

Summary of DFID's work in Vietnam 2011-2015

June 2012

Why we work in Vietnam

Vietnam has developed rapidly over the last two decades, following successful economic reforms since 1986. Poverty has reduced significantly from 58% in 1992 to 14% in 2010. Most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – particularly in health and education – are achieved or within reach. At the same time, the country has started asserting itself as a prominent player in global affairs: Vietnam became a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (2008-2009 term), and a Foreign Affairs Vice Minister was recently appointed as the General Secretary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for the coming term (2013 – 2018).



*Partially submerged houses caused by Typhoon Ketsana in Vietnam's central city of Hoi An, September 30, 2009
(Source: KHAM, Reuters)*

But some significant development challenges remain. More than 14 million people live below \$1.25 a day. Half of ethnic minority households are poor. The MDG target for HIV/AIDS is off track and the target for sanitation could be missed. Climate change is a real threat: Vietnam is one of the top five countries likely to be most affected by sea level rise. More effort is needed to make real progress in tackling corruption. As many girls as boys go to primary school, and the share of women in Parliament is among the highest in the world, but issues such as domestic violence still require much attention.



*Ethnic minority women engaged in maintenance work on rural roads under the Rural Transport Programme (RT3) in Lao Cai province. RT3 will help improve access to 3,000 communes and lift 320,000 people out of poverty
(Source: Phan Manh Tuan, RT3 Consultant)*

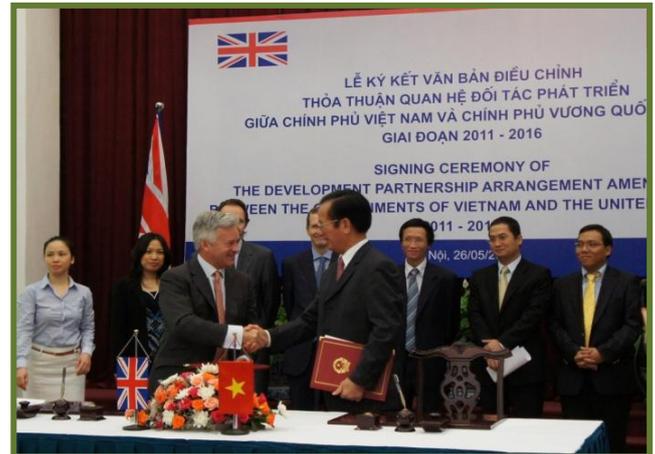
What we will achieve

- Ensure 200,000 additional people in rural areas have access to improved sanitation facilities by 2013;
- Create 20,000 jobs (half for women) by 2015;
- Help retain the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate below 1%;
- Enhance the Government's fight against corruption with a 25% increase in the percentage of people satisfied with the Government's effort;
- Help 39,000 additional poor people have access to free health insurance.

Who we will work with

Partnerships are central to the UK's development programme in Vietnam. We will continue to work closely with our counterparts in the Government of Vietnam to ensure programmes have sustainable results, particularly on policy changes. We will see through the UK-Vietnam Development Partnership Arrangement until 2016.

We will continue our close relationship with the World Bank to maximise the benefit of our joint resources. We will also work with the UN on selected issues including governance, gender and social inclusion. We will expand our work with the private sector to help create more jobs for the poor, and plan to help the Government put in place the building blocks for its Public Private Partnership programme for stronger private sector participation in infrastructure provision.



*Minister of State Alan Duncan formalized the Development Partnership Arrangement commitment with the Vietnamese Government for the 2011 – 2016 period in Hanoi, May 2011.
(Source: DFID Vietnam)*

DFID will work closely with colleagues from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Trade and Investment Department, and other UK agencies to deliver our objectives on governance, prosperity, and climate change. These objectives contribute to the implementation of the UK-Vietnam Strategic Partnership signed between the two governments in September 2010. We will also strengthen partnerships with civil society including research institutions.

How we will work

We will ensure DFID's presence in Vietnam in the next four years leaves a strong legacy. Although we currently support a mixture of project approaches, DFID staff will become increasingly involved in policy dialogue, influencing and networking with wide ranging partners in the next four years before exit. We have taken on the management of the last three MDG programmes in Cambodia on health and poverty monitoring to ensure their successful completion in 2013.

Some actions we will take on transparency include:

- Publication of Information: We will publish detailed information of all new programmes on DFID's external website. We will require (from 2012/13) civil society organisations in direct receipt of DFID funds to publish information about DFID-funded projects, to be in line with the International Aid Transparency Initiative standards
- Promoting greater transparency by the Government of Vietnam, including encouraging the Government to introduce a new Law on Access to Information
- Enabling access to information by and feedback from beneficiaries through existing and new mechanisms with partners

More information

For more information on the Operational Plan please go to: www.dfid.gov.uk/Vietnam
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