



# VIETNAM COUNTRY PROFILE

Despite Vietnam's dramatic economic transformation into a lower middle-income country in 2010, numerous development challenges threaten Vietnam's continued economic growth and hamper its integration into the global economy. The United States aims to be a vital partner in supporting a strong, prosperous and independent Vietnam that contributes to international security, engages in free, fair and reciprocal trade, and respects human rights and the rule of law.

In an effort to build Vietnam's self-reliance, USAID partners to spur further growth and trade competitiveness, combat pandemic threats, promote renewable energy, address war legacy issues, and conserve Vietnam's forests and biodiversity.

## **OUR WORK**

Vietnam's commitment to fostering inclusive growth and prosperity has drastically reduced poverty rates from nearly 60 percent of the population in the 1990s to under 5 percent in 2018. The United States, through USAID, helps solidify these gains by strengthening economic governance, improving health and higher education outcomes, and reinforcing environmental protections to ensure the sustainability of natural resources important to Vietnam's long-term growth.

#### **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Vietnam's economic growth risks plateauing. To sustain and invigorate inclusive growth and further open Vietnam to global trade, including American businesses, USAID promotes legal reforms and transparency, enhances customs and trade procedures, and increases linkages between small- and medium-sized enterprises and global value chains. For example, USAID helped Vietnam rewrite over 180 commercial laws and regulations, improving its competitiveness ranking from 82 to 68 in the World Bank's Doing Business 2018 report.

#### **HEALTH AND DISABILITIES**

USAID helps combat the spread of pandemic threats and disease. For example, under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, USAID has supported life-saving HIV antiretroviral (ARV) treatment for more than 71,000 people and procured ARV drugs for 55,500 HIV patients in 2017. Leaving no one behind, since 2010 USAID has helped over 30,000 persons with disabilities by improving their access to high quality health services and advocating for public policies that protect their rights.

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

Vietnam is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to natural hazards. USAID partners with the government and private sector to develop and implement strategies that promote renewable energy, forest preservation and biodiversity conservation. In November 2018, USAID completed the clean-up of dioxin-contaminated soil and sediment at Danang Airport and is partnering with the Government of Vietnam to remove dioxin at the Bien Hoa Airbase outside Ho Chi Minh City.



To sustain growth, USAID helps Vietnam close its job skills gap by aligning academic programs with today's industry needs.

PHOTO CREDIT: USAID





Parents provide home-based rehabilitation for their children with disabilities, thanks to USAID training.

PHOTO CREDIT: VIETHEALTH

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