



**USAID** | **VIETNAM**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# USAID'S STRATEGY FOR VIETNAM: A MIDTERM SNAPSHOT



# OVERVIEW

## MESSAGE FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

The USAID/Vietnam team recently completed a midpoint review of our five year country development cooperation strategy for Vietnam. The strategy, developed in 2013, is a blueprint for our cooperation with the Government of Vietnam (GVN), local stakeholders and international partners to advance Vietnam's *transformation into a responsible, more inclusive partner*. Key developments since the launch of our strategy – a new Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP), the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the release of the Vietnam 2035 Report – indicate that our priorities are still aligned with host country goals. But our review also demonstrated that we need to amplify activities in sustainable growth, environment and local partnerships to achieve our development objectives: (1) *enhanced governance for broader-based sustainable growth*, (2) *improved health and well-being*, and (3) *legacies addressed for stronger U.S.-Vietnam partnership*.

New areas of intervention within our five year strategy include:

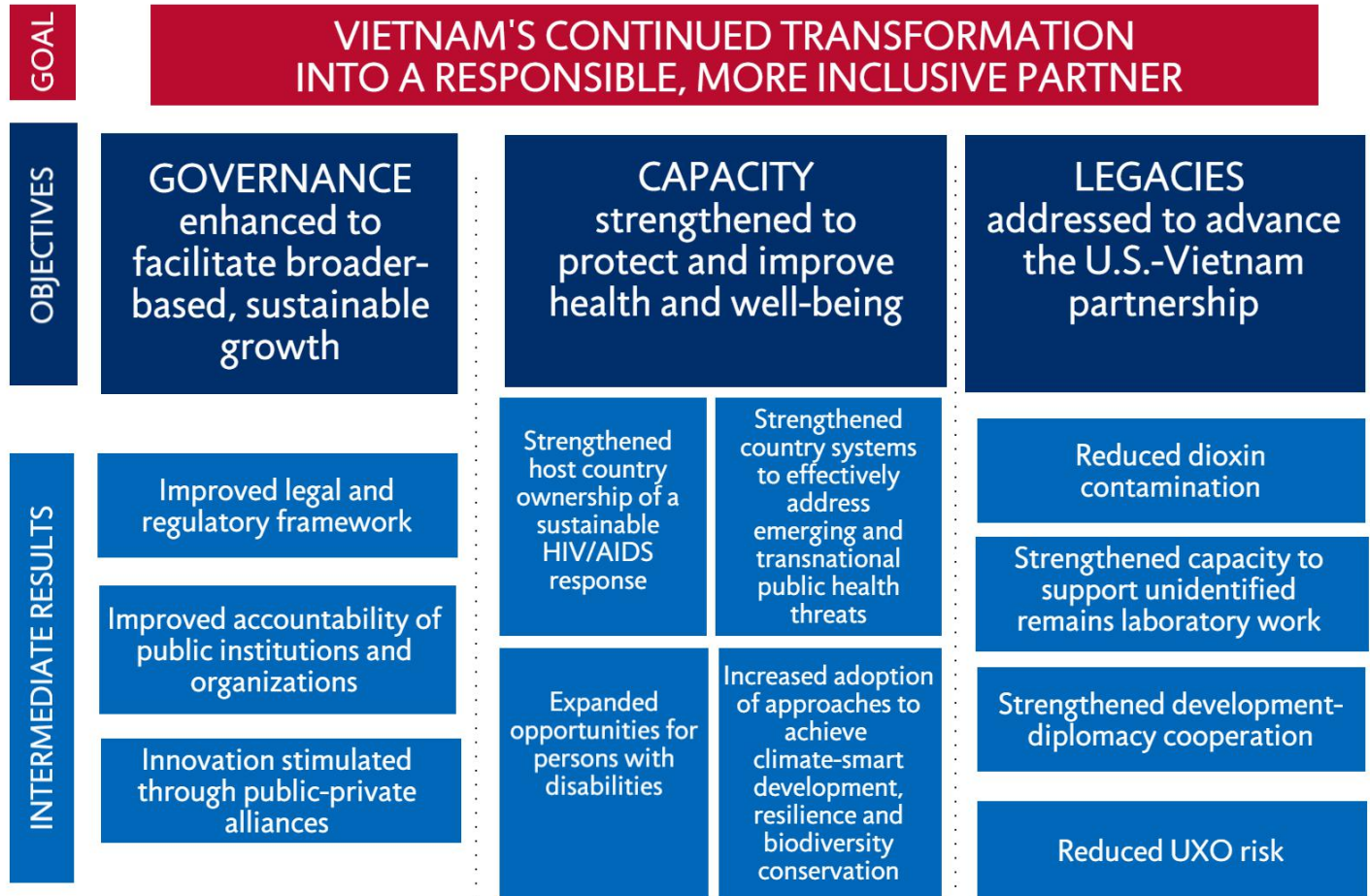
**Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) engagement:** TPP is a top shared priority for Vietnam. USAID programs will help Vietnam meet its TPP commitments and benefit from this historic partnership. In addition to USAID's trade and legislative assistance, USAID will implement new labor and rule of law activities to protect workers and reduce corruption.

**Biodiversity Protection:** Vietnam is a priority country under USAID's new biodiversity policy. We are committed to helping Vietnam protect biodiverse areas and its wildlife by strengthening Vietnam's capacity to manage protected areas and promoting alternative livelihoods that build community resilience and reduce the strains on protected lands. USAID will also support counter wildlife trafficking activities to reduce Vietnam's illegal, transcontinental wildlife trade.

**Local Capacity Development and Partnership:** Vietnamese organizations are increasingly important actors in Vietnam's development. USAID will support these actors in their need to build civil society networks and build an environment where local organizations can flourish. USAID intends to also increase the number of direct awards to local partners.

We believe these new endeavors, along with our continued investments, will contribute to Vietnam's inclusive, sustainable growth and help the country achieve priorities outlined in the SEDP and 2035 Report. To find out more about what we've accomplished in the last three years and what we plan for the remainder of the strategy, keep reading.

USAID COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION STRATEGY FOR VIETNAM  
RESULTS FRAMEWORK





# MAKING AN IMPACT

## ENHANCING GROWTH AND GOVERNANCE

Building on 12 years of successful partnership on economic reforms and growth assistance, USAID recognizes broader-based, sustainable growth as the best prospect for progress that benefits all Vietnamese people. USAID focuses on the governance constraints to that growth as the principal development problem during the strategy period. USAID has created a program that will play a catalytic role in building capacity for improved policy-making and accountability, emphasizing greater citizen participation and increased transparency as means to ensure the development outcomes that its citizens increasingly expect.

USAID supports Vietnam's efforts to deepen and better implement reforms for further transformation to a more rule-based, industrialized economy and global integration. USAID assistance provides support in the areas of trade and competitiveness relevant to the vital Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), as well as other trade agreements, and promotes enhanced governance at national provincial levels to support private sector development and broader economic participation. USAID has built innovative cooperation with private sector partners, targeting not only U.S. companies but also Vietnamese communication mega-corporations such as Viettel and Mobifone. This successful approach has resulted in Intel's huge investment in two of USAID's higher education projects, and the establishment of two Maker Innovation Laboratories in a third.

### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The Governance for Inclusive Growth program supports policies that reduce burdens on businesses, particularly in paying tax and social insurance, getting electricity, completing customs procedures and trading across borders.

### GENDER

In 2015, USAID's Land Access for Women program recruited and trained 57 Land Rights Community Volunteers who delivered a total of 2,438 counseling sessions for 1,502 people (911 women and 591 men) and who also assisted in the resolution of 688 land-related cases.

### GOVERNANCE

The Governance for Inclusive Growth program created a platform for civil society organizations and representatives of vulnerable groups to proactively provide inputs on draft laws, enabling them to lobby the Ministry of Justice to adopt 19 recommendations to the Civil Code in 2015.



**“I am happy that I have had more income for the family after I expanded my business and applied what I have learned from business trainings and materials.”**

To Thi Thu Thao, beneficiary of the Mekong Vitality Expanded Alliance



USAID helped procure life-saving drugs for nearly 53,000 patients, 50 percent of the current anti-retroviral patient coverage in Vietnam in 2015.

## IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

USAID assistance that strengthens capacity in government, civil society, the private sector and within vulnerable populations is critical to the aspiration for greater inclusiveness reflected in our strategy's overarching goal. USAID's programs focus in areas where we have established momentum or have identified important opportunities, including in international health, climate change, disaster mitigation and vulnerable groups whose social and economic participation are essential to Vietnam's progress.

USAID supports a strengthened health care system for effective HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment services delivered by Vietnam systems and financing. USAID enhances country systems to address emerging pandemic threats, and strengthen and help translate climate change and green growth-related policies into practice to lower greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to long-term climate change.

90%

of key evaluation informants strongly agreed that the USAID SMART TA project has **INTRODUCED ACTIVITIES THAT HELP TO REDUCE THE ACQUISITION AND TRANSMISSION OF HIV.**

60%

of beneficiaries of USAID disabilities programming reported **BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE AFTER RECEIVING SUPPORT.**



In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Vietnam adopted a new payment scheme for environmental services through a decree developed with USAID. In addition to the \$60 million that the nationally-mandated scheme collects annually, the decree ensures the collection of an estimated \$15 million in back-payments to 2011.

Forest rangers were trained to use GPS mapping for forest monitoring and protection to help implement the system.



USAID's support of the Global Health Security Agenda builds on successes in disease surveillance, training, and outbreak response. Our work builds on the operational platforms, institutional partnerships, and expanded knowledge base developed over the past decade with USAID's prior support to pre-empt or combat, at their source, newly emerging diseases of animal origin that could threaten human health.

**In 2015, USAID provided training to rapid response teams in all 63 provinces to prevent and respond to infectious diseases and other pandemic threats, involving more than 300 staff.**

USAID has worked to improve the welfare of persons with disabilities by providing high quality services, advocacy support and promoting policies that protect their rights, building on a legacy of programs initiated under the Leahy War Victims Fund in 1989.

**In 2015, USAID provided assistive devices, rehabilitation therapy, educational support, and livelihood support including livestock, vocational training, and job placement to 5,961 persons with disabilities.**



# ADDRESSING LEGACIES

Addressing legacies of the war between the United States and Vietnam has proven an important means to promote relations and understandings between our peoples, and benefit populations impacted by the presence of dioxin and unexploded ordnance (UXO) as environmental health and economic threats.

In April 2015, USAID successfully completed the first phase of thermal treatment of approximately 45,000 cubic meters of dioxin-contaminated soil and sediment at the Danang Airport, surpassing the GVN-approved cleanup goal of 150 parts per trillion. In close collaboration with the Ministry of National Defense, USAID's environmental assessment determined the full nature and extent of dioxin contamination on and around the Bien Hoa airbase, involving the collection of over 1,150 environmental samples and informing the development of multiple remediation strategies.

In March 2015, USAID signed a Statement of Cooperation to expand science-based cooperation with the Academy of Science and Technology for the USAID Unidentified Remains Project. The project began work with the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, a U.S. Government Lab that conducts identification of remains from past conflicts and routinely analyzes samples from Vietnam as well as a highly regarded U.S. Lab Accreditation body.





# OUR WORK

President Clinton ends U.S. trade embargo on Vietnam

U.S.-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement Signed

Vietnam becomes 15th PEPFAR focus country

USAID/Vietnam Representative Office established

Vietnam Country Development Cooperation Strategy launched

1989

1994

2001

2004

2005

2007

2010

2014

Disabilities programming through Patrick Leahy War Victims Fund and the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund

USAID implements first Support for Trade Acceleration (USAID/STAR) Project

Agreement for Economic and Technical Cooperation signed

USAID/Vietnam reaches full mission status

NOW



ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE



HIV PREVENTION



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



HIGHER EDUCATION



RESILIENCE



EMERGING PANDEMIC THREATS



# STRATEGY REVIEW



USAID

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES

While the strategy goal and objectives remain relevant, new opportunities and challenges have emerged since the strategy was launched. This includes traction for economic and governance reforms as a result of the TPP; increased international and local attention on the environment; decreasing donor support for HIV activities; and emerging opportunities to work with and support local partners across USAID's portfolio. To address these changes, USAID will emphasize new areas of support:

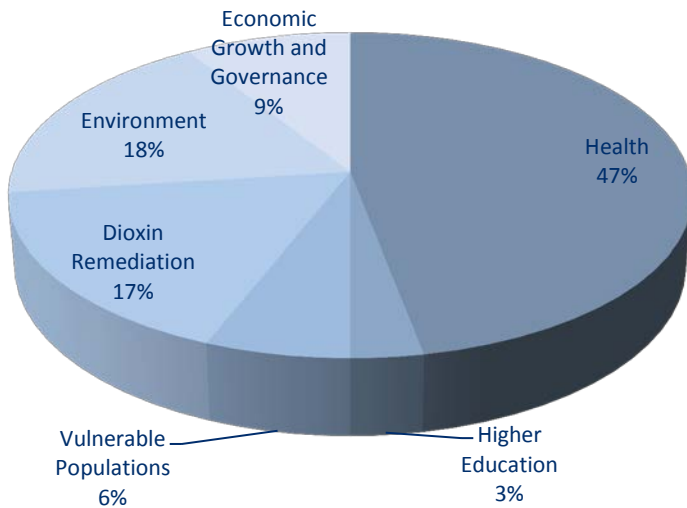
### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

To accommodate an emerging global focus on climate change and environmental protection, the Mission is scaling up climate change resilience interventions and developing new projects in countering wildlife trafficking, and biodiversity. The January 2016 mid-term evaluation of the Forests and Deltas program has provided critical inputs to the increased focus on climate changes and shaped new biodiversity activities.

### ENHANCED TRADE FACILITATION

The U.S. and regional spotlight on the TPP increases the need for USAID to help Vietnam quickly reach key benchmarks in labor rights, intellectual property rights and government transparency, broadening the types of interventions the Mission will implement involving governance and trade. USAID has already conducted 13 activities to support six ministries on 16 of the 30 chapters of the TPP, for example, a TPP gap analysis and legal review of TPP commitments and Vietnamese legislation to prepare for the ratification of the TPP.

ASSISTANCE BY SECTOR  
FY2013-2015



# CROSS CUTTING PRIORITIES

## INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Over the past two decades, Vietnam has transitioned from an agricultural and relatively isolated command economy into a globally integrated, export-focus, industrializing economy. Vietnam has one of the highest economic participation rates in the world with 85 percent of men and 85 percent of women engaged in economic activity. The private sector can play an important role in Vietnam's economic development and has made a major difference in Vietnamese people's lives in certain provinces. USAID/Vietnam has been working closely with private sector firms, both U.S. and Vietnamese, to improve social and economic conditions in Vietnam.

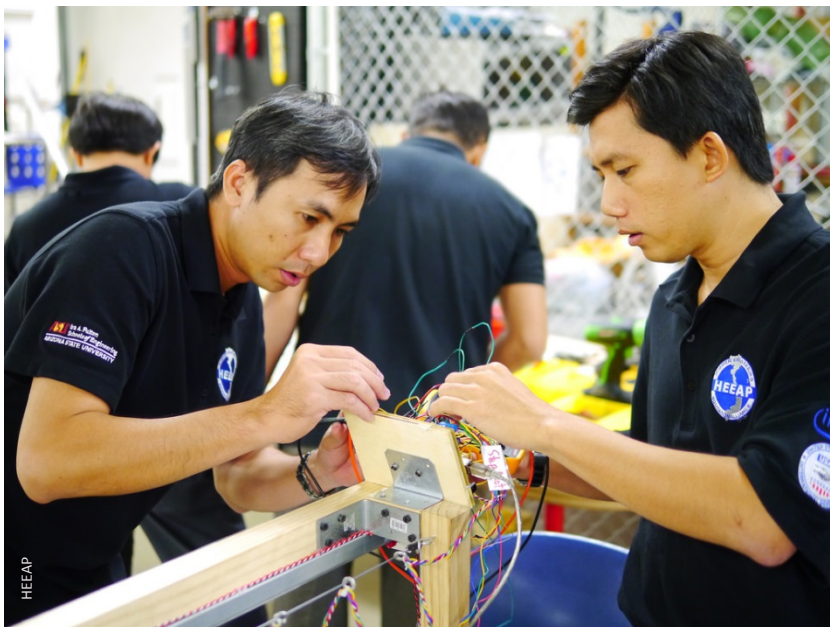
## GENDER

An integral component of all programming in Vietnam is to advance gender equality and female empowerment. We are particularly committed to empowering women with capacities and platforms to ensure their voices are represented, needs addressed, and leadership potential fostered.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

As Vietnam has transitioned into a lower middle income country, the Mission has increasingly stressed partnering to achieve development results over the more traditional donor/recipient model. Partnerships with U.S. land grant universities are improving science and technology integration in Vietnam universities.

IN A PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY **TWO-THIRDS** OF RESPONDENTS RATED ALMOST ALL ASSISTANCE AREAS OF USAID AS **NECESSARY AND HIGH PRIORITY**



In 2015, USAID helped train 725 faculty members, teaching staff, administrators, and quality assurance professionals from more than eight universities and vocational colleges on educational quality assurance, student learning assessments, and evaluation processes.