

Summary of DFID's work in Vietnam 2011-2015

May 2011

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 less than 15% in 2008. Most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – particularly in health and education – are achieved or within reach. At the same time, Vietnam has started asserting itself as a prominent player in global affairs, such as chair of ASEAN and a non-permanent member of United Nations Security Council.

But some significant development challenges remain. 18 million people live below \$1.25 a day and seven million ethnic minority people 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.



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

What we will achieve



*The Rural Transport Programme will help improve access to 3,000 communes and lift 320,000 people out of poverty
(Source: DFID Vietnam)*

- Ensure 325,000 additional people in rural areas have access to improved sanitation facilities by 2013;
- Create 20,000 jobs (half for women) by 2015;
- Ensure 10 million rural poor people benefit from enhanced climate resilience in rural development and natural resource management by 2016;
- 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. 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, wealth creation, 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 the private sector and civil society including research institutions.



*Minister of State Alan Duncan addressed the High Level Tripartite Conference on One UN in Hanoi, June 2010
(Source: One UN Vietnam Communications team)*

How we will work

We will ensure DFID's presence in Vietnam in the next five 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 three 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 full Operational Plan please go to: www.dfid.gov.uk/Vietnam

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