

1. Full Template of a People's Scorecard on National Delivery of the 2030 Agenda

Country	Vietnam
National CSO Coalition/focal point	Leave No One Behind Vietnam Partnership
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- **Introduction- about your coalition:**

1 Is there any CSO national platform or network focusing on the SDGs?

Established in 2018, the Leave No One Behind Vietnam Partnership (LNOB Vietnam) consists of 8 active organizational members, including both local and international non-governmental organizations. Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD) was elected as the

Country Lead.

Our mission/goals:

LNOB Vietnam aims to mainstream a scalable and broadly applicable approach for a more inclusive and evidence-driven SDG implementation worldwide, with a focus on the empowerment of marginalized groups. In the 2020-2024 period, the objectives of the network are:

- Implementing representative research and/or data generation in different municipalities/cities across the country where LNOB members work, focusing on the inclusion and empowerment of marginalized groups in national SDG implementation.
- Integrating the produced evidence in official monitoring and reporting as a complementary source of information.
- Using the evidence to produce concrete recommendations for policies and services that are capable of addressing the situation of the marginalized populations in their local context.

Our approach:

Through our inclusive approach of “community-driven data”, we aim to fill knowledge gaps in local level SDG monitoring and better understand local drivers of vulnerability and marginalization. Community-driven data means: the needed evidence and SDG monitoring data is produced at the local level, with the affected communities directly involved in data generation (Making Voices Heard).

At the same time, coalition partners and authorities at the local and national levels have entered into a dialogue aiming to bring community-driven data to practical use as a complimentary source of information for public planning and policy making (Making Voices Count).

2 If YES, is the coalition inclusive of organisations that are working on all topics of the SDGs?

While the organizational members of LNOB Vietnam work on a wide range of SDGs, the key SDGs in the focus of the Partnership are SDG 3, 4, 8, 13 and 16.

3 Are there national platforms that work on specific goals or targets? If YES Please list them

No.

The Scorecard considers a number of key areas and helps you to assess the level of delivery in each area. **Please use the People’s Scorecard Toolkit to assist you in organising an inclusive national dialogue process.**

1. The first part aims to assess the overall delivery of the agenda, including a consideration of policies and strategies for implementation, assessment of delivery and mechanisms for engagement; including with civil society, local governments, donors and wider stakeholders in realising the SDGs.
2. The second part aims to assess progress on each of the SDGs in turn

At the end of each section, you should agree a score of -5 to +5

-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5
Very large reduction	large reduction	medium reduction	small reduction	very small reduction	no progress	very low progress	low progress	medium progress	high progress	very high progress

- Overview of current implementation

Areas	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5		Assessment / Comments
1 National Development Plans, Strategies & Budget									X				
2 Policy and legal framework								x					
3 Institutions with clear mandate							x						
4 Implementation at the National Level								x					
5 Implementation at the sub-national levels							x						
6 Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Mechanisms							x						

7	Transparency & Accountability							x					
8	Public Awareness & Capacity Development						x						
9	Multi-stakeholder Partnerships							x					
10	Civil Society Participation						x						
Additional cross-cutting areas													
11.	Progress since last VNR (if applicable)							x					
12.	Leave No One Behind							x					
13.	Planetary Boundaries							x					
14.	Delivery by CSOs						x						
Total							6	14	3				

Before you finalise the scores, please consider the questions below and develop a narrative response for each area:

1 Governance or policy framework

1.1 If applicable, what is the nature of the governance mechanism put in place for oversight of the SDG implementation process? Is the Governance mechanism based on an existing Council or Committee? A newly created Council or Committee?

Monitoring and evaluating SDGs targets is one of the key tasks of the National Action Plan for Agenda 2030 in Vietnam. The Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) has issued a system of 158 statistical indicators for Vietnam's sustainable development in Circular No. 03/2019/TT-BKHĐT dated January 22, 2019 regarding the regulations on the Sustainable Development Indicator Set of Vietnam¹, to highlight the annual routine involving the participation of relevant ministries, agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other social organizations.

The Prime Minister has issued a decision No. 419 / QĐ-TTg in 2018 to establish the National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement. This composition signifies a multi-ministerial approach to jointly address the challenges and opportunities related to sustainable development and competitiveness. The Council's responsibility includes advising and assisting the government in developing and implementing strategies, policies, programs, and solutions to effectively achieve the SDGs and improve the country's competitiveness.²

1.2 Which government actor oversees providing leadership within the governance mechanism? Head of Government or State? Individual Cabinet Minister? Multi-ministerial set up? Parliamentary Committee?

The Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the SDGs agenda in Vietnam. The MPI plays a pivotal role in formulating national development strategies and plans that align with the SDGs, and it is the central authority responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of SDGs targets at the national level.

Additionally, as stated above, The National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement includes various ministers from different key ministries, such as the MPI, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Science and Technology, and Ministry of Education and Training, among others. The Council's task includes proposing solutions to achieve sustainable development and enhance competitiveness, monitoring and assessing the implementation of sustainable development objectives in Vietnam as outlined in the approved Strategic Direction for Sustainable Development in Vietnam. It also oversees and evaluates the implementation of programs, tasks, and activities aimed at improving competitiveness and compiles reports on the implementation of sustainable development and competitiveness enhancement efforts in Vietnam. Additionally, the Council is also responsible for submitting reports, recommendations, and advice to the Government and the Prime Minister on sustainable development and competitiveness enhancement. [OBJ]

1.3 What's the nature of the governance mechanism? Is it government-centred or multistakeholder?

The nature of the governance mechanism for SDGs implementation in Vietnam is multistakeholder. As the general guidance in the National Action Plan for Agenda 2030 (NAP 2030), while the government plays a central role in providing leadership and coordination, the governance mechanism involves a wide range of stakeholders beyond the government. The multistakeholder approach in Vietnam's SDGs governance mechanism means that various actors from different sectors, including government entities, non-governmental organizations,

¹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2019) *Circular No. 03/2019/TT-BKHĐT dated January 22, 2019 regarding the regulations on the Sustainable Development Indicator Set of Vietnam*, issued by the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Retrieved from: <http://vietnam.gov.vn>.

² Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2018) *Decision No. 419 / QĐ-TTg in 2018 on The establishment of The National Council on Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement*. Retrieved from: <http://vietnam.gov.vn>.

civil society organizations, private businesses, academia, and development partners, are actively engaged in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of SDGs targets. However, in practice, there has not clear roadmap or specific guidance to how to promote the multistakeholders mechanism beside inviting stakeholders into the process.

1.4 What are the characteristics of the governance mechanism in your country - in terms of clarity of mandates? Has it a general oversight role? A mandate to develop or review national development planning instruments (plans, strategies) based on the SDGs? Is it a mandate linked to monitoring? A combination of two or more of these types of mandates?

- **Clarity of mandates:** The NAP 2030 guided the mandates of multiple ministries, agencies, and non-governmental organizations with clear mandates for specific tasks as described in the question above.
- **A general oversight role:** As mentioned in 1.2, the MPI takes the lead, in collaboration with other ministries/sectors, provinces and other stakeholders to monitor and review the implementation of SDGs and reports the evaluation of SDGs implementation to the Government and the National Assembly annually.³
- **Mandate to develop or review national development planning instruments (plans, strategies) based on the SDGs:** The MPI has the responsibility to issue a system of statistical indicators for Vietnam's sustainable development through Circular No. 03/2019/TT-BKHĐT dated January 22, 2019 regarding the regulations on the Sustainable Development Indicator Set of Vietnam.⁴ The General Statistics Office (GSO) is responsible for collecting and aggregating data for many of these indicators. MPI and GSO are also the main agency to be responsible for review national development planning instruments. The roadmap for the implementation of SDGs targets until 2030, as outlined in Decision No. 681/QĐ-TTg/ 2019 on promulgating the roadmap for implementation of objectives for sustainable development of Vietnam forward 2030 on 4/6/2019 by Prime Minister ⁵ serves as a basis for ministries, sectors, and localities to develop specific targets in their annual and five-year socio-economic development plans.
- **Mandate linked to monitoring:** The monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of SDGs targets are carried out regularly and continuously through various reports, including Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), National SDGs Reports every 5 years, Annual SDGs Reports, and reports from different ministries, sectors, and localities.

1.5 How is the inclusiveness of non-state actors ensured? Through which participation mechanisms civil society can participate (if available)?

Non-state actors, including civil society organizations, have the opportunity to participate in the development and review of national development planning instruments that are based on the SDGs as stated in Decision No. 681/QĐ-TTg/2019.⁶ Non-state actors can be involved through consultations, feedback mechanisms, and engagement with relevant government entities.

³ Nguyen, T.L. (2016) *Adapting SDGs to Viet Nam: Monitoring and Reviewing*. Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI).

⁴ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2019) *Circular No. 03/2019/TT-BKHĐT dated January 22, 2019 regarding the regulations on the Sustainable Development Indicator Set of Vietnam*, issued by the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Retrieved from: <http://vietnam.gov.vn>.

⁵ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2019) *Decision No. 681/QĐ-TTg on promulgating the Roadmap for implementation of objectives for sustainable development of Vietnam forward 2030*. Retrieved from: <http://vietnam.gov.vn>.

⁶ Ibid.

Officially, there is no official participatory policy framework for Vietnamese CSOs to participate in the SDGs implementation. However, CSOs in Vietnam can still actively and voluntarily participate in the implementation of SDGs. Some prominent roles of social organizations in Vietnam in the process of implementing sustainable development goals include providing services that contribute to socio-economic development, contributing to building an equitable, democratic, and civilized society; representing and advocating for policies; developing network partnerships; and monitoring and providing social feedback⁷.

With civil society organizations, the main way is to participate in the reporting process, including VNRs, National SDGs Reports every 5 years, and Annual SDGs Reports. Non-state actors can contribute data, insights, and perspectives during the preparation of these reports, especially fill the data gaps on the data system of the government. This also in some extent ensure better inclusion in the report development process.

1.6 Is there any parliamentary/congressional scrutiny of or input into the framework? If so please list the relevant committee and how they are integrated into the governance mechanism, as well as any policy positions developed by elected members.

As mentioned in 1.2, the National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement is tasked with providing advice and consultation to assist the Government and the Prime Minister in formulating and implementing strategies, policies, programs, tasks, and activities related to sustainable development and competitiveness enhancement. The Council has 41 members including Ministers and leaders from ministries and departments. There are four specialized committees within the Council, including: Sustainable Economic Development and Competitiveness Enhancement Committee chaired by the Minister of Planning and Investment. Sustainable Social Development Committee chaired by the Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs. Sustainable Resource and Environmental Development Committee chaired by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment. Decade of Education for Sustainable Development Committee led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.⁸

1.7 Are local and subnational governments included in the governance process and if so, how?

Yes. In Vietnam's approach to SDGs, the central government plays a coordinating role, but local and subnational governments have an essential role in translating national development policies and strategies into actions at the regional and local levels.⁹

- **Development Planning:** Local and subnational governments are involved in the formulation and implementation of regional and local development plans. These plans are expected to align with the national development priorities and SDGs. By incorporating SDGs into their planning processes, local and subnational governments contribute to the overall achievement of the SDGs in the country. According to VNR in 2023, 51 out of 63 provinces and centrally affiliated cities have issued Action Plans to implement the 2030 Agenda.¹⁰
- **Data Collection and Reporting:** Local and subnational governments are responsible for collecting and providing data on their progress toward achieving SDGs targets at the regional and local

⁷ MSD. (2022) *The engagement of CSOs in implementing SDGs through community-based models and activities*. Pp. 15 – 16.

⁸ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2018) *Decision No. 419 / QĐ-TTg in 2018 on The establishment of The National Council on Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement*. Retrieved from: <http://vietnam.gov.vn>.

⁹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 15.

¹⁰ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 20.

levels. Every year, besides from other stakeholders, People's Committees of provinces and centrally affiliated cities shall submit reports on SDG implementation to the Ministry of Planning and Investment. This data is then aggregated and included in the national SDGs reports, contributing to the overall monitoring and evaluation process, which is later submitted to the Prime Minister by MPI.¹¹

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Local and subnational governments engage with various stakeholders, including CSOs, community representatives, and private sector actors, in SDGs-related initiatives and projects. By involving these stakeholders, they ensure a more inclusive and participatory approach to achieving the SDGs at the local level. Decision No.622/QĐ-TTg/2017 on the issuance of The National Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the coordination of various units, including coordination between non-governmental organizations and coordination between central and local agencies in the implementation of sustainable development goals to ensure the integration and alignment of these objectives.¹² Additionally, according to a report conducted by MSD in 2022, one of the key partners of Vietnamese CSOs is local governments, whose cooperation rate reaches 69.5% compared to other stakeholders.¹³
- **Policy Implementation:** Local and subnational governments are responsible for implementing policies and programs that contribute to the attainment of SDGs targets within their jurisdictions. This includes areas such as education, healthcare, environmental protection, poverty reduction, and infrastructure development. According to VNR 2023, SDGs-related strategies and policies have been implemented in ministries, sectors and localities, with better attention to and integration of disadvantaged groups such as the poor, ethnic minorities, children and women to ensure the spirit of “No one is left behind” in the process of national development.¹⁴

2 National Development Plans, strategies & budget

2.1 *How has your government incorporated the SDGs into national policy frameworks? Has it incorporated the SDG framework into its national development plan and related strategies? Has the government incorporated the SDGs through a specific SDG strategy document? Did the government formulate its national development plan or SDG strategy through a participatory process? Was the formulation process based on a gap-analysis? If YES, was the gap analysis based on policies; data; or both?*

The government of Vietnam has incorporated the SDGs into national policy frameworks and related strategies through a multi-dimensional approach.

Vietnam has integrated the SDG framework into its national action plan. As stated in the VNR report 2023, out of the total of 22 ministries and central organizations, 17 of them have published Action Plans to implement the 2030 Agenda, and among the 63 provinces and centrally affiliated cities, 51 have also issued such Action Plans. The national socio-economic development strategy for the 2021-2030 period has comprehensively incorporated all 17 SDGs into its objectives, activities, and solutions.¹⁵ The formulation of national development plans

¹¹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 27.

¹² Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2017) *Decision Decision No. 622/QĐ-TTg/2017 on the issuance of the National Action Plan for the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved from: <http://vietnam.gov.vn>.

¹³ MSD. (2022) *The engagement of CSOs in implementing SDGs through community-based models and activities*, pp. 25.

¹⁴ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 23.

¹⁵ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 20.

and SDG-related strategies in Vietnam involves a participatory process with mentioned multi-stakeholders approach. With civil society organization, the participation is in the level of informing and collecting ideas, responses, comments, etc. This process includes consultation with various stakeholders, such as ministries, agencies, social organizations, private sector entities, and development partners.

The formulation process was based on the gap analysis. For example, after the VNR 2018, identifying the gaps in heavy central and weak in local, Prime Minister issued Decision No. 681/QĐ-TTg dated June 4th 2019¹⁶ on promulgating the Roadmap for implementation of objectives for sustainable development of Vietnam forward 2030.¹⁶ The roadmap serves as a basis for ministries, sectors, and localities to establish specific targets within the 5-year and annual socio-economic development plans. It also functions as a measurement tool to assess the achievement levels of the SDGs at the milestones of 2020, 2025 and 2030.

2.2 *How far do you see effective policy coherence within the national SDG framework? Does the policy approach include a recognition of the inter-related nature of the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental & economic)? Is there any “cherry-picking” or do you see all SDGs are equally covered?*

Vietnam has made efforts to promote effective policy coherence within its national SDG framework. The country has issued and implemented various laws, programs, and initiatives addressing different aspects of sustainable development, such as climate change, environmental protection, social inclusion, and economic growth. The mentioned policies and strategies suggest that there is recognition of the interrelated nature of the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, environmental, and economic...

Some main national plans and strategies for examples: The Resolution 120/2020/QH14/ dated June 19, 2020 on investment policy of the program on development of ethnic minority by the National Assembly in 2020, is an example of a specific national target program for socio-economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas for the period 2021-2030. This program aligns with the SDGs and aims to address economic, social, and environmental challenges in these regions.

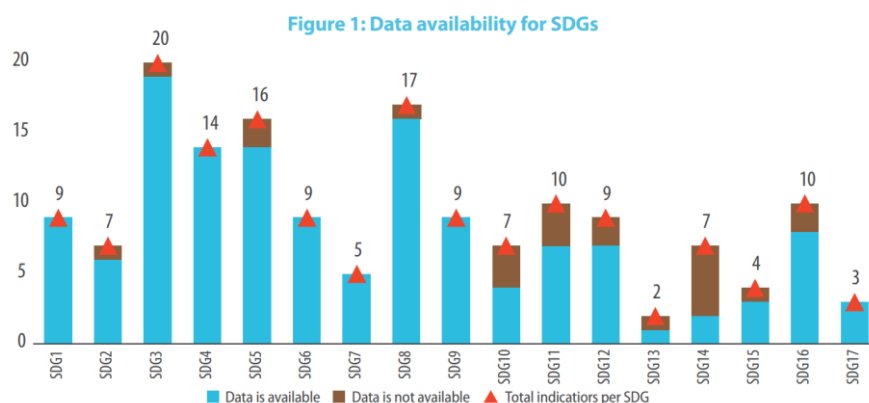
According to VNR 2023, the legal and policy framework for gender equality in Vietnam has steadily improved. It includes measures to ensure access to education, enhance maternal health, and promote women's participation in the workforce. Gender equality policies also emphasize supporting disadvantaged groups like girls, ethnic minorities, and children with disabilities to achieve greater gender parity within these communities. Ongoing efforts include the development and promotion of policies such as the National Strategy on Gender Equality, the Program for Preventing and Controlling Gender-based Violence (2021-2025), and a communication program focused on gender equality through 2030.¹⁷ The legal structure concerning natural resources and the environment has seen continuous enhancement. A notable example is Law No.72/2020/QH14 by National Assembly dated November 17th 2020¹⁸ on Environmental Protection, which introduces innovative provisions. These include creating a legal framework to promote the development of circular, green, and low-carbon economies, as well as effective resource utilization, waste management, and pollution control. Though stating that Vietnam is taking efforts to address multiple goals and there is no “cherry picking of specific goals; however, relating to data system for SDGs as stated in VNR 2023, Out of the 158 SDGs

¹⁶ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2019) *Decision No. 681/QĐ-TTg on promulgating the Roadmap for implementation of objectives for sustainable development of Vietnam forward 2030*. Retrieved from: <http://vietnam.gov.vn>.

¹⁷ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 21.

¹⁸ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2020). *Law No.72/2020/QH14 by National Assembly dated November 17th 2020 on Environmental Protection*. Retrieved from: <http://vietnam.gov.vn>.

indicators, 136 have available data, while 22 indicators still lack data. Vietnam has made progress in gathering data for certain goals, such as Goals 1, 6, 7, 9, and 17. However, there is still a lower level of preparedness regarding data availability for several indicators, especially those related to social inclusion and environmental aspects, including Goals 5, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 16.



Source: Voluntary National Review 2023

2.3 Has SDG implementation been costed, and sources of financing identified? For example, what is the level of government spending for social protection; for education; for healthcare; for sustainable infrastructure; for environmental protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation?

The sources of development finance in Vietnam include: (i) domestic public finance (excluding foreign aid and domestic public debt); (ii) international public finance (official development assistance - ODA, other official flows - OOF, and government loans); and (iii) private finance from domestic and international sources (foreign direct investment - FDI, foreign portfolio investment - FPI, remittances, and international loans).

The level of the government spending for SDG implementation is not clearly identified and reported publicly.

2.4 Is there any clear national plan in terms of funding the delivery of the 2030 Agenda? Is the national budget in line with the 2030 Agenda? What is the role of international donors/development partners?

There is no public information on the national plan in terms of funding the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. The government stated that Vietnam is a strongly committed country and will allocate budget for SDG implementation as well as taking efforts for resource mobilization for SDG implementation process. The resources for implementing Decision No.622/QĐ-TTg regarding the issuance of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development dated May 10th 2017¹⁹ primarily come from the state budget,

¹⁹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2017). *Decision No. 622/QĐ-TTg dated May 10th 2017 regarding the issuance of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved from <http://dwrn.gov.vn/uploads/laws/file/2017/622.ke-hoach-hanh-dong-quoc-gia-ve-phat-trien-ben-vung-den-2030.pdf>

investment from businesses, private sector, communities, and foreign sources. These foreign sources include official development assistance (ODA), foreign direct investment (FDI), and other funding. These resources are integrated into the budgets for the 5-year and annual socio-economic development plans, embedded in annual budget plans, and incorporated into various national target programs and other projects. Additionally, support is provided for data collection and report development. The government's approach is to encourage businesses and social organizations to proactively propose and implement initiatives. It also involves the establishment of a Sustainable Development Support Fund to mobilize resources both domestically and internationally.

As government's statement, the national budget is in line with the 2030 agenda but no fundraising, budget and funding plan and report specifically relating to SDG were shared publicly. International partners/ donors have played important roles in funding for SDG process in Vietnam and MPI received a lot of funding from them. As observation, the SDG monitoring and reporting process has been mainly funded by GIZ, Embassies, UN, etc.

3 Institutional Support - Public Agencies with clear mandate

3.1 *Please describe if there are agencies in place that are tasked with delivery of the SDGs*

There are several agencies and bodies in place in Vietnam that are tasked with the delivery and implementation of the SDGs. These agencies play key roles in coordinating, monitoring, and promoting the achievement of the SDGs across various sectors in the country. Some of these agencies include:

- **National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement:** As previously mentioned above, the National Council for Sustainable Development is a prominent body responsible for advising and guiding the government and the Prime Minister on the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies, plans, programs, tasks, and solutions to effectively implement the National Action Plan for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **Ministry of Planning and Investment:** As one of the core ministries, the Ministry of Planning and Investment plays a crucial role in formulating and implementing strategies, plans, and policies related to sustainable development and ensuring their alignment with the SDGs.
- **Other Relevant Ministries:** Various other ministries are involved in implementing the SDGs in their respective sectors. For example, the Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs is responsible for social protection initiatives, the Ministry of Education and Training handles education-related goals, the Ministry of Health focuses on healthcare, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment leads efforts on environmental protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- **Government Offices:** The Office of the Government and other relevant government offices play an important role in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of SDGs at the national level.

3.2 *Are there clear steps taken by agencies to ensure implementation of the SDGs?*

There are steps taken by various agencies and stakeholders in Vietnam to ensure the implementation of the SDGs. These steps include:

- **Engagement of All Relevant Stakeholders:** Vietnam has promoted the engagement of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs. NAP 2030 specifically assigns responsibilities to stakeholders from central to local levels in the implementation of the SDGs. This involves various government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector companies, social organizations,

and international partners. The active involvement of these diverse stakeholders helps to address different aspects of sustainable development comprehensively.²⁰

- **Policy Formulation and Enforcement:** The government has been working on improving the institutional capacity and policy enforcement to achieve the SDGs. This includes the establishment of the National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, to advise and assist the government in developing and implementing strategies, policies, and programs to achieve the SDGs effectively.²¹
- **Financial Resource Mobilization:** Vietnam has been making efforts to mobilize and utilize financial resources effectively to support the implementation of the SDGs. This involves both domestic and international funding sources, including both official development assistance (ODA) and foreign direct investment (FDI).²²
- **Enhancing Human Resource Capacity:** To ensure the successful implementation of the SDGs, Vietnam has been focusing on enhancing the quality of the workforce. This includes emphasizing innovation, application of science and technology, and promoting education and training to build a skilled workforce capable of driving sustainable development.²³
- **Addressing Climate Change and Resilience:** Given the importance of climate change adaptation and mitigation in achieving the SDGs, Vietnam has been taking steps to enhance its resilience against climate change, natural disasters, and epidemics. This includes implementing green and circular economy practices and sustainable infrastructure development.²⁴
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The country is working on strengthening data capacity to monitor, supervise, and evaluate progress towards the SDGs. This involves tracking various indicators and outcomes related to each goal to ensure effective monitoring and accountability.²⁵
- **International Cooperation:** Vietnam recognizes the significance of international cooperation in achieving the SDGs. The country actively engages with development partners and donors to share experiences, receive support, and collaborate on various initiatives to advance sustainable development.²⁶

Overall, Vietnam's approach to implementing the SDGs involves a multi-faceted and collaborative effort that encompasses various sectors, institutions, and stakeholders. This approach reflects a commitment to addressing the interlinked dimensions of sustainable development and working towards achieving the 2030 Agenda's goals.

²⁰ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 22.

²¹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2018) *Decision No. 419/QĐ-TTg in 2018 on The establishment of The National Council on Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement*. Retrieved from: <http://vietnam.gov.vn>.

²² Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2017). *Decision No. 622/QĐ-TTg dated May 10th 2017 regarding the issuance of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved from <http://dwrn.gov.vn/uploads/laws/file/2017/622.ke-hoach-hanh-dong-quoc-gia-ve-phat-trien-ben-vung-den-2030.pdf>

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2014). *Decision No. 403/QĐ-TTg dated March 20th 2014 on Approval of the National Action Plan on Green growth in Vietnam For the Period of 2014-2020*

²⁵ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2017). *Decision No. 622/QĐ-TTg dated May 10th 2017 regarding the issuance of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved from <http://dwrn.gov.vn/uploads/laws/file/2017/622.ke-hoach-hanh-dong-quoc-gia-ve-phat-trien-ben-vung-den-2030.pdf>

²⁶ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2018) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 12.

3.3 *Is the government putting in place integrated approaches to implementation (multi-agency or multi-ministerial approaches to joint implementation)?*

Yes, the government of Vietnam is putting in place integrated approaches to implementation, specifically through multi-agency or multi-ministerial approaches to joint implementation of the SDGs. As mentioned in 1.1, the establishment of the National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement, as elaborated above, is an example of such an approach.

3.4 *Are there particular areas allocated to specific institutions?*

Yes. The composition of the National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness includes representatives from various key ministries, indicating that each ministry is responsible for specific areas related to sustainable development.

The particular tasks described in 3.1. For instance, the Ministry of Planning and Investment is involved in the allocation and management of financial resources for development, which includes funding for SDG-related initiatives and projects. The Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs is likely responsible for areas related to social protection, poverty reduction, and inclusive development. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment plays a crucial role in environmental protection, climate action, and conservation efforts. Moreover, the Ministry of Science and Technology may be tasked with promoting innovation, research, and technology development to address sustainable development challenges. The Ministry of Education and Training is likely responsible for issues related to education and skills development, ensuring that quality education is accessible to all.

These allocations suggest a division of responsibilities among the relevant institutions to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to SDG implementation. The engagement of various ministries allows for the integration of sustainability considerations into different sectors of the government and facilitates the achievement of multiple SDGs simultaneously.

4 *Implementation of policies, action plans & strategies at national level*

4.1 *Please outline specific achievements on delivery of each of the SDGs so far, based on an assessment of progress indicators*

Goal 1: Viet Nam has been effectively implemented the general poverty reduction mechanisms and policies to comprehensively support the poor, gradually reducing and abolishing the subsidy policies, increase repayable supports with binding conditions on beneficiaries, geographical locations and benefiting time, especially increase support policies to collectives (groups, teams, cooperatives). As a result, Viet Nam has achieved impressive poverty reduction impact regardless of the measurement methods. Viet Nam's multidimensional poverty rate tends to decrease sharply, from 9.2% in 2016 to 4.3% in 2022. The multidimensional poverty rate among children declined from 19.1% in 2016 to 11.7% in 2020. The number of contributors and beneficiaries of social insurance (SI), health insurance (HI) and unemployment insurance (UI) is constantly going up. The indicators reflecting the level of access to basic services show steady improvement and remain at elevated levels.²⁷

Goal 2: Since 2018, in addition to the expansion of the implementation of national target programs on poverty reduction that contributing to hunger eradication nationwide, Viet Nam has continued to carry out activities to develop green, safe and responsible agriculture; promote food safety, and ensure nutrition security. The malnutrition rates in all forms (stunting,

²⁷ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 30.

underweight, and wasting) among children under 5 years of age tends to go down on national scale. Labour productivity in agriculture has been improved, and per capita income in rural areas tends to rise gradually over the years.²⁸

Goal 3: Viet Nam has been continuously improving its policy system to ensure healthy lives and enhance, welfare for people at all ages from infants to children, the elderly, women and men, and the general public. Some outstanding results include the drop of maternal mortality per 100,000 live births from 54 cases in 2015 to 46 in 2019; the fall of under-five mortality rate and infant mortality rate; the continuous descent in the number of deaths and injuries due to traffic accidents; the downward tendency in the number of new tuberculosis and malaria cases; the percentage of fully-vaccinated infants reached 96.8% by 2020.²⁹

Goal 4: Viet Nam has been continuously improving the system of regimes and policies for education and training development, especially the policy of waiving tuition fees for primary school children nationwide and preschool children in ethnic minority areas, mountainous areas, islands, areas with extremely difficult socio-economic conditions; the reforms of general education curricula and textbooks; the development of vocational education towards integration in the 4th industrial revolution; opportunities of equal and fair access to education for disadvantaged groups have been increasingly expanded and improved. As a result, Viet Nam has achieved positive results in the implementation of Goal 4, specifically: the net enrolment rate at all levels from preschool to upper secondary school tended to grow during 2016-2020, even though there was a slight derailing due to the impact of the Covid-19; the rate of trained employed workers aged 15 years and older climbed from 20.4% in 2015 to 26.2% in 2022; the gender parity index gradually reaches the ideal level for primary and lower secondary schools; 100% schools had delivered basic education programs on sex, violence and abuse prevention, and HIV related knowledge by 2022.³⁰

Goal 5: Viet Nam has made certain efforts to ensure the full and equal participation of women in political and economic fields, which was reflected in the growing proportion of female deputies of the People's Councils at all levels; higher percentage of female members of the National Assembly; and increased percentage of female owners of businesses, etc. In addition, there have been positive changes in sexual and reproductive health care for women. However, certain limitations still persist such as: the remarkably high and rising imbalance in sex ratio at birth with 111.5 boys versus 100 girls in 2022; the relatively high rate of child marriage and early childbearing among ethnic minority women; the persistence of violence against women and children.³¹

Goal 6: As a country with a dense river system and focus on agricultural development, Viet Nam has made efforts to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. In particular, during the period 2018 – 2022, the proportion of urban population who are supplied with drinking water through centralized water supply system increased from 86.7% to 94.2%; the percentage of households with improved water sources climbed from 95.7% to 98.3%, and the percentage of households with hygienic toilets increased from 90.3% to 96.2%; the proportion of active industrial parks and export processing zones with centralized wastewater treatment systems meeting environmental standards rose from 80.1% to 91%. It

²⁸ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 39.

²⁹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 47.

³⁰ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 57.

³¹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 66.

can be said that the implementation of Goal 6 has been demonstrating positive progress since 2018.³²

Goal 7: In implementing the Target Program on electricity supply in rural, mountainous and island areas, the percentage of households with access to electricity is demonstrating an uprising trend and reached 99.5% by 2022. The gap in electricity access between urban and rural areas has been narrowed significantly, from 1.3% to only 0.1% during 2018-2022. The installed capacity and output of renewable energy (RE) exceeded the set target, the share of RE in the total final energy consumption in Viet Nam has been increasing and reached 21.78% in 2020 thanks to investment incentive policies in renewable energy, especially wind power and solar power. In addition, energy consumption to gross domestic products tends to rise above average levels of the world as well as the ASEAN.³³

Goal 8: Viet Nam's economy in the period 2016-2022 did showcase encouraging achievements with a GDP growth rate of over 6% per annum. The total factor productivity (TFP) has improved considerably in the last 5 years, reaching an average rate of 2.93% in the period 2016-2020. The informal employment rate declined steadily in the same period. The COVID-19 pandemic with unpredictable chaos during 2020-2021 has forced Viet Nam and countries around the world to take emergency response measures such as closing border gates, implementing social distancing, which stalled production, paralyzed domestic and international tourism, thus, greatly affected the progress of SDG 8 implementation. In the period of 2020-2021, although GDP maintained positive growth (2.87% in 2020 and 2.56% in 2021), it is much lower than that in 2018, 2019. In addition, income generation rate slowed down, and unemployment and underemployment rates went up. In 2022, Viet Nam's economy began to recover with GDP growth rate of 8.02%; there have been more than 3.5 million international visitors to Viet Nam (still much lower than the pre-COVID-19 level); production and business activities have returned to the pre-COVID-19 normality.³⁴

Goal 9: According to the Global Competitiveness Report (2019) of the World Economic Forum (WEF), Viet Nam's infrastructure system ranked 77th out of 141 countries, higher than previous year and among Top 4 of ASEAN. Transport infrastructure was well-secured, hence, until before the COVID-19 pandemic, the volume of passenger and freight transport and traffic have been increasing over time. Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the volume of passengers and freight transport plunged sharply (over 50%). The share of the manufacturing sector in GDP continuously increased at a stable growth rate despite the smashing hits of the COVID-19 pandemic to the economy. As a result, the proportion of workers in this sector also witnessed an uprising tendency. Science and technology (S&T) area has been strongly invested, reflecting in the growth in the share of expenditures for S&T area and rising number of S&T researchers over time. Viet Nam's total expenditures on scientific research and technological development nearly doubled from VND 18,496 billion in 2015 to VND 32,102 billion in 2019. But as a share of GDP, the increase percentage was insignificant, only 0.01% for the period 2017-2019. The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) scientific and technological researchers in 2019 reached 760.3 people per million population. Social distancing measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic were opportunities to accelerate Viet Nam's digital transformation. As of 2022, more than

³² Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 75.

³³ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 84.

³⁴ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 89.

99.9% of the population had mobile network coverage and over 85% of the population using mobile phones.³⁵

Goal 10: The income growth rate of the bottom 40% population is almost the same as the national average rate, even in 2020, thanks to urgent support policies for the vulnerable people during the COVID-19 pandemic, the income growth rate of such group reached 17.6% and remained positive at 0.5% in 2021, much higher than the growth rate of household income per capita. Viet Nam has developed and implemented policies to reduce risks for vulnerable groups, the poor, near poor and other disadvantaged groups. Viet Nam ensures equal opportunities for everyone in accessing resources and enjoying benefits through social security, education, and training policies. Viet Nam commits to boosting measures that promote the political, economic, and social participation of all, regardless of age, sex, disability status, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic conditions, or any other conditions. Along with the increasingly higher position and power in the global arena, Viet Nam is assuming more important role and position in multilateral institutions/forums, which is clearly reflected in the fact that Viet Nam has been elected to many UN agencies as well as actively participating in regional cooperation such as APEC, ASEAN, the International Mekong River Commission, etc.³⁶

Goal 11: Many important achievements have been recorded in urban development. The proportion of households living in poor quality housing in the country has decreased rapidly, from 2.6% in 2016 to 1.7% in 2018 and 1.2% in 2020. A strong downward trend in the proportion of households living in poorly built housing has been recognized in all sub-categories, from urban to rural areas, among all regions and population groups. Besides the positive results, urban development is facing with environmental pollution problems. The proportion of municipal solid waste collected and treated in accordance with national standards and codes is estimated at 96.23% in 2022 versus 86% in 2018, however, the popular treatment method is still landfill. The construction waste, which accounts for about 10-15% of municipal solid waste, has increased rapidly in recent years along with the speeding of urbanization and growing number of civil works in large cities nation-wide. In addition, the areas of greenery and water surfaces are not utilized properly, worsening the living quality of urban residents. In recent years, socio-economic infrastructures in rural areas have been changing remarkably, contributing to the visual landscape upgrading, and the completion of essential works to meet the requirements of economic development, production and people's well-being. There has been great breakthrough in environmental protection in rural areas, especially in the treatment of domestic wastes and improvement of the rural landscape.³⁷

Goal 12: Viet Nam continues to boost the implementation of the National Action Program on sustainable production and consumption; to manage and use natural resources efficiently, to strengthen measures and sanctions to deal with environmental pollution; develop and apply regulations to promote sustainable public procurement; improve tax policies and regulate prices of fossil fuels; with flexible adjustments to protect the poor, vulnerable groups, especially under the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Propaganda and education about environmental protection continues to be promoted, with special focus on communications and awareness raising activities to change consumption habits, encourage the use of alternative, environmentally friendly products. By the end of 2021, the rate of hazardous waste collected

³⁵ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 101.

³⁶ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 109.

³⁷ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 117.

and treated reached 90% (15 percent points higher than that in 2018); 85.5% of establishments causing serious environmental pollution to have been handled (19.3 percent points higher than that in 2018).³⁸

Goal 13: Viet Nam always strives to respond promptly and effectively to climate change and natural disasters through consolidating relevant laws, strategies and policies; to implement international commitments, especially the commitment to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050; and to incentivize ministries and agencies at central and local level to actively participate in the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. At present, 87.3% of provinces/centrally affiliated cities have promulgated their Action Plans to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The objectives have been emphasized in the National Strategy on Climate Change including: to proactively and effectively respond to climate change, reduce vulnerability, loss and damage caused by climate change, to lessen negative impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups, to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and to take full advantage of opportunities from climate change adaptation to transform growth models, improve resilience and competitiveness of the economy. Moreover, Viet Nam is also actively implementing the National Strategy and Action Plan on Green Growth and promoting the integration of climate change adaptation into national and local socioeconomic development plans. In 2022, Viet Nam updated the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to be closely aligned with Viet Nam's commitments at COP26. Viet Nam has regularly updated the scenarios of climate change and sea level rise in 2009, 2012, 2016 and 2020.³⁹

Goal 14: Having long coastline, Viet Nam has made significant efforts to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development through strategies and policies on protection of marine resources and environment and sustainable management of aquatic resources. Viet Nam is implementing the Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Marine Economy of Viet Nam to 2030, with a vision to 2045. The quality of coastal water and ocean environment have been well kept within allowable limits thanks to different activities to prevent and control marine pollution. Marine and coastal protected areas, despite their relative modesty, have contributed to the management and protection of coastal ecosystems, especially mangroves. The rapid growth of aquaculture has also mitigated the pressure on the exploitation of natural marine resources. In 2020, the percentage of coastal water monitoring points that meet the national technical codes for organic matter pollution parameters (N-NH4+) was 99% and for total grease parameter 92%. Viet Nam's seafood production increased from 6.5 million tons in 2015 to 8.4 million tons in 2020, approximately 4.6% per year.⁴⁰

Goal 15: Forest ecosystems, especially those of national and international importance, and wetland ecosystems, are being conserved, used, and restored in an increasingly sustainable way. Forest cover remains stable and slightly increases from 41.65% to 42.02% in the period of 2018-2022. Many national policies, such as payment for forest environmental services, conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and natural ecosystem services, have created positive impacts in linking biodiversity conservation with sustainable use of ecosystems and genetic resources. These policies have been integrated in the National Socio-Economic Development Plans and Strategies. In the period 2018 to 2021, the total revenue from forest environmental services reached approximately 2,900 billion VND/ year, forest land area

³⁸ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 127.

³⁹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 138.

⁴⁰ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 142.

remains stable with a slight increase from 14.92 million hectares in 2015 to 15.4 million hectares in 2020.⁴¹

Goal 16: Promoting the rule of law, ensuring equal access to justice and participation for all is always the foremost goal that Viet Nam looks forward to, in order to build a rule-of-law state of the people, by the people, and for the people. There have been positive changes in corruption control; the proportion of people and organizations paying informal fees when using public services tends to decline; with improvement in satisfaction index of people and organizations on administrative services; the number of criminal cases reduced; the percentage of children with birth certificates increased by age without difference among boys and girls, urban and rural areas or among regions. In addition, to ensure that all people have equal access to justice and are equal before the law, Viet Nam has promulgated the Law on Legal Aid in 2017 which provides for the provision of free-of-charge legal services to vulnerable groups such as the poor, the children, people of ethnic minorities residing in areas with extremely difficult socio-economic conditions, the elderly, people with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, and people living with HIV, etc.⁴²

Goal 17: At present, Viet Nam has established economic and trade relationships with most countries and territories and is the member of many regional and global organizations and forums. Viet Nam has signed 15 Free Trade Agreements and is realizing its commitments to cut tariffs in 14 Free Trade Agreements. In the period of 2015-2022, export growth rate went up by 12.1% per year on average, meeting the set target. Viet Nam has expanded its network of strategic partnerships and comprehensive partnerships with many countries in the region and around the world; promoted the negotiation and implementation of many new generation free trade agreements since 2018. Viet Nam has been active in developing and contributing to regional and global initiatives of mechanisms such as ASEAN, WTO, WB, IMF, APEC, ASEM, WEF, OECD, P4G, and the UN system, the Mekong sub-region etc.; integrating and leveraging support from and strengthening cooperation with other countries on issues of interest to Viet Nam, serving the implementation of the SDGs, investment, trade, S&T, and climate change adaptation. Although the ODA is being reduced since Viet Nam became a lower middle-income country, it is still an important source of finance for Viet Nam's economic development. The reduction in ODA and in the value of signed concessional loans compared to the past period is the result of careful selection of efficient projects, ensuring the fiscal targets approved by the National Assembly. This is also an inevitable trend of countries that are "graduating" from ODA sources like Viet Nam.⁴³

4.2 Please share any areas where more work is needed to reach the target set for 2030

Currently, according to the assessment of Vietnam's progress in achieving sustainable development goals, there are 5 goals that are likely to be achieved by 2030. These include Goal 1 - No Poverty, Goal 2 - Zero Hunger, Goal 4 - Quality Education, Goal 13 - Climate Action, and Goal 17 - Partnerships for the Goals. However, alongside these achievements, Vietnam still faces many challenges, with 2 goals being evaluated as difficult to achieve by 2030 (Goal 12 - Sustainable Production and Consumption and Goal 14 - Life Below Water).⁴⁴

⁴¹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 148.

⁴² Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 157.

⁴³ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 168.

⁴⁴ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2020). *National Report 2020 on progress of five-year-implementation of sustainable development goals*. Retrieved from <http://www.undp.org/vietnam/publications/national-sdg-report>

In the CSOs' statement to High-level Political Forum in New York in 2023, the CSOs in Vietnam also shared their recognition of the challenges around SDGs 1, 8, and 13 as the COVID-19 pandemic, unsustainable urbanization, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and polluted air and water sources pose threats to the sustainable livelihoods of citizens.

In addition to the mentioned results, Vietnam is confronted with various challenges, as the remaining 10 goals are assessed to face considerable to significant difficulties and obstacles. In particular, Viet Nam will prioritize addressing malnutrition among ethnic minority children (SDG 2). Extra efforts will be put into improving health and well-being, the expansion of essential healthcare services for all people, especially for vulnerable populations such as the older people and ethnic minorities (SDG 3). Viet Nam will also advance SDG 4 toward equitable access to quality education, especially for vulnerable groups. Combating harmful social norms on gender and gender-biased sex selection will be the key to accelerate SDG 5. Increasing renewable energy and boosting energy efficiency will be the focus for SDG 7. Viet Nam will continue to prioritize inclusive growth, decent jobs, and enhance labour productivity to further progress SDG 8. In addition, Viet Nam will make extra efforts in addressing environmental issues in both urban and rural areas (SDG 11); promoting sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12); mobilizing resources for disaster risk management and climate change mitigation and adaptation (SDG 13); preserving life below water (SDG 14); protecting biodiversity and improving ecosystem services (SDG 15).

5 Implementation of policies, action plans & strategies at sub-national or local level

5.1 *Are local governments in your country actively engaged in the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs? If so, how.*

Yes. For example, regarding Goal 4, according to the National Report 2020 on progress of five-year-implementation of sustainable development goals, the Inclusive Education Development and Support Centres in the *various localities* have carried out educational interventions and support for children with disabilities in preschools, despite of much lower than the current demand. In the school year 2018-2019, proportion of children with disabilities receiving inclusive learning at different levels was 79.1% in crèche and 81% in kindergarten. In the same report, regarding SDG 11, the localities have reviewed the formulation of annual, 5-year natural disaster prevention plans and plans to respond to different types of natural disasters according to the level of natural disaster risk.⁴⁵

These examples have shown that there is certain amount of efforts by the localities in contributing to the achievement of SDGs. However, considering the data gaps and inability to meet some of above mentioned goals, it is indicated that more work is still needed at regional or local levels. Therefore, the VNR 2023 also calls for the need to strengthen effective coordination among ministries, sectors, localities, and stakeholders.⁴⁶

5.2 *Has there been a process to integrate the SDGs into local and subnational development plans, or to align existing ones with the SDGs?*

In accordance with international commitments, the Prime Minister of Vietnam has taken significant steps towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The NAP 2030, as outlined in Decision No. 622/QĐ-TTg dated May 10, 2020⁴⁷, plays a pivotal role.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 186.

⁴⁷ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2017). *Decision No. 622/QĐ-TTg dated May 10th 2017 regarding the issuance of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved from

To ensure efficient execution at various levels, specific responsibilities have been allocated to ministries, sectors, and provinces. The NAP 2030 lays out a comprehensive framework of tasks and solutions to steer the implementation of SDGs across the country. To provide a robust legal foundation and drive the integration of the NAP 2030, the Vietnamese government has introduced essential documents:

- *Decision No. 681/QĐ-TTg, dated June 4, 2019*: This decision, issued by the Prime Minister, charts the Roadmap for SDGs implementation until 2030. It serves as a vital guide for local governments, assisting them in crafting precise indicators within their annual and five-year socio-economic development plans. The roadmap facilitates the alignment of local strategies with the SDGs, fostering a coordinated and synergistic approach.⁴⁸
- *Decision No. 2158/QĐ-BKHDT, dated December 31, 2019*: The MPI issued this decision, offering comprehensive guidance on integrating the SDGs into the 5-year socio-economic development plans spanning 2021-2025 and 2026-2030. It not only outlines a structured framework but also provides clear instructions for ministries, sectors, and provinces to harmonize their development plans with the SDGs during these specified timeframes. By emphasizing the integration of SDG targets and indicators, this decision underscores the importance of achieving sustainable development across different tiers of governance.⁴⁹

Further details about local and subnational governments' involvement in SDGs governance has been presented in Part 1.

5.3 ***Are there good examples of local implementation and monitoring?***

With the aim of enhancing the quality of education and learning opportunities for students from ethnic minorities, the Government of Vietnam has taken proactive measures. One such step was the approval of Decision No. 1640/QĐ-TTg on the Consolidation and Development of the Boarding Ethnic Minority High School System for the 2011-2015 period.⁵⁰ This decision delineated specific responsibilities for local governments to achieve outlined targets. These tasks included the development of specialized educational content for boarding ethnic minority students, upgrading infrastructure, and nurturing a qualified teaching staff. Notably, Nghệ An province serves as an exemplary instance of successfully fulfilling these objectives. Beyond conventional educational standards, Nghệ An has excelled in tailor-made initiatives within its ethnic minority boarding schools. Emphasis has been placed on imparting integration skills, cultivating specialized capacities, and fostering cultural appreciation among students. A profound commitment to instilling cultural identity among students of various ethnic backgrounds has been a key focus. This commitment is evident through cultural and ethnic education seamlessly incorporated into lessons, extracurricular activities, out-of-classroom sessions, weekly team activities, traditional folk games, and traditional attire. Innovative teaching methods that suit the unique needs of ethnic minority students have been central to Nghệ An's yearly educational agenda. The Provincial Department of Education and Training has directed schools to execute this objective. Boarding schools specializing in ethnic minority

<http://dwrn.gov.vn/uploads/laws/file/2017/622.ke-hoach-hanh-dong-quoc-gia-ve-phat-trien-ben-vung-den-2030.pdf>

⁴⁸ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2019) *Decision No. 681/QĐ-TTg on promulgating the Roadmap for implementation of objectives for sustainable development of Vietnam forward 2030*. Retrieved from <http://vietnam.gov.vn>.

⁴⁹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2019) *Decision No. 2158/QĐ-BKHDT of Ministry of Planning and Investment on guiding sustainable development goals in 5-year socio-economic development plans for the period of 2021-2025 and 2026-2030 by ministries and localities*. Retrieved from <http://vietnam.gov.vn>.

⁵⁰ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2016) *Decision No. 1640/QĐ-TTg on the Consolidation and Development of the Boarding Ethnic Minority High School System for the 2011-2015 period*. Retrieved from <http://vietnam.gov.vn>.

education in Nghệ An have embraced proactive differentiation, closely aligning with their student demographic. Lesson plans have been designed to enhance students' proactive, engaged, and self-directed learning through diverse educational activities both within and beyond classrooms. Before the project's initiation in 2010, Nghệ An province had 81,555 students from various ethnic minority groups. As of 2021, according to the General Statistics Office's report, this number has risen to 97,202 – an increase of 19.2%. Remarkably, this increase is observed across all educational levels. In particular, data from the General Statistics Office reveals that ethnic minority student enrolment has grown by 13.6% in high school, 11.4% in lower secondary school, and 26.4% in primary school compared to 2010.⁵¹

6 Public Awareness & capacity development

6.1 *Is the full text of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs available in your local languages? Which language(s)? Who translated it?*

Yes, the full text of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs is available in Vietnamese, and it was translated by the Office of the Government.⁵²

6.2 *Are educational bodies and researchers actively seeking to analyse and share the SDGs?*

It is unclear to which extent educational bodies and researchers seek to analyse and share the SDGs. There are official reports and statistics analysing the engagement of educational bodies and researchers towards the implementation of SDGs in Vietnam. Independently, there are a few reports published by universities (for example, SDGs Implementation Progress Report in 2021 by the National Economics University,). However, the scope and the number of these reports are very limited.

Asides from research, educational bodies also host workshops, conferences and seminar to discuss and share insights about the SDGs. “Sustainable Development Goals and Socio-economic Development Strategy 2021 – 2030” workshop hosted by the Academy of Social Sciences and “Sustainable University Development – Opportunity and Challenge” hosted by University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City are some examples of such efforts. Nevertheless, similarly, there are limitations to the number of workshops and conferences organized by these institutions.

6.3 *Are civil society organisations using the 2030 Agenda for framing their work?*

Yes, according to the “The engagement of CSOs in implementing SDGs through community-based models and activities” report conducted by MSD (2022), despite not having a comprehensive understanding of the SDGs, all CSOs (100%) actively participate in contributing to the realization of SDGs. Many organizations contribute to multiple SDGs simultaneously. CSOs tend to align with global trends, focusing not only on addressing specific sectors under individual SDGs but also prioritizing gender equality, reducing inequality, and ensuring peace and justice. This approach aligns with the trend and enhances the role of CSOs in project implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and providing SDG-related data to government agencies. Particularly, SDG 5, 10, and 16 are identified as lacking statistical data, and CSOs are instrumental in addressing this data gap. Furthermore, in their contributions to achieving SDGs,

⁵¹ General Statistics Office. (2023). *Number of ethnic minority pupils of general education as of 30 September by some provinces*. Retrieved from <http://gso.gov.vn>.

⁵² Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2017). *Decision No. 622/QĐ-TTg – Regarding the issuance of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Retrieved from <http://dwrn.gov.vn/uploads/laws/file/2017/622.ke-hoach-hanh-dong-quoc-gia-ve-phat-trien-ben-vung-den-2030.pdf>

CSOs demonstrate a central role as connectors, not only at the national level but also internationally. This international engagement contributes to the broader context of SDGs and the principle of "Leave No One Behind."

6.4 What support exists for capacity development on the SDGs in your country?

- **Seminars by the government and corporates:** Seminars on sustainable business and corporate social responsibility target business entities and business owners in the context of implementing SDGs to enhance the capacity and awareness of businesses.
- **Policies and educational programs by the government:** According to Decision No.160/QĐ-TTg dated Jan 15th 2013 on the Approval of the National Action Plan on Sustainable Development Phase 2013 – 2015 by the Prime Minister, to promote SDGs Education, the Sustainable Development Education Steering Committee of Vietnam recommends that local authorities at all levels proactively integrate sustainable development education into their socio-economic development plans for the next 5 to 10 years. Additionally, the government also highlights the importance of strengthening the network and enhancing coordination, not only among the ministries and agencies that are members of the Committee but also with all partners such as social organizations, associations, businesses, communities, and individuals both within and outside the country. Furthermore, there is a need to mobilize resources to implement Sustainable Development Education effectively and continue to raise awareness about SDGs Education.⁵³
- **CSOs' activities and programs:** Capacity building workshops are conducted by CSOs groups in Vietnam to enhance capacity and skills for participants. For example: The Action for CSO Development Alliance Vietnam (CSA Vietnam) conducted SDG training for 250 CSO staffs in the North, Centre and the South of Vietnam and cooperated with National Academy of Politics to provide trainings for more than 175 governmental officers. From 2018 – now, The Leave No One Behind Vietnam Partnership (LNOB Vietnam) has facilitated the exchange of experiences in SDG implementation in Vietnam, ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as children, women, people with disabilities, the poor, migrants, ethnic minorities, etc., are actively engaged and have a voice in the process of SDGs implementation and monitoring in Vietnam. They outreached and built capacity for more than 3000 citizens and hundreds of CSOs. Youth Force 2030 – a network for youth has built capacity for more than 2500 youth throughout Vietnam on engaging in SDGs. MSD also cooperated with partners to build capacity of SDGs for more than 150 enterprises and startups.

6.5 Are there opportunities for partnership with other CSOs and/or UN agencies?

According to the survey conducted by MSD in 2018 and 2022, 100% of CSOs do not contribute to the implementation of SDGs individually but rather engage in collaborative efforts with other partners. Among these partners, domestic CSOs are the most crucial, accounting for 86.9% (2018) and 73.3% (2022). International non-governmental organizations account for 73.8% in

⁵³ Socialist Republic of Vietnam (2013). *Decision No.160/QĐ-TTg dated Jan 15th 2013 on the Approval of the National Action Plan on Sustainable Development Phase 2013 – 2015*. Access from: <http://vietnam.gov.vn>.

2018⁵⁴ and 58.1% in 2022.⁵⁵ According to the report in 2022, over 40% of organizations do not collaborate with United Nations agencies.

Specifically, CSOs can be categorized into two primary groups: (1) those directly delivering programs and services to communities and (2) those acting as intermediaries, focusing on capacity building, networking, resource mobilization, and policy advocacy. These organizations build partnership relationships based on two main axes: horizontal partnerships among those directly involved in projects and vertical partnerships between these organizations and intermediary partners, facilitating connections with government agencies, donors, international organizations, and more. Survey results in 2018 show that horizontal partnerships are prevalent, while vertical partnerships are limited due to the scarcity and effectiveness of CSOs in intermediary roles.

Nonetheless, one of the key solutions proposed in VNR 2023 when it comes to the availability of data is that “Mobilize technical assistance from development partners, especially UN agencies in collecting SDGs data and rapid data collection in real time as well as digitizing information and data sources for future emergency response and assistance. Mobilize the participation of social organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide data for the process of monitoring and evaluating the SDGs.” (pp. 185). Otherwise stated, there are wide-open rooms for collaboration among CSOs and between CSOs and UN agencies in narrowing the gap of data on SDGs in Vietnam.

6.6 Have you identified specific gaps in CSO skill development?

Nearly 50% of the surveyed CSOs still lack a clear understanding of the 2030 Agenda (UN SDGs) and Vietnam’s National Program for the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Meanwhile, the progress towards achieving SDGs has reached the halfway point, with many CSOs still lacking comprehension of the SDG objectives.⁵⁶

In addition, the characteristics of CSOs are that they are small in scale and engage in various areas and fields, resulting in very small, dispersed outcomes and impacts. Meanwhile, the SDG indicators and targets are at a very large scale. In practice, with the current data collection and statistical mechanisms managed by the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the General Statistics Office, it is challenging to determine and measure the contribution of CSOs to SDGs. Furthermore, the responsibilities and activities of relevant organizations in terms of statistics, analysis, and reporting are still unclear and lack appropriate tools.⁵⁷

Regarding partnerships, CSOs have effective partnerships with the government, yet primarily with large-scale, well-capacitated, and experienced non-governmental organizations. For smaller-scale organizations, especially community-based organizations (which are numerous, especially in the southern regions), it can be challenging to establish and develop partnership relationships. Most CSOs, given their focus on development activities, often lack the processes, methods, tools, and skills to access and build strategic partnerships with large-scale domestic and international businesses.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ MSD. (2018). *The role and contribution of social organizations in the implementation of SDGs*. Retrieved from <https://msdvietnam.org/tai-nguyen/bao-cau-nghien-cuu-2018-vai-tro-va-dong-gop-cua-cac-to-chuc-xa-hoi-trong-thuc-hien-cac-muc-tieu-phat-trien-ben-vung/>

⁵⁵ MSD. (2022). *The engagement of CSOs in implementing SDGs through community-based models and activities*.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ MSD. (2018). *The role and contribution of social organizations in the implementation of SDGs*. Retrieved from <https://msdvietnam.org/tai-nguyen/bao-cau-nghien-cuu-2018-vai-tro-va-dong-gop-cua-cac-to-chuc-xa-hoi-trong-thuc-hien-cac-muc-tieu-phat-trien-ben-vung/>

⁵⁸ Ibid.

7 Monitoring, evaluation, data & reporting mechanisms

7.1 *Is there an official and established institutional framework for monitoring and accountability in your country?*

Refer to below answer (7.2)

7.2 *How open and transparent is this framework? Has this framework been fully institutionalised in a yearly or bi-annual multi-stakeholder reporting process?*

Yes. Monitoring and evaluation of SDGs is a crucial part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Viet Nam and has become a routine work with the participation of relevant ministries, sectors, agencies, and social organizations, non-governmental organizations, and UN agencies in Viet Nam. Accordingly, the Ministry of Planning and Investment has promulgated a System of 158 Statistical Indicators to monitor Viet Nam's Sustainable Development, of which: (i) 38 indicators belong to the National Statistical Indicator System specified in the Law on Statistics 2015; (ii) 112 indicators correspond to 100 indicators of Sustainable Development Goals at the global level; (iii) 32 indicators are from the System of Statistical Indicators of Ministries and Sectors. The responsibility for collecting and synthesizing data for the SDGs is defined as follows: GSO is responsible for collecting data for 62 indicators (39.2%); 21 Ministries and other agencies are responsible for collecting data for 96 indicators (60.8%).

The monitoring and accountability efforts are not limited to the national level. Local governments and communities are also actively involved in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. Local development plans are aligned with the 2030 Agenda, and local governments are encouraged to integrate the SDGs into their policies and programs.

According to regulations, reports on monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs shall include:

- Annual report on evaluation of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- National periodical reports on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (VNR).
- Report on sustainable development by topics, and other ad-hoc reports.

Social organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and other stakeholders are encouraged to submit reports with information, research results and evaluation as well as feedback on the Sustainable Development Goals to the Ministry of Planning and Investment and sector management agencies.

Every year, the Ministry of Planning and Investment submits a report to the Government and the National Assembly to review the implementation of the SDGs. Viet Nam developed the first VNR in 2018 and the second one in 2023. In 2020, Viet Nam prepared the first Report of the SDGs Implementation at the national level.

In the long run, to enhance the integration of information collection for SDGs statistical indicators, it is important to incorporate them into existing statistical surveys, particularly those such as the Vietnam Population Living Standards Survey, Population Change and Family Planning Survey, as well as labor and employment surveys. This integration should also extend to the statistical reporting procedures of various ministries and industries. There is a need to intensify research efforts aimed at exploring new and non-traditional data sources, including big data, remote sensing data, and satellite data. The development of automated software systems is crucial for the efficient collection of SDG data. These systems will play a significant role in reducing the reliance on manual data reporting by ministries, sectors, and local

authorities. Additionally, the creation of a unified and synchronized database is imperative, as it will greatly facilitate the annual reporting of progress in SDG implementation.⁵⁹

Overall, Vietnam has put in place a comprehensive institutional framework that involves multiple stakeholders and ensures monitoring and accountability in the pursuit of sustainable development through the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

7.3 *Is there progress on bringing together evidence with disaggregated data to demonstrate progress in your country? What data is disaggregated?*

There is a lack of disaggregated data, especially by criteria and target groups, especially disadvantaged groups (such as children, people with disabilities, etc.), that enable the multi-dimensional evaluation of the SDG implementation in light of the “leaving no one behind” principle. According to the presentation by GSO representative at the VNR launching workshop, nearly 50 of SDG indicators have data but only at aggregated. Especially lack of data for disadvantaged groups: There are only 9 indicators disaggregated by ethnicity and almost no data for people with disabilities, etc. Data disaggregated by region and province/city is also very limited.

The lack of data is an inevitable limitation in the process of developing VNR and it is necessary to have better solutions to improve the data for SDG monitoring and evaluation in the near future.⁶⁰

7.4 *Has civil society been invited to supply and/or review evidence and data ‘disaggregated by income, gender, age, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts? If YES please provide details.*

CSOs have been invited to supply the disaggregated data/evidence during the VNR process. In the official VNR 2023, under 5% of the comments proposed by CSOs were incorporated.

8 Transparency, accountability and access to information

8.1 *Are policy-making and decision-making processes on the SDGs based on easily accessible, timely and accurate information and data?*

No specific information. Yet, the process of policy formulation is based on the gap analysis of evidence-based data, as stated in 2.1.

8.2 *Is there a transparent process for understanding official data?*

The data collected in the process of SDGs implementation are publicly published and could be accessed via Government Office Portal, GSO website and research/surveys conducted by the line ministries. However, there is no official transparent process for understanding official data published by the government.

8.3 *Are there any institutional processes or specific policies in place to tackle corruption and malpractice?*

Yes. Vietnam has established a legal framework to tackle corruption. The Law on Anti-Corruption, adopted in 2005 and amended in 2018, serves as the primary legislation to prevent, detect, and handle corruption-related offenses. The 2018 amendments to the Law on Anti-Corruption introduced stricter penalties for corruption offenses, including heavier fines and longer prison terms. The Government Inspectorate is the central agency responsible for anti-corruption efforts. It oversees the implementation of anti-corruption laws, conducts inspections, and coordinates with other relevant agencies. The Anti-Corruption Central Steering

⁵⁹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 185.

⁶⁰ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 28.

Committee provides guidance and coordination for anti-corruption activities. Many units are also assigned with the task of corruption prevention and combat, which exist within various government agencies and enterprises. Specialized courts, such as the Central Military Court and the People's Court of Ho Chi Minh City, also handle corruption-related cases.

In addition, Vietnam has developed a National Strategy on Anti-Corruption for the periods 2013-2020 and 2021-2030. These strategies outline priorities, goals, and actions to prevent and combat corruption across various sectors.

9 Multi-stakeholder partnerships

9.1 *What is the level of engagement from different stakeholders in the national implementation plan (government, civil society, trade unions, private sector, academia, local government, development partners, parliamentarians, etc)? Is there a broad and horizontal partnership across sectors for implementation?*

According to the VNR 2023 (pp. 22-26), the roles and engagement of different stakeholders are recognized as follows:

- **The National Assembly and the Government** play a leading role in the implementation of the SDGs nationwide. NAP 2030 specifically assigns responsibilities to stakeholders from central to local levels in the implementation of the SDGs.
- **The Viet Nam Fatherland Front and its member organizations** have promoted the great national solidarity bloc, joining hands to implement the SDGs.
- **Business community:** In recent years, the number of businesses has increased rapidly, which has created a large number of jobs with higher incomes for workers. The high income and rapid growth in employment in the business sector contributed to improving and raising the general living standards of the whole society and facilitated the process of restructuring workers from agriculture to non-agricultural industries.
- **CSOs:** CSOs have made important contributions to the country's socio-economic development over the years as well as the implementation of the SDGs in the country.
- **Development partners:** ODA and concessional loans from development partners have actively contributed to the country's socioeconomic development and implementation of the SDGs. ODA and concessional loans play important roles for development investment in the context of limited state budget while demands for investment are enormous to create the breakthrough in infrastructure development towards modernity as set out in the National Socio-Economic Development Strategy in different periods. In addition, development partners provide technical support and experience sharing to Viet Nam in the process of formulating and implementing national development policies, including the national Socio-Economic Development Strategies and Plans, sectoral strategies, and in the localization of international commitments including the 2030 Agenda to be aligned with the context in Viet Nam.

Regarding the "golden triangle" model of collaboration between the State, CSOs, and Enterprises, in line with the spirit of Public-Private-Civil Society Partnerships, CSOs' participation at the macro level with state and central government agencies remains limited, meanwhile, collaboration of CSOs with businesses, although not high, is identified as a growing trend in the SDG implementation process.⁶¹

9.2 *How would you assess the partnership among different actors, is there mutual accountability? Is the relationship between actors based on an equal footing?*

⁶¹ MSD. (2022). *The engagement of CSOs in implementing SDGs through community-based models and activities*, pp. 102.

The assessment of partnerships and mutual accountability among different actors in Vietnam can vary depending on the specific context, sector, and initiatives. While there are efforts to foster collaboration and coordination among various stakeholders, the extent of mutual accountability and equality in relationships may differ.

There are instances of collaboration among government agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), international organizations, private sector entities, and other stakeholders in various development projects and initiatives.

- **Mutual Accountability:**
 - Reporting and Monitoring: Some partnerships involve regular reporting and monitoring mechanisms to track progress, allocate resources, and ensure commitments are met.
 - Review Processes: Initiatives like the Voluntary National Review (VNR) engage different stakeholders in reviewing progress towards the SDGs and assessing mutual accountability.
- **Equality and Relationship Dynamics:**
 - Uneven Power Dynamics: While efforts have been made to enhance inclusivity, there can be challenges related to power imbalances, with government agencies often holding more influence in decision-making processes.
 - CSO Engagement: The role of civil society organizations varies. In some cases, CSOs are actively engaged in policy dialogue, while in others, their involvement may be limited.

In summary, the partnership among different actors in Vietnam reflects a mixed picture. While there are instances of collaboration, joint initiatives, and efforts towards mutual accountability, there can be challenges related to power dynamics and varying levels of influence among stakeholders. Achieving a more equal footing in relationships may require ongoing efforts to strengthen participatory processes, enhance transparency, and ensure that the perspectives of all stakeholders are considered in decision-making and development initiatives.

9.3 Have any challenges or opportunities been identified in terms of broader partnerships?

In terms of resource mobilization, since 2016, ODA has plunged dramatically, Viet Nam needs to continue to expand and promote international cooperation to take advantage of emerging public finance sources associated with climate change, green growth, and sustainable development. In addition, regarding the tender to provide public services to the government, the primary reasons leading to the non-participation of CSOs in tender processes are: (i) Lack of access to information and (ii) limited capacity to engage in the tender process⁶². The relationship between businesses and CSOs continues to be primarily activity-based in nature, at a primary stage, lacking a strategic development dimension, and only offers limited complementary support. The contribution of businesses to the organization's budget remains low, ranging from 5% to 12%, depending on the region⁶³.

As mentioned above in 6.6, CSOs that have effective partnerships with the government are the large-scale organizations with strong capacity and significant experience, primarily falling into the category of non-governmental organizations rather than CBOs. In addition, state partners also have many regulatory barriers to coordinate and carry out activities CSOs in general and CBOs in particular. Examples include regulations related to finances, planning, activity approval,

⁶² MSD. (2018). *The role and contribution of social organizations in the implementation of SDGs*. Retrieved from <https://msdvietnam.org/tai-nguyen/bao-cao-nghien-cuu-2018-vai-tro-va-dong-gop-cua-cac-to-chuc-xa-hoi-trong-thuc-hien-cac-muc-tieu-phat-trien-ben-vung/>

⁶³ Ibid.

and many other aspects,... Regarding the partnership with businesses, as aforementioned, most CSOs rely on foreign funding for project-based activities, hindering their ability to proactively build strategic partnerships. CSOs lack the necessary processes and skills to collaborate with large corporations. Meanwhile, businesses, especially SMEs, mainly focus on marketing and philanthropy rather than development goals.⁶⁴

10 Citizen participation and civil society engagement

10.1 *Have you had a regular policy dialogue with the governance mechanism for SDG implementation or with relevant government ministries during the preparation and since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda?*

Not clearly identified. CSOs may be invited to government's consultation workshops in SDGs implementation, monitoring and evaluation process, but not in the form of regular policy dialogue.

10.2 *Have there been any other ways in which civil society has been able to contribute to the implementation or review? Has this participation been organised through high level meetings; working groups or technical groups; informal consultations; specific workshops? Do these spaces benefit from clear mandates, methodologies and resources?*

Not clearly identified. According to the MSD's report (2022), ensuring the rights of vulnerable and marginalized community groups accounts for 70% of the notable results and contributions of CSOs. An important point to note is that policy advocacy efforts are relatively limited, reflecting some hesitancy among CSOs. Policy advocacy mainly involves research/data collection and evidence provision (30%), and participation in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of SDGs (25%). While a significant number of organizations collaborate with local authorities, engagement in policy advocacy at the local level is only at 10%.

10.3 *Regarding assessment of progress, has civil society been invited to contribute in a public consultation on the Voluntary National Review? If so, how was the invitation done and who was invited?*

Yes, civil society has been invited to contribute to a public consultation on the VNR.

10.4 *If YES, do you think this positive development will provide further opportunities for participation within the broader implementation process – especially regarding policy dialogue?*

Yes, the invitation for civil society to contribute to a public consultation on the VNR is a positive development that can indeed open up further opportunities for participation within the broader implementation process, particularly in terms of policy dialogue. Firstly, inviting civil society to participate in a public consultation on the VNR demonstrates recognition of their valuable insights and perspectives. This recognition can extend to other aspects of the implementation process, encouraging more engagement in policy dialogue. Secondly, successful participation in the VNR consultation can encourage civil society to engage in broader policy dialogues on various issues. Governments may be more inclined to involve civil society in discussions related to policies, strategies, and programs as civil society often represents marginalized and vulnerable groups. Their involvement can ensure that policies and programs consider the needs and challenges of these groups.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

10.5 *Has your government invited CSO representatives to be a member of its delegation to participate in the HLPF and/or make a presentation at the VNR?*

No.

10.6 *If “YES”, has your government provided financial support for this participation?*

Additional cross-cutting questions:

1. Progress since last VNR

1.1 If your country is now presenting a second or subsequent VNR, how have the gaps identified in the previous VNR been addressed?

Since the first VNR in 2018, Vietnam has faced challenges due to prolonged impacts of COVID-19, rising food and fuel prices, global financial market volatility, and increased effects of natural disasters and climate change. Despite these challenges, Vietnam remains strongly committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda, anchored in its National Action Plan. All 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integrated into national and local strategies, economic-social development plans, and sectoral policies.

As elaborated above in Question 4.1, Vietnam has made significant progress in SDGs 1, 6, 9, 10, 16, and 17. For instance, SDG 1 continues to show remarkable results with multidimensional poverty reducing from 9.2% to 4.3% from 2016 to 2022. SDG 6 demonstrates strong improvement with 98.3% of households having access to sanitary water in 2022 (up from 93.4% in 2016). Substantial investment in infrastructure and industrialization, along with fostering innovative business environments, has contributed significantly to SDG 9.⁶⁵

SDG 10 has seen progress through job creation, expanding social safety nets, and supporting vulnerable groups, particularly amid the impacts of COVID-19. Notable advancements have been recorded in SDG 16, where citizen and organizational satisfaction with public services increased from 80.9% to 87.2% during 2017-2021. After nearly three decades of deep integration and active international engagement, Vietnam has achieved solid results in SDG 17. SDG 3 has improved further with reduced child mortality rates and increased health insurance coverage. SDG 4 saw high transition rates from primary to secondary education and high rates of secondary school graduation. SDG 7 witnessed increased electricity access. Vietnam demonstrated resilience after COVID-19, achieving a GDP growth rate of 8.02% in 2022 and maintaining low unemployment rates (SDG 8).

Notable progress in SDG 11 includes decreased temporary housing rates. Vietnam remains committed to SDG 13 by aiming for net-zero emissions and specific climate-related policies. Challenges persist, but Vietnam is determined to address malnutrition in minority children (SDG 2), enhance healthcare services for vulnerable groups (SDG 3), ensure quality and inclusive education (SDG 4), address harmful gender stereotypes (SDG 5), promote renewable energy and energy efficiency (SDG 7), and tackle urban and rural environmental pollution (SDG 11).

Vietnam also focuses on sustainable production and consumption (SDG 12), climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (SDG 13), ocean conservation and sustainable marine resources (SDG 14), and biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services (SDG 15). Amid challenges, Vietnam is committed to accelerating its efforts to achieve the SDGs, building on its progress and addressing remaining gaps.

1.2 Has there been any follow up since the previous VNR was presented?

Yes.

1.3 If “YES”, how have civil society bodies been involved in engagement since the previous VNR?

⁶⁵ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*.

Since the VNR 2018, CSOs continued to participate in developing the set of indicators, which is expected to be reviewed and revised in 2024. In 2020, Vietnam published its first National Report on the Implementation of SDGs, and nearly 80% of CSOs recommendations were integrated into the report. In addition, the VNR 2023 also reported a significant and interconnected role of CSOs. Social organizations were acknowledged as one of the key stakeholders next to the National Assembly and the Government, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, business community and development partners to contribute to the SDGs realization in Vietnam. On July 14th, 2023, at the High-Level Political Forum in New York, the Vietnamese CSOs statement to VNR was delivered. At this Forum, the representative of Vietnam government also recognized and highly appreciated and encouraged the participation of CSOs in the SDG process.

2. Leaving no one behind

2.1 *In your experience, how far have the poorest, most vulnerable, and those furthest behind, been a focus for the national strategy of the 2030 Agenda or of the national development plan?*

Following government's commitment to "Leaving no one behind", cross-sectoral policies have comprehensively integrated the SDGs that better mainstreamed the disadvantage groups, including the poor, ethnic minorities, children and women⁶⁶. Focusing on such principle, the government, in collaboration with CSOs and business partners, has facilitated the implementation of SDGs from national level to further down sectoral, regional and local levels, assuring the largest reach. That said, according to the Vietnamese CSOs' statement at the High-Level Political Forum in New York 2023, citizen and CSO engagement in the SDG process needs to be ensured in a broader and more inclusive manner, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups. Commenting on the VNR, the CSOs also stated that an important point not addressed in the report is the need to provide an overarching picture of where vulnerable and left-behind groups stand in the implementation process of the SDGs. While the report contains a brief statement at the beginning about "Leaving No One Behind", it lacks a comprehensive summary of the scale and clear identification of these groups or an assessment of how they are being supported or marginalized across different aspects of the Economic-Social-Environmental spectrum. The data on these groups within each goal is also limited. Specifically, Goal 10, which focuses on inequality and vulnerable groups, has relatively concise information. This may be due to the absence of available data, but if relying solely on officially published data, many groups and issues will undoubtedly remain undocumented, making it impossible to provide a clear overview.

Assessing the status-quo of marginalized groups in Vietnam and the inclusion of national policies and national action plan, the challenges to reach the most marginalized can be categorized as follows:

- **Discrimination:** Vietnam may not have specific anti-discrimination laws, but certain provisions against discrimination have been explicitly specified in various specialized laws, similar to most other countries. For example, the 2016 Law on Children ensures non-discrimination against children and seeks their input when formulating policies affecting them; the 2019 Education Law prohibits discrimination based on background, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, etc., of students; the 2016 Law on Religion and Belief prohibits discrimination between religions; the Law on Prevention

⁶⁶ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 6.

of Infectious Diseases prohibits discrimination against people with diseases; the Law on Persons with Disabilities prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities, and so on. The Gender Equality Law is currently being revised to better protect women's rights. State management agencies and social organizations have developed and organized numerous communication programs on legal policies and social mindset changes that contribute to reducing inequality.

- **Geographic Location:** In an effort to ensure that communities in remote, deep, and rural areas have equitable access to public services and social services and to eradicate poverty, programs, policies, and efforts to eliminate geographical barriers faced by vulnerable groups were carried out. For example, programs like New Rural Development, the National Target Program for Socio-Economic Development in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas, and various diversity-focused policies aim to support poor and near-poor individuals in rural areas, ethnic minority communities in economically and socially difficult areas, and improve education, livelihoods, human resource development, poverty reduction, and more.
- **Policies and Governance Methods:** These are factors related to governance structures or methods that may result in some communities or groups being more vulnerable than others. Vietnam has made significant strides in improving governance structures and mechanisms to promote equality, helping vulnerable groups like women and children gain better access to education and employment opportunities. For example, in the field of education, the policy of exempting school fees for primary and lower-secondary school students in public schools and providing fee support to private schools ensures children's right to education and development. Legal frameworks on gender equality gradually enhance access to education, improve maternal health, and increase women's participation in the labor force. The rights and leadership of women in various fields are protected.
- **Socio-Economic Conditions:** Vietnam has achieved significant progress in improving livelihoods and quality of life for vulnerable groups. Examples include policies related to poverty reduction, multidimensional poverty, etc. Efforts to improve public health, access to healthcare, education, environmental sanitation, social protection, labor market competitiveness, etc.
- **Other Vulnerabilities:** These vulnerabilities may arise due to climate change, natural disasters, violence, conflicts, displacement, health or economic crises, inflation, or shocks. Vietnam's efforts to ensure economic growth, employment support, and subsidies in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, as well as measures to respond to various challenges were notable.

2.2 How would you assess the opportunities for these marginalised groups to engage in setting the national priorities, in policy-making, and in review processes?

The opportunities for the marginalized groups to engage in setting national priorities policymaking and review processes remain limited, despite gradual progress. The government has taken steps to promote the representation of the marginalized groups in public participation by, for example, involving CSOs as the intermediaries to facilitate dialogue and collect data from the marginalized groups. However, the mechanisms for feedback and engagement are not yet well-defined or transparent.

2.3 Has the government formulated an overarching approach to incorporate the Leave No One Behind principle into institutional guidance for policy-making processes, and/or target and indicator-setting processes?

No information.

2.4 We are interested in learning more about groups that are marginalised in your country context, by which we mean groups of people that are more likely than others to experience poverty, exclusion, discrimination, lack of participation, or violence- Which groups of people do you understand to be the most marginalised in the country where you work? (You may choose more than one and add more if relevant in your country)

Women & Girls	X
Children & young people	X
Indigenous peoples	
Older persons	X
Persons with disabilities	X
People discriminated by caste, work and descent	
People discriminated by geographic area: eg. urban slums/rural areas	
People from the LGBTQI community	
Small scale farmers	
Ethnic & Religious minority groups	
Migrants or undocumented persons	

3. Planetary Boundaries

3.1 Are there policies in place to protect the environment? In particular, does the plan include sustainable management of resources (eg. water, soil, air) or Sustainable Consumption and Production?

In the VNR 2023 report, it was highlighted that Vietnam has shown a growing commitment to environmental conservation. Recognized in the VNR 2023, Viet Nam is actively implementing the National Strategy and Action Plan on Green Growth and promoting the integration of climate change adaptation into national and local socioeconomic development plans. In 2022, Viet Nam updated the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to be closely aligned with

Viet Nam's commitments at COP26. Viet Nam has regularly updated the scenarios of climate change and sea level rise in 2009, 2012, 2016 and 2020. In response to SDG14, Viet Nam is implementing the Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Marine Economy of Viet Nam to 2030, with a vision to 2045. For SDG15, many national policies, such as payment for forest environmental services, conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and natural ecosystem services, have created positive impacts in linking biodiversity conservation with sustainable use of ecosystems and genetic resources. These policies have been integrated in the National Socio-Economic Development Plans and Strategies.

3.2 *Is agricultural production carried out in a sustainable way (considering eg. organic farming, non-GMO, animal welfare)?*

Agricultural production in Vietnam involves a mix of practices, including both conventional and sustainable approaches. The findings from a survey on more than 33,000 agricultural production households in 2020 demonstrated that the percentage of efficient and sustainable agricultural production land area reached 37.8%, meaning 62.2% of agricultural production land is neither suitable nor efficient.⁶⁷ The proportion of aquaculture areas applying good and sustainable aquaculture practices has increased significantly. By the end of 2022, the whole country had 85,996 ha of aquaculture area received VietGAP or equivalent certificates, an increase of almost 5.1 times compared to 2021 (16,991 ha), and 55.7 times compared to 2016.⁶⁸

3.3 *Are investments made towards sustainable and public transport?*

In recent years, policies have encouraged urban public transport development and usage over private vehicles for sustainable urban transportation. Cities, especially larger ones, have improved public transport to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. Policies on discounting public transport fares and service charges for the elderly, people with disabilities, and children have been implemented in some localities. Despite substantial investments, public transportation in Vietnam's major cities, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, meets only some needs, especially for students and the elderly. People still prefer private vehicles due to public transit inconvenience. To improve public transportation sustainably, comprehensive solutions are necessary, including infrastructure development, better connectivity, service quality enhancement, and prioritized investments.⁶⁹

3.4 *Are there clear national commitments to cut CO2-emissions and move towards a just transition of energy? Is there a supra-ministerial coordination or specific ministry charged with coordination and oversight of the implementation? If not, how does the coordination and oversight work?*

Yes, Vietnam has clear national commitments to cut CO2 emissions and transition towards a more sustainable and low-carbon energy system. Vietnam is a signatory of the Paris Agreement and has submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In its NDCs, Vietnam commits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including CO2 emissions, by a certain percentage compared to business-as-usual scenarios. These commitments are part of the country's broader efforts to contribute to global climate mitigation efforts.

⁶⁷ GSO. (2021) *Results of the mid-term rural and agricultural survey 2020*.

⁶⁸ Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. (2022) *Report on the implementation of sustainable development goals in 2022*.

⁶⁹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 120.

According to the Decision No. 2053/QĐ-TTg, the coordination and oversight of climate and energy-related policies in Vietnam involve various ministries and agencies working collaboratively. While there isn't a specific supra-ministerial body solely focused on climate coordination, several ministries play significant roles in climate and energy governance:

- **Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE):** This ministry plays a central role in formulating and implementing policies related to climate change, environmental protection, and sustainable development.
- **Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT):** MOIT is responsible for energy planning, regulation, and promoting renewable energy development.
- **Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI):** MPI plays a role in aligning development plans and projects with climate goals and sustainability objectives.

3.5 Is the country reliant on extractive industries? How are those industries behaving towards their workers and the environment? Where are the profits of those industries going?

Vietnam does have some extractive industries, but they are not as prominent or dominant in the country's economy as in some other nations. The extractive industries in Vietnam primarily include mining, quarrying, and oil and gas exploration. While these industries contribute to the economy, they are not the main drivers of growth (accounted for 2.82% of total GDP in 2022)⁷⁰. The behaviour of extractive industries towards their workers can vary widely based on the specific industry, company practices, and regulatory oversight. However, the current mining extraction activities still have negative impacts on the surrounding environment, mainly through pollution caused by waste soil, wastewater, emissions, and dust generated during the extraction, processing, and transportation, affecting forest ecosystems or leading to degradation and pollution of agricultural land. On the other hand, illegal mineral extraction, especially with gold, sand, and gravel in riverbeds, result in resource loss, environmental pollution and become pressing issues in certain areas.⁷¹

The profits generated from extractive industries contribute to government revenue and economic growth. The distribution of these profits can depend on factors such as taxation policies, ownership structures of companies, and government regulations.

- **Government Revenue:** In some cases, governments impose taxes, royalties, and fees on extractive industries, generating revenue that can be used for public services, infrastructure, and development projects.
- **State-Owned Enterprises:** In cases where the extractive industries are state-owned, profits contribute to the state budget and public expenditures.
- **Private Companies:** Profits of private extractive companies go to shareholders and can be reinvested in the business or used for expansion.

4. Delivery by CSOs

4.1 How far are CSOs developing their own plans on raising awareness about; and

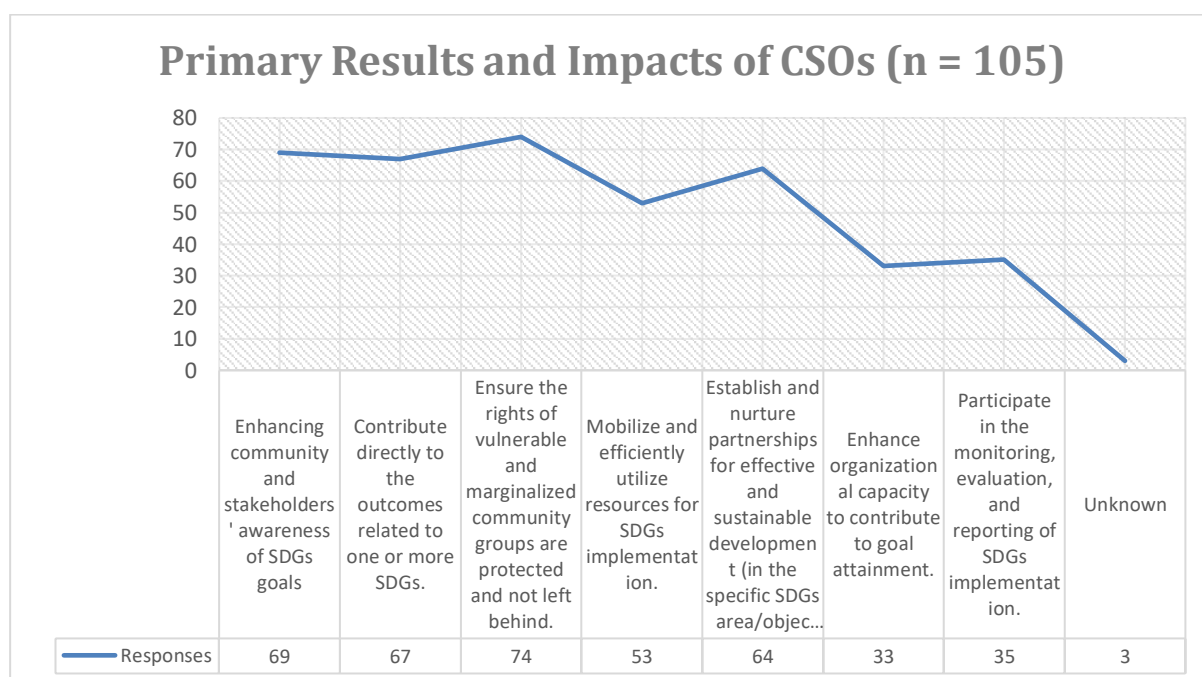
⁷⁰ Nguyen, M. N. (2023) *GDP contribution of mining and quarrying in Vietnam 2015-2022*. Retrieved from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1047674/vietnam-gdp-contribution-of-mining-and-quarrying-sector/>

⁷¹ Socialist Republic of Vietnam. (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 130.

implementation of; the agenda

Refer to question 11.2. Vietnamese CSOs have widely accessed and referenced both UN's Agenda 2030 and Vietnam's National Action Plan during the process of planning and implementing activities, aiming to contribute to the achievement of related sustainable development goals within the scope of the organization's mission, vision, and strategy.⁷² However, the survey reveals that there is a certain degree of variation in the level of awareness and understanding of sustainable development goals in general, and awareness of related documents in particular. CSOs primarily contribute to the implementation of sustainable development goals through the execution of related program and project activities. These activities encompass the entire process, from developing program and project proposals to participating in execution, fostering partnerships, contributing ideas and solutions, diversifying resources, documenting, sharing, and advocating policy changes. Additionally, organizational development and resource assurance solutions, especially activities related to developing partnerships with relevant stakeholders, are crucial elements ensuring effective and sustainable participation and contribution.

With the management and implementation of related activities, CSOs have started and are aiming for specific outcomes.



Source: MSD (2022) *The engagement of CSOs in implementing SDGs through community-based models and activities*

4.2 Are there particular case studies of effective delivery by CSOs already underway?

There are some case studies of effective delivery by CSOs that have been recognized in the VNR 2023 such as School Nutrition Program of the For Vietnamese Stature Foundation; Standard Digital Citizens Education and Communication Program implemented by the Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Information and Communications; The project "Vietnamese local activities for environmental health" of the Institute of Population, Health and Development (PHAD); ActionAid's initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

⁷² MSD. (2022) *The engagement of CSOs in implementing SDGs through community-based models and activities*, pp. 20

from aquaculture in the Mekong Delta; Livelihood and job creation for People with Disabilities to lead an independent life of the Center for Disability and Development (DRD); Initiative to promote the participation of children and young people in policy-making of the Child Rights Governance Group (CRG); Rural Infrastructure Development Initiative for Poverty Reduction of the Research Initiative for Community Development Centre (RIC); Viet Nam Smart Living Lab initiative of the Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD) and United Way Worldwide...

4.3 Are there challenges to prevent CSO delivery of this agenda in your country? If YES please describe them

According to the report by MSD in 2022, the majority of CSOs participating in the survey encounter challenges related to financial resources (84%), followed by the policy environment (77%), organizational capacity (53%), and partnerships with development partners (39%). Notably, resource availability and the policy environment are the top two challenges for organizations, particularly because these factors are interrelated and interdependent. Given that organizations mobilize resources to deliver services and community development tasks, aiming for sustainable development, the ability of CSOs to mobilize resources depends heavily on their ability to source funding from various avenues.

Examples of regulations that can restrict the activities of related organizations include:

- Decree 83/2019/NĐ-CP (Amendment to Decree 94/2014/NĐ-CP): This decree limits administrative expenses related to fund collection to 3% of the total collection. This regulation may force organizations operating in the field of disaster relief and support to adjust and restructure their activities towards a narrower focus.
- Decree 80/2020/NĐ-CP (Management of Non-Refundable Aid): This decree regulates the management and use of non-refundable aid not belonging to the official development assistance of foreign agencies, organizations, individuals for agencies and organizations legally established in Vietnam for the purpose of socio-economic development, humanitarian support, non-profit, non-commercial purposes. Organizations are only allowed to accept aid after being authorized by competent authorities. Decree 80 replaces Decree 93/2009/NĐ-CP and has increased administrative processes, required document preparation for approval from 6-9 ministries and relevant parties for consultation, and extended the waiting time for approval to over 6 months.

Regarding sourcing budget from the state, most CSOs have limited or no access to state budget funds, except for a few associations, and even then, the budget is insignificant. Over 95% of social organizations also believe that it is very difficult to directly access and mobilize funding from the government. Surveyed organizations also anticipate a decreasing trend in government funding for social organizations in the future.