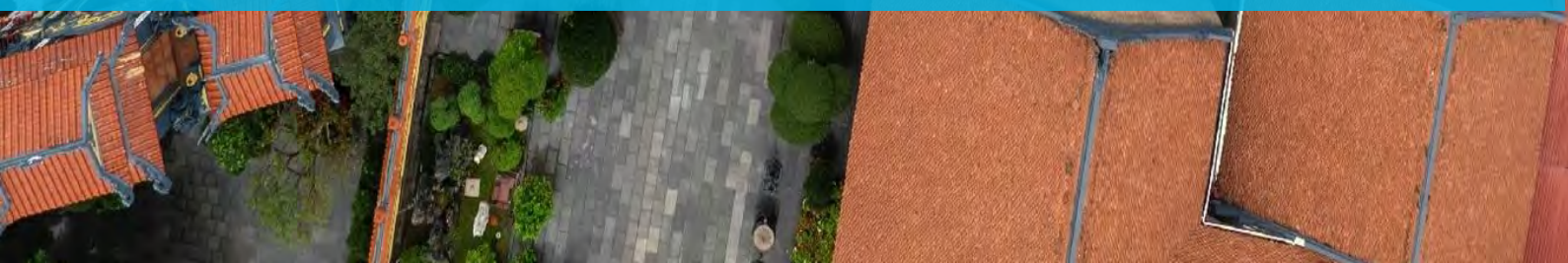
Viet Nam 2026-2029

COUNTRY PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

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



UN-HABITAT

UN-Habitat ROAP Country Programme Overview

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FOREWORD

Viet Nam is entering a defining period of transformation. Positioned in the midst of a paradigm shift officially recognized as the “Era of Vietnamese Nation’s Rise,” the nation is charting a deliberate course toward high-income status by 2045. This ambition is underpinned by the most comprehensive institutional reforms since reunification, characterized by a transition to a streamlined, two-tier local governance structure and the modernization of foundational frameworks, including the 2024 Land Law and the 2025 Construction Law. As a result, the national trajectory of urbanization is evolving rapidly, shifting from spatial sprawl to quality urban renewal, driven by a renewed mandate for climate resilience and inclusive growth.

For international development partners, this landscape presents unprecedented opportunities alongside complex delivery pressures. The consolidation of administrative units and the removal of the district-level tier create a narrower window for policy intervention yet simultaneously widen the immediate delivery gap at the local level. This dynamic requires a new generation of cooperation strategies that are as agile and evidence-based as the reforms they seek to support, bridging the critical gap between national mandates and local implementation capacities.

I am pleased to present the UN-Habitat Viet Nam Country Programme Overview (2026–2029). Aligned with the nation’s strategic priorities and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), this document outlines our evolution from project-based interventions to serving as a normative, policy-driven advisor. Our strategy is anchored in unlocking transparent land governance, advancing climate-resilient and affordable social housing, and pioneering nature-integrated urban transformations through equitable basic services.

Achieving sustainable urban development is an inherently collaborative endeavour. We remain highly committed to deepening our partnerships with government counterparts, bilateral donors, climate funds, and the private sector to mobilize blended finance and deliver scalable, do-no-harm urban models.

It is our distinct privilege to accompany Viet Nam on this critical journey. We look forward to working together to ensure our cities remain safe, inclusive engines of prosperity, and to sharing Viet Nam’s emerging urban innovations with the global community.

Kieu Viet Cuong
Acting Country Manager
UN-Habitat Viet Nam

01

COUNTRY ANALYSIS

Viet Nam in early 2026 stands at a critical juncture of its developmental trajectory, transitioning from a low-cost manufacturing hub into a modern, innovation-driven economy. Today, the nation's urbanization rate stands at 42.7%, with urban economies serving as the undisputed engines of growth, contributing approximately 70% of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Guided by the strategic mandates of the 14th National Party Congress and the National Overall Master Plan, Viet Nam has solidified its ambitious vision to become a high-income, developed country by 2045.

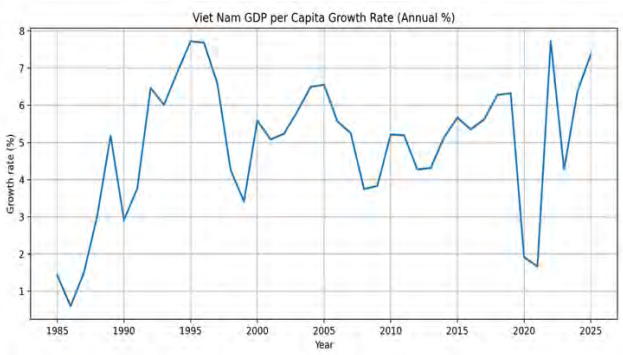


FIG.1. GDP PER CAPITA GROWTH (ANNUAL %)

Achieving this requires an aggressive economic acceleration during the 2026–2030 period, targeting an average annual GDP growth rate of at least 10%, elevating GDP per capita to approximately $8,500 by 2030, and ensuring the digital economy accounts for 30% of the national GDP.

To catalyze high-value growth and eliminate bureaucratic bottlenecks, the Vietnamese government carried out its most profound administrative restructuring in decades. Effective July 1, 2025, the nation consolidated its 63 provincial units down to 34 and transitioned to a streamlined two-tier local governance model by completely abolishing the district level. This historic consolidation is designed to establish highly competitive megaregions equipped with integrated, deep-water logistics, thereby unlocking the economies of scale necessary for advanced regional spatial planning. Concurrently, the synchronized enforcement of the market-based 2024 Land Law, the 2025 Law on Urban and Rural Planning, and the radically deregulated 2026 Law on Construction has dismantled obsolete regulatory paradigms, fostering a highly transparent, market-driven environment primed for international investment.

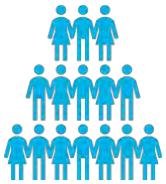
Realizing this modernized urban vision, however, requires an unprecedented mobilization of capital and technical expertise.

Macroeconomic modelling dictates that Viet Nam must consistently invest between 7% and 7.3% of its GDP into infrastructure to sustain its developmental velocity. With the state strategically capping public investment, a massive, multi-billion-dollar opportunity has emerged for the private sector, international development banks, and foreign investors to bridge the gap via Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). High-priority investment vectors include the expansion of the national expressway network to 5,000 kilometres by 2030, the rapid deployment of high-capacity urban mass transit, and the integration of advanced Smart City solutions to manage the newly formed mega-regions efficiently.

Despite these robust macroeconomic indicators, Viet Nam's urban future is intrinsically tied to overcoming severe climate vulnerabilities and socio-spatial inequalities. As one of the world's most exposed nations to climate change, the country risks a structural loss of 1% to 3% in real GDP by 2050 if comprehensive adaptation measures fail. Furthermore, achieving the bold national commitment to net-zero emissions by 2050 necessitates the radical decarbonization of the urban energy grid and construction sectors. Simultaneously, the rapid influx of migrant labour demands highly inclusive planning frameworks to ensure that marginalized demographics are not displaced by rising market-based land valuations. Consequently, the 2026–2029 period presents a definitive window for international cooperation. Viet Nam urgently seeks strategic partnerships with global stakeholders to deploy green financing, nature-based climate solutions, and inclusive urban governance models, ensuring its rapid urbanization translates into sustainable, world-class cities.

02

FACTSHEET

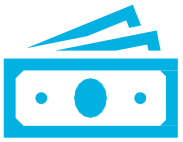


101.6 M

POPULATION

0.6 %

POPULATION GROWTH



4,717.3 USD

GDP PER CAPTA

38.9 M

URBAN POPULATION

42.7 %

URBANIZATION RATE

39.5 %

MEET THE DEMANDS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING

0.766

HDI INDEX

9 %

AGING RATE

34.8 %

RURAL AREA ACCESS TO WATER UP TO NATIONAL STANDARD

03
URBAN CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

Viet Nam's urban landscape is undergoing a profound structural transition, evolving from a rapidly expanding, foreign direct investment-driven manufacturing base into a highly digitized, green, and integrated network of mega-regions essential for achieving the nation's 2045 high-income aspirations.

Urban Governance Structure and Institutional Landscape

Driven by a consistent urban population growth rate of around 3% annually over the past decade, well above the Southeast Asian average, the nation's demographic profile has transformed drastically. In 2021, the urbanization rate stood at 38%; by early 2026, it surged to 42.7%. From a modest network of fewer than 400 towns in 1990, the country in early 2025 features nearly 1000 recognized urban areas, spanning from the two special economic engines (Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City) down to hundreds of localized townlets.

On July 1, 2025, Viet Nam *abolished the district level of government*, moving to a two-tier system: provinces → communes/wards. The entire intermediate tier of 705 district governments was dissolved. This is Viet Nam's largest administrative reform since reunification in 1975. Concurrently, the number of commune-level units (municipal wards, townlets, rural communes) was drastically reduced. The country now has 28 provinces and 6 cities, with 3321 wards and a special administrative region, reduced from 10,000 units.

This creates a fundamental change in the flow of urban management work and responsibilities. In practical terms, local governance is now much leaner: citizens interact with their ward or commune People's Committee for local services, which reports directly to the provincial People's Committee, eliminating the district bureaucracy. And put communes and wards in the front seat, who are now directly responsible for implementing socio-economic development programs, including complex technical tasks such as detailed planning, construction licensing, and infrastructure management, through the consolidation of small units.

However, centralization at the provincial level simultaneously creates enormous pressure on enforcement capacity at the commune level. Many newly merged communes have a population equivalent to an old district but lack a team of experts, creating significant local capacity gaps and necessitating new approaches to planning, services, and participatory governance. UN-Habitat has recommended focusing on grassroots planning support, to equip local officials with skills in participatory planning, GIS mapping, and infrastructure maintenance. Another challenge is managing the merger process: combining provinces and departments means merging budgets, systems, and even different local regulations. There could be a short-term disruption in service delivery or confusion over jurisdiction.

The Law on Urban and Rural Planning was amended in 2025 to raise standards for urban classification and simplify planning hierarchies. One of the major changes is the determination of urban classification criteria based on "synchronous and modern infrastructure" instead of mere population size. The new law clearly stipulates that a locality can only be upgraded to an urban area if it meets the technical infrastructure frameworks of energy, water, telecommunications and green space. The shortening of the planning process, allowing the integration of zoning planning into the general planning and directly linking the detailed plan to the specific project, helps reduce the delay of investment capital flows. This is fully in line with UN-Habitat's goal of developing sustainable cities with a good quality of life. Urban development has become the undisputed driving force of the nation, generating approximately 70% of the national GDP. However, this impressive macro-level growth has historically outpaced the state's capacity for spatial planning and resource

allocation. During the previous developmental cycles leading up to 2024, urban expansion was not matched by a sufficient provision of basic infrastructure, affordable housing, low-emission transportation, or equitable social services. Furthermore, compounded pressures from climate change impacts and rising inequality revealed deep vulnerabilities within the system. The failure to fully manage the complexities of this rapid urbanization prevented cities from realizing their optimal competitiveness and delivering inclusive prosperity. The Party's political report for the Congress reportedly frames these reforms as necessary for Viet Nam to "break through" to become a high-income, developed nation by 2045, stressing themes of *efficient governance, digital and green transformation, and social equity*. The Action Program for 2026–2030 similarly emphasizes continuing administrative reform, building "digital government, digital society, digital citizen", and improving the quality of civil servants.

Challenge 1: Urbanization Dynamics and Spatial Challenges

Rapid urban growth has outpaced infrastructure and services, as the quality of urbanization is not yet consistent. Many municipalities meet the population criteria for "urban" status but lack synchronous and modern infrastructure. Spatial inequality remains an issue. While Viet Nam has effectively eliminated true slums and temporary housing nationally, around 13–14% of urban residents live in informal or substandard settlements (e.g. crowded boarding houses, peri-urban villages). These are more prevalent among rural-to-urban migrants who lack formal housing. Additionally, urban green space averages only 6–8 m² per capita, below the 8–10 m² target, reflecting a need for more parks and resilience spaces in cities.

Challenge 2: Affordable housing and Land governance

Housing in Viet Nam's cities is at a crossroads. Meeting urban housing demand will require continued reforms: innovative financing, inclusionary zoning, and land value capture mechanisms to fund affordable units. It will be crucial to ensure that new urban housing is not only available, climate resilient, but also located in liveable, connected neighbourhoods, so that the urban poor are not pushed to the fringes.

Land governance is being modernized: clearer rules, faster processes, and greater state intervention when needed to serve public development, balanced by attempts at fair compensation and transparency, will greatly affect urban expansion, housing projects, and infrastructure delivery in the coming years

Challenge 3: Access to Basic Services Gaps in Quality and Inclusion

Viet Nam is close to universal basic service access in *quantity*, but quality and sustainability are the new challenges. There is a stark difference between "safe" water access and "clean water up to standard." In cities, 84.2% of people have access to clean tap water that meets national quality standards, whereas in rural areas, only 34.8% do. Many rural residents rely on wells or rainwater that are not fully treated to meet potable standards, underscoring the need for more water treatment infrastructure in peri-urban and rural communities. Sanitation infrastructure is also lagging behind urban growth, with only ~30% of urban wastewater being treated before discharge.

Challenge 4: Climate Change and Disaster Resilience

Beyond law, Viet Nam has set bold climate and DRR goals. Achieving these targets will demand a transformation of energy, transport, and urban systems, where urban areas will need to reduce emissions through public transit, energy-efficient construction, waste management while also building resilience through flood defences, nature-based solutions, and disaster preparedness. International support and knowledge exchange will be vital, and as a rapidly developing nation, Viet Nam's experience in forging a climate-resilient urbanization model will be closely watched by others.

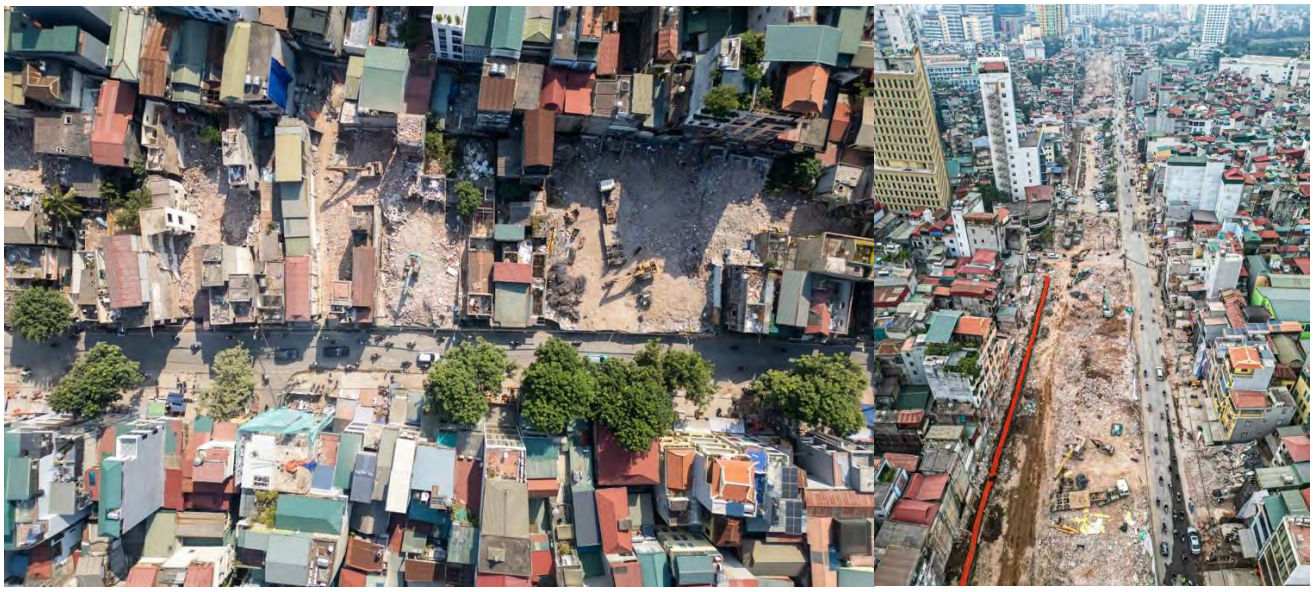
04

HOUSING, LAND AND BASIC SERVICES

HOUSING FOR ALL

Affordable housing is a serious and growing concern in Viet Nam's cities. Rapid urbanization and rising incomes have driven up urban land and home prices far beyond what low- and middle-income households can afford. In 2025, the average apartment price in Ha Noi was about 2,865 USD/m², and in Ho Chi Minh City about 3,316 USD/m². These prices (roughly 7–8 times the national per capita income on a per-square-meter basis) put formal housing out of reach for a large share of urban residents. Only ~6% of the new housing supply in early 2025 was classified as affordable (the rest being mid-end or luxury). The market has trended toward upscale developments, leaving a gap in the low-cost segment. Young families and rural migrants often end up renting informal mini-apartments or living in peripheral areas with long commutes. This housing affordability crisis has become a top urban policy issue, and financing is a constraint. Vietnam's graduation to upper-middle income has reduced concessional loans, so the government is establishing a National Housing Fund to mobilize domestic capital for social housing. Land availability in central urban areas is limited, so many social housing projects are in the outskirts where land is cheaper, creating long commutes that are not planned with transport links.

For 2026–2029, the central housing question is therefore not whether Viet Nam has political commitment, but whether delivery can shift from volume to adequacy. In line with UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, housing should be approached not only through affordability, but also through location, habitability, access to services, resilience, and inclusion. Three strategic directions stand out for Viet Nam. First, social and affordable housing must be delivered in better-located urban areas, closer to jobs, transport and basic services, so that lower-income households and workers are not pushed into peripheral and costly urban expansion. Second, climate resilience needs to be embedded into housing design and standards, especially for low-income and worker housing exposed to heat, flooding and infrastructure stress. Third, the new generation of housing governance tools should be used to improve land readiness, financing, market transparency and implementation discipline. In short, the housing agenda for Viet Nam through 2029 should be framed as a transition from building more housing to building adequate housing systems that support productivity, social inclusion, and climate resilience.



LAND GOVERNANCE AND HANGING PROJECTS

Land is a critical and contentious resource in Viet Nam's development. The country has been overhauling its land governance framework to balance growth with equity. After years of consultation, a *new Land Law (2024)* was passed (replacing the 2013 law) to address issues like land pricing, compensation, and allocation. Previously, the lack of such a provision caused many urban projects (roads, new urban zones) to linger for years or never materialise because a few owners refused to relocate or demanded exorbitant prices. At the start of 2026, the issue is no longer whether the country has a new legal framework, but whether that framework can be implemented in a way that is faster, fairer and more predictable. The revised law and new set of policies addressed implementation bottlenecks and reduced inconsistency across provinces and have already shifted the direction of reform toward greater transparency in valuation, compensation, and land allocation.

For the next three years, Viet Nam's land agenda should be understood less as a technical issue of land administration and more as a core enabler of housing delivery, infrastructure investment, climate resilience, and public trust. The most important structural shift is the move away from the old five-year land price table cycle toward annual land price lists from 2026, with major cities such as Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City already adopting their first new tables from 1 January 2026. If implemented credibly, this can help narrow the gap between administrative and market values, reduce ad hoc pricing, and improve the transparency of compensation and land-based revenues. But the real test will be institutional: whether provinces can apply the new rules consistently, manage land acquisition and resettlement with lower conflict, and use land more strategically for public purposes such as affordable housing, transit-oriented development, and resilient urban expansion. In that sense, land governance will be one of the decisive factors shaping whether Viet Nam's urban growth in 2026–2029 is merely faster, or genuinely more inclusive and sustainable.

05

CLIMATE

Vietnam's geographical setting, with low-lying deltas and extensive coastline, makes it highly vulnerable to climate change. The country's updated National Adaptation Plan reports a 0.98°C increase in average temperature between 1958 and 2018 and a mean sea-level rise of around 3 mm per year between 1993 and 2018. These changes are increasing pressure on infrastructure, livelihoods, and ecosystems, while recent disaster losses highlight the growing economic burden of climate risk. In 2025, natural disaster property damage was estimated at VND 102.7 trillion, or roughly 0.8 per cent of GDP. Beyond the economic cost, hundreds of lives are lost or displaced annually by natural disasters, especially in the Mekong Delta and coastal provinces.

Climate change is no longer a medium-term environmental concern in Viet Nam; by the start of 2026, it has become a direct constraint on development, infrastructure performance, and the resilience of human settlements. This scale of damage reinforces that climate risk in Viet Nam is no longer confined to rural or coastal areas alone, but increasingly affects cities, transport networks, housing systems, and local public finance.

At the national level, the strategic direction is already clear: Viet Nam's National Strategy on Climate Change to 2050 places adaptation, resilient infrastructure and the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 at the centre of development, while the National Adaptation Plan for 2021–2030, vision to 2050, further emphasizes reducing disaster losses, strengthening resilience and integrating adaptation across sectors and territories.

For 2026–2029, the climate agenda should therefore be framed less as a standalone environmental programme and more as a question of how Viet Nam plans, builds and governs its urban future. This direction is already visible in early 2026: the Government's Directive on climate-responsive urban development notes that all provinces and centrally governed cities have issued climate-response plans or guidance for urban development, while also acknowledging continuing gaps in urban climate data, technical guidance, and implementation resources. In line with UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, the priority for the next three years should be to translate national climate ambition into local urban systems: risk-informed planning, climate-resilient housing and infrastructure, stronger drainage and flood management, and wider use of nature-based solutions in vulnerable cities and coastal settlements. The real test by 2029 will not be whether Viet Nam has climate commitments in place, but whether climate risk is systematically embedded into land use, housing, infrastructure investment, and basic service delivery.

Climate-vulnerable and increasingly unequal urban growth

Viet Nam's rapid urban and industrial growth is outpacing the capacity of housing, infrastructure, and basic services to remain affordable, inclusive, and resilient. Human-induced pressures, including rapid urbanization, land use change, emissions-intensive growth, and unsustainable infrastructure expansion, are intensifying climate risks across Viet Nam. As cities expand, low-income households, migrant workers, and peri-urban communities are increasingly exposed to heat, flooding, poor drainage, inadequate housing, and uneven access to quality services. The challenge for the next three years is not only to accommodate urban growth, but to ensure that urbanization does not deepen spatial inequality and climate vulnerability.

Degraded ecosystems and weak urban resilience systems

Across Viet Nam, ecosystem degradation and declining environmental quality are reducing the natural functions that protect settlements, livelihoods, and infrastructure. Wetlands, mangroves, rivers, coastal zones, and urban green spaces are under increasing pressure from land use change, pollution, and climate stress, while grey infrastructure alone is proving insufficient to manage flooding, wastewater, and rising environmental risks. Over 2026–2029, Viet Nam will need to strengthen integrated urban resilience systems by combining nature-based solutions, risk-informed planning and stronger local implementation capacity, particularly under the new two-tier governance structure.

07

RECENT AND ONGOING INTERVENTIONS

1 Enhancing the resilience inclusive and sustainable eco-human settlement development through small-scale infrastructure interventions in the coastal regions of the Mekong Delta in Viet Nam

2020 - 2027

The project's main objective is **"to enhance the resilience, inclusive and sustainable eco-human settlement development through small scale infrastructure interventions in the coastal regions of the Mekong Delta in Viet Nam."** To align with the request from the national and local governments to promote the sustainable eco-human settlement in Viet Nam, the project takes a comprehensive and holistic approach which combines a number of horizontally and vertically interrelated resilience approaches towards the strengthening of institutions, communities, ecosystems and physical, natural and social assets.

6.3 M USD

Adaptation fund

Ministry of Agriculture and Environment

2 Promoting Youth and Community Innovation for City Sustainable Development

2022 - 2026

The project's main objective is to enhance the quality of urban life in Quang Nam, particularly Hoi An and Tam Ky, by promoting inclusive, participatory, and innovation driven urban development, with a strong focus on mobilizing youth and multi-sector stakeholders through Creative Hubs.

437.000 CHF

Fondation Botnar

Da Nang People Committee

3 Emergency support to post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation of mountainous communities in Son La Province, Viet Nam

2025 - 2026

The project's main objective is to enhance the institutional capacity and community resilience against natural hazards, especially flash floods and landslides, through integrated, gender-responsive community planning, ecosystem-based DRR and resilient infrastructure

1.2 M USD

Government of Japan

Son La Provincial People Committee

4 Accelerating the Implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy Phase II

2025 - 2026

The project's main objective is to accelerate the implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) across secondary and intermediate cities by scaling up Phase I principles into actionable urban development. It aims to enhance regional connectivity and institutional capacity to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda through multi-level governance, targeted leadership training, and improved access to sustainable funding.

3.4 M USD

Australian Government (Aus4ASEAN)

Ministry of Construction


ISCB
CỘNG ĐỒNG
NGHỆ THUẬT TAM THANH
Làng chài

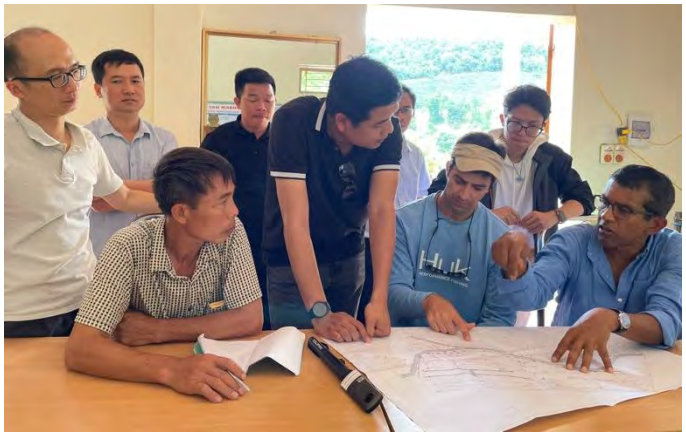
08
VOICES OF IMPACT

"Sustainable urban development begins with strong institutions, empowered communities, and comprehensive planning. Switzerland is proud to work with UN-Habitat to support Vietnam in creating resilient, liveable, and economically dynamic cities through enhanced urban policies and institutional capacity building." - Aldo de Luca, Deputy Head of Mission, Counsellor Embassy of Switzerland

Dr. Ngo Anh Tuan, Director of the Academy of Construction Strategic and Cadre Training, Ministry of Construction, affirmed that the "Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Sustainable Urban Development in Vietnam" project has contributed to clarifying the reality that sustainable urban development cannot rely solely on infrastructure investment, but must begin with a strong institutional framework, a strong workforce, and transparent processes. The project's results will continue to be integrated by the Ministry of Construction into national action programs, technical guidelines, and local support policies in the future.

“We can't just rigidly assume that building a room is a place for creativity. The Hoi An Creative Hub serves as a hub connecting the ecosystem of creative venues across the city, while also showcasing creative models that are rich in personality, freedom, and close to the nature and people of Hoi An.” - Le Ngoc Thuan - Chairman of the Hoi An City Innovation and Entrepreneurship Association

“The program provided us with a lot of important knowledge to implement a specific project. Before, I had ideas but found it difficult to implement them. Now that I have a clear picture of the steps, the rest is about creativity and finding more practical solutions.” – Nguyen Lam Anh Tuyet, Grade 11, Le Hong Phong High School, Hoi An



Mr. Vu Tien Dinh, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and Environment, emphasized: “The project activities organized by UN-Habitat are open, encouraging dialogue and co-design of solutions. Delegates and local people visited the information exhibition area, learned about the impacts of natural disasters and the results of surveys and assessments of the current situation at the project sites, and participated in community consultation sessions on the design of community houses and nature-based solutions to stabilize slopes, and develop community-based disaster prevention and response plans.”

09

COUNTRY FOCUS

RESILIENT HOUSING & INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Prioritizing resilient housing and inclusive communities to ensure that low-income and vulnerable groups can access safe, adequate, and climate-responsive living conditions.

CLIMATE-RESILIENT URBAN SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Strengthening climate-resilient urban services and infrastructure to reduce risk and improve the reliability of essential systems.

INTEGRATED &SMART URBAN GOVERNANCE

Advancing integrated and smart urban governance so that cities can plan, finance, and manage growth in a more coordinated, data-informed, and people-centred way.

Targets

$US 33M Funds targeted for projects in the country, period 2026-2029	**>02 projects** Number of projects on low-income households and vulnerable residents benefiting from affordable, climate-resilient housing or community-level upgrading interventions	**> 06 areas** Number of cities or urban areas with climate-resilient service and infrastructure solutions planned, piloted or operationalized	***> 08 government bodies*** Number of provincial or city authorities adopting integrated, data-informed urban planning and management tools for decision-making.

10

PLANNED INTERVENTION

1 W.E.C.A.R.E - Workers' Empowerment through Cooling & Adaptation for Resilience to Extreme Heat

Project's aim

The WECARE project aims to promote inclusive, climate-resilient urban and industrial development in Dong Nai by ensuring that the most vulnerable, especially migrant workers are placed at the center of cooling-smart planning, adaptive financing and participatory heat action planning, aligning rapid economic growth with human well-being and sustainable urban development.

TOTAL BUDGET USD 2 million

Relevance to regional implementation plan:

- Resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive housing and community for all.

TIME FRAME
24 months

Additional Priorities:

- Universal access to resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive basic services and infrastructures
- Harmonized co-existence of cities and nature and preservation of cultural diversity

LOCATION
Dong Nai

This project aims to enhance heat resilience and safeguard the health, livelihood, and rights of migrant workers in Dong Nai by:

1- Embedding cooling-smart design,
2- Establishing adaptive financing mechanisms, and
3- Institutionalising participatory planning processes.

Together, these measures will align economic growth with inclusive, people-centred adaptation to heat stress

Expected Outcomes and Output

- **Outcome 1: Cooling-smart planning and design guidelines**
  - Comprehensive baseline assessment on heat stress, worker health and housing conditions in Dong Nai completed
  - Simplified, people-centered cooling-smart planning guidelines have been developed, reflecting the needs of migrant workers
  - Local governments, industrial park developers and operators are trained to apply the guidelines
  - Pilot design developed for one sub-zone, demonstrating practical uses of cooling-smart design in planning and management
- **Outcome 2: Adaptive financing mechanisms established for heat protection**
  - Feasibility study and design of a small-scale adaptive financing mechanism completed
  - Pilot fund launched (e.g., worker/community cooling support, ESCO cooling trial) to reduce financial vulnerability during extreme heat days
  - Training on integrating heat protection into the occupational safety and social protection framework was delivered
  - Migrant workers, particularly women, gain access to financial buffers that safeguard income and livelihood loss due to extreme heat
- **Outcome 3: Demonstration projects and participatory Heat Action Plans implemented**
  - Passive cooling solutions (e.g. cool roofs, shaded corridors, worker housing retrofits) piloted in selected boarding house clusters in IP(s),
  - Participatory Heat Action Plan developed with workers, employers, labor union and local government in at least two (02) industrial parks

Impact

Short-Term Impact: Evidence-Based Protection and Resilience Building
In the short term, the WECARE project will deliver immediate, evidence-based protection for migrant workers in Dong Nai Province against the escalating risks of extreme heat. By piloting passive cooling solutions in boarding houses and operationalizing adaptive financing mechanisms, the initiative provides critical safety nets for the most vulnerable populations, particularly women. Furthermore, the co-creation of Participatory Heat Action Plans translates localized climate data into actionable, multi-stakeholder operational protocols. This presents a strategic opportunity for partners to pioneer an inclusive adaptation model that safeguards human well-being while sustaining industrial productivity.

Long-Term Vision: Institutionalization and Regional Scaling
Looking ahead, WECARE seeks to drive systemic change by firmly institutionalizing heat resilience into formal urban planning frameworks and national social protection systems. The proven interventions will be codified into an adaptable programmatic package, ready for replication across industrial and peri-urban worker settlements throughout Southeast Asia. Collaborative investments from government counterparts and development partners will establish a sustainable legacy, transforming high-exposure economic hubs into benchmarks of climate resilience. Ultimately, this shared vision reshapes the trajectory of urban-industrial development, ensuring that rapid economic growth remains equitable, safe, and inherently sustainable.

2 Enhancing Urban Climate Resilience through Nature-Based Drainage in the Mekong Delta:

Project's aim:
To establish a foundation for citywide drainage transformation and position Can Tho as a sustainable, replicable blueprint for climate-resilient, water-sensitive urban development in the Mekong Delta.

TOTAL BUDGET:
USD 1 million

Relevance to regional implementation plan:
Urban management transformation through integrated planning, participatory governance and advanced technology

TIME FRAME:
24 months

Additional Priorities:
- Universal access to resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive basic services and infrastructures
- Harmonized co-existence of cities and nature and preservation of cultural diversity.

LOCATION:
Can Tho

The Can Tho Blueprint

The proposal targets a high-priority, cross-cutting urban resilience challenge in the Mekong Delta: deteriorating surface water quality and increasing flood risk driven by overburdened combined sewage systems, rapid urban growth, land use change, and climate change impacts. The proposal directly addresses the service delivery gap where less than 7% of wastewater is treated in the Mekong Delta and positions Can Tho as a practical demonstration and planning anchor for scalable solutions. Strategic value to the country programme is reflected in:

- A clear, government-facing pathway for scale: A comprehensive assessment and a phased master plan that enable citywide drainage transformation and provide an implementable transition pathway toward a Separate Sewer and Stormwater System.
- Demonstration plus adoption architecture: Nature-based drainage pilots in flood- and pollution-prone areas, designed with community engagement and monitoring, to build the evidence base and confidence needed for wider replication.
- Institutionalization through local ownership: A partner structure anchored in Can Tho authorities and technical institutions, including the People's Committee, Department of Construction, Department of Agriculture and Environment, and the city water and sewerage operator, supporting endorsement, policy integration, and operational continuity.
- Country-to-region positioning: The proposal explicitly frames Can Tho as a replicable blueprint for climate-resilient, water-sensitive urban development, strengthening the country programme's ability to mobilize further support for delta and river city resilience.

Expected Outcomes and Output

The proposal applies an integrated, city-systems approach to urban water pollution and flood risk in Can Tho, combining data-driven diagnosis, climate-responsive planning, nature-based solutions, and capacity development to enable both immediate improvements and longer-term system transition. It responds to pressures from outdated combined sewage systems, rapid urban change, and increasingly erratic rainfall, and frames the response as a replicable model for other delta and river cities. Key integrated elements include:

- Evidence-based assessment and planning: Comprehensive assessment of the existing combined sewage system using GIS mapping and dynamic drainage modelling to identify pollution and overflow hotspots and flood-prone areas, complemented by participatory mapping with technical departments and local communities.
- Structured system transition pathway: Development of a phased drainage master plan to facilitate the shift toward a Separate Sewer and Stormwater System, aligned with the city's climate adaptation strategies.
- Demonstration of nature-based urban drainage: Co-design and construction of localized nature-based drainage solutions in vulnerable neighbourhoods, including constructed wetlands and biofiltration basins, with water quality monitoring conducted before and after implementation to demonstrate results.
- Institutional capacity strengthening and learning: Technical training workshops for planners, engineers, practitioners and community leaders, paired with knowledge product development and regional learning forums to enable adoption and scale-up.

Expected Outcome:

- Improved surface water quality and local climate resilience through data-driven planning and strategies, nature-based solutions, and strengthened institutional capacity – positioning Can Tho as a blueprint for sustainable, water-sensitive urban development in the Mekong Delta.

Expected Outputs:

- Output 1: Comprehensive assessment and developed strategic drainage master plan facilitating the transition to the new Separate Sewer and Stormwater System (SSSS).
- Output 2: Pilot implementation of localized nature-based drainage solutions, such as constructed wetlands and biofiltration basins in vulnerable neighbourhoods.
- Output 3: Strengthened institutional and technical capacity in urban water management and nature-based drainage solutions across the Mekong region.

Impact

Improved urban water quality and climate resilience across the Mekong region through the demonstration and regional uptake of nature-based drainage solutions and integrated planning models

Benefit Sharing in the Mekong Region: The project's outcomes will be widely disseminated via regional workshops, conferences, and online platforms. Detailed reports, best practice guides, and digital resources will be made available to government agencies, academic institutions, and industry stakeholders. This knowledge transfer will facilitate the replication and scaling of the SSSS model across other urban centres, driving collective progress towards sustainable water management and improved quality of life throughout the Mekong region.

3 Climate Resilient Coastal Communities:

Project's aim:
Build resilient and responsive capacity of coastal communities, economy, and coastal ecosystems against impacts of climate change, sea-level rise and associated disaster risks.
Specific objectives:

- Application of nature-based solutions and green technologies to restore coastal and marine ecosystems to improve biodiversity, adaptation, and resilience of the coastal regions,
- Promotion of eco-human settlement in the coastal region,
- Introduction and promotion of climate-smart livelihoods for coastal communities (including reduction of waste)

TOTAL BUDGET:
USD 23 million

Relevance to regional implementation plan:
Harmonized co-existence of cities and nature and preservation of cultural diversity.

TIME FRAME:
60 months

Additional Priorities:
Universal access to resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive basic services and infrastructures
Resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive housing and community for all

LOCATION:
Central Viet Nam

Expected Outcomes and Output

The proposal is structured as an integrated package that links ecosystem restoration, resilient service delivery, and inclusive livelihoods to reduce coastal climate and disaster risks while strengthening local adaptive capacity. It positions nature-based solutions, green technologies, and climate-smart livelihoods as mutually reinforcing pathways to form climate-smart coastal landscapes and eco-human settlements, while reducing waste and emissions.
Key elements of the integrated approach include:

- Ecosystem-based resilience and spatial models: Identification and promotion of nature-based solutions such as coastal forests, mangroves, sand dunes, biodiversity corridors, and protected areas to build climate-smart coastal villages and ecological human settlements, including eco-disaster risk reduction approaches.
- Community-led implementation: Support to community-led adoption of nature-based solutions and pilot models of climate-smart coastal communities and ecological human settlements, anchoring delivery in local ownership and replication potential.
- Resilient basic services and low-carbon solutions: Application of low-carbon waste treatment technologies, including plastic waste, organic waste, and wastewater, complemented by energy efficiency technologies for processing, cooling, and storage in agriculture and aquaculture value chains.
- Climate-smart livelihoods with inclusion and waste reduction: Identification and promotion of climate-smart livelihoods, including climate-smart aquaculture and agriculture, less-to-zero plastic waste practices in production and consumer markets, and explicit support for women-led and community-led decision-making.
- Policy-to-practice-to-policy loop through knowledge management: Knowledge management is embedded as a delivery function, including communication channels and platforms that document good practices and case studies, upgrades to environmental and coastal resource management regulations to include nature-based solutions and ecological human settlements, and capacity development for authorities and communities to replicate models.

Key component of the proposal:

- *Component 1*: Nature-based solutions for the transition to climate-smart coastal landscapes
- *Component 2*: Green technologies for building adaptation and resilience of coastal communities
- *Component 3*: Adoption of climate-smart livelihoods by the coastal communities
- *Component 4*: Knowledge management and improvement to support the development of climate-smart coastal communities

Impact

Short-Term Impact: Community-Led Resilience and Green Innovation
In the short term, this initiative will deliver tangible, community-led resilience by piloting eco-human settlements and restoring vital ecosystems through nature-based solutions. By deploying low-carbon waste technologies and empowering women-led, climate-smart livelihoods, we establish immediate economic and environmental safety nets for vulnerable coastal populations. These localized pilots will drastically reduce disaster risks while proving that sustainable economic practices can seamlessly coexist with ecosystem protection. This presents a highly strategic opportunity for partners to co-create an inclusive adaptation model that actively safeguards both human well-being and vital marine landscapes.

Long-term impact: Looking ahead, our shared vision is to translate these successful community models into systemic institutional reform by upgrading formal environmental and coastal management regulations. By firmly embedding these frameworks into policy, we will establish a scalable blueprint ready for immediate expansion across all of Vietnam's coastal provinces. Furthermore, collaborative investments will propel this proven model into a broader multi-country pipeline, addressing shared climate vulnerabilities across the Asia-Pacific region. Together, we can forge a lasting legacy that reshapes sustainable development, ensuring coastal communities remain safe, equitable, and inherently resilient for generations to come.

11

PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH

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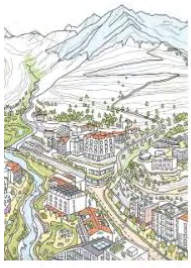

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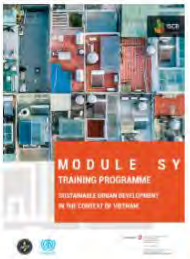

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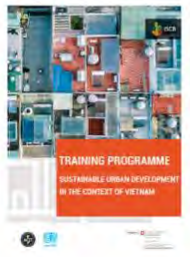

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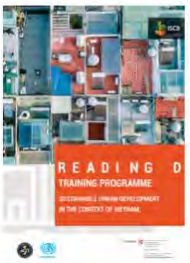

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