-2009.

These roles within multilateral organizations have created favourable conditions for Viet Nam to uphold its role in establishing a global partnership for development and to participate in joint efforts to address global issues.

I. ACHIEVEMENTS

1. In terms of multilateral cooperation

1. Since becoming a member of the WTO, Viet Nam has been participating in international and regional economic integration. Viet Nam plays an active role in some of the world's most prestigious economic forums, particularly in the World Economic Forum (WEF), Asia Future Forum and the Asia Society, Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD). At the regional level, Viet Nam is an active member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and has been cooperating closely with member countries to develop an ASEAN economic community.

2. In 2006, Viet Nam successfully organized the APEC summit meeting. At this event, leaders of 21 economies made a commitment in the Ha Noi Declaration to continue to foster trade openness, in which the Ha Noi Action Plan was approved as a method of implementing the Busan road map.

3. Viet Nam has also fostered participation in regional cooperation programmes in a more substantial and comprehensive manner with key partners including China, Japan, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand. Key cooperation mechanisms include the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), Viet Nam-Laos-Cambodia development triangle, Mekong River Commission (MRC), Mekong-Japan Cooperation, Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) and the Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Viet Nam Cooperation (CLMV).

4. Viet Nam is privileged to join the eight-country group selected by the UN to pilot the initiative of "One UN." For this, the Government of Viet Nam, with 14 UN organizations and donors, have jointly proposed an approach, key principles, targets and a feasible roadmap for the implementation of five key components to UN

reform: one plan, one budget, one set of management practices, one leader and one UN house.

In April 2006, the Prime Minister adopted an inter-ministerial cooperation mechanism in order to coordinate with the international community towards the implementation of this One UN initiative. The progress regarding this implementation to date is

2. In terms of bilateral cooperation

1. Viet Nam has so far established trade relationships with more than 170 countries and territorial areas as well as investment relationships with 70 partners. In addition, more than 60 bilateral economic agreements have been signed, which conform to current standard practices around the world,

2. Viet Nam has also worked hard to facilitate negotiations and FTA signings with other countries, especially key partners such as China, Japan, the US, Russia and EU member countries. With regards to cooperation with China, Viet Nam is accelerating the completion of the strategy, roughly translated as: "Two corridors, a single economic strip." Another economic partnership agreement between Viet Nam and Japan began in January 2007.

3. At the end of 2006, the US Government granted Permanent Normal Trade Relations status to Viet Nam, and at the same time, removed Viet Nam from the list of countries needing strict supervision in terms of religion. Since January 2007, the quota scheme and requirement for electronic visas for Viet Nam's garment exports to the US was officially removed. With Russia, the areas of energy and fuel exploitation were prioritized, particularly cooperation in exploring and

remarkable for all five components, in which the completed one plan and one budget has become the basis for further cooperation between Viet Nam and the other 14 UN organizations. The reform of UN operations in Viet Nam thus far is appreciated by the donor community who wish to disseminate such examples of positive reforms by the UN in other countries.

exploiting petroleum and gasoline in Viet Nam. Cooperation between Viet Nam and the EU has also been expanded.

4. Viet Nam sees the promotion of comprehensive cooperation with African countries as a priority. To date, it has established diplomatic ties with most African countries with regular exchanges of high-ranking delegations. In 2007, Viet Nam welcomed six high-ranking delegates from Africa, while recent counterpart visits of Vietnamese leaders to Africa in March 2008 marked the next step in promoting cooperation between the two sides.

With the financial support of international organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UNDP, Viet Nam is expanding the triple cooperation aid modality to help Africa solve their current dilemmas in food security. Through this model, Viet Nam continues to transfer technology and its experiences in such areas as food production, fisheries, health care, and education. In line with this triple side cooperation, the trade promotion programme of Viet Nam is expected to create more cooperation opportunities and promote trade with Africa.

3. Viet Nam continues to make progress in foreign trade operations

1. Through the development of an open economy, Viet Nam has rapidly progressed with regional and global integration into the regional and the world economies, aiming to establish multilateral and diversified cooperation with foreign countries and international financial organizations. The most significant achievements are in expanding

exporting markets to countries and territories worldwide, and participating in ASEAN, AFTA and APEC. In addition, bilateral relations between Viet Nam and the US have been successfully normalized. Viet Nam is proud to have gained membership to the WTO and to be elected a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

2. There has been a significant increase in export turnover and expansion of exporting markets. In fact, export turnover growth is three times higher than the general economy. At the same time, the export structure has improved with a higher proportion of processed commodities and significant decline in raw materials. Many goods from Viet Nam are now competitive in the world market, including petroleum, processed aquatic products, coffee beans, rubber and finished garments. With concerted efforts on expanding the export market, goods and services from Viet Nam are now found in 200 countries and territories in all continents worldwide. Key markets for exported Vietnamese goods include Japan, China,

ASEAN countries, India, the EU, the U.S., Canada, Africa and the Middle East. Upon accession to the WTO, Viet Nam has fully implemented its commitments in terms of removing agricultural subsidies and gradually increasing support for other commodities in compliance with WTO regulations.

3. Imports turnover has increased in recent years. Import structures have been improved with a higher proportion of machinery, equipment and accessories imported rather than raw materials. Raw materials now account for 61.4% of total turnover, while machinery, equipment and accessories have an average share of 31.5% and consumer goods 7% of total turnover.

Table 8.1. Exports and imports turnover of Viet Nam

Unit: Million US\$

Year	2000	2005	2006	2007
Export	14,482.7	32,447.1	32,824.2	48,561.4
Import	15,636.5	36,761.1	44,891.1	62,682.2

Source: Statistics Yearbook 2007

4. Viet Nam further attracts and uses ODA and FDI funds in an effective manner

In coordination with foreign donors, Viet Nam is working hard to implement the Paris Declaration and Ha Noi Declaration commitments on enhancing aid effectiveness, particularly to carry out the Accra Agenda for Action endorsed at the 3rd High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Ghana in September 2008.

1. There has been a sharp increase in the committed ODA funds for Viet Nam, which increased from US\$4.45 billion in 2007 to US\$5.4 billion in 2008. So far US\$5.0 billion has been committed in 2009.

2. Given the improved investment environment, foreign investment inflows to Viet Nam continue to reach high levels. This has also been a trend in the attainment of new funding reflecting the confidence of foreign investors in the stable growth of Viet Nam in medium and long term.

In 2007, newly-registered investments amounted to US\$21.3 billion. Active funds represented US\$8.03 billion of this total, an increase of US\$3.9 billion over 2006. It is also notable that the average investment increased by US\$45.4 million per project.

Table 8.2. ODA funds during the period 2005-2007

Unit: Million US\$

ODA	2005			2006			2007		
	Total	Loan	Grant	Total	Loan	Grant	Total	Loan	Grant
Committed	3,748	-	-	4,445.6	-	-	5,426.6	-	-
Signed	2,531.33	2,017.08	514.25	2,925.96	2,509.24	416.72	3,795.9	3,598.63	197.27
Disburse	1,787	1,556	231	1,785	1,550	235	2,176.21	1,824.83	351.38
% of total	100.00	79.68	20.32	100.00	85.76	14.24	100.00	94.80	5.20

Source: Ministry of Planning and Investment

5. Viet Nam continues to gain improvements in foreign debt management

In November 2005, the Government promoted regulations on loan and external debt management in order to strengthen legal frameworks for external debt control. These regulations are in line with the State Budget law (2002) and indicate the continuous efforts of the Government to reform debt management mechanisms. As a result, the control of foreign debt has improved.

Currently, the external debt of Viet Nam remains at a low risk level (less than 50% of GDP), ensuring that Viet Nam maintains eligibility for future loans.

Viet Nam is currently working hard to further complete its legal framework to be more comprehensive and to comply with international standards and practices.

6. Viet Nam enhances cooperation with other countries for the benefits of the community

With the establishment of the global partnership for development, great attention has been paid towards the establishment of cooperation with developed countries as a method of addressing key issues in society.

In particular, Viet Nam prioritizes the strategies related to employment generation for the country's youth. Included in this strategy are objectives for creating a sufficient labour resource within the country; expanding vocational training; opening vocational orientation centres; and implementing changes in labour export policies.

The Government has recently enhanced

cooperation with large pharmaceutical firms to provide essential medicine to communities at affordable prices, as well as encouraged foreign investors to invest in developing pharmaceutical plants or establishing franchises domestically in Viet Nam. At the same time, cooperation with the private sector has been strengthened to take advantage of new and advanced technologies, especially information and communication.

Closer cooperation is being promoted between Viet Nam, foreign donors and international institutions, particularly the World Bank and IMF.

II. SOURCE OF ACHIEVEMENTS

1. A stable and reformed political system in addition to the external relationship strategy of Viet Nam provides the basis for the establishment of a global partnership for development

1. Political governance has been reformed and the administration system overhauled. The functional bodies have undergone both organizational and operational reform, with decentralized Government structures and higher efficiency across agencies. The structure of the National Assembly is also moving toward a higher proportion of specialized members.

2. Political stability provides a basis for the establishment of economic institutions to foster foreign economic activities and domestic socio-economic development. The

gradual shift towards a market based economy and a socialist-oriented institution is stabilizing economic conditions while attracting resources for industrialization and modernization.

3. Viet Nam bases its external relations strategy on the principle of openness, diversity and multilateral cooperation. These principles help to promote Viet Nam's position on the international stage. This external policy is also key in creating opportunities for Viet Nam to participate in the trends of globalization.

2. The positive results of socio-economic development in Viet Nam creates further opportunities for global and regional economic integration and for the establishment of a global partnership for development

1. Viet Nam's economy has come out of a difficult period to embrace industrialization and modernization. The economic structure has been improving while significant development has been achieved across various sectors. Domestic enterprises, as with the economy as a whole, are gradually adapting to the international market.

2. In social development, poverty reduction has been positive and has become part of a common responsibility of society. Living conditions in many regions have also improved.

3. Strong improvements in literacy rates have created more opportunities for individuals to participate in policy reform and allowed for society to keep up with the pace of industrialization, modernization and global integration. The HDI of Viet Nam is higher than many other countries with a higher GDP per capita. According to the UNDP Human Development Report, 2007/2008, Viet Nam gained 0.73 points in the HDI ranking and ranked 105th out of 177 total countries. Viet Nam ranked 23rd of the 41 countries in Asia.

3. Opportunities for Viet Nam as a result of WTO accession

1. By joining the WTO and globalization process, Viet Nam has a great opportunity to access the commodity and service markets of all member countries, to expand its exporting activities and improve its ability to invite foreign capital, technology and labour. The expanding inflows of investment, labour and technology are essential factors for Viet Nam to restructure the economy and its maintaining the current pace of economic development.

2. The process of economic integration and globalization requires acceleration reforming the economic regulatory system and

institutions toward more transparent policies consistent with international standards.

Therefore, the business environment of Viet Nam is open to reform and improvement. The scope for domestic reform, especially with the establishment and completion of sound economic policies and reform of administration systems has been widened with WTO accession. These are encouraging signs for the future prospects of exports, FDI attraction and for socially beneficial effects such as improving the distribution of resources and income in Viet Nam.

III. SHORTCOMINGS AND CHALLENGES

Viet Nam is still a developing country with a low average income and inadequate economic development, limiting the mobilization of resources and implementation of policies related to achieving the MDGs and to the establishment of a global partnership for development.

Many challenges remain in the process of economic integration, especially in terms of completing the legal frameworks and reforming relevant policies and economic

structures. Many of the current policies are not in line with international best practices. In addition, the gap between national principles and those applied in global and regional markets has not been closed.

While Viet Nam is considered among the leading countries in terms of aid effectiveness, three key challenges remain in this area. First, aid effectiveness requires the involvement of all relevant ministries and Government agencies, yet coordination across

government agencies in aid effectiveness is currently fragmented. Second, there is a need to ensure the full implementation of the Ha Noi Declaration at provincial level. Third, Viet Nam needs to address the issue of participation of social organizations and the media in monitoring the implementation of ODA projects and contributing to promote its effectiveness.

While approaching medium-income level, Viet Nam is likely to face more difficulties in maintaining high growth rates and has to consider careful budget expenditure planning while maintaining strict management of foreign debt. In addition, there remain shortcomings in the implementation of improved legal frameworks and policy.

Particularly, Viet Nam has a pharmaceutical management mechanism in six provinces, pharmaceutical inspection bodies in 12 provinces and quality assurance centres for medicine and cosmetics in five provinces. Another issue to address is the shortage of personnel specializing in drugs management and inspection and current transparency in the distribution of drugs in Viet Nam.

The export-import policy has yet to be directed into developing the commodity structure. The many complicated regulations in international trade are negatively impacting the export of agricultural products and high-cost semi-processed industrial goods.

Weak competitiveness of Vietnamese goods has resulted in less efficiency in export-import

activities. In addition, many Viet Nam exports failed to enter developed country markets due to severe technical barriers. In terms of the exporting structure, the commodity group of raw materials, minerals, and agriculture, forestry and fishery products still accounts for a significant share. The processed group mainly includes garments, footwear, electronic devices and computer components. Export turnover remains limited, the ratio of export turnover per capita, though improved in recent years, is under the regional average.

There are underlying risks in the investment environment of Viet Nam, thus undermining its attractiveness to foreign investors. Investment in public areas is still predominant with over 50% share of total investment. Though such investment is essential in ensuring the supply chain of goods and services for private domestic and foreign investment, this is seen as risky if public investment holds a large share of total funds.

The level of technology transferred through FDI projects is limited. Meanwhile, delays in ODA fund disbursement may render it more difficult to call for investment in the future, provided that effective measures are in place to ensure implementation and disbursement-related commitments. Another challenge is increasing competition in business as well in adopting more investment funds and technology.

IV. CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOAL AND MEASURES

Viet Nam plans to establish the global partnership for development by 2015 through a more comprehensive and strategic integration into the globalization process. Despite challenges, Viet Nam is committed to overcoming its shortcomings and to effectively move towards regional and global integration. Viet Nam will focus on the implementation of the following groups of measures:

1. Improve national competitiveness by; increasing the efficiency of resource mobilization and human resource development, reforming the administrative system and improving enterprise competitiveness.
2. Complete legal frameworks should be established, with priority given to the regulatory systems needed to promote

financial services, real estate markets, scientific and technological research, labour market laws and the protections required to engage in safe / legal business activities.

3. Actively participate and contribute to activities hosted by international organizations in which Viet Nam is a member.

The international integration process

affects all countries, enterprises and individuals. Though the main responsibility is the Government's, the determining factor for success comes from the efforts of all people in reforming the country's economic, cultural and social conditions for rapid, comprehensive and sustainable growth.



PART 3

VIET NAM'S DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN SUPPORT OF THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

I. ACHIEVEMENTS OF VIET NAM'S SUPPORT FOR THE MDGS IN POVERTY REDUCTION AND HUNGER ALLEVIATION

1. Improvement of basic infrastructure for targeted poor and disadvantaged communities

1.1. Programmes that provide basic infrastructure and services to the most disadvantaged communes

1. Investment from the programs for the socio-economic development of disadvantaged communes, Program 135 – Phase II, covers 1,946 communes with 1,864 communes is funded by the state. There were 3,149 villages classified as the poorest villages in Level II communes. Of these, the state programme targeted 3,015.

2. As of December 2007, P135-II had provided project funding to 602 communes, in 52 provinces, with a total disbursement of VND2.5 billion. The project has actively contributed to positive changes in the economic structure and growth, to improvements in intellectual capacity, reductions in poverty and hunger and other positive socioeconomic and cultural developments.

3. P135-II financing focuses on the development of infrastructure, agricultural skills, training and support for agricultural production and community services. Apart from state financing, the P135 II also receives a substantial amount from ODA sources.

4. In 2006 the Program completed 4,213 infrastructure projects while in 2007 it completed about 4,772 targeted at the most disadvantaged households. The Program directly supported 233,000 households in 2007 by improving agricultural production capacity. Through the Program, 1,367 training workshops were conducted for capacity

building on negotiating, community investment, ownership, poverty reduction and small-scale project management. These workshops were conducted for 77,000 communes, the village leaders and 12,000 individuals.

1.2. Achievements

1. As of December 2007, concrete roads to commune centres were provided to 97% of the communes identified as most disadvantaged. Almost all of the most disadvantaged communes have also been provided with small scale water resource projects and now more than 80% have access to safe and clean water. Electricity was provided to 905 and communes benefitting more than 70% of targeted households.

2. As of 2007, nearly all districts were provided with health clinics. Therefore, the majority of villages are now able to access primary medical services. All of the most disadvantaged communes have either kindergarten and primary schools or semi-boarding classes. Nearly 97% of children of school age are attending schools and 90% of targeted communes have been provided with lower secondary schools. 100% districts have secondary school. Some remote and disadvantaged areas were provided with boarding rooms or community-based semi boarding rooms for upper secondary schools. About 1,216 of the most disadvantaged communes accomplished the primary universalization target, accounting for 71% of the total participation level. About 1,409 communes have achieved lower secondary

universalization, accounting for 80% of the total participation level.

3. At the end of 2007, 60% of disadvantaged communes were provided with commune or inter-commune markets. Eighty-five per cent of communes have also been provided with post offices. All communes have access to the telecommunication network, even in the most remote districts. About 95% of communes have been provided with broadcasting stations, many of which broadcast in local ethnic languages. These achievements have significantly improved the living standards of disadvantaged households and created opportunities for economic growth.

1.3. Shortcomings and Challenges

1. Geographical difficulties further complicate programmes aimed at empowering local mountainous communities. There are no economic incentives for any large ventures to set up businesses or employment opportunities in these areas.

2. Despite the successes of development programmes, much is left to invest in diversifying the economic activities of those in disadvantaged target groups. Positive economic shifts in the most disadvantaged areas remain slow. Most ethnic people cannot access funds, such as ODA and FDI, from international donors.

3. A general lack of education and strong belief in backward traditional customs is still common among targeted groups.

1.4. Solutions and Resources to accomplish targets

1. Strengthen local competitiveness by increasing local production and enhancing diversification of economic activities so that competitiveness can be strengthened.

2. Employment and Job Creation

As of 2007 the Viet Nam labour force consisted of 46.7 million people with an annual growth rate of 2.4%. The young labour group (15-34 years old) make up 45% of the total. The Government is aware of the huge demand for employment given current trends and has taken steps to increase job creation.

Possible methods of achieving this include government stimulation of economic activities in targeted areas.

2. Diversify economic patterns in rural areas; by using local competitiveness and local employees. Possible strategies for achieving this include: introducing productive plant varieties and animal species, allocating forest lands to local households, developing forestry for industrial purposes and investing in the processing industry and market infrastructure.

3. Community resources need to be mobilized to support the most disadvantaged communes nationwide. Government supporters should: (i) align with other development organizations, development programmes and projects to help eradicate poverty in these communes and (ii) assist poor households in accessing credit for useful economic activities. Land support for housing development should also be used as a policy to minimize ethnic groups migrating from their native regions.

4. Capacity development for leaders of communes and villages is vital to ensure sustainable development and enhance the intellectual capacity of local people in the targeted areas. The training should be relevant to local leaders at grassroots levels.

1.5. Possibility to achieve intended targets by 2015

P135 – II has been implemented in a timely manner with an interdisciplinary structure and sufficient financial resources. It is estimated that, by 2015, all of the most disadvantaged communes will be provided with proper infrastructure and all ethnic communes will have access to electricity. Furthermore, by 2010 all of the most disadvantaged communes will have access to clean and safe water.

2.1. Achievements

1. Viet Nam's National Strategy Program on Employment (2006-2010) has specific targets. So far more than 1.6 million new jobs are created annually, unemployment rates have dropped by 1.1% per annum and working time in rural areas increased by 6% per annum,

while the proportion of agricultural labour has decreased by 4.5% since 2000. Currently enterprises offer about 1.6–1.7 million new jobs annually.

2. The Government has published a number of substantial policies on job creation encouraging the development of all economic sectors and opening of new vocational training schools, granting credits to students, strengthening international cooperation in training and enhancing labour quality and labour export. Vietnamese labourers now work with 30 different professional groups in 40 countries worldwide. The annual number of people exported for labour is estimated to be 80,000 to 100,000.

3. Viet Nam has developed a vocational school and centre system with a focus on selected regional schools. Projects on job creation and support for the vocational training of the young labour force have been implemented.

2.2. Shortcomings and Challenges

1. The lack of appropriately qualified labour for the specific needs of industrialization and modernization has been a challenge for enterprise development. Only 35% of the labour force has had technical training and only about 11% of the total labour force has third level qualifications. These numbers are not competitive when compared to other countries in the region.

2. In Viet Nam there are relatively high unemployment rates and an imbalance of skilled labour distribution in urban and rural areas. The unemployment rate has increased in both developed and under-developed regions. The unemployment rate among those with upper secondary vocational training school and college qualifications is significant at 5.4% and at the level of skilled

labour is 3.6%.

However, the unemployment rate in rural areas is estimated to be much higher at 57%, with two million labourers currently out of work. Yet regardless of the surplus of individuals in the labour force, many enterprises including FDI enterprises are not able to recruit enough skilled labour.

2.3. Measures

1. Completion of the following legal frameworks:

- Adjustments and revisions of labour laws
- Development of Employment and Salary Laws
- Issuing insurance on Vocational Training Laws
- Social Insurance Law
- Exported Labour Law
- Issuance of policies concerning job creation and labour export
- Implementing recommendations of ILO on employment, job and labour market

2. Encouragement of local and international investments by developing the private sector, improve farming techniques and associations, encourage traditional handicraft villages and economic labour shifts to more technical and industry-oriented skills.

3. Making plan of vocational training schools and provision of opportunities to access vocational training for labourers and improving vocational teaching methods by developing the curriculum with a focus on appropriate industries.

4. Develop domestic labour markets. Diversify job channels in the market and develop a comprehensive dataset for the labour force and promote labour export.

3. Reducing vulnerability and developing a social security network to support the poor and the vulnerable

3.1. Achievements

1. Viet Nam continues to implement comprehensive social security policies with practical and effective activities. This action has been applauded because once the social security's policies have been passed; the Government must be guaranteed the

functional and operational credibility of the system. These practices ensure the passing of only sustainable policy options. This is a good initiative to develop economic sustainability and strengthen the effectiveness of the MDGs's achievements.

Actions must be taken to include reinforcement of the poverty reduction and job creation and support communes in disadvantaged, typhoon damaged, low-income, ethnic areas or other vulnerable groups

2. Viet Nam continues to invest in social programmes and the development of social security. It actively contributes to reducing elements of vulnerability in targeted regions. Other National Strategic Programs on social development are being implemented within the broader scope of intervention, such as engaging in high cost durable projects with longer and sustainable implementation times. National funds have been created for poverty reduction and job creation, social insurance and disaster prevention and mitigation, support for war invalids and orphaned children as well as for other vulnerable groups.

3. Viet Nam also continues to support disabled groups by providing learning opportunities, jobs and accommodation. The Government is committed to support disabled people through the implementation of new measures, such as improved policies and mobilization of social resources. These groups include the elderly, homeless and orphans.

3.2. Shortcomings and Challenges

1. Current sector analysis of social security has many challenges. Risks include the increasing gap between rich and poor, increasing unemployment and school dropout rates, child and adolescent protection and other broader issues like climate change.

2. Interventions provided for social security are limited. There is a gap between the ability for at-risk groups to access counselling and the need for counselling. The effectiveness of social security benefits

has been only partial and disparities among beneficiaries are prevalent.

3. Social security measures should be credible and research must be carried out on social security programmes to test whether they benefit the intended population. It is essential to ensure that the social security system is able to identify people's needs, forecast possible changes and be proactive in providing timely interventions. Social security should also include increasingly vulnerable groups like people living with HIV, emigrants, victims of human trafficking and abused women and children.

3.3. Further implementation of measures to improve the quality of the social security network

Achieving an active and responsive Social Security network in Viet Nam will require the development of a system that benefits all society, especially disadvantaged groups.

1. Improve the accessibility of Social Security by creating various social security programmes such as, unemployment insurance, social insurance and health insurance.

2. Strengthen the effectiveness of the services of Social Security programmes by establishing a management system that can ensure that benchmarked services are available to all clients.

3. Improve sustainability of Social Security programmes by building responsiveness into the social security system.

4. Introduce preventive measures to reduce risks in unemployment, such as insurance policies, industrial shifts and job creation activities, as well as insurance against labour accidents and occupational diseases.

II. IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS OF THE VIET NAM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN SUPPORT OF THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. Enhance culture and information to improve the spiritual life of people

1. The implementation of the National Targeted Program on Cultural and Information development for 2006-2010 is on-going. Cultural and information-sharing activities

have thus far been focused on building a modern culture with traditional values. Education and mass media have been cultivating a way of life of maintaining

traditional culture in local communities.

2. The radio and broadcasting system has become increasingly popular throughout the country, covering some of the most remote and ethnic minority regions. The content of these broadcasts has improved significantly with the addition of local or ethnic language broadcasts. Special radio programmes in ethnic languages have also been produced

for Vietnamese broadcasts abroad. Sports activities are also broadcast to a large audience on the radio.

3. The Government has issued many incentive programmes and policies to invite business sectors and individuals to invest in building sport facilities and organizing sports, cultural and tourism activities.

2. Improve living standards while preserving and promoting the culture of ethnic minority groups in Viet Nam

The Government has disseminated policies to encourage the preservation and display of traditional ethnic cultures. These policies may improve

the opportunities for community dialogue and activities, including the use of ethnic languages, customs, culture and scripts.

2.1 Preserving Ethnic Writing and Language as a means of ethnic empowerment

1. Maintaining and developing ethnic literacy is a key task in preserving and developing ethnic culture in Viet Nam. Ethnic language teaching has had a positive impact.

National television and radio stations now broadcast many programmes in ethnic languages. Viet Nam Radio and many local radio and television stations broadcast in 26 ethnic languages including Khmer, Cham, H'Mong, Ba Na, Thai, etc. The number of programmes broadcast in ethnic languages has increased from 335 programmes per week (2005), to 362 programmes per week in 2008. Total broadcasting time has also increased from 293 hours/week in 2005 to

352 hours/week by 2008

2. The total number of people able to use ethnic scripts and language, especially those in the younger generations has recently risen. Viet Nam currently has 30 ethnic groups, each having their own scripts and language. There are about 30 provinces in Viet Nam that teach and write in ethnic languages schools at all levels. By late 2007, there were 75,000 students and 900 teachers involved in these schools. The Government has compiled 30 sets of curricula in 12 ethnic languages. The number of ethnic students attending classes has also increased both in the primary and secondary school.

2.2. The hand-over of the rights to land for ethnic minorities has been efficient, enabling ethnic minorities to settle well

1. Program 134 has components designed to support disadvantaged ethnic people by improving production. It also recognizes the importance of the use of, and rights to land; construction of homes; and provision of clean water. Between 2005 and 2007, the programme supported home ownership for about 340,000 households and identified and provided 1,347 hectares of land for 6,740 households. In this method the programme was able to reach 77% of targeted households. About 25,150 hectares of arable land were cleared for 70,600 households to build homes, which made up 30% of home ownership schemes. Non- agricultural activities were encouraged in non arable

lands like mountainous areas, the peripheries of towns and the river deltas. The programme also provided 149,000 households with running water. More than 3,000 water supply systems were built supplying water to 52% of the population who previously had no access to clean water. As a result, 60% of ethnic peoples are able to access fresh water.

3. The practice of farming has changed to a more systematic agricultural system. This shift was particularly desirable in order to minimize migration effects and encourage agriculture. Hence, the numbers of ethnic people migrating have declined over the years.

2.3. More focus is placed on building ethnic people's management at all levels

1. The participation of ethnic minorities in management agencies at all levels is seen as one of the key factors to improve the socio-economic condition of disadvantaged ethnic minorities.

2. Over the last few years, there has been a significant increase in the participation rate of ethnic minorities in administration. Among 493 members of 12th Session of the National Assembly there were 87 representatives from ethnic minority groups. This accounted for 17.7% of assembly members. Between 2004 and 2009, the Provincial People's Council estimates to have about 20.5% of ethnic minorities' represented at the Provincial level, 20.2% at the district level and 24.4% at the commune level. Ethnic minority officials also account for 10.9% of the Provincial People's

Committee administration. Many provinces such as Cao Bang, Bac Can, Lạng Sơn, Sơn La and Hà Giang have a high proportion of ethnic minority representation in their administration. For example, ethnic minority officials hold all positions in the Provincial People's Committee in Cao Bang.

3. The qualifications of ethnic minority officials have improved. In the period 2004 to 2009, 14.4% of ethnic minority officials employed by provincial People's Committees had a post graduate qualification; while 73% had university degrees. At the district level, 1.2% of the People's Council had post graduate qualifications and 44.2% had university degrees. Meanwhile, 5.9% of officials at commune level were from ethnic minority groups.

3. Reforming state administration, promoting grassroots democracy and proving legal supports for the poor

3.1. Regulations on grassroots democracies have been implemented, ensuring the rights and obligations of people

1. The regulation on grassroots democracy issued on April 20, 2007 stipulates that the People's Council and People's Committee at commune level inform their constituents of policies in a timely manner before decisions are made. They also set out the activities to be reviewed and supervised by the people, as well as arrange the extent of relevant agencies' responsibilities and the responsibilities of the individual who implements them at commune level.

Key principles set forth in the grassroots democracy regulations include:

(i) ensuring order and discipline is maintained within the Constitution and legal regulations,

(ii) Ensure the rights of the people to know, contribute and participate in decision-making processes and to ensure democracy prevails at the commune level.,

(iii) Publicize and ensure transparency in the implementation of policies and projects.

The regulation on grassroots democracy has so far been implemented in all communes and districts. Accordingly, local people can contribute and be involved in decision making regarding relevant issues such as land and budget management, socio-economic development at local levels and function as a representative on People Inspection and Community supervision boards. To date, all communes and wards have established People's Inspection boards, while 37 of 63 provinces have directed their functional agencies to form Community Supervision of investment boards.

3.2. The implementation of grassroots democracy has contributed to the improved quality of "public service delivery"

1. By the end of 2007, all provinces and cities have implemented the "one door" policy in delivery of all public services to the people from administration agencies at provincial, district and commune levels.

2. The quality and progress of service delivery has been improved by making the procedures

public and keeping the procedures within specific time frames.

Shortcomings and Challenges

The inflexibility of the implementation of the "one door" policy in some provinces is challenging, hence the quality of some of the

services provided are not up to standard. Meanwhile, the stability and comprehensiveness of legal frameworks are still limited in particular areas such as land, construction, justice and administration reforms.

There is this lack of cooperative mechanisms within the administration. There is also a lack of qualified administrative staff. The communication activities are also not sufficient enough to create a reasonable level of awareness of the “one door” policy”.

3.3. Providing legal supports to the poor with implementation of grassroots democracy

1. In the period 2005 to 2007, thousands of poor and disadvantaged people received legal support from legal consultancy centres to settle issues related to criminal, civil, land, marriage and administration regulations. This helped to ensure the rights and legal interests of the poor and at the same time raised awareness about relevant regulations. This activity also had positive effects on social security and the prevention of criminal violations.

2. The legal support was delivered in various forms. With the assistance of legal consultancy centres and mobile counters available for legal consultancy, people were able to access legal services in unprecedented numbers. Leaflets on legal information were distributed and legal manuals were provided to poor people free of charge. In addition, many legal assistance clubs were formed at commune level, hosting periodic meetings to disseminate legal information and provide instant support to resolve issues and disputes. These clubs have also played an active role in settling conflicts in local areas.

3.4. Further implementation of grassroots democracy and listening to the people's voice

1. The receipt and settlement of people's claims are encouraging. This has been noticeable in the provinces of Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Thanh Hoa, Kien Giang, Binh Duong, Yen Bai, Hau Giang, Gia Lai, Dien Bien and Vinh Phuc.

2. Though the number of claims has been reduced nationwide there remains some overlap in claims submitted to the Supreme Court.

Shortcomings and Challenges and underlying reasons

There are incidences of slow settlements of claims, which can become complicated and take a lot of time in the judicial process. The determination of administrative punishment for violent crimes is not adequate in many cases. This has led to an overlap in cases brought to higher authorities. Despite vast efforts, major challenges remain in the claim settlement process, especially with an increasing number of outstanding claims.

3.5. Democracy at the grassroots level has improved and allows for a safer commune and village environment

1. Developing a sound commune and village environment is the ultimate goal of the local authorities and the People's Government. The campaign on the development of a sound environment has covered all parts of the country. By 2005, nearly 5,500 communes and villages (50% of total communes and villages) received awards for having succeeded in developing a sound environment that is free of drugs and prostitution.

2. Local governments at all levels and sectors have a better awareness and understanding of the requirements and meaning of a safe, well-run village. To achieve this goal the family, extended family and village play an important role in creating sound environments.

Shortcomings and Challenges

Some provinces were not able to retain their achievements in developing a sound environment.

The cooperation of credible organizations remains weak. There is a need for a regular monitoring system by authorities to ensure that bad social practices are discouraged from reoccurring again.

3.6 Continue democracy at grassroots level to enhance the quality of MDG implementation

The practice of democracy at grassroots

levels is seen as a key way to ensure that people take ownership through socioeconomic democracy. Positive changes achieved by development include: improvement of basic infrastructure, living standards and the decentralization of democracy. These changes indicate that democracy at grassroots levels has a positive impact on the achievement of the MDGs.

1. Continue the programme of implementation of democracy at the grassroots levels and ensure public expenditures are made known to the general public. Ensure timely and effective provision of public services and information of legal requirements under the decentralization system through proper distribution mechanisms.

2. Reforming the organization and activities at local levels through open dialogue is vital. The fundamental principle of “People know, People discuss, People work and People monitor” has been effective but more attention should be paid to encourage people’s

proposals, people’s decision making, people’s monitoring of the community and investment ownership. Ensure that the implementation of democracy at grassroots levels can promote the development of transparent local authorities and further improve the performance of People’s Committees and Councils.

3. Proper coordination of the development and implementation of regulations is also important. Through the local people’s participation in implementation, management and supervision of infrastructure construction works, the local people’s ownership and grassroots democracy will be strengthened.

4. Reform procedures are necessary so that people’s feedback is not vulnerable to the consequences of rejection by the legal system. Legal administrators at local levels must foresee the potential problems associated with time-lags, pending litigation and assess the capacity and performance of managers of legal proceedings.



PART 4

CHALLENGES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MDGs

Viet Nam has exhibited impressive progress in the implementation of development goals with the objective of reaching MDG targets by 2015. Independent reviews of provinces/cities, ethnic groups and social organizations have shown that Viet Nam is on track to

achieve the MDGs ahead of schedule.

Nevertheless, there are two main challenges in fully achieving the eight MDGs by 2015. Namely, stabilizing the economy in the context of the global downturn and coping with the impacts of climate.

1. Stabilizing macro economics in the context of global downturn

Viet Nam had a high growth rate from 2000 to 2006, which was combined with low inflation. In addition, its formal accession into the WTO in 2007 marked an important milestone for further trade liberation. However, the huge inflow of FDI resulted in overheated credit growth in the banking system which caused a dramatic price escalation of all essential commodities, especially food. The period of low inflation was also cut short by the compound effect of Viet Nam's high trade deficit.

In light of high inflation since the end of 2007 and early 2008, the Government of Viet Nam has launched a package of remedial policies and a series of macro economic management solutions to curb the current and potentially increasing inflation. These efforts paid off when the inflation rate was maintained at less than one per cent per month from August 2008 and the trade deficit began narrowing. The Government packages prioritized inflation control, stabilizing macro economic conditions and ensuring social security. GDP growth is expected to be at 6.5% in 2008 and remain at around 6-7% in 2009.

Persistent inflation and soaring commodity prices in 2007 as well as in the first three quarters of 2008, have adversely affected the living standards of the poor in Viet Nam. In October 2008, while the macro economic condition of Viet Nam gave positive signals of stabilizing, it had to simultaneously face the adverse effects of the global recession. Despite huge efforts by foreign governments to rescue financial systems, the global economic downturn is still worsening. Though the impact is lower in many Asian countries,

because of the practice of not lending beyond safety nets, many Asian economies are suffering from short-term foreign exchange debts. In this context, the banking system of Viet Nam has been trying to settle outstanding debts in order to cope with high inflation.

However, it is expected that the direct and indirect impacts of the global recession will continue to negatively influence the economy during 2008 and in 2009 and beyond. In addition, the world's credit crisis may cause investment by foreign partners to be withheld, causing credit in cash deposits, property and stock markets to dry up. Both export and import turnover will either reduce or just slightly increase, meanwhile the price of export commodities may lower as the price of food and petroleum on international markets is already at its highest, given recent trends.

Though maintaining a stable macroeconomic condition, Viet Nam is facing a number of shortcomings and potential challenges. Export prices in Viet Nam are more sensitive to price fluctuations than in other Asian countries and the current account deficit has reached the highest on record. In addition, although credit growth (by June 2008) and inflation in Viet Nam has declined in recent months, they still remain one of the highest in Asia.

In this context, there is a need to review government investment and public expenditure so as to ensure that economic growth is in harmony with employment creation. Close monitoring of the finance, banking and monetary systems are also vital.

Another issue that needs scrutiny is the privatization of state-owned enterprises. Therefore, to ensure progress can continue to be made in the

implementation of the MDGs going forward, adequate attention needs to be paid to employment and poverty level fluctuations.

Table IV.1. Macro-financial indicators of countries with emerging markets

Country	Flexibility of prices of goods (percentage)	The balance of current account (% of GDP)	Total reserve for debt settlement (percentage)	Net External Position vis-à-vis BIS-Reporting Banks (% of GDP)	Credit growth in private industry (% per annum)	Inflation (%)	Real Policy Rate (%)
China	0,3	9,8	6,9	1,1	17,5	6,3	1,2
India	0,5	-3,1	5,9	-8,9	24,1	12,0	-3,0
Indonesia	1,2	1,8	2,1	-8,5	31,4	11,9	-2,9
Korea	0,2	-1,0	1,3	-17,5	16,0	5,9	-0,7
Malaysia	1,4	11,7	6,0	-10,1	10,3	7,7	-4,2
Pakistan	0,6	-6,9	12,1	4,8	21,6	24,3	-11,3
Philippines	0,3	2,1	2,2	-2,2	5,2	12,2	-6,5
Thailand	0,6	3,4	3,1	3,2	7,0	9,2	-5,7
Viet Nam	1,9	-13,6	14,5	-10,2	63,9	27,0	-13,0

Sources: Bloomberg L.P.; Bank for International Settlements (BIS); IMF, Trade oriented statistics, International Financial Statistics (IFS), World Economic Outlook (WEO); and estimation of IMF

2. Coping with the issue of climate change

Though the specific impacts of climate change are unclear, it is likely that Viet Nam will be one of the most-affected countries by global warming.

As a country with a long coastline of 3,200 km and large deltas, Viet Nam is concerned about climate change. A large proportion of the population is also directly dependent on these areas. Obviously the risks of higher rainfall would result in more floods or drought after the tides change. Changes in rainfall patterns and global temperatures could affect the supply of clean water and cause an increase in typhoons.

If sea levels rise by more than one metre between now and 2150, Viet Nam would lose 4.5% of its land area along the coast and 11% of the population would be displaced. According to a report by the World Bank, Viet Nam is listed among countries that are likely to suffer heavily from a rise in sea levels. In this regard, Viet Nam has committed to resolving the issue of climate change through joint action by participating in the Hyogo Framework for Action and the Kyoto Protocol.

In the meantime, a National Targeted Program has been developed and was approved in December 2008. However, there is a need to further study and update the strategy on climate change in order to make it more comprehensive with strong capacity and proper facilities for monitoring and surveillance of unexpected changes in climate.

According to the World Economic Outlook, countries with low GDP per capita like Viet Nam, are less likely to be able respond quickly to global climatic changes. These issues impact the efforts of poverty alleviation and the economic performance of the country as a whole.

Climatic change also poses dangers to many animals and plant species. They may be endangered or become extinct, which has a domino effect on ecosystem biodiversity and survival.

All these climatic effects will impact production, exports and employment.

Some of the direct impacts on livelihoods are likely to include: malnutrition, child

mortality, education and many of the other development targets outlined in the MDGs.

Despite the Government's efforts reflected in its program on natural disaster prevention and relief, there is a need to further coordinate plans and measures addressing

3. The road ahead

Viet Nam has made positive progress in the implementation of the MDGs. In the future Viet Nam must identify the best possible methods to solve the remaining challenges, with a view to achieving all the MDGs by 2015.

Impressive successes have been recorded in the areas of poverty and hunger reduction. However, Viet Nam still faces the challenges of supporting the poor during a period of economic instability and high inflation. The effects from this crisis could undermine progress on the MDGs, unless the macro economic conditions are stabilized.

Given the high educational enrolment rates achieved thus far, Viet Nam is likely to meet the MDG on net enrolment rate of lower secondary education. However, the secondary education completion rate is only 85% among ethnic minority children. This requires further changes to the education system to match the needs of ethnic minority students.

The advances in gender equality in Viet Nam are attached to programmes that ensure gender equality in legal and regulatory systems, development programmes, job creation and decision-making authorities. Institutional capacity and gender integration are being jointly promoted in Viet Nam. More and more important roles have been assigned to social organizations, especially women's associations at local levels.

Viet Nam has also seen the rate of infant mortality declining despite existing challenges. It is important to note that the mortality rate among ethnic minority children is still high and malnutrition is more prevalent in the poorer regions than in Viet Nam as a whole. In order to respond to such challenges, efforts will need to increase access to health care services for disadvantaged households, including ethnic minority groups. It will also be critical to

the issue of climate change across all ministries and sectors. The successes achieved in coping with the challenges of climate change will be a crucial factor in determining the extent of MDG achievement and pace of poverty reduction in Viet Nam.

improve the training of health care personnel and to implement community awareness activities.

Improving maternal health across all regions of the country is of great importance. Therefore, relevant health care programmes launched by the Government of Viet Nam such as "being a mother in a safe way" or "taking care of prenatal health" have provided useful information and instruction on pregnancy, giving birth and taking care of newborns. However, it is considered that the remaining disparities across regions in terms of maternal mortality are still a great challenge. In remote and mountainous regions, access to health care services and maternal care is still limited. In addition, the Government's expenditure on health care needs is not sufficient or effective.

Although a solid legal and regulatory system has now been established for effective HIV prevention strategies and measures, more work is needed on regulatory and strategic targets. Mitigating the risk of infection and providing condoms has been useful.

Viet Nam has impressive results in terms of ensuring environmental sustainability and is on track to increase forest coverage to 43% by 2010. Therefore, continued efforts should be made to monitor the expansion of infrastructure construction that may negatively impact biodiversity. Care also needs to be taken when introducing a new plant or animal species.

While Viet Nam has been successful in increasing the proportion of the population with access to clean water from 65% in 1990 to 89% in 2006, the deterioration of water supply in urban and industrial areas still poses a concern.

Despite these challenges, Viet Nam is committed to fully reaching the MDGs by the target dates.

CONCLUSION

Viet Nam has made remarkable progress since 2000 in working towards the Millennium Development Goals. The country has focused on establishing a stable socioeconomic environment and monitoring shifts in economic trends, production and labour structure within all sectors and regions and has also been searching for new markets for goods and services. These changes have increased the quality and competitiveness of products, enterprises and the economy as a whole.

Viet Nam has successfully integrated into the world economy and expanded its trade ties with other countries, enhanced the efficiency of foreign trade and sought out its role in global production. Viet Nam has set up a responsive mechanism to improve exports, attract more foreign investment and technology to strengthen its competitiveness.

The Government of Viet Nam has integrated the MDGs into the country's development goals using a common mechanism and specific adjustments to fit the local context. Each goal is localized, more flexible and specific, hence the approach has gained the support of society. The country has accomplished its goals related to poverty reduction, education and training reform, strengthened natural resource and environmental management, sustainable cultural development, comprehensive health care systems, promotion of social and gender equity and fairness, reduction of the unemployment rate, encouragement of business development, responsive social security systems and supported a firm and

sustainable social structure.

Despite recent successes, substantial changes in early 2008 have put overall development and MDG achievement at risk, with a lower economic growth rate further challenging socio-economic development goals.

Viet Nam is vulnerable thanks to its small economy and to the development of other economies. The economic shift, though significant, remains unsustainable.

There is also a need for improvement in some specific social sectors. Though Viet Nam is on track to achieve its educational targets, the quality of education and training varies heavily by region and is particularly low in remote rural areas and areas at high risk to natural disasters. Certain challenges remain affecting the public sphere such as corruption, social challenges, road safety and public security. Unsustainable poverty reduction outcomes, such as large poor populations in some areas, and a high proportion of households falling back into poverty are also major issues. Disparities between the rich and the poor are getting wider.

Policy reforms are crucial for Viet Nam to continue at the rate of economic growth experienced in recent years. Viet Nam needs to step-up the efforts of its institutions, regulations and laws to facilitate development. Viet Nam is committed to overcoming short-term obstacles and steering its economy to a more sustainable level to fully achieve the MDGs targets and improve the lives of its people.



ANNEX

ANNEX 1 MDG MAP

OVERALL MDGs



SCALE 1: 10 000 000

MDG 1

ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNG



MDG 2

ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION



SCALE 1: 10 000 000

MDG 3

PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN



MDG 4

REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY



MDG 5

IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH



MDG 6

COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES



MDG 7

ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



MDG 8

DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT



SCALE 1: 10 000 000

ANNEX 2

METHODOLOGY OF CALCULATING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN MDGR 2008

1. Selection of data

Based on Millennium Development Goal targets and indicators set forth by the UN in January 2008, the selection of data to calculate each goal are subject to the following criteria:

- The availability of data classified by 64 provinces
- The source of data: ensuring that data are provided from a reliable source, with no differences between the statistics of GSO and relevant Ministries.
- All figures cited as of 2006 (due to the availability of MDG-related data as classified by provinces/cities), only data relating to the proportion of female NA members is as of Session No. XII.

2. Method of calculating MDGs

Step 1: Rank each indicator of each province from 1 to 64, in which 1st rank represents the highest and 64th rank represents the lowest by averaging each indicator, regardless of its arithmetic value.

Step 2: Make average of ranking of all indicators for each MDG.

Step 3: Divide the average figure in step 2 to have a value of less than 1.

Step 4: To subtract the figure in step 3 from 1.

Step 5: Rank the results of step 4 from 1 to 64 by assigning 1st rank to highest value (the most close to 1) which represents the best and 64th rank for smallest value (the most close to 0) which reflects the worst achievement of MDGs.

Note: In case more than one province has the same result, they will be ranked in the same position. The order of ranking for next provinces is lagged behind in correspondence to number of coincided ranks. For example, in case there are 3 provinces having MDGs value of 0,805 and ranked 10, the subsequent province (i.e. having MDG value of 0.845) will be ranked 13.

3. Specific criteria for calculation of each MDG

• Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The calculation of MDG 1 is based on three indicators:

1. The proportion of poor households in accordance to poverty line set forth by the Government
2. The average monthly income per capita in 2006 (PPP)
3. The proportion of underweight children under five-years-old.

Source of data: GSO

• Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

The calculation of MDG 2 is based on two indicators:

1. Net enrolment rate
2. Primary completion rate

Source of data: MOET, GSO

Note: As only two indicators are used to calculate MDG 2, the value of this goal should bear only three decimal points

• Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

The calculation of MDG 3 is based on four indicators:

1. The proportion of girls in primary education, SY 2006 - 2007

2. The proportion of girls in lower secondary education, SY 2006 - 2007
3. The proportion of girls in upper secondary education, SY 2006 - 2007
4. The proportion of women in the National Assembly, session XII

Source of data: MOET, GSO, the indicator No. 4 is generated from NA statistics

• Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

The calculation of MDG 4 is based on two indicators:

1. Mortality rate of under- 1 children (infants)
2. The proportion of under- 1 children (infants) vaccinated against measles

Source of data: GSO, MOH's Reports

Note: As only 2 indicators are used to calculate MDG 2, the value of this goal should bear only three decimal points

• Goal 5: Improve maternal health

The calculation of MDG 5 is based on two indicators:

1. Rate of birth attended by health care personnel
2. Rate of women having at least three medical examinations during pregnancy

Source of data: GSO, MOH's Reports

Note: As only 2 indicators are used to calculate MDG 2, the value of this goal should have only three decimal points

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

The calculation of MDG 6 is based on four indicators:

1. The rate of newly-detected HIV cases
2. Mortality rate due to AIDS
3. Mortality rate due to TB
4. Mortality rate due to malaria

Source of data: These figures were generated from statistics on average population as of 2006 (Statistics Yearbook 2007, GSO) and MOH (The rate of newly detected HIV cases, mortality rate due to AIDS, mortality rate due to TB, mortality rate due to malaria)

• Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

The calculation of MDG 7 is based on three indicators:

1. The proportion of households having access to clean water supply
2. The proportion of household garbage collected and processed
3. Rate of forest coverage as of 2006 (the rate of Hung Yen, Can Tho and Vinh Long provinces is 0 due to no forest within local areas)\

Source of data: Household living standard survey, 2006, GSO.

• Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

The calculation of MDG 8 is based on three indicators:

1. Telephone lines per 100 population
2. Cellular subscribers per 100 population
3. Internet users per 100 population

Source of data: Ministry of Information and Communication, GSO

• Overall MDG

The overall MDG value is the synthesis of eight separate MDGs, in which the value of each goal served as indicator for calculating the overall value, using the same methods as for calculating single goals.

ANNEX 3

VIET NAM DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS

Table 1
POVERTY RATE BY CITIES AND PROVINCES

Unit: %

	2004	2006	2007 (estimated)
WHOLE COUNTRY	18.1	15.5	14.7
<i>By Regions</i>			
Red River Delta	12.9	10.1	9.6
North-east	23.2	22.2	21.1
North-west	46.1	39.4	37.5
North Central Coast	29.4	26.6	25.5
South Central Coast	21.3	17.2	16.3
Central Highland	29.2	24.0	22.9
South-east Coast	6.1	4.6	4.3
Mekong River Delta	15.3	13.0	12.4
<i>By City/ Province</i>			
Lai Chau	...	58.2	55.3
Dien Bien	...	42.9	40.8
Ha Giang	...	41.5	39.4
Bac Can	...	39.2	37.8
Son La	...	39	37.1
Cao Bang	...	38	36.1
Lao Cai	...	35.6	33.8
Hoa Binh	...	32.5	30.9
Ha Tinh	...	31.5	30.7
Kon Tum	...	31.2	29.9
Quang Tri	...	28.5	27.1
Thanh Hoa	...	27.5	26.1
Quang Binh	...	26.7	26.0
Gia Lai	...	26.7	25.6
Dak Nong	...	26.5	25.2
Nghe An	...	26	25.0
Dak Lak	...	24.3	23.1
Quang Nam	...	22.8	22.1
Quang Ngai	...	22.5	21.4
Tuyen Quang	...	22.4	21.3
Ninh Thuan	...	22.3	21.2
Yen Bai	...	22.1	21.0
Tra Vinh	...	21.8	20.7

	2004	2006	2007 (estimated)
Lang Son	...	21.0	20.0
Soc Trang	...	19.5	18.5
Bac Giang	...	19.3	18.3
Phu Tho	...	18.8	17.9
Phu Yen	...	18.5	17.8
Thai Nguyen	...	18.6	17.7
Lam Dong	...	18.3	17.6
Thua Thien - Hue	...	16.4	15.6
Binh Dinh	...	16	15.4
Ben Tre	...	16.2	15.4
Bac Lieu	...	15.7	14.9
Hau Giang	...	15	14.3
Ninh Binh	...	14.3	13.6
Ca Mau	...	14	13.3
Tien Giang	...	13.2	12.5
Ha Nam	...	12.8	12.2
Hai Duong	...	12.7	12.1
Vinh Phuc	...	12.6	12.0
Ha Tay	...	12.4	11.8
Dong Thap	...	12.1	11.5
Nam Dinh	...	12	11.4
Hung Yen	...	11.5	10.9
Vinh Long	...	11	10.5
Thai Binh	...	11	10.5
Khanh Hoa	...	11	10.5
Binh Thuan	...	11	10.5
Kien Giang	...	10.8	10.3
Binh Phuoc	...	10.5	10.0
An Giang	...	9.7	9.2
Long An	...	8.7	8.3
Bac Ninh	...	8.6	8.2
Quang Ninh	...	7.9	7.5
Hai Phong	...	7.8	7.4
Can Tho	...	7.5	7.1
Tay Ninh	...	7	6.7
Ba Ria - Vung Tau	...	7	6.7
Dong Nai	...	5	4.8
Da Nang	...	4	3.8
Ha Noi	...	3	2.9
Ho Chi Minh City	...	0.5	0.5
Binh Duong	...	0.5	0.5

Source: Vietnam Households living standard survey 2006 (VHLSS 2006)

Table 2
NET ENROLMENT RATE IN PRIMARY EDUCATION BY PROVINCES

Unit: %

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
WHOLE COUNTRY	94.61	95.04	95.96
<i>By Regions</i>			
Red River Delta	94.14	98.46	97.95
North-east	93.12	95.29	94.73
North-west	95.09	94.76	95.92
North Central Coast	95.02	96.72	94.33
South Central Coast	95.68	92.13	95.12
Central Highland	91.63	92.94	93.76
South-east Coast	94.93	94.99	97.44
Mekong River Delta	96.10	92.96	96.08
<i>By City/ Province</i>			
Da Nang	98.67	99.24	99.43
Ha Noi	93.08	99.36	99.39
Can Tho	94.90	97.59	98.89
Ho Chi Minh City	96.60	97.84	98.69
Ha Tay	96.58	98.38	98.57
Thai Binh	91.91	98.54	98.56
Bac Ninh	90.94	98.59	98.42
Dong Nai	93.51	97.20	98.32
Hai Duong	94.91	97.78	98.24
Ninh Binh	92.99	98.41	98.12
Hai Phong	94.69	97.71	98.00
Dong Thap	95.23	93.92	97.94
Ben Tre	96.86	97.2	97.85
Vinh Long	94.11	93.21	97.83
Lao Cai	83.53	92.30	97.68
Vinh Phuc	96.18	97.22	97.31
Thua Thien - Hue	97.57	98.06	97.26
Long An	94.53	98.94	97.10
Thai Nguyen	87.16	99.37	97.09
Son La	93.42	95.63	96.98
Ha Nam	94.56	99.43	96.92
Binh Thuan	94.59	90.28	96.64
Quang Ngai	95.71	88.26	96.62
Binh Phuoc	87.21	92.70	96.56
Dien Bien	97.28	96.99	96.55

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Tay Ninh	96.45	90.89	96.41
Soc Trang	92.62	87.47	96.23
Nam Dinh	94.41	99.02	96.08
Hung Yen	93.85	98.19	96.05
Binh Duong	90.14	92.94	95.97
Ba Ria - Vung Tau	98.98	94.03	95.87
Bac Giang	93.46	96.27	95.86
Hau Giang	95.91	92.99	95.70
Hoa Binh	96.16	95.04	95.68
Ha Giang	95.91	96.07	95.57
Khanh Hoa	95.73	92.72	95.51
An Giang	96.77	94.73	95.50
Kien Giang	93.96	93.70	95.31
Phu Yen	96.48	90.12	95.08
Gia Lai	90.41	94.83	94.98
Quang Ninh	96.40	96.11	94.76
Tien Giang	95.61	93.00	94.70
Nghe An	95.66	97.21	94.63
Binh Dinh	93.98	93.49	94.62
Kon Tum	95.39	90.81	94.47
Phu Tho	98.55	97.24	94.31
Bac Lieu	90.55	90.93	94.24
Lam Dong	97.47	93.11	94.16
Ninh Thuan	90.09	91.85	94.12
Tra Vinh	90.68	86.36	94.07
Ha Tinh	99.77	96.22	94.07
Quang Tri	98.99	94.06	93.99
Lang Son	95.93	94.71	93.86
Ca Mau	85.03	86.76	93.85
Thanh Hoa	91.88	97.38	93.67
Tuyen Quang	97.14	93.31	92.95
Lai Chau	95.18	89.38	92.91
Dak Lak	90.12	92.43	92.89
Yen Bai	92.10	92.28	92.72
Bac Can	95.10	91.07	92.71
Dak Nong	95.94	91.58	92.46
Quang Binh	93.24	93.96	92.27
Quang Nam	95.63	91.95	92.23
Cao Bang	87.79	93.99	90.50

Source: Ministry of Education and Training

Table 3
PROPORTION OF ETHNIC MINORITY PUPILS
IN PRIMARY EDUCATION

Unit: %

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
WHOLE COUNTRY	18.20	17.95	17.82
<i>By Regions</i>			
Red River Delta	0.78	0.71	0.76
North-east	51.12	50.80	49.13
North-west	86.43	84.48	86.37
North Central Coast	12.81	14.28	13.60
South Central Coast	8.76	8.95	8.54
Central Highland	41.52	41.80	41.88
South-east Coast	7.44	6.62	7.22
Mekong River Delta	8.13	8.00	7.73
<i>By City/ Province</i>			
Cao Bang	97.46	97.67	97.45
Dien Bien	90.76	84.31	93.55
Lao Cai	90.56	90.56	93.02
Ha Giang	90.95	87.73	90.05
Lai Chau	89.21	87.88	88.89
Son La	88.21	87.2	87.74
Thai Nguyen	87.26	87.02	83.35
Lang Son	76.18	77.06	76.61
Hoa Binh	77.66	76.37	76.37
Kon Tum	67.25	62.51	65.69
Tuyen Quang	64.13	63.71	62.98
Bac Can	60.75	60.64	59.24
Gia Lai	50.22	51.45	51.05
Dak Lak	39.73	40.30	39.88
Soc Trang	34.80	34.26	34.00
Tien Giang	32.63	32.91	32.84
Dak Nong	27.14	29.8	31.07
Yen Bai	29.27	30.64	30.41
Lam Dong	30.04	29.1	29.19
Ho Chi Minh City	26.56	27.16	28.49
Binh Phuoc	23.74	11.34	24.05
Thanh Hoa	16.85	19.74	21.14
Nghe An	19.92	19.94	17.91
Quang Ninh	17.60	17.35	17.53
Quang Ngai	17.02	17.17	17.27

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Quang Tri	14.09	16.47	16.98
Phu Tho	16.49	19.11	15.68
Can Tho	14.69	13.96	13.70
Bac Giang	17.25	16.99	13.38
Quang Nam	12.69	13.58	12.74
Ninh Thuan	9.11	9.04	9.26
Khanh Hoa	8.68	8.28	8.04
Phu Yen	8.49	8.23	7.42
Bac Lieu	9.26	9.63	7.04
Dong Nai	5.20	5.56	5.43
Kien Giang	5.88	5.55	5.40
Thua Thien - Hue	5.33	9.07	5.18
Hai Phong	4.83	4.36	4.73
Ba Ria - Vung Tau	4.97	5.4	4.22
Tra Vinh	3.49	3.55	3.55
Quang Binh	3.57	3.64	3.46
Ninh Binh	3.53	3.04	3.30
Binh Dinh	2.30	2.96	2.68
Vinh Long	2.55	2.37	2.52
Binh Thuan	2.15	2.27	2.31
Ca Mau	2.50	2.53	2.24
Tay Ninh	1.61	1.53	1.55
Ha Tay	1.26	1.30	1.34
Hau Giang	1.50	1.81	1.29
Binh Duong	0.66	0.75	0.95
Bac Ninh	0.51	0.37	0.40
Da Nang	0.23	0.24	0.36
Ha Noi	0.11	0.10	0.15
Ha Tinh	0.06	0.12	0.07
Nam Dinh	0.01	0.02	0.03
Thai Binh	0.03	0.03	0.02
Ha Nam	0.02	0.01	0.02
Vinh Phuc	0.01	0.02	0.01
Long An	0	0	0.01
Hung Yen	0	0.01	0
Hai Duong	0	0	0
Dong Thap	0.01	0.01	0
Ben Tre	0	0	0
An Giang	0	0	0

Source: Ministry of Education and Training

Table 4
PRIMARY EDUCATION COMPLETION RATE

Unit: %

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
WHOLE COUNTRY	83.66	92.41	85.62
<i>By Regions</i>			
Red River Delta	97.87	99.11	97.03
North-east	79.41	88.45	82.32
North-west	70.22	90.25	78.43
North Central Coast	93.30	97.66	90.49
South Central Coast	90.74	98.87	91.09
Central Highland	75.39	88.25	78.37
South-east Coast	87.58	96.97	90.29
Mekong River Delta	69.79	82.12	74.96
<i>By City/ Province</i>			
Bac Giang	96.81	98.87	100.64
Ha Noi	101.76	101.25	99.98
Hai Duong	98.74	98.86	98.26
Hai Phong	99.1	99.53	98.01
Ho Chi Minh City	97.04	98.35	97.98
Da Nang	100.71	101.56	97.21
Ninh Binh	96.65	99.62	97.12
Bac Ninh	97.76	97.93	96.85
Ha Nam	96.24	98.11	96.74
Binh Duong	92.04	101.27	96.40
Binh Dinh	90.36	100.16	96.37
Thai Binh	96.08	98.12	96.27
Nam Dinh	95.81	97.30	95.96
Vinh Phuc	96.28	99.34	95.82
Hung Yen	97.47	98.57	95.40
Ha Tay	97.87	99.64	95.39
Quang Tri	94.05	99.16	94.69
Phu Tho	95.52	82.12	94.10
Quang Binh	91.34	97.3	93.12
Ha Tinh	97.21	99.14	92.66
Vinh Long	79.71	94.32	92.27
Thua Thien - Hue	90.59	98.41	91.26
Ba Ria - Vung Tau	89.65	98.9	91.18
Dong Nai	89.45	98.33	90.72
Quang Nam	93.02	100.1	90.30

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Hoa Binh	93.37	102.00	90.09
Phu Yen	88.94	97.46	90.04
Tien Giang	86.13	97.14	89.85
Thanh Hoa	92.45	95.39	89.64
Ben Tre	87.87	97.66	89.33
Long An	87.14	96.39	88.44
Nghe An	94.06	99.05	88.42
Khanh Hoa	88.97	100.93	87.82
Tay Ninh	82.73	91.42	87.63
Quang Ninh	93.10	98.91	86.90
Binh Thuan	81.63	100.71	86.55
Quang Ngai	86.76	94.02	86.10
Lam Dong	86.57	93.85	85.88
Thai Nguyen	94.53	99.40	84.02
Lang Son	80.84	99.75	83.65
Yen Bai	82.13	94.94	81.42
Tuyen Quang	85.20	94.17	81.39
Lai Chau	67.39	94.89	80.50
Bac Can	80.55	98.24	80.07
Dak Lak	76.47	90.20	79.24
Tra Vinh	69.74	81.70	77.57
Kon Tum	74.00	91.70	76.42
Can Tho	70.81	81.81	76.12
Binh Phuoc	73.19	83.18	75.57
Lao Cai	73.33	71.01	74.70
An Giang	76.14	84.29	73.27
Dong Thap	72.61	73.27	72.75
Ninh Thuan	69.19	98.29	72.23
Son La	61.59	81.50	71.91
Gia Lai	65.28	79.38	71.85
Ca Mau	54.47	76.62	65.96
Kien Giang	58.29	74.58	65.83
Ha Giang	42.61	68.31	65.71
Bac Lieu	57.16	71.01	65.57
Cao Bang	58.95	70.11	65.53
Soc Trang	56.06	70.79	62.59
Hau Giang			
Dien Bien			
Dak Nong			

Source: Ministry of Education and Training

Table 5
NET ENROLMENT RATE IN LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION

Unit: %

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
WHOLE COUNTRY	77.62	76.56	78.25
<i>By Regions</i>			
Red River Delta	87.83	87.67	84.76
North-east	76.09	75.96	61.51
North-west	53.79	59.20	51.33
North Central Coast	90.03	86.72	84.13
South Central Coast	85.62	83.19	90.87
Central Highland	67.29	67.04	72.07
South-east Coast	75.60	75.90	91.30
Mekong River Delta	64.64	64.66	80.35
<i>By City/ Province</i>			
Lang Son	70.99	73.27	96.70
Nghe An	95.12	89.88	94.52
Phu Tho	85.91	83.63	91.90
Thanh Hoa	86.80	84.16	89.33
Ha Noi	92.58	85.12	88.72
Vinh Phuc	82.03	85.74	87.70
Yen Bai	74.78	71.84	87.26
Da Nang	96.04	92.35	87.21
Nam Dinh	88.28	81.26	85.71
Bac Ninh	86.58	85.76	85.50
Ha Tay	84.72	85.83	84.65
Hai Phong	86.99	83.53	84.54
Thai Nguyen	78.10	79.78	84.41
Hai Duong	90.73	84.67	83.09
Ha Nam	83.54	83.47	83.02
Phu Yen	79.06	78.65	82.98
Khanh Hoa	81.04	79.54	82.98
Ha Tinh	98.61	98.51	82.21
Thai Binh	90.59	81.02	82.19
Ninh Binh	87.97	81.02	82.19
Quang Nam	88.55	87.29	81.21
Hung Yen	88.31	82.45	80.19
Binh Thuan	74.06	72.24	78.58
Ba Ria - Vung Tau	74.67	76.46	78.58
Quang Ninh	79.7	79.48	78.57

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Bac Giang	87.31	79.47	78.57
Vinh Long	79.91	76.27	78.41
Quang Binh	87.06	84.55	78.19
An Giang	59.47	58.43	77.12
Tay Ninh	68.17	62.73	76.93
Thua Thien – Hue	82.8	78.87	76.65
Quang Tri	83.55	79.31	76.65
Tuyen Quang	76.64	85.05	76.42
Gia Lai	58.94	61.05	76.34
Quang Ngai	82.47	82.62	75.79
Binh Dinh	88.29	81.18	75.36
Binh Duong	75.66	72.39	75.30
Cao Bang	61.73	62.47	74.86
Tien Giang	78.04	77.69	74.05
Dong Nai	78.76	77.58	73.52
Kien Giang	59.75	61.31	72.91
Lam Dong	73.69	73.70	72.86
Dak Nong	63.10	64.72	72.86
Long An	75.66	77.50	72.58
Bac Can	69.07	68.22	72.57
Lao Cai	68.57	73.52	71.66
Son La	52.69	60.00	71.59
Hoa Binh	66.17	65.88	71.59
Ho Chi Minh City	82.32	86.06	68.37
Binh Phuoc	59.58	60.35	68.30
Dien Bien	49.12	57.27	65.79
Ninh Thuan	64.55	65.17	65.41
Ben Tre	74.67	68.97	64.42
Kon Tum	65.86	71.55	64.17
Can Tho	63.37	67.87	63.23
Dak Lak	69.78	66.51	63.01
Ha Giang	52.62	57.63	62.38
Dong Thap	69.29	69.37	61.96
Hau Giang	57.3	59.11	59.70
Soc Trang	48.59	48.93	58.04
Lai Chau	34.46	44.05	57.13
Ca Mau	56.71	57.26	55.28
Bac Lieu	52.57	58.46	55.28
Tra Vinh	62.35	58.98	52.18

Source: Ministry of Education and Training

Table 6
LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION COMPLETION RATE

Unit: %

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
WHOLE COUNTRY	80.57	81.94	76.59
<i>By Regions</i>			
Red River Delta	92.54	92.04	91.58
North-east	86.91	85.91	80.15
North-west	80.11	79.23	71.48
North Central Coast	85.35	87.46	81.82
South Central Coast	76.31	83.91	79.90
Central Highland	76.31	78.24	71.02
South-east Coast	76.75	79.25	74.38
Mekong River Delta	64.73	66.12	58.70
<i>By City/ Province</i>			
Thai Binh	96.34	95.58	96.04
Hai Duong	94.19	94.09	93.73
Hai Phong	90.90	92.14	92.31
Nam Dinh	93.13	93.12	92.11
Ha Nam	92.45	91.91	92.04
Ha Noi	90.87	90.06	92.01
Ha Tinh	84.36	89.47	91.48
Ninh Binh	92.82	92.41	91.02
Bac Ninh	91.66	91.23	90.34
Hung Yen	94.98	92.34	89.70
Vinh Phuc	91.01	90.33	89.44
Ha Tay	90.60	90.16	88.60
Quang Ninh	90.46	93.43	88.28
Phu Tho	93.86	91.99	87.45
Quang Tri	85.74	89.33	87.41
Quang Nam	84.67	90.9	86.13
Thai Nguyen	88.3	89.86	85.69
Ho Chi Minh City	81.70	83.04	85.42
Da Nang	88.11	91.18	84.59
Quang Binh	89.67	88.38	83.38
Bac Giang	88.53	90.87	81.92
Lai Chau	94.14	80.75	81.34
Thanh Hoa	87.79	85.61	80.96
Nghe An	82.25	91.35	80.25
Lang Son	79.36	82.03	79.79

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Yen Bai	84.82	85.94	79.58
Quang Ngai	83.34	82.75	78.48
Hoa Binh	85.06	83.62	78.40
Vinh Long	76.28	78.73	77.95
Binh Dinh	72.46	80.17	77.93
Phu Yen	75.31	80.76	77.87
Tuyen Quang	81.87	83	77.41
Cao Bang	79.69	75.16	76.28
Dang Nai	77.17	85.8	75.43
Ba Ria - Vung Tau	77.17	79.65	75.06
Khanh Hoa	53.90	79.17	74.95
Ben Tre	73.26	74.31	74.47
Dak Lak	82.17		74.20
Thua Thien – Hue	82.88	78.12	71.80
Binh Duong	79.90	79.84	70.97
Long An	72.97	75.3	70.71
Kon Tum	58.12	65.47	70.51
Tien Giang	66.83	73.31	69.63
Lao Cai	100.41	74.89	69.15
Lam Dong	74.54	79.44	68.97
Ha Giang	64.63	72.8	68.53
Gia Lai	72.41	73.84	66.45
Bac Can	88.30	79.24	66.24
Ninh Thuan	71.07	72.67	66.18
Tay Ninh	67.11	70.2	64.59
Binh Thuan	76.53	74.66	64.54
Son La	69.34	74.39	60.57
Binh Phuoc	66.56	66.10	59.12
Can Tho	61.84	63.73	58.82
Kien Giang	65.11	62.88	56.82
Dong Thap	67.03	70.01	56.75
An Giang	59.58	69.97	56.07
Soc Trang	60.55	57.51	49.87
Ca Mau	56.32	54.9	47.36
Bac Lieu	57.99	60.66	43.34
Tra Vinh	57.27	46.63	40.96
Hau Giang			
Dien Bien			
Dak Nong		81.99	

Source: Ministry of Education and Training

Table 7
EMPLOYMENT SITUATION AND NEWLY GENERATED JOBS

Unit: %

	2004	2005	2006	2007
1. Total employment	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
<i>By sector</i>				
State sector	10.26	10.17	9.53	9.30
Non-state sector	88.22	88.22	88.57	88.70
Foreign invested sector	1.52	1.61	1.90	2.00
<i>By gender</i>				
Male	51.16	51.35	51.39	51.61
Female	48.84	48.65	48.61	48.39
<i>By economic areas</i>				
Agriculture, forestry and aquaculture	57.89	56.74	54.70	52.21
Industrial and construction	17.35	17.91	18.32	19.23
Trade and service	24.75	25.35	26.99	28.56
2. Newly-generated jobs	100.0	100.0	100.0	
<i>By sector</i>				
State sector		-0.1	-0.6	-0.3
Non-state sector		0.0	0.3	0.1
Foreign invested sector		0.1	0.3	0.1
<i>By gender</i>				
Male		0.2	0.0	0.2
Female		-0.2	0.0	-0.2
<i>By economic areas</i>				
Agriculture, forestry and aquaculture		-1.2	-2.0	-2.5
Industrial and construction		0.6	0.4	0.9
Trade and service		0.6	1.6	1.6

(*) Exclusive of national security and defence areas

Source: Annual employment and jobs survey (2004-2005), Annual survey on employment and unemployment (2006-2007).

Table 8
MALNUTRITION RATE OF CHILDREN UNDER-FIVE YEARS OLD

Unit: %

	2005	2006	2007
WHOLE COUNTRY	25.2	23.4	21.2
<i>By Regions</i>			
Red River Delta	21.3	20.1	19.4
North-east	28.4	26.2	25.4
North-west	30.4	28.4	27.1
North Central Coast	30.0	24.8	25.0
South Central Coast	25.9	23.8	20.5
Central Highland	34.5	30.6	28.7
South-east Coast	18.9	19.8	18.4
Mekong River Delta	23.6	22.9	20.7
<i>By City/ Province</i>			
Dak Nong	35.2	33.6	31.9
Kon Tum	35.8	33.5	31.5
Quang Binh	34.4	32.1	30.6
Dak Lak	34.3	32.8	30.4
Lai Chau	34.4	32.2	30.0
Gia Lai	33.4	31.9	30.0
Lao Cai	33.5	31.7	29.8
Bac Can	33.9	31.8	29.8
Ha Giang	32.6	31.0	28.7
Thanh Hoa	31.3	29.1	27.3
Son La	30.9	28.6	27.1
Ninh Thuan	30.5	29.3	27.1
Yen Bai	30.8	28.6	26.1
Hoa Binh	29.8	28.0	26.1
Dien Bien	28.2	26.7	25.5
Tuyen Quang	29.2	27.1	25.2
Cao Bang	28.5	26.9	25.2
Ha Tinh	30.5	27.9	25.1
Nghe An	28.9	26.7	24.8
Lang Son	28.7	26.7	24.2
Ninh Binh	26.7	25.1	23.9
Bac Giang	28.1	26.2	23.9
Quang Ngai	29.1	27.4	23.8
Binh Phuoc	26.4	25	23.5
Vinh Phuc	27.4	25	23.1

	2005	2006	2007
Binh Dinh	28.2	26.2	23.1
Binh Thuan	27.1	25.2	23.0
Vinh Long	26.1	24.5	22.9
Tra Vinh	25.4	23.8	22.9
Phu Yen	27.8	25.2	22.8
Phu Tho	26.4	24.7	22.8
Quang Tri	25.9	24.3	22.5
Soc Trang	24.9	23.2	22.2
Thai Nguyen	26.9	24.6	22.1
Quang Nam	25.6	23.5	22.0
An Giang	24.9	23.5	22.0
Dong Thap	24.5	23	21.7
Hai Duong	24.7	23.1	21.3
Quang Ninh	24.3	22.8	21.1
Tay Ninh	23.7	22.2	21.0
Thai Binh	24.3	22.5	20.9
Hung Yen	24.1	22.1	20.9
Nam Dinh	24.4	22.4	20.8
Kien Giang	23.4	21.8	20.8
Ca Mau	22.9	21.5	20.4
Ha Nam	23.2	21.8	20.3
Ben Tre	23.9	22.4	20.3
Bac Lieu	22.9	21.3	20.1
Lam Dong	23.4	21.3	20.0
Bac Ninh	25.2	22.3	19.9
Thua Thien - Hue	23	21.2	19.8
Hau Giang	22.2	20.6	19.5
Tien Giang	22.1	20.5	19.4
Can Tho	21.9	19.9	19.1
Khanh Hoa	22.2	20.4	18.6
Long An	21.4	19.9	18.2
Ha Tay	20.5	19.5	18.2
Binh Duong	20.3	18.1	16.1
Dong Nai	18.8	16.5	15.7
Ba Ria - Vung Tau	19.1	17.5	15.1
Hai Phong	18.2	16.3	15.0
Da Nang	17.9	15.6	12.9
Ha Noi	13.6	12.2	9.7
Ho Chi Minh City	10.2	7.8	7.8

Source: Ministry of Health

Table 9
PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN REPRODUCTIVE AGE
USING CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS

Unit: %

	All methods					
	2005	2006	2007	Modern methods		
				2005	2006	2007
Total	76.9	78.0	79.0	65.8	67.1	68.2
15-19 age group	23.4	25.8	28.2	20.2	22.6	24.7
20- 24 age group	51.1	54.8	55.4	45.2	48.3	48.9
25- 29 age group	72.4	73.9	73.4	63.6	65.0	64.8
30- 34 age group	83.5	84.3	84.4	72.7	74.1	74.3
35- 39 age group	88.3	89.1	89.6	75.7	76.9	77.8
40- 44 age group	88.0	88.4	89.4	73.3	74.4	75.8
45- 49 age group	70.9	71.2	75.2	57.9	58.5	62.0

Source: Ministry of Health

Table 10
PROPORTION OF LAND AREA COVERED BY FOREST

Unit: %

	2005	2006
WHOLE COUNTRY	37.00	38.03
<i>By regions</i>		
Red River Delta	7.97	8.05
North-east	45.35	47.34
North-west	38.97	39.75
North Central Coast	47.07	49.62
South Central Coast	37.33	38.16
Central Highland	54.01	54.21
South-east Coast	25.67	25.26
Mekong River Delta	6.46	6.91
<i>By City/ Province</i>		
Kon Tum	65.10	67.80
Quang Binh	63.60	66.50
Tuyen Quang	61.80	61.20
Lam Dong	61.50	61.20
Dak Nong	56.40	55.00
Bac Can	53.0	54.10
Thua Thien - Hue	48.10	53.60
Yen Bai	48.20	53.00
Gia Lai	48.60	48.40
Cao Bang	47.30	48.20
Ha Tinh	39.60	47.40
Nghe An	46.00	46.70
Lao Cai	44.10	46.00
Phu Tho	41.60	45.70
Ha Giang	42.90	45.50
Dak Lak	45.50	45.40
Thanh Hoa	43.30	44.20
Thai Nguyen	41.40	44.10
Ninh Thuan	43.70	43.90
Quang Nam	42.50	42.40
Quang Tri	40.00	42.30
Lang Son	38.60	42.00
Quang Ninh	40.70	41.30
Son La	40.30	41.20
Hoa Binh	40.40	40.4

	2005	2006
Binh Dinh	39	40.4
Binh Thuan	39.6	40.0
Khanh Hoa	39.2	39.5
Dien Bien	38.8	39.3
Da Nang	40.9	38.0
Lai Chau	36.2	37.7
Bac Giang	38.6	37.4
Quang Ngai	29.7	33.8
Phu Yen	29.9	30.0
Dong Nai	24.8	25.5
Binh Phuoc	24.2	20.8
Ninh Binh	19.4	19.3
Vinh Phuc	18.0	18.7
Ho Chi Minh City	16.8	15.9
Ba Ria - Vung Tau	14.5	15.0
Ca Mau	15.8	14.5
Long An	12.9	13.7
Kien Giang	9.7	12.9
Tay Ninh	10.5	11
Hai Phong	9.6	9.9
Ha Nam	10.3	9.3
Ha Tay	7.4	7.6
Hai Duong	5.9	7.1
Binh Duong	5.8	6.0
Thai Binh	4.7	4.4
Tien Giang	4.0	4.1
Ha Noi	4.1	4.1
An Giang	3.4	3.6
Dong Thap	3.1	3.2
Soc Trang	2.7	2.9
Tra Vinh	2.4	2.8
Nam Dinh	3.4	2.4
Bac Lieu	2.1	1.8
Ben Tre	1.6	1.5
Hau Giang	1.2	1.2
Bac Ninh	0.9	0.6
Vinh Long	-	0
Hung Yen	-	0
Can Tho	-	0

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Table 11
PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH PROPER TOILETS
AS OF 2006

Unit: %

	Househol ds having toilets in general	In which		
		Auto- arbotive/ Semi- arbotive	Water cleaned	Tow- compart ment latrine
GENERAL	89.50	34.33	4.73	20.05
<i>By urban/rural areas</i>				
Urban	95.74	73.80	6.14	6.72
Rural	87.13	19.33	4.19	25.11
<i>By regions</i>				
Red River Delta	98.35	41.62	2.59	33.97
North-east	91.93	19.27	2.12	34.90
North-west	80.68	13.25	1.80	10.90
North Central Coast	91.59	18.48	3.16	42.13
South Central Coast	70.23	39.57	8.19	12.87
Central Highland	81.95	23.22	13.22	4.58
South-east Coast	92.79	65.96	9.02	3.83
Mekong River Delta	84.98	23.65	3.22	1.81
<i>By ethnics of household head</i>				
Kinh	91.35	37.54	5.04	21.63
Tay	89.37	10.38	2.81	14.43
Thai	84.11	3.06	0.71	7.23
Hoa	97.37	76.18	5.68	4.72
Kho me	78.50	6.07	4.91	1.59
Muong	92.85	7.08	1.16	11.86
Nung	78.18	6.63	2.76	11.62
H'mong	35.19	0.28	1.62	2.07
Dao	62.11	3.97	2.11	14.56
Others	54.73	3.75	1.73	7.10

Source: Vietnam Households Living standard Survey 2006 (VHLSS 2006), GSO

Table 12
**PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH GARBAGE COLLECTED
AND PROCESSED**

Unit: %

	Taken away by specialized personnel	Dumping into rivers/lakes	Dumping in nearby area	Other	Unspecified
Whole country	28.96	5.37	34.41	31.26	-
By regions					
Red River Delta	44.30	4.39	27.49	23.82	-
North-east	17.74	2.74	43.72	35.80	-
North-west	11.72	3.77	67.83	16.61	0.07
North Central Coast	16.13	2.78	35.69	45.40	-
South Central coast	25.82	3.34	25.95	44.89	-
Central Highland	17.51	2.59	35.83	44.07	-
South-east Coast	53.88	1.91	15.86	28.33	0.01
Mekong River Delta	12.90	14.11	49.30	23.69	-
By City/ Province					
Ha Noi	89.64	0.52	2.56	7.28	-
Ho Chi Minh City	86.73	0.81	2.42	10.03	-
Da Nang	76.07	0.33	6.2	17.4	-
Bac Ninh	65.15	4.7	13.18	16.97	-
Hai Phong	55.46	1.15	13.96	29.42	-
Quang Ninh	53.34	1.23	24.17	21.26	-
Ha Tay	45.33	4.79	37.69	12.19	-
Ba Ria - Vung Tau	45.24	1.5	29.63	23.63	-
Khanh Hoa	39.73	5.03	38.88	16.36	-
Dong Nai	35.95	3.28	21.24	39.52	-
Ninh Thuan	34.5	5.16	26.73	33.62	-
Hung Yen	34.09	7.55	51.21	7.15	-
Can Tho	33.68	22.65	25.81	17.86	-
Binh Thuan	33.13	5.66	22.81	38.4	-
Binh Duong	32.25	1.04	14.41	52.31	-
Thai Binh	31.43	2.68	20.04	45.85	-
Thua Thien - Hue	29.7	8.95	28.66	32.69	-
Lam Dong	27.83	2.22	28.52	41.43	-
Nam Dinh	27.42	5.53	41.84	25.22	-
Ninh Binh	27.14	9.37	29.64	33.84	-
Hai Duong	25.2	7.85	46.79	20.16	-
Kon Tum	24.28	1.54	53.28	20.9	-
Binh Dinh	22.64	2.37	18.29	56.7	-
Quang Binh	21.49	3.02	29.37	46.12	-
Vinh Phuc	21.28	2.44	17.76	58.51	-

	Taken away by specialized personnel	Dumping into rivers/lakes	Dumping in nearby area	Other	Unspecified
An Giang	20.01	12.92	32.47	34.59	-
Lao Cai	16.98	2.09	66.83	14.09	-
Thai Nguyen	16.69	3.27	32.9	47.14	-
Phu Yen	16.47	2.01	10.93	70.58	-
Gia Lai	16.44	1.18	46.33	36.05	-
Dien Bien	16.12	4.43	73.9	5.56	-
Quang Tri	15.82	0.17	31.4	52.6	-
Tien Giang	15.51	3.04	50.23	31.22	-
Thanh Hoa	15.36	2.28	45.41	36.95	-
Kien Giang	15.03	26.68	56.78	1.51	-
Ca Mau	14.96	23.29	49.74	12.01	-
Bac Can	14.74	5.79	63.68	15.79	-
Nghe An	14.37	2.01	33.84	49.78	-
Quang Nam	13.93	1.96	34.19	49.92	-
Hoa Binh	13.56	3.56	47	35.68	0.2
Phu Tho	13.33	4.91	39.9	41.86	-
Cao Bang	13.19	4.54	33.3	48.98	-
Ha Nam	12.95	9.55	46.87	30.63	-
Lang Son	12.29	2.47	44.06	41.18	-
Yen Bai	12.02	1.18	48.65	38.16	-
Bac Lieu	11.98	33.26	46.78	7.98	-
Dak Lak	11.49	2.68	26.98	58.85	-
Ha Giang	11.42	0.96	77.57	10.05	-
Dong Thap	11.25	16.57	43.86	28.32	-
Long An	11.09	6.63	34.53	47.75	-
Quang Ngai	10.41	7.24	36.87	45.49	-
Lai Chau	10.4	5.04	82.3	2.26	-
Tuyen Quang	10.36	2.28	35.76	51.6	-
Bac Giang	9.89	2.2	50.16	37.74	-
Ha Tinh	9.76	2.46	24.74	63.05	-
Vinh Long	9.01	17.64	68.93	4.42	-
Son La	8.35	3.31	81.16	7.18	-
Binh Phuoc	7.52	2.31	35.37	54.62	0.18
Tay Ninh	6.75	0.26	40.12	52.87	-
Dak Nong	6.61	8.31	49.94	35.14	-
Tra Vinh	6.42	8.05	71.5	14.03	-
Ben Tre	5.85	2.39	64.21	27.55	-
Soc Trang	4.41	17.32	74.97	3.31	-
Hau Giang	1.1	6.75	25.75	66.4	-

Source: Vietnam Households Living standard Survey 2006 (VHLSS 2006), GSO

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