

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Viet Nam is a unitary socialist republic with a three-tier local government system. The country is divided into 58 provinces and 5 centrally-run cities at the regional level. At the intermediate level, there are 546 rural districts, 49 urban districts, 51 district-level towns and 67 provincial cities. Finally, there are 8,978 communes, 1,581 wards and 603 commune-level towns at the local level.¹

Within the framework of the Law on Organization of Local Administration adopted in 2015, Viet Nam's local governments are considered part of the national government's administrative body and organized according to a centralized structure. Local assemblies are elected but executive bodies are appointed. Local budgets are a part of the state's budget and must be approved by the National Assembly.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The SDGs have been adapted and integrated in the **National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda (NAP)**. The NAP will be implemented in two phases: 2017-2020 and 2021-2030. The **Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2020)** is therefore aligned with the SDGs. Moreover, sustainable development principles have been thoroughly mainstreamed into the 2011-2020 Social and Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) and the 2016-2020 Social and Economic Development Plan (SEDP). In the coming years, the SDGs will be fully and further integrated into Viet Nam's 2021-2030 SEDS and 2021-2025 SEDP.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Improvement**, established in 2005, plays a consultative role to the Prime Minister regarding the implementation of sustainable development initiatives. The **Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)** is the lead agency to implement the 2030 Agenda and the NAP. Also, an **inter-sectoral working group** on the SDGs was established as part of the 2018 VNR process, to strengthen coordination between ministries, related agencies and organizations in implementing the NAP.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2018 VNR was prepared on the basis of extensive consultations with many stakeholders, including the National Assembly, ministries and related agencies, socio-political organizations, socio-professional organizations, UN agencies, development partners, local and international non-governmental organizations, representatives of the private sector and research institutes. The process also received comments from structurally discriminated and/or vulnerable groups (such as women, ethnic minority people and people with disabilities) on matters related to sustainable development, following the principle of leaving no one behind.

1.3 MONITORING

Viet Nam formulated in 2019 a **Roadmap for the implementation of Viet Nam's SDGs to 2030** and a **set of sustainable statistical indicators** to monitor and evaluate the SDGs.⁴ The country has established a **statistical working group**, composed of representatives from ministries, related agencies and led by the **Ministry of Planning and Investment's General Statistics Office**, to oversee SDG monitoring and evaluation.

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

3. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19967VNR_of_Viet_Nam.pdf (2018)

4. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 2020, National Report on Progress of Five-Year Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

22 provinces issued action plans for implementing the 2030 Agenda. Following the Prime Ministerial Decision on the National Action Plan for Implementing the 2030 Agenda (No.622/QĐ-TTg, May 2017), provincial governments are the key coordinators at the local level for implementing and reporting on the achievement of indicators to the central government. Provinces oversee SDG implementation and reporting in the cities and towns under their jurisdiction.⁵

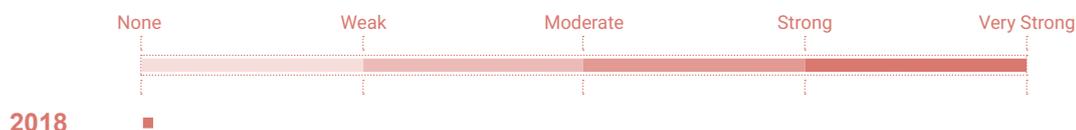
The **Association of Cities of Viet Nam** was consulted for the 2018 VNR process and participated in several national workshops on the SDGs. In 2018, it also organized two meetings on SDGs in the Mekong Delta region and in the country's northern region. It reports a regular consultation as part of the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation.⁶

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are many references to LRGs in the 2018 VNR, but limited examples of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The Ha Long-Cat Ba Alliance Initiative was launched in 2014 to build the partnership between government agencies, businesses and communities to promote conservation activities and protect the Ha Long Bay and Cat Ba archipelago. The initiative is coordinated and implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to engage stakeholders in biodiversity conservation through the high-level, business-led Alliance Leadership Committee. Members of this committee include representatives of businesses, local and international NGOs, **local authorities of Quang Ninh province and Hai Phong city**, the government of Viet Nam and the USA government.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)** is the lead agency to implement the 2030 Agenda and the NAP. The **Planning-Finance Departments** of other ministries and related agencies, as well as the **provincial Departments of Planning and Investment (DPI)**, are focal agencies to implement the 2030 Agenda. The 2018 VNR states that the majority of funding for medium-term public investment plans (2016-2020) is being channeled towards implementing the SDGs. Nonetheless, resource mobilization for SDGs implementation in coming years is predicted to be very difficult, especially with the vastly negative impact from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic worldwide.⁷

5. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

6. Answer of the Association of Cities of Viet Nam to the GTF Survey in 2021.

7. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 2020, National Report on Progress of Five-Year Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Viet Nam is one of the countries most affected by natural disasters and climate change, especially storms, flash floods, landslides and droughts. Such events have intensified during the period 1990-2017 and have caused losses of human life and damage to the economy. Nonetheless, the organization of the apparatus for natural disaster prevention and search and rescue from the central to local authorities has gradually been enhanced towards professionalism, concentration and full competence. The localities have reviewed the formulation of annual, 5-year natural disaster prevention plans and plans to respond to different types of natural disasters according to the level of natural disaster risk. Thereby, natural disaster prevention and control has gradually shifted from passive response to proactive prevention, considering prevention as key.⁸

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

While the rate of female leaders at ministry level tended to increase from nearly 19% in 2016 to 23.5% in 2018, the rate of female leaders at the commune and district levels dropped, and the rate of female leaders at the provincial level stayed almost unchanged.⁹

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁰

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		26.8 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		13.8 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		-
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		22.0 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

8. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 2020, National Report on Progress of Five-Year Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

9. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 2020, National Report on Progress of Five-Year Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

10. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/vnm>