



PROMOTING *the RIGHTS*
of **WOMEN** in Viet Nam





About UN Women

UN Women, a global champion for women and girls, was established in 2010 to accelerate progress on women's rights worldwide. UN Women's efforts are based on the fundamental belief that every woman has the right to live a life free from violence, poverty, and discrimination, and that gender equality is a pre-requisite to achieving global development.

In Viet Nam, UN Women is part of 'Delivering as One', a UN reform initiative to improve UN business practices and to achieve better development results. Gender equality is mainstreamed throughout the One Plan 2012-2016, the single programme framework for all UN agencies in Viet Nam. UN Women is mandated to lead, promote and coordinate efforts of the UN in Viet Nam to advance the full realization of women's rights and opportunities.

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UN Women in Viet Nam

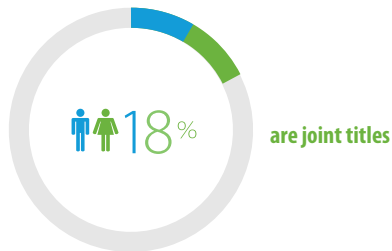
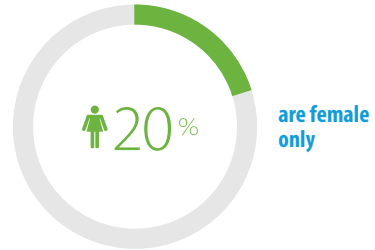
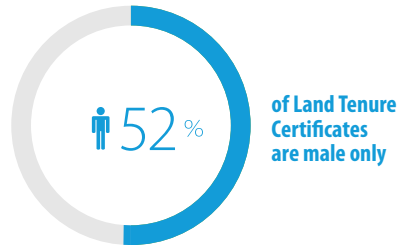
Over the past 30 years, Viet Nam has transformed from one of the poorest to one of the most dynamic emerging countries in the world. While the majority of Vietnamese have benefited, gender norms and stereotypes have prevented many women from reaching their full potential.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are basic human rights, and fundamental to Viet Nam's continued socio-economic development.

In Viet Nam, UN Women works to promote gender equality across all spheres of society – political, economic and social – by increasing women's leadership and participation, enhancing women's economic empowerment, ending violence against women and girls as well as making gender equality a key part of national development planning and budget allocation.



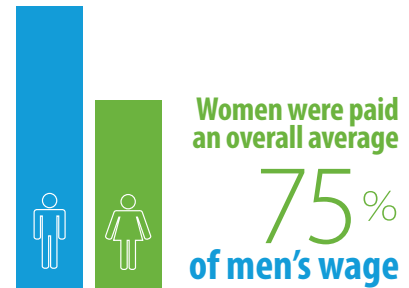
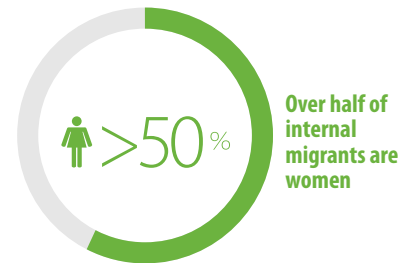
Facts & Figures



Male Female

Source:

Gender Issues Briefing Paper for the consulting Group, December 2012



Source:

ONE UN Report, Internal Migration opportunities and challenges for socio-economic development in Viet Nam, Hanoi 2010.

Source:

ILO Report, Global Wage Report 2012/13: Wages and Equitable Growth, International Labour Office, Geneva, 2013



6 in 10 (58%) of ever married women experience physical, sexual or emotional **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**



women who experienced violence **EARN LESS 35%** than women who experience no violence

Source:

The National Study on Domestic Violence against Women in Viet Nam, General Statistics Office of Viet Nam, 2010



In 2011, 31% of new HIV cases are **women**

54% of HIV positive women reported the only possible exposure to HIV was through a **husband** or a **long-term partner**

Source:

UNAIDS and UN WOMEN Fact Sheet, Measuring Intimate Partner Transmission of HIV in Viet Nam, April 2012

Increasing Women's Leadership and Participation

From political bodies, corporate boardrooms to commune councils, women still have a limited say in decisions that affect them. In Viet Nam, UN Women helps the Government to promote gender equality in leadership and women's participation in decision-making.

For example, given Viet Nam's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change UN Women supports the Viet Nam Women's Union (VWU) and its 14 million members to better prevent, prepare for and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters.

Following three years successful work in Binh Dinh and Phu Yen provinces to institutionalize women's participation within formal decision-making bodies, the VWU became an official member of Committees for Storm and Flood Control nationwide from September 2013.

Better preparing for storms and floods: UN Women helped adapt a popular Latin American radio soap opera to promote women's resilience as a key asset in disaster preparedness and response. Addressing key health, gender and migration themes, the show has been broadcast daily in the target provinces by Voice of Viet Nam for two months leading up to the storm season since 2010.





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Enhancing Women's Economic Empowerment

Gender inequality is a barrier to Viet Nam's economic growth and development. Women lag far behind men in access to land, credit, decent jobs and social services.

In Viet Nam, UN Women works closely with Government and partners to:

- Protect the rights of women migrant workers through stronger laws and policy interventions
- Build social protection policies, legislation and implementation guidelines that are more responsive to the different risks and vulnerabilities faced by women
- Promote gender equality in the business sector. UN Women teaches business leaders how to employ the Women's Empowerment Principles and support women's equal access to job opportunities, training and wages.

- UN Women helped develop gender indicators to track progress in implementing the Government's Action Plan on social protection policies for 2012-2020 in Viet Nam
- In 2012, UN Women supported the Department of Overseas Labour to develop a standard pre-departure orientation curriculum for Vietnamese women migrant workers. Once adopted nationwide in 2013, this innovative training will have the potential to benefit the 30,000 women who seek work abroad each year.



Ending Violence against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls is a fundamental violation of women's human rights.

In Viet Nam, the Government passed the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control in 2007. The UN works closely with Government and key partners to address violence against women more broadly – encompassing sexual harassment in the workplace and public spaces, trafficking of women and girls, forced sex-selective abortions and early or forced marriage.

In Viet Nam, UN Women advocates for a coordinated multi-sectoral response to end all forms of violence against women and girls. In partnership with UNODC, UN Women is working to improve women's access to justice, including helping the justice sector respond better to women's needs.

At a grassroots level, UN Women is promoting violence prevention and response programmes in schools, and working with communities to help address the gender norms and power relations that help perpetuate violence.

UN Women also supports research on violence against women to help build the evidence base for policies and programmes.

Research Highlights

- UN Women and UNAIDS used the National Study on Domestic Violence Against Women to help explore the linkage between domestic violence and the risk behaviours of HIV-positive risk husbands and long-term partners
- In 2012, as part of a regional initiative, UN Women and UNFPA conducted a study on masculinity and violence to help strengthen prevention policies and programmes
- In 2012, UN Women conducted a study on the economic costs of domestic violence and highlighted the significant financial toll domestic violence is taking on Viet Nam's economy and society
- In 2013, UN Women and UNODC published a study on women in the criminal justice system, focusing on women as both victims and perpetrators of crime as well as women employed in the justice sector.



Putting Gender Equality at the Heart of Development Planning and Budgeting

Viet Nam has adopted a number of international gender equality conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and passed the Law on Gender Equality in 2006.

However, challenges remain. UN Women works closely with Government to improve the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Viet Nam's international and domestic gender equality commitments. UN Women is assisting the Government in its periodic reporting on CEDAW and helps government officials address implementation gaps.

To ensure gender equality is high on the national policy-making agenda, UN Women helped develop the National Strategy (2011-2020) and National Programme (2011-2015) on Gender Equality. UN Women is also assisting national efforts to incorporate gender equality principles in all legislative revisions and amendments.

The first time the Government has formally committed funds for The National Programme on Gender Equality (2011-2015) to promote gender equality in Viet Nam.



Working with Civil Society Organizations

To ensure the voices of vulnerable and disadvantaged women are heard, UN Women is helping women's rights NGO networks participate more effectively in policy dialogues and decision-making processes.

UN Women is helping to build a strong women's movement in Viet Nam to promote gender equality and bridge the gap between legislation and implementation.

Adam in the New Era

In 2013, UN Women supported three NGO networks to carry out a successful campaign, titled "Adam in the New Era", to engage men and boys in the promotion of gender equality. From paintings to videos they addressed topics such as a preference for sons, stigma against men who choose non gender-conforming professions and traditional gender roles in the family.



Setting the Post-2015 Development Agenda

With the MDG deadline in 2015, defining the Post-2015 Development Agenda is of critical importance. Viet Nam was one of more than 90 countries actively participating in a global conversation to help shape the “World We Want”. More than 1,300 Vietnamese women and men of all ages set out their future hopes and dreams, with UN Women ensuring women’s voices were heard equally alongside men.

The consultation helped amplify women’s call for equal opportunities and the same rights as men. Viet Nam’s findings helped inform the global UN Women proposal for a standalone goal on gender equality and gender mainstreaming for all priority areas of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Gender goal proposed by UN Women would address three critical target areas in an integrated approach:

- **Freedom from violence against women and girls.**
- **Expanding women’s choices and capabilities** – knowledge, good health, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of women and adolescent girls; and gender equality in access to resources and opportunities, including land, decent work and equal pay to build women’s economic and social security.
- **Gender equality in decision-making** in public and private institutions, in national parliaments and local councils, the media and civil society, in the management and governance of firms, and in families and communities.



In Viet Nam, **UN Women** is part of **'Delivering as One'**, a UN reform initiative to improve UN effectiveness, efficiency and development results.

DELIVERING AS ONE



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