





INTRODUCTION TO UN-HABITAT

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, is the United Nations agency for urban areas. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote sustainable urban development and provide adequate shelter for all. Our vision is cities without slums that are liveable places for all, which do not pollute the environment or deplete precious natural resources.

At the dawn of a new urban era, with most of humanity now living in cities, UN-Habitat is at the frontline of the battle against urban poverty and environmental degradation. The efforts of UN-Habitat in more than 90 countries focus on addressing problems in humanitarian and crisis situations, supporting national governments, local authorities and civil society to strengthen their capacity to manage and recover from human-made and natural disasters and mitigate future disasters.

UN-Habitat is continuously improving its capacity to meet the requirements of cities and their residents. UN-Habitat's activities focus on improving urban planning, providing cities with greater access to financial resources, disaster mitigation and reconstruction programmes, and promoting the development of green cities to tackle climate change.



UN-HABITAT VIETNAM

UN-Habitat is supporting the government of Vietnam in addressing the challenges of adequate housing and urban development. The main programme areas of UN-Habitat Vietnam include the following:

- Land and housing
- Participatory urban governance
- Environmentally sound urban infrastructure and services
- Policy advocacy, monitoring and partnership building and
- Building urban resilience to climate change

Through the Vietnam Urban Forum, UN-Habitat supports the dissemination of knowledge and enhances participatory policy discussions, especially discussion on the impacts of rapid urbanisation on communities, cities, economies and policies. Efforts to integrate sustainable urbanisation into national policy and a legislative framework on sustainable urbanisation can be complemented with improved monitoring and by having strategic partners involved in the formulation and implementation of urban policies and practices.



UN-HABITAT PRIORITIES VIETNAM

Land and Housing

Housing is more than shelter. National programmes and policies need to incorporate a broader vision for the land and housing sectors. Investment in the housing sector can be considered a major contributor to economic growth, because improvements in housing are associated with many social and economic benefits. UN-Habitat promotes a rights-based approach to land and housing by embedding the notion of land/housing rights into land/housing policies. In addition, UN-Habitat in Vietnam provides consultancy for pro-poor housing policies.

Participatory urban governance

According to the latest Population Census of the General Statistics Office, Vietnam's population in April 2012 was estimated to have reached 88.6 million people, with an urban population of 32.2% (equivalent to 28.5 million people) which is set to reach 50% by the year 2040. Well-managed urbanisation generates economic growth, social harmony, and scientific progress. In contrast, poorly managed urbanisation leads to poverty, urban sprawl, pollution, and the unsustainable consumption of natural resources. UN-Habitat supports the government of Vietnam in its goal to achieve sustainable urbanisation, by giving emphasis to the development of participatory urban planning and local development practices. These urban planning practices incorporate aspects of policy-making and strategic development, while taking into account factors such as local culture, gender, and demographic change.

Environmentally sound urban infrastructure and services

The infrastructure we design and build today locks cities into unsustainable production and consumption patterns which take decades, if not longer to overcome. The lack of attention to environmental and social aspects in urban infrastructure development can greatly reduce the economic competitiveness of urban areas.

UN-Habitat Vietnam also promotes equal access to basic services for all, including clean water and sanitation. We promote eco-friendly approaches to urban infrastructure development, such as the treatment and recycling of solid waste and waste water, as well as the reduction of carbon emissions through the introduction of efficient urban transport systems.

Policy advocacy, monitoring and partnerships

Effective policy advocacy, implementation monitoring and partnership building are vital to achieve sustainable urbanisation and urban poverty reduction objectives which are at the forefront of national development policies and strategies. We support the development of an urban observatory system which can help cities identify urban priorities and monitor and evaluate urban development conditions and trends. This system is expected to promote the use of urban data in decision-making processes at all levels.

UN-Habitat also supports the dissemination of information and encourages policy debates within the Vietnam Urban Forum. Attention to issues related to sustainable urbanisation can be improved when strategic partners are involved more in the formulation and implementation of urban policies and practices in Vietnam.



Building urban resilience to climate change

Building urban resilience to climate change is a key programme area for UN-Habitat Vietnam. There is increasing evidence to prove that climate change presents unique challenges for urban areas and their growing populations. Where urban areas grow rapidly without regard to the current and future impacts of climate change, large numbers of people and their assets can find themselves vulnerable to a range of disruptive and damaging risks. It is forecasted that by 2100 climate change will affect approximately 39% of the total area of the Mekong Delta, 10% of the total area of the Red River Delta, and 20% of Ho Chi Minh City. In response, UN-Habitat Vietnam is providing technical support for a variety of government programmes and projects on climate change mitigation. These include:

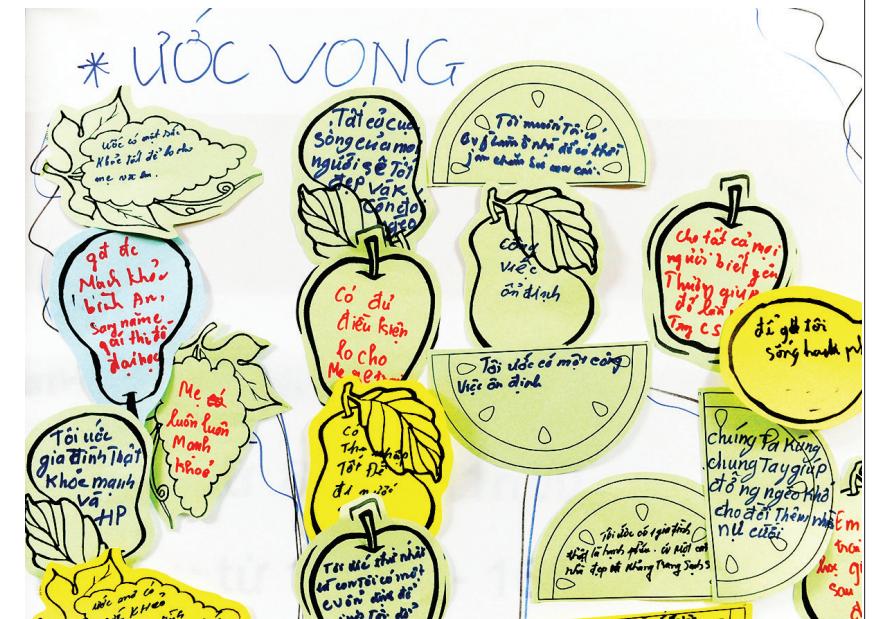
- Supporting to finalise action plans to respond to climate change in various provinces (Can Tho, Quang Nam, Ben Tre, HCMC, Danang, and Quy Nhon).
- Building capacity to conduct vulnerability and climate change adaptive capacity assessments in some cities (Can Tho, Danang, Quy Nhon, and Hoi An).
- Support eco-city planning, integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation into city development strategy (Hoi An and Danang).
- Supporting the implementation of climate change adaptation measures (reinforcing embankment systems, dredging rivers, improving drainage systems, and restoring ecosystems).

ONE UN PROGRAMME

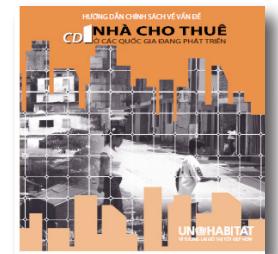
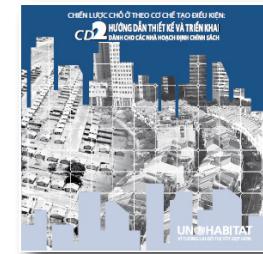
The One UN initiative in Vietnam is a United Nations response to the requirement of the Vietnamese government for a more effective working manner. Starting at the beginning of 2006, the One UN initiative aims to resolve overlapping agency responsibilities and strengthen the cooperation of UN agencies. UN-Habitat will continue monitoring and providing technical support on emerging urbanisation issues with a rights-based approach, sensitive to local cultures, the poor, and women and children as part of the One UN initiative.

The support provided by the United Nations is set out in the One Plan which is the planning framework for every UN agency operating in Vietnam. At present, UN-Habitat in Vietnam is working towards the goals included in the One Plan 2012-2016 which includes the following focus areas:

- **Focus Area 1:** Inclusive, equitable, and sustainable growth, to align with economic development, resource management, and the environment and sustainable development targets set in the Social Economic Development Plan (SEDP).
- **Focus Area 2:** Access to high-quality basic services and social welfare to align with the social, development, education, science and technology targets of the SEDP.
- **Focus Area 3:** Governance and participation to align with the management efficiency, transparency, and anti-corruption targets set in the SEDP.



Low-income housing policy in Vietnam



UN-Habitat Vietnam plays an active role in providing technical assistance to the Vietnamese government, such as the Ministry of Construction (MoC) and the Agency of Housing and Real Estate Market Management. The housing for low-income people project implemented during the 2009-2012 period has achieved the following results:

- Supported governmental agencies and other partners in systematically analysing Vietnam’s housing sector with the goal of improving people’s housing conditions; Strengthened the capacity of housing policy-makers on

issues related to the institutional and financial framework for low income housing provision and accessibility.

- Supported the Ministry of Construction to formulate a pro-poor housing programme, i.e. a Vietnam Housing Strategy.
- Improved the knowledge of housing policy-makers by providing a translated version into Vietnamese of the publication “Quick Guides for Policy Makers _ Housing the Poor in Asian Cities”

Quang Nam Province Development Orientation



Quang Nam Province is located in Vietnam's Central Key Economic Zone, bordering Da Nang City and the East-West Economic Corridor in the north, and the Dung Quat Quang Ngai's Industrial Zone to the South. Quang Nam has a long and beautiful coastline, linking the world heritage sites of Hoi An and My Son, and Chu Lai, the first open economic zone in Vietnam. However, while the province is experiencing rapid economic growth, it faces many challenges, such as natural resource

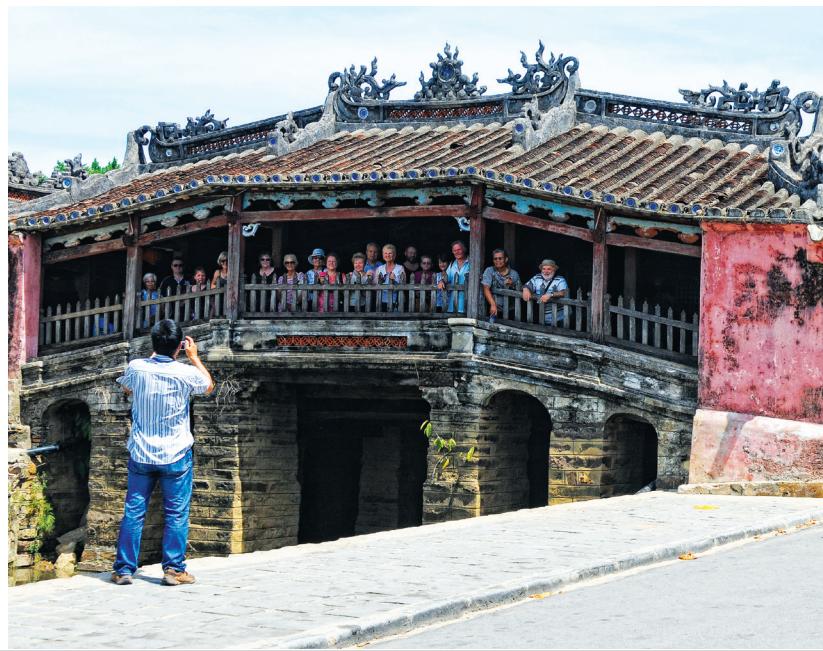
depletion, climate change vulnerability, increasing social inequality and limited institutional and strategic planning capacity. In order to support Quang Nam Province to develop viable solutions for equitable and sustainable development, UN-Habitat has been cooperating closely with Quang Nam Province and other UN agencies (ILO, UNESCO, and FAO) to implement the Quang Nam Province Development Orientation in 2010-2012 which is sponsored by the One UN Fund.



The Quang Nam Province Development Orientation (PDO) includes the following objectives and outcomes:

- **Strategic planning:** Integrates issues of economic development, social equality, environmental sustainability, and local governance with the involvement of stakeholders. In addition, to develop a multi-sectoral investment plan to implement the PDO.
- **Leadership development and stakeholder engagement:** Promote public administration reform to increase transparency and effectiveness of policy implementation.
- **Capacity-building and co-production approaches to promote ownership and the commitment of local authorities:** Utilise participatory planning and the appraisal of investment programmes to identify and prioritise projects, thereby mobilising and using resources effectively.

The Quang Nam Province Development Orientation has been improved to become the main socio-economic development planning orientation for Quang Nam Province until 2020 with a vision towards 2025.



Hoi An eco-city development and climate change vulnerability assessment

Quang Nam's Hoi An City is a key provincial socio-economic centre as well as a popular World Heritage Site. However, the city is facing major challenges related to rapid economic growth, urbanisation, and the impacts of climate change. In response, the city is developing the Hoi An Eco-city Development Programme towards the year 2030. UN-Habitat has been working to facilitate the implementation of Hoi An's eco-city goals within the framework of the Quang Nam Province Development Orientation. In tandem, a climate change vulnerability and adaptability assessment has been conducted and integrated into the overall eco-city planning framework. It provides an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change on different sectors, geographical areas and population groups.

Through strategic planning and a consultation process, the initial focus areas of the eco-city development programme included green buildings, promoting sustainable transportation, developing eco-tourism and environmental preservation projects, and managing urban economic growth in an equitable manner. Key projects among the 16 being implemented include the following: 1) land use plan development, 2) developing modernised infrastructure, 3) preserving marine protection areas, 4) capacity building for environmental management for businesses, and 5) establishing waste treatment projects. The intended outcome of this project is that the capacity of the many stakeholders involved in the strategic planning process have been strengthened, while the priorities in improving local adaptive capacity have been identified, thereby creating better opportunities to mobilise resources required to realise the development of Vietnam's first eco-city.



Urban observatory system in Vietnam [2009-2012]

Criteria and dimensions of global Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) have been concretised in the Vietnam Development Goals (VDGs), for both urban and rural areas. Since 2009, UN-Habitat has developed the Vietnam Observatory System in order to evaluate the achievement of the MDGs and VDGs in Vietnam's cities. These activities are conducted

via an effective partnership with the Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN). This is an urban monitoring and assessment system based on the review of relevant MDGs/VDGs indicators and other urban indexes, to help monitor progress in poverty reduction, gender equality, and sustainable urban development in Vietnam.

The Vietnam Observatory System project achieved the following:

- Established initial indicators of urban observatory system for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of VDGs in cities/towns in Vietnam.
- Identified and analysed the priority needs and interventions that would have an impact on urban poverty reduction in Vietnam.
- Improved the capacity of central and local governments to use and analyse information for evidence-based decision-making process.

The project was piloted in three cities and then used data collected from 78 cities that are members of the ACVN. After three years of implementation, the project has established a set of urban indicators for Vietnamese cities and has improved the capacity of government officials to monitor information on urban areas. The Vietnamese Cities Profile publication which provided in-depth information and analysis about development trends in 78 cities in Vietnam, is also an important output of the project.

Leadership training on strategic urban planning [2012]

UN-Habitat, in partnership with other UN agencies such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and other Vietnamese agencies such as Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics and Public Administration (HCMA), Danang Institute for Socio-Economic Development (DISED), and the Ho Chi Minh Institute for Development Studies (HIDS), implemented a leadership training project aimed at achieving environmentally sustainable and equitable development in Vietnam. The project focused on training and policy analysis to improve green growth in urban areas, climate change adaptation, and implementing effective urban governance policies. Key activities were to review the master and socio-economic plans of Danang and Ho Chi Minh City, and to organise leadership training programmes for city leaders and planning professionals.

With the results from the reviews of master and development plans, analysis of PAPI (Public Administration Performance Index), and providing leadership training, city leaders are better equipped with the leadership tools needed to address local challenges related to sustainable urban development. In addition, they are able to apply strategic leadership skills to real-life challenges, and to create effective action plans for their organisations. The project successfully facilitated a collaborative space for key stakeholders, a key factor in implementing multi-sectoral development plans.

Green growth city development strategy (GG-CDS)

At present, major cities around the world have identified the need to reassess current urban management practices and institutional frameworks, as well as to design solutions in order to deal with the challenges of rapid urbanisation, climate change, and economic growth. UN-Habitat and the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) are currently collaborating with Danang city to develop the Green Growth-Led City Development Strategy, which focuses on designing an appropriate investment framework. The project involves a multi-sectoral consultation approach, strengthening the commitment of local leaders and the participation of relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the project. Ultimately, the project aims to enhance the implementation of multi-sectoral investment planning (MSIP) and to establish the basis for a Green Growth-led Development Investment framework.

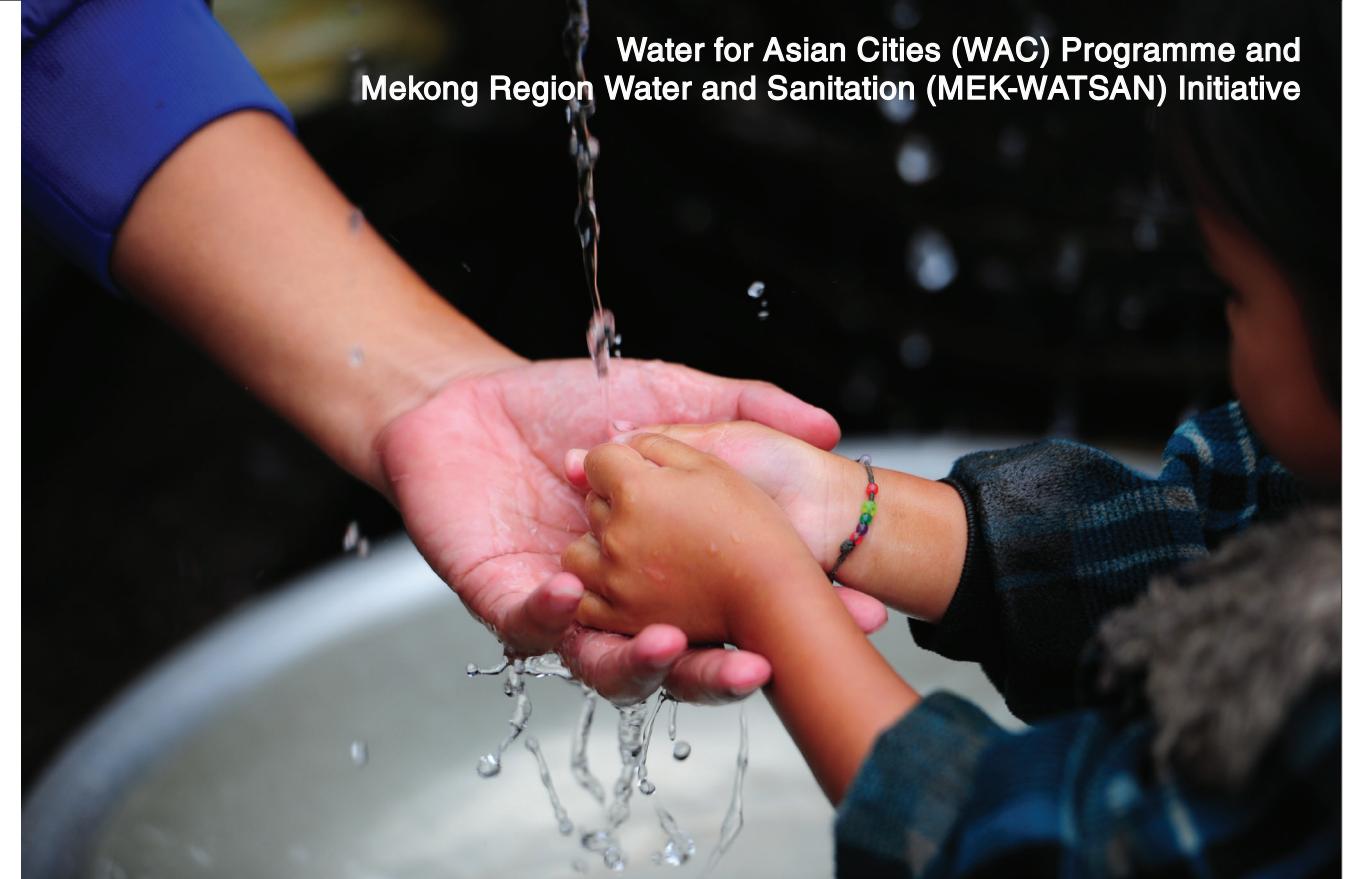
Expected outcomes:

- Provide support to develop strategic planning framework and to mainstream green growth principles and approaches into a City Development Strategy.
- Develop innovative solutions to effectively implement the CDS. This will include policy instruments, knowledge management, and via the development of multi-sectoral partnerships.
- Support the identification of key investment strategies which respond to development challenges.
- Enhance the institutionalisation of multi-sectoral investment planning with the participation of key stakeholders, with the aim to bring to life the Green Growth-Led City Development Strategies project.



Mainstreaming multi-sectoral urban planning frameworks and governance through policy dialogues [2013 - 2014]

Vietnam is currently experiencing rapid urbanisation as more people migrate from rural areas to cities in search of employment opportunities. The Vietnamese government has requested UN-Habitat to provide technical support to strengthen multi-sectoral urban strategic planning frameworks via facilitating policy dialogues and ongoing leadership training programmes. The project aims to promote multi-sectoral urban strategic planning by strengthening platforms and forums to enable inter-ministerial and inter-provincial cooperation on pressing urban issues, such as urban governance, urban finance, rural-urban migration, and urban legislation. With the institutionalisation of policy dialogues, spaces will be created for the active engagement of many actors, including representatives of central and local governmental agencies, private sector, communities and mass media.



Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme and Mekong Region Water and Sanitation (MEK-WATSAN) Initiative

The Water for Asian Cities Programme (WAC) is a collaborative initiative between the UN-Habitat, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and governments of Asian countries. WAC aims at supporting cities in completing water supply and environmental sanitation indicators in the Millennium Development Goals.

The Mekong Region Water and Sanitation (MEK-WATSAN) Initiative is a collaborative effort between UN-Habitat and the governments of the Mekong region to support the people in better accessing clean water supply and sanitation services by 2015.



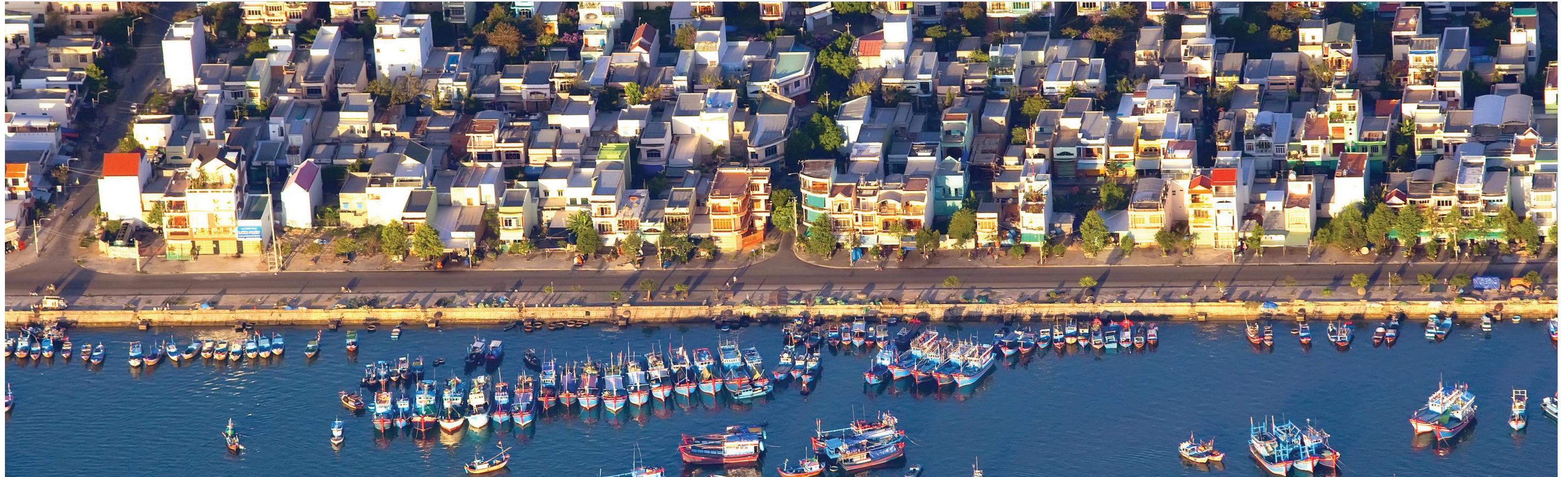
The objectives of WAC Programme and MEK-WATSAN Initiative include:

- Pro-poor urban water governance.
- Urban water conservation and demand management.
- Integrated urban environmental sanitation.
- Income generation for the urban poor through community based water and sanitation services.



From 2006-2009, WAC in Vietnam supported an ADB sponsored project on improving water supply and sanitation services for small and medium urban areas in central region such as Cam Ranh (Khanh Hoa), Gia Nghia (Dak Nong), Thap Cham and Ca Na (Ninh Thuan); Song Cau and Tuy Hoa (Phu Yen).

In 2007, the MEK-WATSAN Programme was first implemented in the peri-urban and urban areas of four towns in Quang Tri Province: Lao Bao, Dong Ha, Quang Tri and Cua Viet. By the end of 2012, the project had provided water to 32,587 beneficiaries and improved sanitation facilities for 81,392 beneficiaries.



Strengthening urban observatory and statistical systems [2012 - 2016]

UN-Habitat, in cooperation with UNFPA and other Vietnamese partners such as the General Statistics Office (GSO), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) VIETNAM, Urban Development Agency (VUDA) and Ministry of Construction (MOC), aims to promote evidence-based multi-sector master planning to respond to the requirements of the market economy. The Strengthening urban observatory and statistical systems project focuses on the following two aspects:

- Improving the quality of urban statistical information and data in Vietnam, especially on issues related to gender equality, infrastructure development, services, land use, and the environment.
- Enhancing the capacity of the GSO and the VUDA to coordinate among Vietnamese policy-makers, researchers, and urban planning professionals around the use of urban statistical data for evidence-based planning frameworks and monitoring and evaluation.

The project will improve urban statistical databases in Vietnam by replacing them with more reliable, standardised databases. In addition, the project will develop a training programme with the aim to improve the knowledge and skills of the GSO, so that the office can better collect, disseminate, and make use of data for more practical urban development plans.

UN-Habitat Vietnam Partners



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United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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