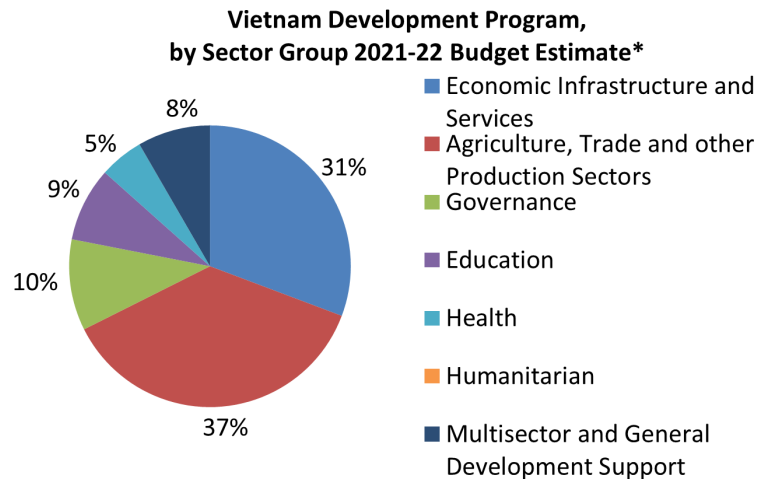


# 2021-22 VIETNAM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

The COVID-19 Development Response Plan for Vietnam has been extended through 2022-23. In 2022-23, the Vietnam program will have a stronger focus on encouraging green and inclusive growth. This reflects Vietnam’s ambition to become a high-income country by 2045, the objectives of the Vietnam Australia Enhanced Economic Engagement Strategy, and our joint commitment to ambitious climate change action.

Program Budget	2021-22 Budget Estimate \$m*
Bilateral	57.2
Regional	4.7
Global	12.5
Other Govt. Departments	4.4
<b>Total ODA</b>	<b>78.9</b>



\*Actual expenditure is expected to be available in early 2023. Due to rounding, totals may not match the sum of components.

Our development program to Vietnam contributes towards achieving the following Sustainable Development Goals:



The 2021-22 Vietnam Development Program Progress Report summarises progress with implementation of the Australia – Vietnam COVID-19 Development Response Plan and highlights program results.

## CONTEXT

Vietnam’s swift and decisive response to the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020-21 was challenged by the emergence of more transmissible variants in 2021-22. After a slow start, a **rapid vaccination drive** saw vaccination levels increase from less than one per cent on 1 July 2021 to 79 per cent by 1 March 2022.

In 2021, the economy slowed but maintained a **positive GDP growth of 2.6 per cent**, while exports increased by 16.8 per cent (year-on-year). Gross government debt fell by 0.15 per cent to an estimated 40.2 per cent of GDP. Despite spiking case numbers, there was a **strong economic rebound** in the first six months of 2022 as the economy opened. Despite high inflation and slowing economic growth globally, Vietnam remains ambitious to attain high-income status by 2045. Per-capita income has quadrupled in the last 30 years and, prior to the pandemic, **extreme poverty has been largely eliminated** with poverty rates declining to 5 per cent in 2020. However, the World Bank estimates that the pandemic has increased transient income poverty by around seven million people and climate change impacts could drive between 400,000 and one million Vietnamese, particularly ethnic minorities, back into extreme poverty by 2030.

In November 2021, Vietnam committed to achieving **net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050**, a substantial commitment for an energy intensive economy at its stage of development. Implementing these commitments will also be critical for Vietnam’s exports to stay competitive. Effective **adaptation to the impacts of climate change** on infrastructure, productivity, and social capital will be critical for Vietnam to achieve its long-term development goals.

Women’s workforce participation remains high relative to the region, and women’s political representation in the National Assembly is at the second highest level ever in the 2021-26 term. However, levels are lower in executive and subnational leadership and financing of Vietnam’s legal framework for formal **gender equality** remain challenges.



## AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Health Security

During the reporting period, Australia delivered **more than 22.2 million COVID-19 vaccine doses** to Vietnam, including more than 14 million paediatric doses. This made Australia the second largest donor of COVID-19 vaccines and contributed substantively to the country's rapid economic rebound. This was supported by \$6.5 million under the regional Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative, as well as contributions from the Quad Vaccine Partnership and the bilateral development program.

To support the delivery of vaccines, Australia funded the Ministry of Health and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to procure and distribute **1,910 refrigerators to boost cold chain capacity for remote communities, and to train 5,823 health care workers, teachers and military officers working on the rollout**. Australia supported UNICEF in 29 of Vietnam's 63 provinces to improve access and equity in the rollout by deploying 5,003 mobile vaccination teams. These teams ensured **ethnic minority communities, the elderly, and people with disability were given vaccines access and information**. In this reporting period, Australia's \$3 million partnership with the University of Sydney (2018-22) generated five studies relating to COVID-19 in Vietnam, including modelling of the Omicron wave, and new guidelines for treating infectious diseases. Complementing our COVID-19 support, Australia's partnership with the World Bank assisted the Government of Vietnam to improve the quality and utilisation of grassroots health services. The program supported the **construction of 48 commune health stations in two provinces**.

Australia provided **454,119 Vietnamese with high quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and family planning information and services** via a partnership with MSI Reproductive Choices. MSI built the clinical skills and capacity in sexual and reproductive health of 624 people through the SRHR C-Surge and EMPOWER programs.


Five Vietnamese were offered Australia Award Scholarships to undertake health related Master's degrees in Australia; five were awarded scholarships to undertake postgraduate field epidemiology training and investigate disease outbreaks in the field; and four Australian volunteers worked with local NGOs to provide health sector training.

In partnership with Canada, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) joined the One Health Partnership of Vietnam in 2021 to **strengthen management of foodborne zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance**.

### Stability

The Vietnam Australia Centre (VAC) commenced in June 2022. The Centre is a partnership between Australia and the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics (HCMNAP), the External Relations Commission of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Vietnam's Office of the Government and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Centre aims to strengthen leadership capacity and pursue solutions to national, regional and international challenges. The partnership reflects the high levels of trust in the relationship. Australia's support to the HCMNAP facilitated the **training of 19,200 mid-level officials on Women in Leadership**. Australia contributed to stronger governance via support for the Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance (PAPI) Index. In the 2021-22 report, PAPI surveyed 16,000 citizens' experiences and perception on the performance and quality of policy implementation and service delivery of all 63 provincial governments. By December 2021, all 63 provinces had conducted workshops on the Index's results, with 30 provinces renewing their commitments to improve performance.

Australia continued to **promote social cohesion** by enhancing Vietnam's awareness of human rights standards and ways to protect the most vulnerable. Australia supported educational and government institutions to incorporate human rights education into the national curriculum, trained **45 academics as Master Trainers in human rights** and developed lesson plans and resources on human rights education. Australia promoted responsible business conduct by funding guidance materials for the apparel and footwear, and tourism sectors, and supported the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry to include **human rights indicators in the 2022 Corporate Sustainability Index (CSI) Report**. In response to the increased rate of violence against women and children during COVID-19, Australia commenced a \$9.5



million multi-year partnership with Vietnam and UN agencies (UN Women, UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF). During 2020-21, the partnership supported integration of gender-based violence into training for social workers, worked with Vietnam's Fatherland Front on engaging men and boys and supported the **revision of Vietnam's Gender Equality Law** to consider gender-based violence and other harmful practices.

The Australia–World Bank partnership supported Vietnam to better understand the economic and livelihood impact of COVID-19 through international quality technical advice. The partnership supported five phone surveys to assess the household impacts of COVID-19 disaggregated by ethnic minority. The findings contributed to the **formulation of the COVID-19 response and recovery package for labour markets**.

### Economic recovery

The finalisation of the Vietnam-Australia Enhanced Economic Engagement Strategy in November 2021 provided an **implementation plan for strengthened economic collaboration between Australia and Vietnam**. Australia's development program is being adapted to support delivery of the Strategy.

Phase one of Aus4Transport (2016-22) concluded in the reporting period. Phase one supported design and contract documentation for three large scale transport projects, enabling Vietnam to leverage over US\$500 million from the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. **The projects will build and upgrade 352 kms of roads and 279 kms of inland waterways in two disadvantaged regions**.

Australia's Aus4Skills program continued to work with the Logistics Industry Reference Council. Aus4Skills is now expanding from supporting logistics hubs in southern Vietnam to similarly support hubs in the north. Aus4Reform deployed Australian and international expertise to support economic responses to COVID-19. An Aus4Reform report supported the Ministry of Industry and Trade's COVID-19 response including the 'Industry and Trade Restructuring Scheme for 2021-2030'. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development adopted an Aus4Reform report to improve the quality of agricultural vocational training. This supported the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry's **research on administrative blockages in the investment, land, and construction sectors, with a focus on women-led businesses**.

Through our partnership with the World Bank, Australia supported a study on financial insurance and instruments in the context of climate change and COVID-19. New activities under the partnership supported small and medium enterprises, promoted digital businesses, supported agribusiness recovery and continuity, and **addressed underlying obstacles to the logistics sector and international gateway connectivity arising from COVID-19**. Aus4Innovation supported the formulation of Vietnam's Science Technology and Innovation Strategy, released in April 2022, by producing an analysis of best international practices for science technology and innovation strategies and recommendations for indicators to measure success.

During its first phase (2017-22), the Gender-Responsive Equitable Agriculture and Tourism (GREAT) program, part of Aus4Equality, supported a total of 27,634 women working in agriculture or tourism. In the same five-year period, **20,060 women received material support such as seedlings and fertiliser, and more than 15,000 women reported increased incomes**. The HER TURN project provided ethnic minority and disadvantaged young women international qualifications in hospitality through vocational courses. Thirty ethnic minority women graduated from the 24-month vocational training program, 110 women completed the six-month program and all secured employment. Australia supported 60 female tech-based entrepreneurs with training, mentorship and a community of practice through the Investing in Women partnership with Ascend Ventures Vietnam. The start-ups operate in a range of sectors including technology platforms in health, education, finance, e-commerce and direct-to-consumer brands. The Business Partnership Platform established partnerships for **bioenergy on commercial farms; advanced vertical farming for climate, lives and landscapes in the Mekong Delta; and sustainable cricket farming**.

## ANNEX 1: PROGRESS AGAINST COVID-19 DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE PLAN RESULTS INDICATORS

### Health Security

Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
Evidence of improved health system functionality, including number of children immunised, no of CYP achieved through access to contraceptive services, and / or improved community sanitation or disease prevention practices <sup>1</sup>	The University of Sydney partnership enabled the production of new guidelines for treating infectious diseases within community-level hospitals in Vietnam. Following a pilot study, the University is completing a cluster randomised trial evaluating an antimicrobial stewardship program in 16 hospitals across two provinces.  The project also supported modelling of the Omicron wave in Vietnam, which informed the COVID-19 response in Vietnam’s two largest cities.
Number of people who accessed vaccinations	COVAX/Global Fund/GAVI (Tier 2 reporting)  Delivered 22,260,900 COVID-19 vaccine doses and supported procurement and distribution of 1,910 refrigerators to upgrade national cold chain storage and boost cold chain capacity for remote and hard-to-reach communities.
Number of people with access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), mental health and psycho-social support, protection	The MSI partnership (EMPOWER) increased the proportions of clients receiving comprehensive family planning counselling from 48 per cent at project commencement to 71 per cent at project end. The project reached 454,119 people with SRH and family planning information and conducted 140,063 client visits during project delivery in Vietnam.
Evidence of partnerships, significant people-to-people engagements and institutional collaboration which contribute to health system strengthening in Vietnam <sup>2</sup>	Augmented reality technology has been adopted for the first time in Vietnam under Aus4Innovation – connecting remote patients to doctors in Hanoi. This enabled healthcare centres to provide critical care when travel was restricted due to COVID-19 and reduced the burden on public hospitals in major cities.

### Stability

Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
The Vietnam-Australia Centre (VAC) is established and has provided leadership and public policy skills training to Vietnamese leaders <sup>3</sup>	The Australia Vietnam Centre (VAC) was formally established in June 2022.  Australia supported research by the Centre for Gender Studies and Women’s Leadership (GeLEAD) on women’s leadership in government and public administration. The report recommended the Communist Party of Vietnam and Government of Vietnam introduce a gender equality index to address the accountability gap in personnel policies to increase women’s political progression.
Evidence of improved inclusion of vulnerable groups in Vietnamese society and COVID-19 recovery support	Australia supported the development of the Vietnam Multi-Dimensional Poverty report. The report examines existing and new challenges encountered by vulnerable groups in the context of COVID-19. It makes recommendations for upcoming policy formulation in Vietnam, including the expansion and strengthening of the social protection system.

<sup>1</sup> Tier 2 Indicator: Evidence that partner countries have improved responses to health security threats: Note the Vietnam CRP indicator includes a number of other indicators in this indicator

<sup>2</sup> Tier 2 Indicator: Number of partner countries where Australia has contributed to strengthened health systems including preparedness for health emergencies (with examples).

<sup>3</sup> Tier 2 Indicator: Countries Australia has supported in last 12 months to strengthen governance systems (by type) (including examples of assistance provided and significant policy change achieved)





	Approximately 2000 farmers (female and male) from ethnic minority groups of the North West region have been involved in ACIAR’s field research and improved livelihoods along the supply chains of beef, vegetables and fruits.
Increased support available to women survivors of gender-based violence <sup>4</sup>	Australia commenced a partnership with Vietnam and the UN on ending violence against women and children. During the reporting period, consultation and planning was undertaken.
Examples of policy or practice uptake as a result of advice or technical assistance on building resilience to future shocks and supporting improved agricultural practices and water management <sup>5</sup>	Australia supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drafting of Vietnam’s National Water Resources Management Plan (Australian Water Partnership);</li> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development report on the agricultural labour market, supporting the <i>Innovation and improvement of the quality of agricultural vocational training for rural workers for the period 2021–30</i> strategy;</li> <li>• improved farming techniques to manage salinity in soil and water for rice-shrimp cropping systems (Ca Mau province);</li> <li>• commitments to increased organic cinnamon areas (3,500 hectares in 2021, 15,000 hectares by 2025 and 35,000 hectares by 2050) (Cai province) and 1,000 hectares of Bat Do Bamboo Shoot (Van Ho district-Son La province) (GREAT program).</li> </ul>
Design of a new activity on energy security to support economic stability	Commenced a study on potential to apply public-private partnership models for offshore wind power project development in Vietnam. Completed the design of an Australian Award Short Training Course on transforming to a competitive energy market in the context of increasing renewable energy integration (under MAP program), which is planned to commence delivery in early 2023. A roundtable between the Electricity Regulatory Authority of Vietnam and the Australian Energy Regulator was conducted with support from the Embassy, and the Partnership for Infrastructure to share experience in energy market reform, power network regulation and to discuss future cooperation.

## Economic Recovery

Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
Examples of economic policy or practice taken up by Vietnamese institutions as a result of advice and technical assistance provided <sup>6</sup>	Australia supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• policy briefs to support the Government of Vietnam to influence 12 policies and regulations, including the Vietnam Social-Economic Development Strategy for 2021-30 and Resolution on the Medium-Term Public Investment Plan for 2021–25 (Australia-World Bank Partnership);</li> <li>• Ministry of Planning and Investment to formulate Vietnam’s three National Target Programs for 2021-25, adopting decentralisation,</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Tier 2 Indicator: Number of women and girls survivors of violence receiving services such as counselling

<sup>5</sup> Tier 2 indicator: Countries Australia has supported in the last 12 months with policy and technical advice on building capacity for food security

<sup>6</sup> Tier 2 indicator: Countries Australia has supported in the last 12 months with policy and technical advice on stimulus measures and longer-term economic recovery (including examples of assistance provided and results achieved)





	<p>participation, market-based solutions and gender mainstreaming as key principles (GREAT, in partnership with CARE Vietnam);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government of Vietnam to accelerate public investment disbursement and support institutional reform, launching the Logistics Industry Skills Forecast (ISF) report, which identifies workforce needs and improved the VET curriculum and delivery in the logistics sector (Aus4Reform).</li> </ul>
Evidence of increased investment in infrastructure	Aus4Transport, since commencing implementation, leveraged an additional infrastructure investment of over USD500 million, achieving the original target of three major construction projects to be funded by Multilateral Development Banks.
Number of participants provided with improved business, technical or management skills for improved workforce participation	<p>Twenty-five participants, including 17 women, completed an Australia Award Short Course on Competency-based Training and Assessment Strategies in Logistics in 2021.</p> <p>740 people in the transport infrastructure sector have been trained covering a range of priority topics relevant to project development and implementation.</p> <p>Thirty-four HER TURN project participants graduated in 2021-22 with Australian VET qualifications in hospitality and transitioned 100 per cent to employment.</p> <p>GREAT supported training of 27,634 women in phase one (2017-22) on agricultural production, tourism service and business management.</p> <p>Nineteen mid-career Vietnamese scientists (seven female &amp; 12 male) have participated in the John Dillon Fellowship (JDF) and been trained in leadership and scientific management skills.</p>
Number of women provided with economic empowerment opportunities including through business or financial support <sup>7</sup>	<p>Three women entrepreneurs received investment capital through deals completed by Investing in Women (IW) partners in 2021-22.</p> <p>Six women entrepreneurs received technical business support from IW partners in 2021-22, following on from investment deals completed by IW partners in prior years.</p> <p>Ninety-one women entrepreneurs received technical assistance support from IW partners as part of IW program in 2021-22, not linked to any investment deal.</p> <p>EMPOWER project built the business skills of 180 women, mainly midwives, to operate their own SRH small business.</p>
Examples of partnering with the private sector and other partners (or government) to ensure supply lines are open to promote the utilisation of FTA provisions and to support increased trade <sup>8</sup>	<p>The Project Vegetable Value Chain "Coolbot" reduced post-harvest losses by 75 per cent, improving product quality and shelf life, increasing average prices leading to increased gross revenue by 20-30 per cent.</p> <p>Working with the Logistics Industry Reference Council, we are engaging with the private sector to influence skills development, improve the quality of training, thereby improving the skills and productivity of the workforce.</p> <p>GREAT partnered with cinnamon processing companies and government extension services to promote the planting, processing and certification</p>

<sup>7</sup> Tier 2 indicator: Number of female entrepreneurs provided with financial and/or business development services

<sup>8</sup> Tier 2 indicator: Examples of partnering with the private sector and other partners to ensure supply lines are open



of high-quality cinnamon in Lao Cai for export to high-value markets. 3,503 hectares of cinnamon plantations have been certified as organic and 1,380 households have increased income from higher value organic cinnamon.

## ANNEX 2: INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE RATINGS

Investment Details	Year	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender Equality
<b>Human Resource Development Facility</b> Investment duration: 2016-25; Budget: \$86.4m	2022	4	4	5
	2021	5	5	6
<b>Australia World Bank Partnership Phase 2</b> Investment duration: 2017-23; Budget: \$35m	2022	5	5	5
	2021	5	5	5
<b>Aus4Equality</b> Investment duration: 2015-28; Budget: \$81.7m	2022	5	4	5
	2021	5	4	5
<b>Aus4Transport</b> Investment duration: 2016-24; Budget: \$30.5m	2022	5	4	4
	2021	5	4	4
<b>Aus4Refrom</b> Investment duration: 2017-25; Budget: \$20.5m	2022	5	4	4
	2021	4	4	4
<b>Aus4Innovation</b> Investment duration: 2018-23; Budget: \$14.55m	2022	5	4	4
	2021	4	4	4
<b>Elimination of Violence</b> Investment duration: 2021-25; Budget: \$9.5m	2022	4	3	4
	2021	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Supporting COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery</b> Investment duration: 2021-23; Budget: \$18.3m	2022	5	4	3
	2021	n/a	n/a	n/a

### Definitions of rating scale:

#### Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)

6 = Very good; satisfies criteria in all areas.

5 = Good; satisfies criteria in almost all areas.

4 = Adequate; on balance, satisfies criteria; does not fail in any major area.

#### Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)

3 = Less than adequate; on balance does not satisfy criteria and/or fails in at least one major area.

2 = Poor; does not satisfy criteria in major areas.

1 = Very poor; does not satisfy criteria in many major areas.