

# UN-HABITAT VIETNAMA 2023





Vietnam Country Report 2023

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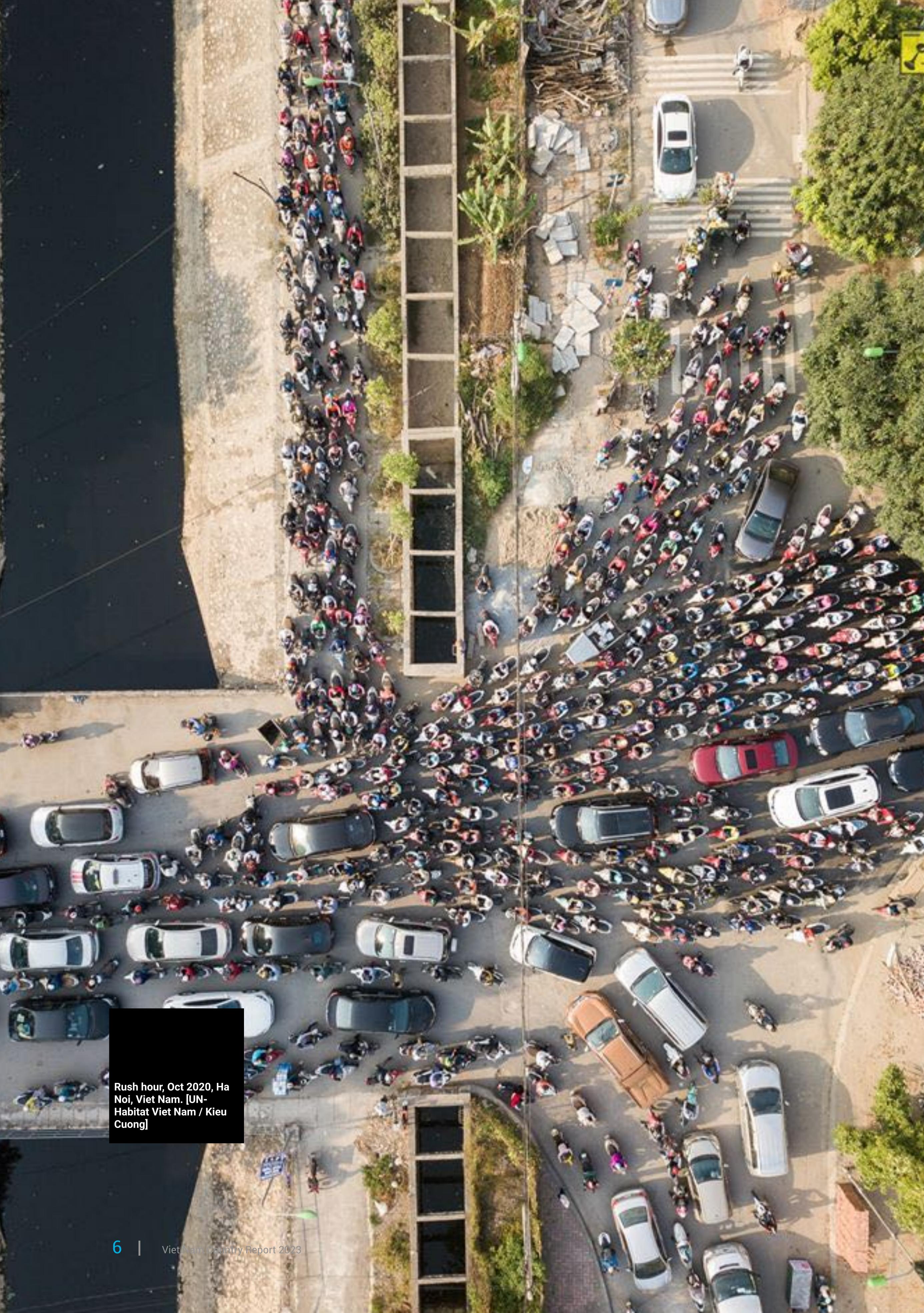
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# Urban Development Context

Vietnam's impressive growth is coupled with intensive urban transition. Since 2010, Vietnam's urban population has been growing about 3% per year, placing it well above the Southeast Asian average of 2.5%[1]. As a result, in 2021 the urbanization rate of the country reached 38% with around 37.1 million of total population lived in the cities[2]. From around 500 cities and urban centres in 1990, Viet Nam currently has 888 cities and urban areas including 02 special cities (Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City); 22 central cities or provincal cities as Class-I urban centres; 33 provincial cities as Class-II; 47 provincial cities or towns as Class-III; 94 towns and townlets as Class-IV and 690 townlets as class-V urban centres, distributed throughout the country[3].

Urban development has become an important driving force for the socio-economic development of the country with over 70% of the country's GDP has been generated from cities and urban areas[4]. However, urban growth has not been matched by sufficient provision of basic infrastructure, decent housing, low-emission transportation and equitable services. In addition, compounded climate change impacts and large-scale epidemics have revealed new extents of vulnerabilities and inequalities. There are many reasons leading to the above limitation of the urbanization process in Vietnam, but not recognising the importance of inadequate urbanisation can be considered as one of the leading causes. Consequently, the cities have not been able to deliver their full potential and improve their competitiveness.

"The highest goal for urban development in Viet Nam the next few decades is to ensure the quality of life for all people, enhance the competitiveness and investment attraction of cities, and *improve* resilience to challenges yet to come."

Pham Thai Son ISCB Project Manager Senior Urban Development

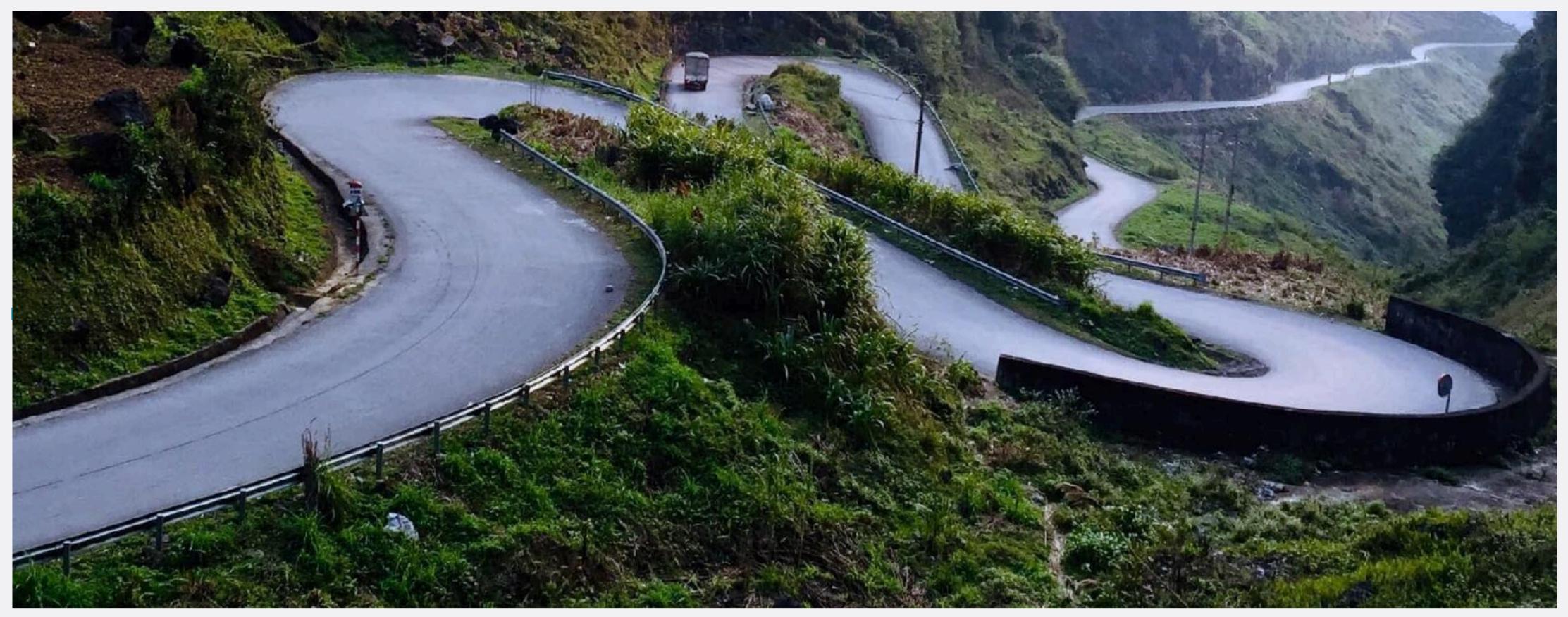
#### **Institutions and Policies**

In the last 10 years, Vietnam has focused on improving institutions and policies on urban planning and development. Besides having a relatively comprehensive system of urban planning and development laws and sub-laws, there are still shortcomings. These existing guiding documents still have not kept up with new development trends and needs, while being overlapped, and lack synchronization, especially in urban planning, classification, finance, infrastructure investment, urban government model, regional linkage and urban governance. Cross-cutting issues such as climate change, poverty reduction, affordable housing, and inclusive development in both space and society, etc. have not been properly addressed and integrated into urban planning and development policies and practices.

In practice, urban planning lacks coordination, integration, participation and long-term vision, thus failing to meet the requirements of urban development in the new context. In many cases accross administrative levels, planning have to be adjusted, incurring costs on the environment, landscape, architecture,

technical and social infrastructure and interests of urban residents and private sector. There is also a shortage of efficient and suitable tools for planning implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as for ressouce mobilization for urban development within the new requirements and fast-changing context of urbanization in Vietnam. The engagement of the private sector and the community in urban planning, development and management process needs to be further promoted to secure inclusive, comprehensive and sustainable growth[5].

The improvement of urban development mechanisms and policies should be associated with practical innovations in planning approaches and methods of planning implementation, ensuring the feasibility of urban planning and development programs and projects. The urban system of Vietnam can only develop towards sustainability if there is an integrated, strategic, and evidencebased planning approach with meaningful and inclusive participation of all stakeholders toidentify and solve outstanding problems of each municipality, each region and the whole system.



Tham Ma, April 2023, Ha Giang, Viet Nam. [UN-Habitat Vietnam/ Kieu Nguyen]

#### Administrative organization and decentralization

the issuance of Law on Organization of Local Government in 2015 and other relevant legal documents have made certain progress in distinguishing the difference in duties and powers between local governments in urban areas and in rural areas. However, it is still not clear, specific, and not completely consistent enough with the different characteristics and nature of state management and public service provision in the two types of areas. The specific tasks of urban management in cities accross administrative levels and classes are still poorly defined, leading to many urgent problems such as planning, architecture, infrastructure development, residential projects, and environmental pollution. Issues such as traffic jams, flooding, crime, etc. are difficult to be resolved in a timely manner due to lack of well-defined responsibility, capacity and coordination. For doing so, there should be more attention toward decentralization and empowerment to local authorities regarding a number of specific fields of urban management that are suitable to local capacity and needs. A higher level off decentralization and empowerment will enable urban authorities to enhance the competitiveness of cities and to have ability to mobilize further resources for investment and development at local level.

Besides, regional and inter-municipality issues have not been fully considered in relevant development regulations and policies. There is an obvious need to build an urban system with a workable governance mechanism to connect cities at the regional level to jointly address issues crossing the administrative boundaries such as climate change, water management and regional infrastructure development. At the same time, better regional linkages will create a driving force for development in clusters, promoting the potential of each and every

urban area, thereby contributing to the economic growth and sustainable development of the whole region. In this regional development perspective, more attention should be paid to small and mediumsized cities acting as satellite areas to ensuring regional balance and avoid dependence on large cities and metropolitans.

#### Resource mobilization for urban development

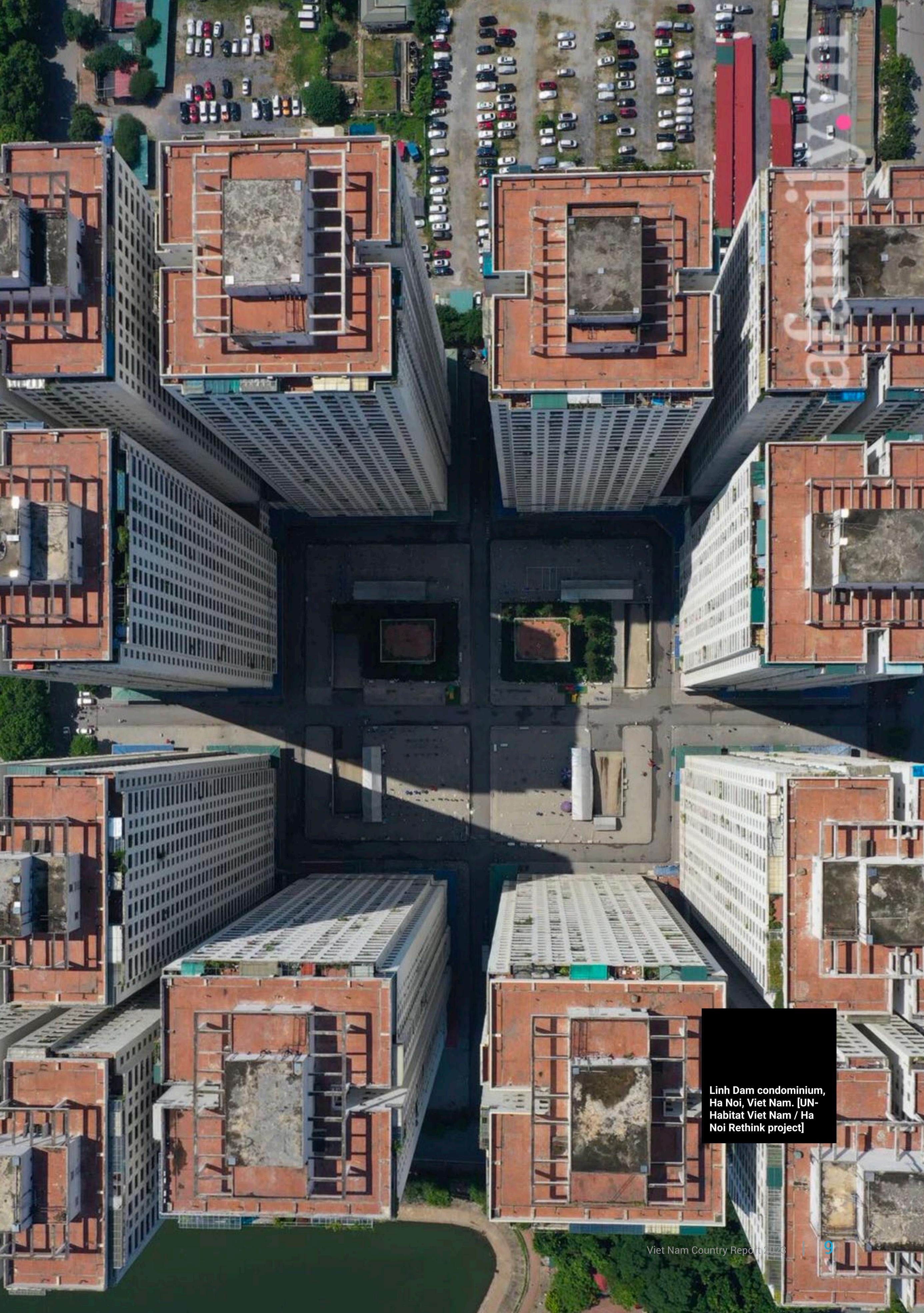
Considering significant gaps of available resource for infrastructure development and sustainable urbanization, authorities in Vietnam should consider the applicability of certain Land Value Capture tools (for example Land Pooling and Readjustment tool in urban redevelopment projects in city center or urban planning projects in suburban areas) and PPP mechanisms. These tools and mechanisms, if allowed and well implemented, will not only contribute to a better resource mobilization for urban development but also provide participatory framework and consensus building platform for local communities, private sector and other stakeholders to achieve sustainable urban development. In the long term vision, it is worth to highlight the need of having legal framework for property tax to better capitalize on limited land resources in the future. Besides, it is necessary to urgently have suitable mechanisms and policies to remove barriers and promotes urban redevelopment and upgrading. Participation of private sector and meaningful contribution of citizens and urban communities are also required for smart city development in order to catch up with the global trend and still ensure that Smart City practices should always put people, not technology, at the center of development.

<sup>[1]</sup> Urban Transition in Hanoi: Huge Challenges Ahead (Labbé, 2021)

<sup>[2]</sup> Average population by residence (GSO, 2021)

<sup>[3]</sup> Urban Development Agency: Good performance of key tasks in 2022 (MOC, 2023)

<sup>[4]</sup> Cities contribute 70% of the national GDP (MOC, 2020) [5] Closing remark at Vietnam Urban Summit (UDA, 2022)



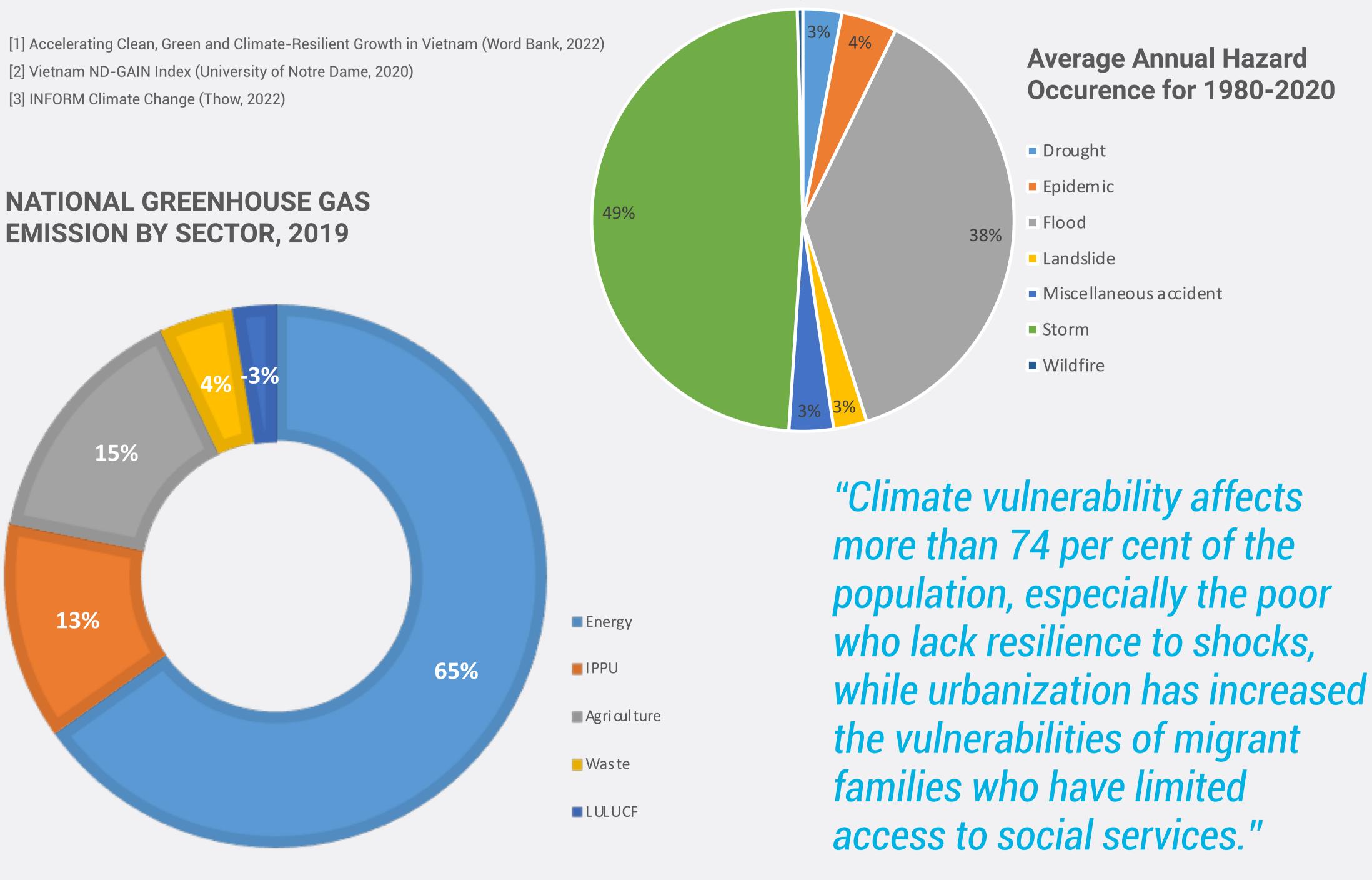
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# Climate Change Context

Vietnam's geographical location with low-lying deltas and an extensive coastline make it highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change. From 1958-2018, the national average temperature increased by 0.89°C, with new records for maximum temperature observed in recent years. Over the same period, the annual average precipitation increased by 2.1%, with counter trends from north to south. Consequently, the number of drought months increased in the north, especially the Northern Delta and decreased in the south. Over the last 30 years, tropical cyclones became more unpredictable, and the number of typhoons had a slight upward trend. In addition, the sea level is rising, with an average of 3mm/year from 1993-2018.

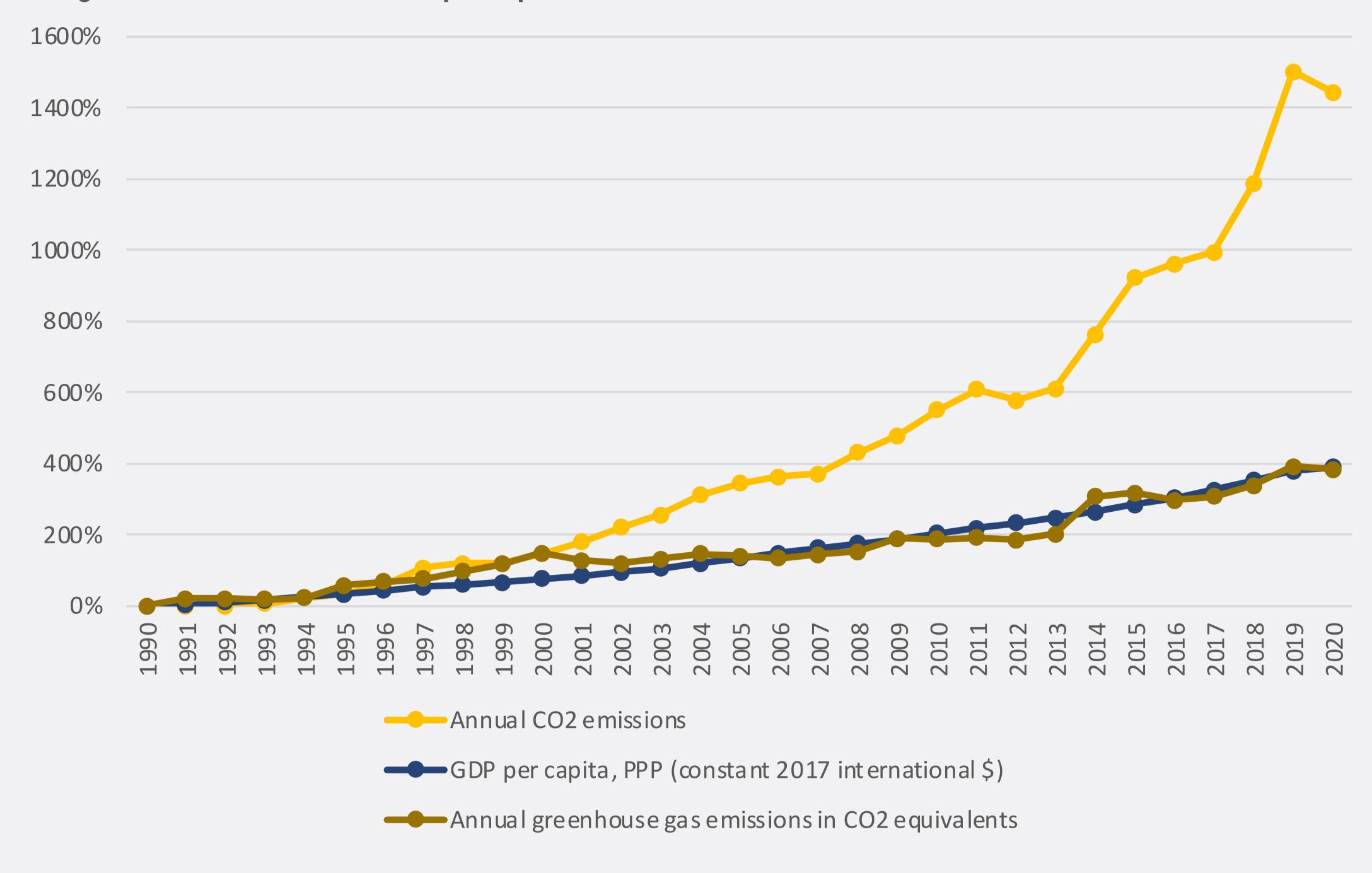
In just 10 years from 2011-2020, estimated economic losses due to extreme climate events amounted to USD 10 billion, with hundreds of thousands of hectares of forest damaged, thousands of deaths, losses and injuries. Including the impacts on other areas such as labour productivity, health or biodiversity, etc., the costs of climate change in 2020 alone are calculated to be nearly USD 11 billion[1], equivalent to 3.2% of the national GDP.

From a place of being one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, Vietnam is gradually improving its climate performance. In terms of vulnerability and readiness, its overall ranking skipped from 120 in 2001 to a moderate 97 in 2020, out of 192 countries evaluated by the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN)[2]. In 2022, Vietnam ranked 82 out of 191 countries analysed in terms of climate risk. Especially, the nation is one of the top 3 countries that have the largest exposure relative to total population regarding river and coastal flood risks.[3]



**Pauline Tamesis** *Resident Coordinator in Viet Nam* 





Vietnam's rapid growth, urbanization and industrialisation come with unequivocal costs to the environment. Over the last 3 decades, as GDP per capita grew at an average rate of 5% annually, greenhouse gas emissions followed up closely, increasing around 6% per year. While the annual greenhouse gas emissions quadrupled, that of carbon dioxide multiplied 15-fold, indicating a carbon-intensive economy. By 2019, Vietnam is the world's 16 largest emitter, with a total share of 1.06%. Energy accounted for 65% of the country's GHG emissions, while agriculture is the second-largest sector at 15%, followed by industry and waste[4].

At COP26, Vietnam pledged to achieve a net-zero emission target by 2050 and submitted its updated NDC at COP27 in November 2022. With stronger emission reduction targets than the previous NDC, Vietnam raised its unconditional contribution from 9% to 15.8%, and its conditional contribution from 27% to 43.5%, compared to the business-as-usual scenario. The country's climate action is further guided by the National Climate Change Strategy, issued in July 2022 with a vision to 2050, with sector-specific reduction targets and broad priority areas.

In May 2023, the Eight Power Development Plan (PDP8) is officially approved (Decision 500.QD-TTg). This is an important step to deliver Vietnam's commitments for just energy transition, accelerate the peaking of its greenhouse gas emissions from energy production at 170Mt CO2eq in 2030 and achieve a share of renewable energy generation of 67.5-71.5% by 2050.

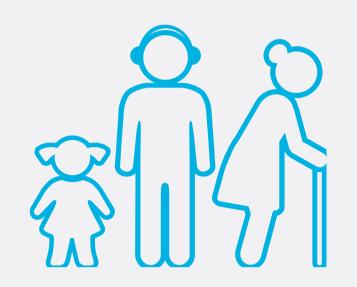
[4] Greenhouse gas emissions by sector, Vietnam, 2019 (Our World in Data, 2019)



Salinization, April 2022, Tra Vinh, Viet Nam. [UN-Habitat Vietnam]

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### Factsheet



# 98,5 million

is the total population of Viet Nam (2021)



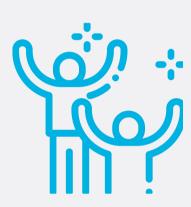
38%

of the total population are living in urban areas



2.7%

Annual urban population growth



25%

of the total population are youth from 16-30 years old



HDI 0.703

Ranked 115th out of 191 countries in Human Development Index



97.4%

of the population have access to safe drinking water



13.5%

living in slums



4.36%

Of urban population Is the prelude multidimensional poverty rate



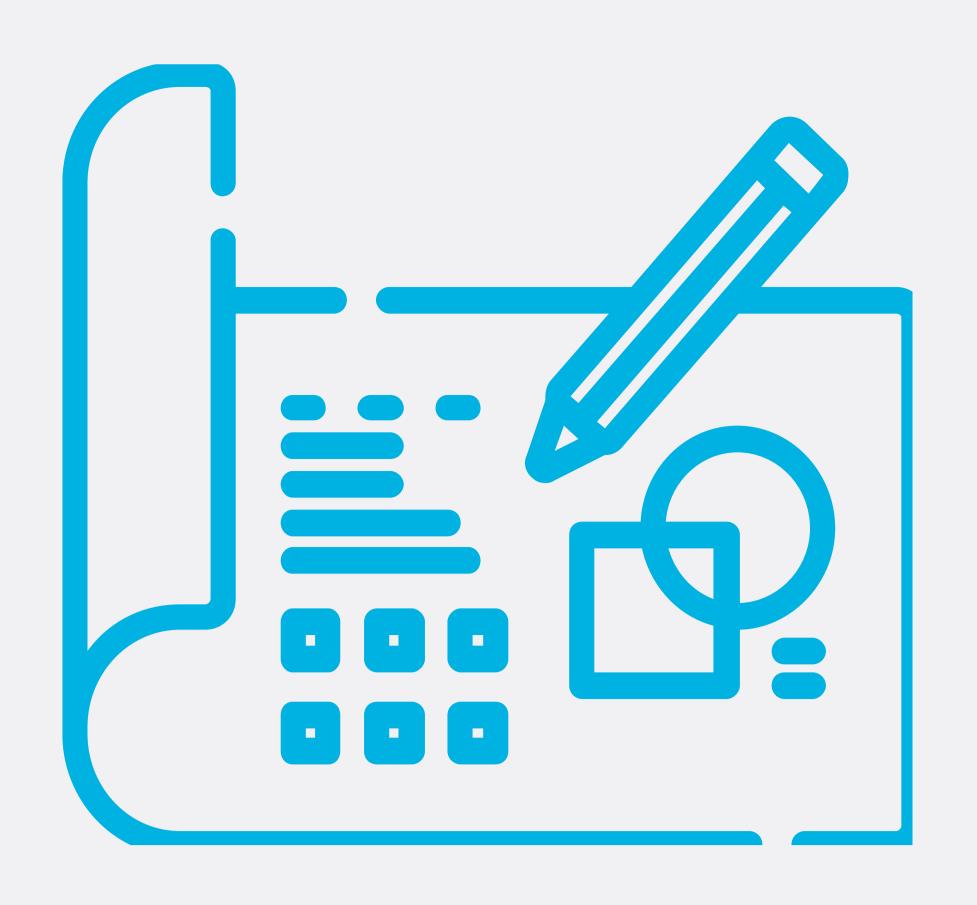


84.3%

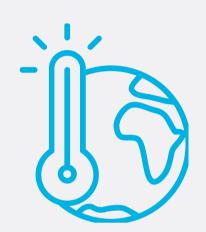
Portion of urban solid waste collected but mostly landfill

# 2m<sup>2</sup>/person

Lack of green space in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City with only 2m<sup>2</sup>/person which is equal to 1/10 of the greenery target of advanced cities in the world



Annual Total Emissions (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e)



5.85

Emissions per Capita (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)



3.756,5

GDP per Capita (USD)



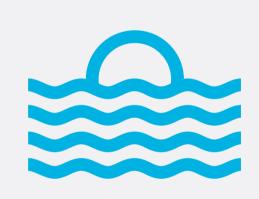
410

Emissions per GDP (tCO<sub>2</sub>/million\$GDP)



1.5%

Average annual losses to disaster at around \$2.4 billion, or almost 1.5% of GDP



3,260

kilometres of coastal line

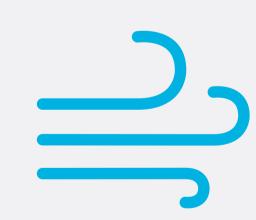


46.7%

Of the land area is forest



Of Viet Nam's trees lost from 2001-2020. About 2 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub>e



 $20 \mu g/m^3$ 

4 times higher than WHO guideline



Source:

GSO Viet Nam 2021, 2023

World Bank Data (2020, 2021)

UNFPA Report on Vietnamese Youth 2015-2018 (2018) **UNDP SDG report** 

UNISDR Basic country statistics and indicators

UNDP Human Development Reports 2021/2022

UNICEF Policy Brief Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Viet Nam 2020 (2017) GSO: Percentage of household having hygienic water (2020)

Our World in Data based on the Global Carbon Project 2023 (202123)

Air Pollution Note – Data you need to know (unep.org)

# Global Programme

The United Nations Human Settlement Programme, UN-Habitat, is the United Nations agency for human settlements. UN-Habitat's vision of "a better quality of life for all in an urbanising world", is encapsulated in the Strategic Plan (2020-2023)'s for 4 domains of change.



Five global flagship programmes catalyse the implementation of the Strategic Plan building on past and ongoing initiatives of UN-Habitat. They achieve coherence and realize synergies between initiatives, by facilitating the cross-fertilisation of ideas, experiences and lessons. They enable the establishment of long-term partnerships with national and local governments and other stakeholders. They enhance the integration of sustainable urbanization issues and strengthen the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. They integrate the social inclusion dimensions identified in the Strategic Plan 2020-2023, notably human rights, gender, children, youth and older persons, and disability.

Initiated by the Executive Director, the flagship programmes signal a paradigm shift in the way that UN-Habitat works and can help to bring about the transformative change in cities and human settlements that we need at this critical moment to leave no one behind.

In Asia Pacific Region, Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) continues to expand, now supporting 30 cities. The regional programmes bring local partners together to jointly learn and share experiences on themes such vulnerability assessments and planning for climate change, urban ecosystem-based adaptation, climate change and multilevel governance. UN-Habitat also launched "Waste Wise Cities", to address the increasing global waste management crisis in the cities, and other key interventions such as COVID-19 responses, facilitating public spaces, people centred smart cities, and safter cities through participatory slum upgrading programme.

**People-Centered Smart Cities** 



Inclusive, Vibrant Neighbourhood and Communities



RISE-UP: Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor



Inclusive cities: Enhancing the positive impacts of urban migration



**Sustainable Development Goals Cities** 

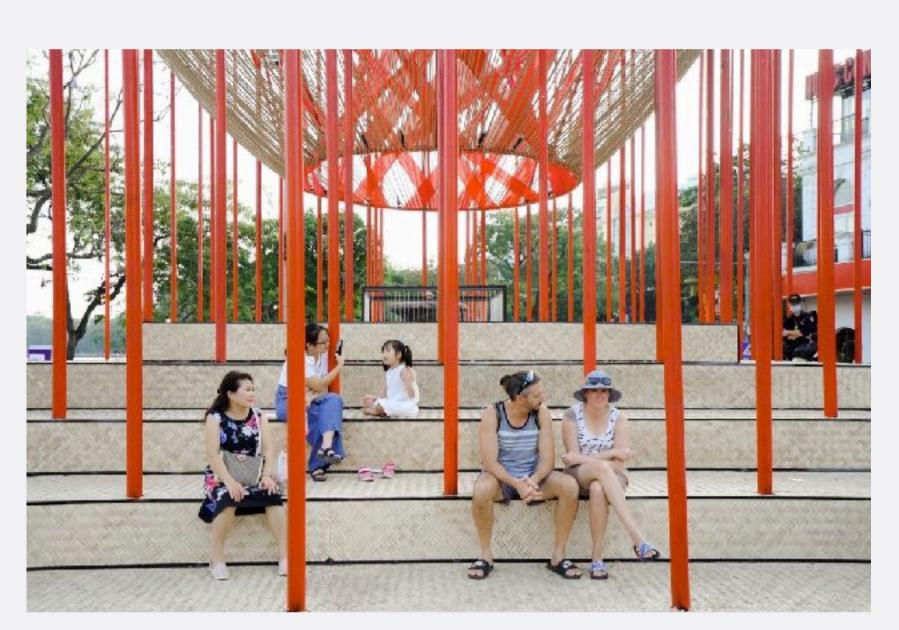


### Viet Nam's Portfolio

"Our commitment is to improve the lives of people in cities and communities. Our benchmark is the set of Sustainable Development Goals. Our aim - is to help countries respond to the challenges of urbanization and capitalize on the opportunities"

**Maimunah Mohd Sharif** *UN-Habitat Executive Director* 

Over the last 20 years, Vietnam's annual growth rate stabilises at 6-7%. Such rapid growth comes with multiple trade-offs, including marginalization, inadequate access to basic services, and environmental costs. In Vietnam, these are compounded by the impact of climate change, due to its typical geographical location with low-lying deltas and an extensive coastline. To foster sustainable urban development, UN-Habitat is supporting Vietnam government and the communities through policy advocacy, capacity building, technical assistance, and piloting of small-scale hard interventions in the fields of urban management, regeneration and planning, climate change adaptation and mitigation, creative industry and youth-led initiatives.



Creative gate, Nov 2022, Ha Noi Design Festival, Ha Noi Rethink project. [UN-Habitat Viet Nam]

human settlement



Salinization, April 2022, Tra Vinh, Viet Nam. [UN-Habitat Vietnam]

#### Percentage of current portfolio **FIGURE** 1,0%-Creative & Public space Youth & Innovation 4% 2,2% Smart urban planning GHG emission reduction 37,3% Institutional strengthening and ~\$11,3 million Capacity building (USD) for sustainable urban development 55,8% Sustainable Eco-

#### Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Sustainable Urban Development in Vietnam

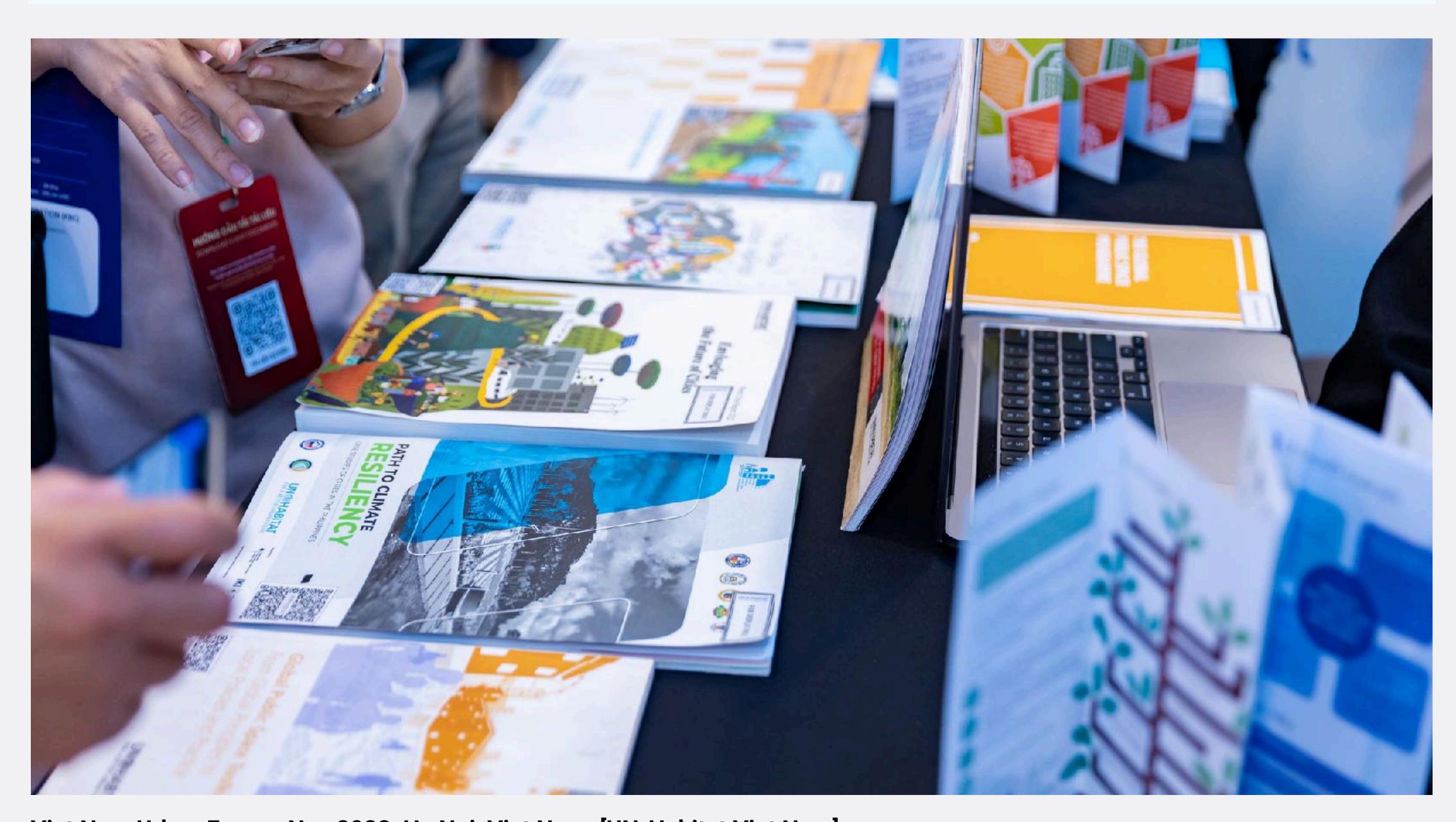
The project "Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Sustainable Urban Development in Vietnam" has concretized the effort of UN-Habitat in supporting Vietnam's urban development reform agenda. It is funded by the Swiss government through the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) from 2020 to 2025, aiming at promoting sustainable urban growth through a combination of institutional capacity building, policy development and specific pilot interventions.

The key partner and beneficiary of the project is the Institute for Urban Development Management (IUDM), established in 2018 under the Academy of Managers for Construction and Cities, a government unit under MoC. IUDM will be supported to define its institutional strategy and business plan, and to provide trainings for both national and local government officials. Training will include the approach, content and implementation of new urban regulatory documents as well as international best practices on urban planning and management.

Urban policy making process will also be strengthened by the project's support to national governments in formulating and implementing new policies and regulations, especially the Resolution 06 on Sustainable Urban Development. In addition, urban development considerations are assessed and promoted in the Planning Law implementation and revision.

Finally, ISCB will support three pilot projects that will act as practices for IUDM on how to guide subnational government authorities towards innovative thinking and integrated planning and management in the implementation of national policies and guidelines. Concreted results are ensured to prove the benefits of integrated and participatory urban planning, especially in terms of private sector and social mobilization.

The main beneficiaries of the project are relevant ministries, agencies and city governments, who will benefit from enhanced capacity on urban planning and management, as well as from a stronger network of partnerships and expertise. Direct beneficiaries are also the people residing in proximity of the three pilot projects (around 50'000 people), with a wide range of target groups, as well as the overall residents in the three selected cities where pilot projects are implemented (around 600.000 people).



Viet Nam Urban Forum, Nov 2022, Ha Noi, Viet Nam. [UN-Habitat Viet Nam]

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#### **Project**

#### Mobilizing Youth Participation and Cultural Dynamics for Ha Noi Creative City

Recognised as the UNESCO Creative City of Design in 2019, Ha Noi has committed to placing culture and creativity at the core of its sustainable development, with a wider vision to become a leading creative hub of Southeast Asia. To support the commitment of the city and funded by SOVIO, the Mobilizing Youth Participation and Cultural Dynamics for Ha Noi Creative City (Ha Noi Rethink) project is implemented by UNESCO as a leading agency, together with other two implementing partners UNIDO and UN-Habitat. This project will support Ha Noi City to implement its new strategic vision of a Creative Capital of Design, harnessing its cultural assets and youth participation as key agents for innovation, creativity, and social change.

UN-Habitat collaborated with the Hanoi Department of Culture and Sports and the Association of Architects- Architecture Magazine to integrate its activities into the bigger city's creative agenda, most notably the Hanoi Festival of Creative Design and Hanoi Public Art Design Competition was a part of. In 2023, UN-Habitat will support a youth team piloting a public space regeneration (Hanoi in Hanoi).

#### Project

#### Promoting Youth And Community Innovation For City Sustainable Development Project

The project aims to support cities in Vietnam, particularly Hoi An and Tam Ky in Quang Nam, to improve the quality of life for their urban citizens through community and youth-led innovation. It is expected to create long-term impact, namely to foster a new strategic approach for Hoi An and Tam Ky, which will link up and accelerate efforts for inclusive, transformative and sustainable development leveraging its enriched cultural and social assets, communities, and placing them at the centre of the development for the next decade and beyond.

Innovative inputs/initiatives from local people mainly youths, that emerge through the Creative Hub model will help the leadership of cities to promote inclusive and participatory vision and strategies for future development. Local communities and young entrepreneurs will be empowered to actively engage in capacity-building activities and networking through Creative Hub. Wide partnerships among multiple stakeholders- policymakers, business leaders, young entrepreneurs and local communities will be established to promote a people-centred economic platform where no one is left behind and the untapped potential of the youth will be released.





#### Project

#### **Sustainable Eco-Human Settlement**

Vietnam's Mekong River Delta (MRD), as one of the most fertile lands in the world, produces half of Vietnam's rice, 70% of its aquaculture, and one-third of its GDP. However, MRD appears highly vulnerable to climate change as it is characterised by a high level of exposure to severe climate risks, especially sea-level rise, saltwater intrusion, drought, coastal erosion and rainfall pattern change. Climate exposure and risks are underpinned by rapid urbanization and population growth, underlying vulnerabilities (poverty, limited access to basic services, gender inequalities, weatherdependent livelihoods, environmental and ecosystem degradation) and limited adaptive capacity at household, community and governance levels. The project "Enhancing the resilience inclusive and sustainable eco-human settlement development through small scale infrastructure interventions in the coastal regions of the Mekong Delta in Viet Nam" funded by the

Adaptation Fund is therefore implemented at the coastal areas of Bac Lieu and Tra Vinh provinces aiming to reduce climate exposure and risks as well as enhance the adaptive and resilient capacity of coastal communities sustainably against climate change impacts. This is done through a combination of soft and hard measures, with consideration to the specific needs of women, elderly, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities. Built institutional and community capacity will be translated to action plans, strategies and policies that can balance the gap between local and national governments and effectively respond to climate risks. The community resilience is further strengthened by the provision of community-scaled hard interventions for sustainable water resource management and eco-friendly coastal protection.

#### **Project**

#### Smart Urban Planning GHG Emission Reduction Technologies in Cities

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction in cities is critical in dealing with global warming and climate change. It can target inter-sectoral areas and multiple actors in both vertical and horizontal directions by applying integrated measures including adoption of energy efficiency technologies and development of renewable energy with co-benefits extension to environmental protection and natural resources restoration. UN-Habitat thus partnered with the Korean Institute for Advanced Engineering to demonstrate a project titled "Smart Urban Planning Platform for Promoting GHG Emission Reduction Technologies

in Cities". The project aims to enhance the capacity and performance of local governments and relevant stakeholders to promote adoption of GHG emission reduction and resource management technologies, through developing a framework for urban planning and development focused on renewable energy generation plants in the cities. The project also aims to support the Government of Vietnam to implement the Nationally Determined Contribution plan and achieve the country's emission reduction commitments under the Paris Agreement.

"The battle against climate change will clearly be won or lost in cities. The world is looking at us, and we must do this together, leaving no one and no place behind."

> **Maimunah Mohd Sharif UN-Habitat Executive Director**

### Soft Intervention



Training workshop on provincial planning, Ca Mau 2022, ISCB project [UN-Habitat Viet Nam]

#### **Purposes**

UN-Habitat programmes aim to strengthen the capacity of urban managers, practitioners and relevant stakeholders at all levels to foster sustainable urban growth and resilience.

#### **Key activities**

- Design & organisation of tailored training modules based on the local demands/ needs (in collaboration with the Ministry of Construction)
- Organisation of training on integrated planning for cities (in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Investment)
- Organisation of climate risk and vulnerability assessment training with specific materials developed for each level (district, provincial, national levels)
- Organisation of training on integrating climate action into development plans and strategies
- Organisation of training on GHG emissions reduction and resources management

""We believe that cities and communities must be the pioneers in combating climate change. We are ready to support Member States bringing together adaptation, disaster risk reduction, COVID-19 recovery and integrated development strategies."

Maimunah Mohd Sharif
UN-Habitat Executive Director



Policy advocacy, development, and improvement

Viet Nam Urban Forum, Ha Noi 2022. [UN-Habitat Viet Nam]

#### **Purposes**

Support the national and local governments to develop policy frameworks, action plans and strategies with participatory and community-based approaches to timely and accurately address urban development challenges in a systematic manner

#### **Key activities**

- Development of climate change adaptation action plans for commune/district, provincial and national levels, taking into account the present risks and vulnerabilities (Bac Lieu & Tra Vinh provinces), and focusing on sustainable eco-human settlement development
- Development of a policy framework for integration of climate action plan into the local development plans/ strategies/ policies (Bac Lieu & Tra Vinh provinces)
- Organisation of workshops/training on the integration of eco-human settlement and climate change adaptation in the local planning systems.
- Support the development of a comprehensive Strategic Economic Development Plan for Tam Thanh commune, Tam Ky city using a community-based approach
- Support the development of a comprehensive and integrated socio-spatial plan for Dong Khoi street, Ben Tre city

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# Research and technology transfer

Household waste generation and composition analysis in Tam Ky city, 2021. [UN-Habitat Viet Nam]

#### **Purposes**

Support local communities, cities and provinces in research and data collection to achieve scientific autonomy in sustainable urban development and climate change response

#### **Key activities**

- Development of climate risks & vulnerabilities assessments for the commune, district, and provincial level (Bac Lieu & Tra Vinh provinces)
- Development of criteria for eco-human settlements
- Provision of toolkits and guidelines (Waste Wise City) for efficient management of municipal wastes
- Introduction of innovative GHG reduction technologies
- Promotion of ASEAN sustainable urbanisation strategies (ASUS) implementation and development of the city-specific diagnostic report.
- Mapping of youth- and community-led initiatives in Tam Ky and Hoi An cities, their contribution to sustainable urban growth and support needs

# Knowledge management and communication



"Culture create Future", youth consultation, Nov 2021. [UN-Habitat Viet Nam]

#### **Purposes**

Sharing of knowledge products, lessons learned and best practices for short- and long-term replication

#### **Key activities**

- Organisation of climate change campaigns and community events for dissemination and sharing of information, and best practices to the community, especially children and other vulnerable groups.
- Mobilisation of cities' participation in global/ international networks/ initiatives (Waste Wise City) for co-benefit sharing

Formation of platforms/ mechanisms to nurture creative/ innovative solutions, connecting youth and community to academia, NGOs, CSOs, and the private sector (annual contest for Hanoi Creative City, Botnar...)

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### **Hard Intervention**

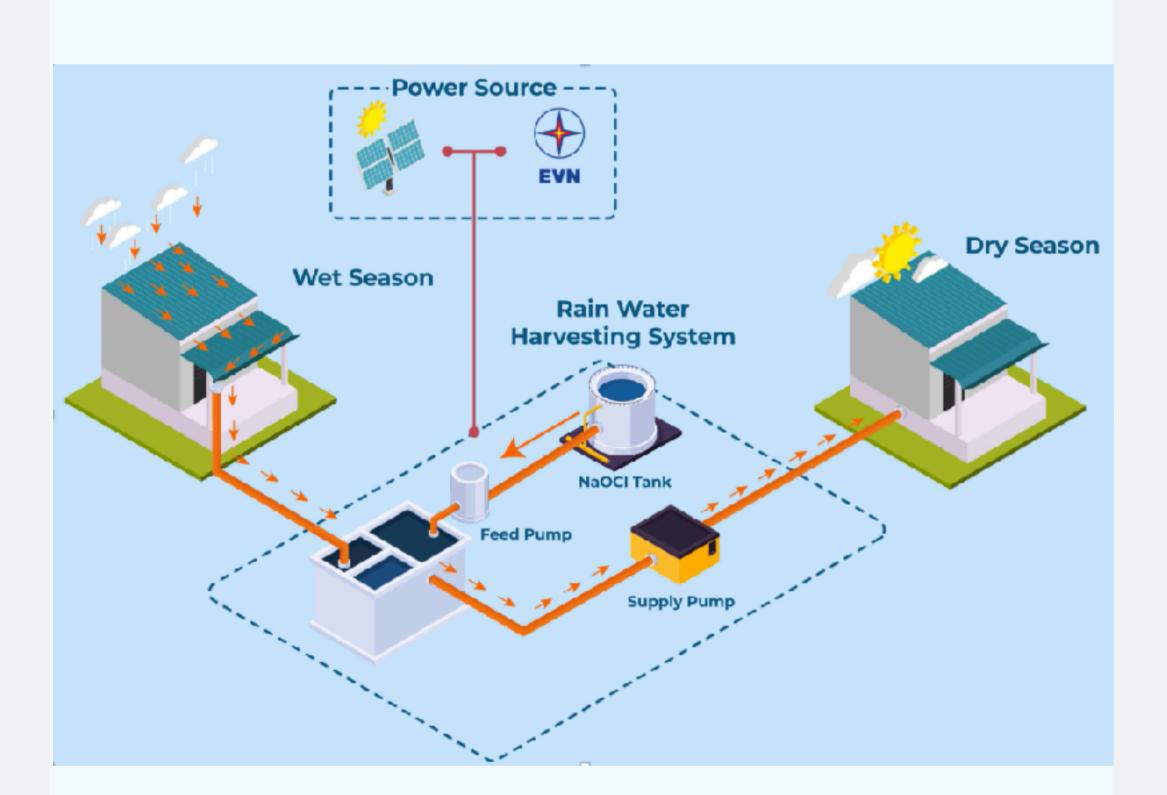
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#### Rainwater harvesting systems

#### **Purposes**

Using rainwater can increase water availability, reduce water demand from the water supply network, mitigate urban flooding and improve the quality of groundwater.

The rainwater harvesting systems help reduce the fluctuation of water supply between the rainy and dry seasons by enabling the community to store rainwater from run-off and for later uses.



#### **Key activities**

- Feasibility study for the intervention
- Construction and installation of rainwater harvesting systems
- Business development and technology transfer for the system's operation and maintenance
- Engagement of the private sector for replication of the intervention

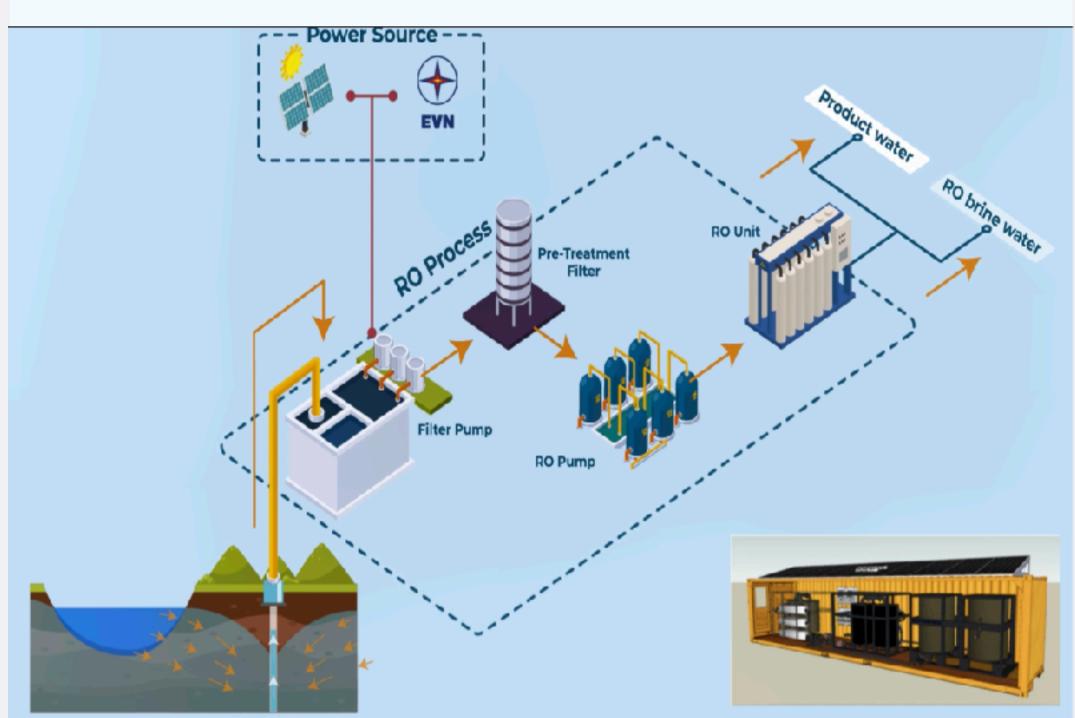
02

# **Groundwater and brackishwater treatment systems**

#### **Purposes**

The intervention helps address the increasing demand of drinking water within target communities where the freshwater supply network either cannot reach or reaches inadequately. These communities are coastal and isles.

The intervention also helps strengthen the perception and capacity of coastal communities in sustainable water resource management, especially in the dry season.



#### **Key activities**

- Feasibility study for the intervention
- Construction and installation of groundwater/brackish water treatment systems
- Business development and technology transfer for the system's operation and maintenance
- Engagement of the private sector for replication of the intervention





#### Demonstration of a renewable energy plant

#### **Purposes**

Through the cooperation with MOLIT Korea and IAE, to support Vietnam's city government in transforming unused resources in the city into renewable energy for GHG reduction and NDC commitments delivery.

#### **Key activities**

- Development of innovative and smart urban planning and development framework for local governments
- Introduction of GHG emission reduction and resource management technologies
- The pilot of renewable energy from unused resources in a selected processing plant (led by MOLIT & IAE)

#### 04

#### **Green coastal rehabilitation and control System: Elastocoast**

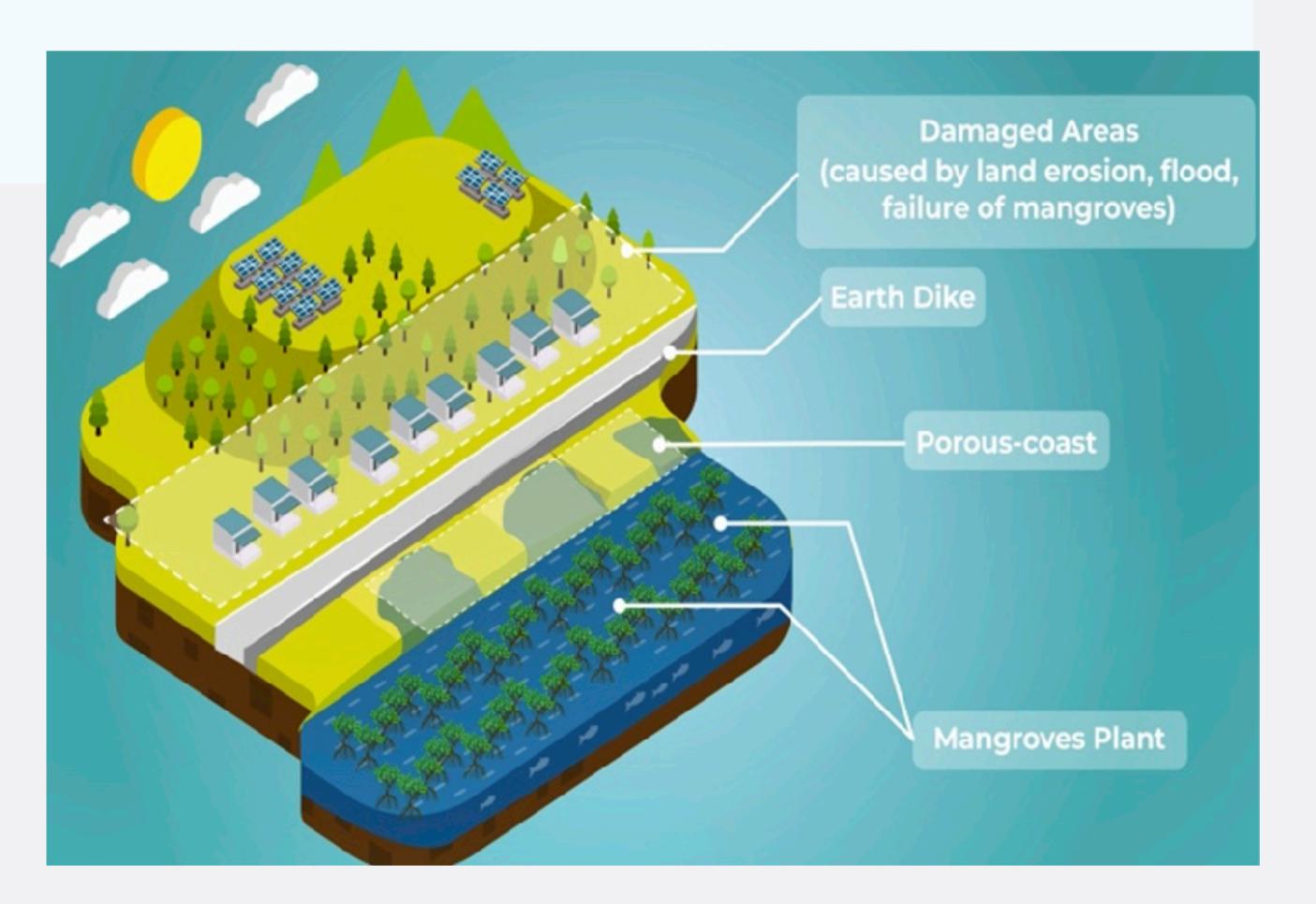
#### **Purposes**

This intervention aims to protect and rehabilitate the coast where erosion and porosity occur frequently and severely causing loss and damage of lands, ecosystems, housing and livelihoods.

The Green coastal rehabilitation and control System combines green and grey infrastructure to reinforce the coast. It is also a nature-based solution to rehabilitate the coast and its protection function/services against the impacts of climate change, sea level rise, and storm surges.

#### **Key activities**

- Feasibility study for the intervention
- Dyke reconstruction/rehabilitation
- Mangrove plantation



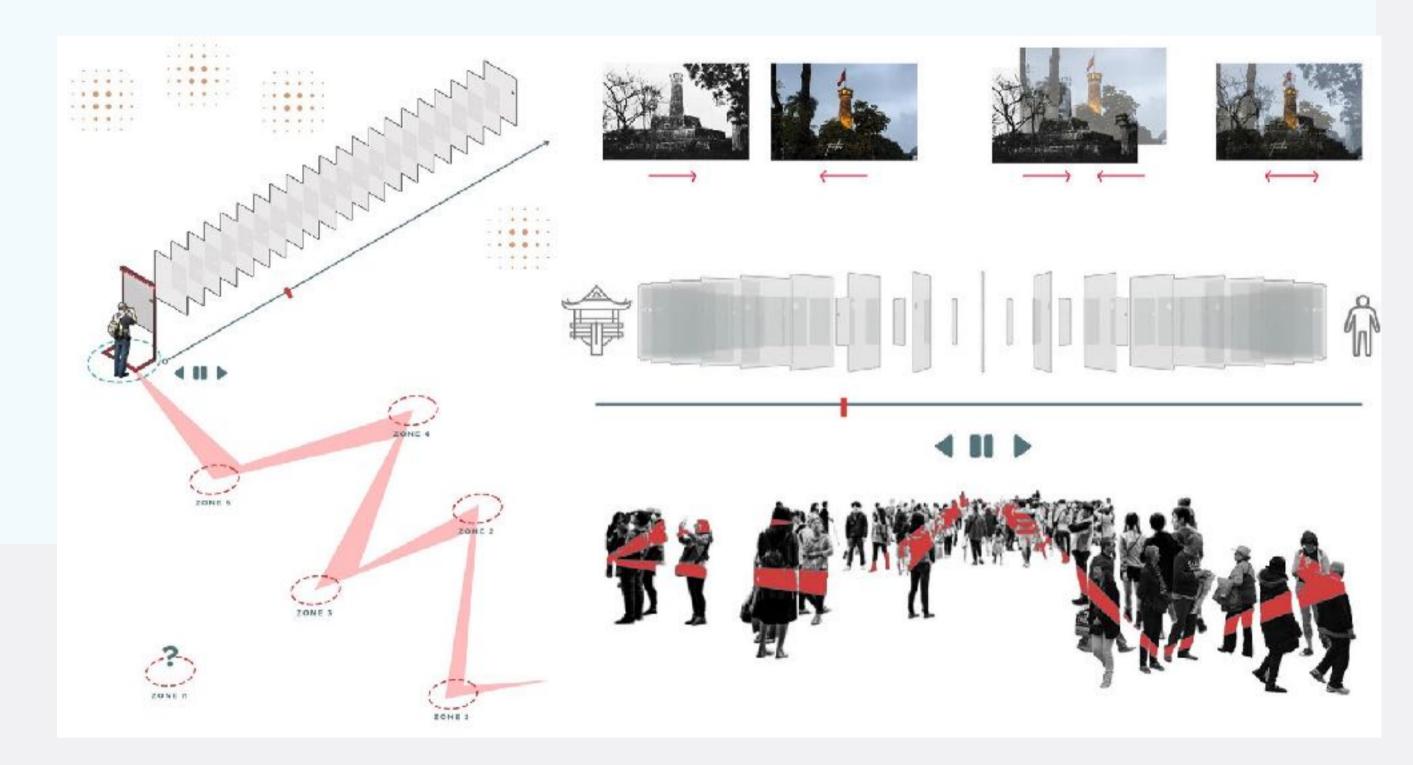
#### Ha Noi in Ha Noi - A Smart public art

#### **Purposes**

Hanoi in Hanoi, to be implemented in heritage and cultural sites, to create open and creative designs where humans and heritage can interact with each other, and history can be revitalised by these interactions. Various signages with past development of the sites will be placed near the sites through which the viewers can discover the history of such sites. This physical component of the project will be supported by an application/website that features a heritage map and serves as an interactive platform. The community can see the network of points in the project, and their introduction, and can contribute to the database.

#### **Key activities**

- Smart signages
- Mobile application with VR & video timelapse from QR scan/images
- Creative hub map with GPS



06

# Tam Thanh Eco-Tourism and Community Art Village

#### **Purposes**

Transform Tam Thanh commune, a well-known mural village, to become an Eco-Tourism and Community Art Village in the future.

Sustainable mobility, zero-waste village and public arts have been identified as priority areas for pilot implementation.



Tam Thanh mural village, Tam Ky 2022. [UN-Habitat Viet Nam / Ngan Nguyen]

#### 07

#### Ben Tre's public space

#### **Purposes**

The project aims to create a pedestrian street connecting public spaces and buildings along the corridor, to ensure the opening and operation of a new night market and to contribute to the building of urban identity in Ben Tre.



Dong Khoi park, Apr 2023, Ben Tre, Viet Nam. [UN-Habitat Vietnam]

"Local is the space where we connect the dots. Cities and towns can spearhead innovations to bridge the inequalities gaps, deliver climate action and ensure a green and inclusive recovery from the pandemic – especially as the proportion of people living in urban areas is projected to grow to 68 per cent by 2050"

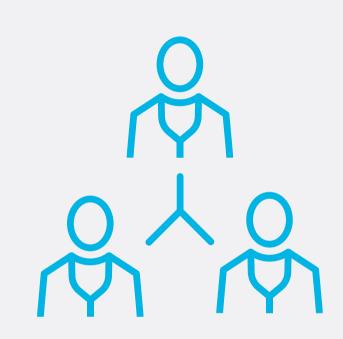
António Guterres Secretary-General of the United Nations, Foreword in World Cities Report 2022



# Proposal

For over 15 years, UN-Habitat Viet Nam has served as the global leader in promoting socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements and adequate shelter for all in Viet Nam. We value the role of partners in contributing expertise and resources to improve the quality of life for all in an urbanizing world.

The primary goal of UN-Habitat's Resource Mobilisation Strategy is to ensure sufficient, predictable, flexible, and long-term funding to deliver the results in the organization's strategic plan. It aims to be result-focused, efficient, transparent and accountable to maximise grants and investments' return on value.







8

Ministries

18

Local government & state agencies

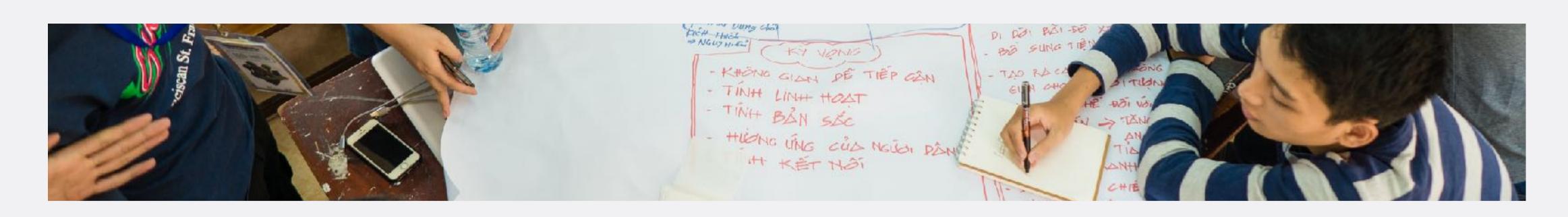
150+

NGOs, CSOs, Academia, Media, communities and partners

"The response to climate change requires a global approach, strengthening international solidarity and multilateralism, with the United Nations at the centre, has a people-wide approach, taking the people as the centre - being the owner, the resource, the driving force and the goal of development..."

**Pham Minh Chinh**Prime Minister - Viet Nam





Title	Sustainability Learning and Holistic Development through PLAY in Nature-based Playgrounds		
Targeted areas	Natural-based solution, spaces regeneration, community-based playgrounds, education		
Targeted SDGs Location	11, 13, 3 3 northern provinces, 3 central provinces and 3 southern provinces of Vietnam		
Partners	Ministry of Education and Training Ministry of Construction Think Playgrounds & Local Communities		
Estimated	USD 2.500.000 - USD 30.000.000		
Timeframe	5 years		
Objective	Provide children, their families and communities, from all backgrounds with evidence-based inclusive, integrative, safe, and accessible nature-based playgrounds to serve as a platform to enable sustainable learning through play, and children's holistic development.  - Facilitate inclusive, intergenerational sustainable development and Harmonious human-nature coexistence across socio-ecological landscapes.  - Support national and local governments to popularise early-childhood education for sustainability and inclusive, safe, accessible, child-friendly public spaces integrated with climate change response.		
Strategies	<ul> <li>The project will be executed in 3 phases using both top-down and bottom-up approaches, with a focus on transdisciplinarity and participation, informed by empirical research.</li> <li>The project represents a public-private-people partnership to effectively maximise impacts playing into each partner's prominent strengths of urban-rural planning,</li> <li>From people-centred and participatory approaches, we shall place children and communities at the heart of the decision-making process and project implementation, technically informed by experts.</li> </ul>		
Context	Vietnam's remarkable economic growth parallels various problems associated with rapid urbanisation that systematically harm its people, especially the marginalised and vulnerable children whose voices are often bypassed. Despite the well-studied benefits of outdoor play and recreation for holistic early childhood development, there is a significant shortage and decrease in urban children's opportunities for outdoor play, due to the lack of public spaces and awareness, which haven't been prioritised by relevant policymakers and city planners. Conversely, in rural Vietnam with large land funds, the needs for play-and-recreation and benefits of learning-through- play of children under six aren't accounted for, even by their own families who tend to prioritise arguably more pressing matters like nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, and academic achievements. Additionally, natural playgrounds and unstructured/ experiential play are misunderstood; there's a popular misconception that natural playgrounds are untidy and unhelpful to children's learning compared to traditional ones, thus dangerous to children's health. In a broader context, environmental change has been widely acknowledged as the most critical development issue modern humans have faced, which requires everyone to actNOW in any way possible. We believe the root cause of this crisis is the human's detachment from places and nature, which calls for education for sustainability towards a harmonious human-nature coexistence. Our project aims to solve these current interrelated crises, which affect everyone, especially children-under-six whose voices aren't properly heard, by involving them in the planning and design of their future inclusive and integrative, child-friendly nature-based playgrounds across Vietnam, along with other stakeholders including mothers and caregivers, educators, academia, artists, and policymakers from all backgrounds. By ensuring children under six's holistic development, making sure that their voices are heard in decision-making, and		

## Key components

We identify the provision of an inclusive, safe, and accessible child-friendly environment for sustainability learning and holistic development of the society's youngest to be key to achieving sustainability. Our solution is designed with three measurable outcomes and impacts to be reached within five years:

- 1. Child- friendly nature-based playground model was introduced and tested to mobilise public and community participation, and innovation supporting children's learning, health and well-being, and holistic development. Children's rights and needs for outdoor play-and- recreation and place friendship, along with awareness and concerns of stakeholders on relevant issues to support quality early childhood development, will be thoroughly studied and enhanced. We aim to create the groundwork and momentum for a transformational change toward sustainability.
- 2. Nature-based playgrounds are realised as an ideal platform to support holistic child development and promote play-based sustainability learning while addressing other societal challenges. Through context-specific piloting of 54 playgrounds across 9 localities in Northern, Central, and Southern Vietnam urban and rural settings, with direct participation of beneficiaries in planning and design, operation and maintenance, and Monitoring-Evaluation-- Learning, recognised and standardised inclusive and integrative child-friendly nature-based playgrounds would be in place, serving as exemplars.
- 3. Knowledge and experience sharing to facilitate best practices that prioritise the society's youngest, setting evidence-based and context-responsive foundations for self-sustaining replication and upscaling nationally and regionally.

From an estimate of over 5,000,000 children under 9, not to mention their families and communities across 9 localities directly benefiting from our project, with cost-benefit effectiveness at 5.45USD/child, we envision a positive ripple effect on a large population across Vietnam, changing lives of up to 7,800,000 children aged 0-4 and 8,300,000 children aged 5-9, forming the building blocks for putting the society's youngest at the forefront of action for developmental crises through creative, playful yet mindful re-naturing of cities and nature conservation in rural areas.



Top & Bottom images: Children consultation on public space, Ha Noi, 2022. [UN-Habitat Vietnam / Think Playgrounds]

"Cultures and climate differ all over the world, but people are the same. They'll gather in public if you give them a good place to do it."

Jan Gehl
Cities for People, 2010



Farmer joining community consultation, CDS Quang Nam 2014. [UN-Habitat Viet Nam]

Title	Adoption of Nature-based solutions and Green Technologies to improve resilience of the North-Central Coastal Communities (NAGTECH)	
Targeted areas	Coastal Forest restoration, coastal ecosystem protection, nature-based solutions, green technologies for climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, climate smart livelihoods and gender equality	
<b>Targeted SDGs</b>	13, 1, 15, 14, 5	
Location	Quang Binh & Quang Tri	
Partners	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Provincial People's Committees Provincial Departments of Natural Resources and Environment CSO from the private sector, academia and NGOs Local communities	
Estimated	USD 10,000,000	
Timeframe	4 years	
Objective	Build resilient and responsive capacity of coastal communities, economy, and coastal ecosystems against impacts of climate change, sea-level rise and associated disaster risks.	
Strategies	<ul> <li>Application of nature-based solutions and green technologies to restore coastal and marine ecosystems to improve biodiversity, adaptation, and resilience of the coastal regions,</li> <li>Promotion of eco-human settlement in the coastal region,</li> <li>Introduction and promotion of climate-smart livelihoods for coastal communities (including reduction of waste)</li> </ul>	
Context	Viet Nam is a coastal country featured by 28 provinces having marine and coastal economies, contributing about 53-55% to the country's GDP (2020). However, coastal resources are finite, and services provided by coastal ecosystems are declining due to cumulative climate change impacts and over-exploitation and degradation of coastal ecosystems. In fact, climate change and its impacts are putting many people living in coastal areas at risks, threatening livelihoods, and undermining efforts towards sustainable socio-economic development. Building climatesmart coastal communities in these provinces, therefore will support the strengthening of resilience and adaptability of coastal population as well as underpinning restoration of natural resources and ecosystems. Through application of nature-based solutions, green technologies and climate-smart livelihoods, climate-smart coastal landscapes are shaped, and a coastal population's resilient and adaptive capacity are improved. Generally, smart coastal communities are expected to be able to respond proactively to climate change and disaster risks and apply environmental-friendly production practices and techniques to reduce waste and GHG emissions.	

#### Key components

#### Component 1: Nature-based solutions for the transition to climate-smart coastal landscapes

- Identify and promote the application of NBSs (coastal forest; mangrove forest; sand dunes; protected areas; biodiversity corridors; ecosystem protection etc.) for building climate-smart coastal villages, climate-smart coastal landscapes, eco-human settlement (eco-disaster risk reduction),
- Support community-led adoption of NBSs to build adaptation and resilience of coastal communities, and ecological human settlements,
- Implement pilot models of climate-smart coastal communities and ecological human settlement.

#### Component 2: Green technologies for building adaptation and resilience of coastal communities

- Low-carbon waste treatment technologies (plastic waste; organic waste and wastewater),
- Energy efficiency technologies for processing, cooling, and storage of the agricultural and aquacultural products (depending on the targeted level, the investment will be defined),
- Green infrastructure for coastal protection (restoration of coastal and mangrove forests),
- Integration of identified green technologies into promoting climatesmart coastal communities.

#### Component 3: Adoption of climate-smart livelihoods by the coastal communities

- Identify types of climate-smart livelihoods for target communities,
- Promote climate-smart aquaculture and agriculture practices and techniques for sustainable development,
- Promote less-to-zero plastic waste in production activities and consumer markets,
- Support women-led and community-led decision-making for climatesmart livelihood opportunities,
- Integrate climate-smart livelihoods into the models of climate-smart coastal communities.

#### Component 4: Knowledge management and improvement to support the development of climate-smart coastal communities

- Build communication channels/platforms integrating documentation of good practices, typical case studies, learning and sharing,
- Upgrade existing regulations on environmental and natural resource management to include NBSs,
- Upgrade existing regulations on coastal resource management to include ecological human settlements,
- Enhance the capacity of authorities and communities in coastal regions to develop and replicate climate-smart coastal communities.



Minecraft workshop, Ha Noi 2017. [UN-Habitat Vietnam]



Field survey, Bac Lieu 2022. [UN-Habitat Viet Nam]

Title	Building climate-smart communities in the peri-urban areas through promotion of multi-value integrated permaculture and eco-human settlement (CSC-Climate Smart Communities)
Targeted areas	Climate smart and sustainable development, gender responsive, digital solutions
<b>Targeted SDGs</b>	5, 11, 13, 17
Location	Red River Delta (3 provinces: Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh)
Partners	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  Ministry of Construction, Vietnam Institute for Urban and Rural Planning  Contro for Suctoinable Bural Development CDD
	Centre for Sustainable Rural Development – SRD UN Women Provincial People's Committees
Estimated	USD 12,000,000
Timeframe	5 years
Objective	Climate-smart, sustainable and gender-responsive peri-urban development and planning in the Red River Delta and the Northern Midlands of Viet Nam
Strategies	<ul> <li>Strengthening of policies, mechanisms, and capacities enabling climate-smart, sustainable and gender-responsive peri-urban development and planning</li> <li>Adoption of innovative multi-value integrated permaculture, sustainable eco-human settlements, gender integration and digital solutions to promote the development of climate-smart communities</li> </ul>
Context	Peri-urban areas are characterized by a quick and intensive transition from rural to urban in land uses and human settlement. There are growing concerns about water and land uses as well as food security to meet increases in population in these areas. In fact, development of peri-urban areas involves the conversion of rural lands to residential use, closer subdivision, fragmentation and a changing mix of urban and rural activities and functions. In Vietnam, due to the expansion of the inner-city areas the process of peri-urbanization has become fast and complex with limited planning for the last 30 years. As a result, the landscape in peri-urban areas is often fragmented and disordered, adversely affecting the environment, society and economy. Environmental pollution and biodiversity degradation are the major challenges in the peri-urban areas. Under the pressure of population growth and settlement expansion, agricultural land use conversion, mixed industrial and agricultural activities, uncontrolled resource exploitation, poor synchronization of social and technical infrastructures, peri-urban ecosystems are being degraded at the rapid pace. The unplanned, or poorly planned urbanization and settlement also exposed local communities to multiple risks caused by the impacts of climate change, natural disasters, environmental pollution and epidemics, thus reducing the resilient capacity of the affected communities. As a high demand for proper planning for peri-urbanization, climate smart integration in the planning process is critical for sustainable human settlement and climate change response.

## **Key components**

# Component 1: Enhanced legal, institutional and technical capacities at all levels to promote the development of multi-value integrated permaculture in peri-urban areas

- Develop legal/economic instruments to promote public and private investments in multi-value integrated permaculture
- Develop gender-mainstreaming tools and guidance to improve the performance and leadership of women in multi-valued integrated permaculture development
- Develop legal framework and guidance for integrating innovative permaculture in peri-urban development planning
- Build technical and digital capacities for peri-urban communities to facilitate multi-value integrated permaculture development, food supply chain operation, e-market access etc.
- Build financing capacity for peri-urban communities, especially women to approach and mobilize funding for permaculture development (from the private sector, PES, carbon markets).

# Component 2 Adopted innovative permaculture practices in peri-urban areas to protect natural resources and biodiversity, and optimise multiple values while reducing inputs, emissions, and waste

- Build an evidence base for advocacy and promotion of innovative multivalued integrated permaculture (cost and benefit analysis, carbon footprint and environmental footprint assessment, gender and social inclusion analyses, climatic information analysis, geographical mapping, key actor mapping, value/supply chain mapping and analysis)
- Develop Tailored Agro-met Predictions for Target Cropping Systems (OSCAR) to support climate-smart, precise and gender-responsive permaculture.
- Demonstrate and mainstream multi-value integrated permaculture and major production chains in peri-urban agriculture policy development and planning.

## Component 3: Strengthened nature-human landscape planning and governance in peri-urban areas to reduce human interventions against nature assets

- Develop technical/legal guidance to integrate land, water, energy and ecology in the peri-urban development planning.
- Integrate soft and hard, grey and green infrastructures in nature-human landscape planning and eco-human settlement development
- Improve legal and institutional frameworks supporting sustainable nature-human landscape planning and governance
- Develop a legal framework and guidance to facilitate public and private investments in soft and hard, grey and green infrastructures supporting the eco-human settlement.



Field survey, Bac Lieu 2022. [UN-Habitat Vietnam]



The training workshop, Bac Lieu 2022. [UN-Habitat Viet Nam]

Title	Enhancing performance of decision making for protection and restoration of ecosystems supporting ecosystem-based adaptation through building an economic evidence base for coastal ecosystem services in the coastal region of the Mekong Delta
Targeted areas	Nature-based solutions, ecosystem services valuation, evidence-based decision making,
	ecosystem restoration, coastal protection, climate adaptation and resilience
Targeted SDGs	13, 15, 17
Location	Tra Vinh and Bac Lieu provinces, the Coastal region of the Mekong Delta
Partners	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
	Provincial People's Committees
	Provincial Departments of Natural Resources and Environment
	Academia, NGOs & CSOs
Catingated	Local communities
Estimated	USD 390,000
Timeframe	2 years
Objective	Enhancement of perception and performance of local authorities and communities on protection and restoration of coastal ecosystem services to promote sustainable development and climate change adaptation.
Strategies	<ul> <li>Capacity building for local authorities and decision makers on utilising evidence base and technical tools for ecosystem services protection and restoration</li> <li>Awareness raising for the community through specialised publications and communication events</li> </ul>
Context	The project aims to enhance perception and performance of local authorities and communities on protection and restoration of coastal ecosystem services promoting sustainable development and climate change adaptation in the coastal region of Mekong Rover Delta. It will develop an economic evidence base and digitalized evidence-based decision-making tools as innovative solutions for environmental decisions making, especially in rehabilitation of ecosystem services for climate change adaptation. These solutions will provide basic understanding of economic linkages between environmental decisions, development and climate change adaptation. The project carries out scientific studies, collects data and information for analysis and assessment. The collected data includes climate, population, geography, economy, climate risks and damages by natural disasters etc. The project will develop technical guidelines and tools for the valuation and assessment of coastal ecosystem services; conduct capacity building and skill trainings in use of economic evidence base and tools for environmental decision making and ecosystem-based adaptation. Participation of the private sector can help extend the project's impacts for transformative change promotion. The project's results are expected to initiate potential cooperation opportunities between the public and private sectors contributing to the protection and restoration of the coastal ecosystem services with co-benefits for climate adaptation and resilience.

#### Key components

#### Component 1: Efficient use of economic evidence base, valuation and assessment tools for environmental decision making

- Develop reports and technical guidelines on the valuation of coastal ecosystem services
- Develop reports and technical guidelines on risks and vulnerabilities assessment
- Develop an economic evidence base
- Organise training on risks/vulnerabilities assessment and valuation of ecosystem services

#### Component 2: Enhanced perception and awareness of local communities on critical roles and economic benefits of coastal ecosystem services underpinning climate change adaptation efforts

- Develop communication products targeting children and women
- Organise communication events for awareness raising and information disseminating
- Support the development of investment proposals for ecosystem-based adaptation integrating payment for ecosystem services and sustainable ecological settlement development



Coastal field survey, Tam Ky 2014. [UN-Habitat Viet Nam]

## Story from the field

"The Viet Nam Association of Architects and Architecture Magazine highly appreciate the companionship, sharing, and professionalism of UN-Habitat in Vietnam. UN-Habitat's activities have created a high interest in young people in promoting the values of public spaces, creating creative spaces and attracting the community, make practical contributions to improving people's quality of life."

**Bui Thanh Huong**Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Architecture Magazine
Viet Nam Association of Architects

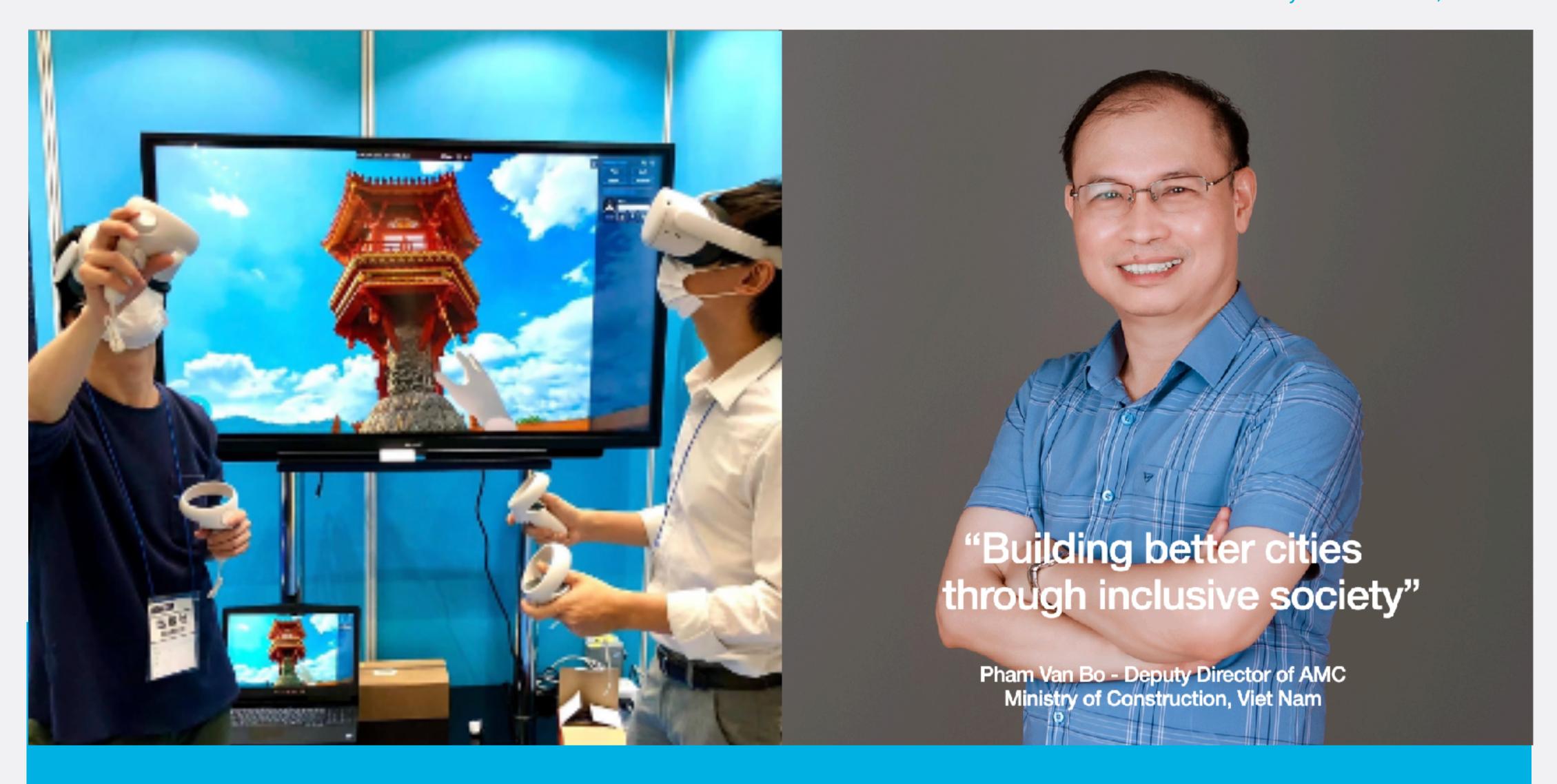




Youth consultation workshop, Ha Noi Rethink, 2021. [UN-Habitat Viet Nam]

"UN-Habitat is making remarkable achievements in the fields of urban development management, housing, environment, climate change, etc...Some projects have brought positive effects, such as Tam Thanh mural village, Phung Hung mural street"

**Dr. Pham Van Bo**Vice President of Academy of Managers for Construction and Cities
Ministry of Construction, Viet Nam



## "Linking traditional and contemporary aesthetic forwards a liveable city"

Dr. Arc. Phan Dang Son
President of Viet Nam Association of Architect



Communities consultation in Tra Vinh (2022) and Ha Noi (2021). [UN-Habitat Viet Nam]

# CCC Reach out United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Viet Nam Country Office Address: Hanoi, Viet Nam | Room 203-204, A2 Building, Van Phuc Diplomatic Compound, 298 Kim Ma, Hanoi. Tel: (84-24) 38 237 232 Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/UNHabitatVietnam 44 Viet Nam Country Report 2023



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# A better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world









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