

# WOMEN & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

*Viet Nam towards 2030*



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Last September, the world set out an ambitious new agenda to end poverty, combat inequalities, promote prosperity, and protect the environment by 2030.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were formally adopted by world leaders at the United Nations Summit for the post-2015 development agenda, held in New York from 25-27 September 2015.

“Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” builds on the Millennium Declaration and Goals, a fifteen year journey that set out to reduce poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality, and ensure access to water and sanitation by 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals are designed to tackle unfinished MDG business. They go further in tackling the root causes of poverty and inequality, ensuring development that works for all.

The SDGs set out a visionary new action plan for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. They seek to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies. If we are to stand a chance of achieving them, everyone has a role to play.

## Equality for women

The 2030 agenda sets out 17 goals and 169 targets. In addition to Goal 5 to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, gender targets have been set for every goal, tackling the gender dimensions of poverty, hunger, health, education, water and sanitation, employment, safe cities and peace and security. This strong gender focus is a realization that achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is key to achieving each and every one of the goals.

# GOAL 1

## END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

**Women must have an equal right to access to all avenues to end poverty, from social protection safety nets to use of the latest technology. Fully realizing that right will be key to achieving the first SDG.**

### Key targets:

- *By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.*
- *Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.*

We can only end poverty by ending gender-based discrimination. Gender inequality makes and keeps women poor and deprives them of their basic rights and opportunities.

Women are economically active each and every day - from earning an income, to creating jobs as an entrepreneur, to taking care of their families and elders. However, a woman farmer, for instance, may not have the same access to seeds, credit, technology and extension services as a man.<sup>1</sup> She is also less likely to own land—only 20 % of landowners globally are women.<sup>2</sup> If someday she hopes to inherit family property, the law may deprive her of an equal share, or social norms may favour her male relatives.

This is particularly true in Viet Nam. Women's access to land is often limited by legal ambiguity, lack of access to legal services, and limited

<sup>1</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization, The State of Food and Agriculture 2011: Women and Agriculture, Closing the Gender Gap for Development. Note that although global data is limited, there is evidence that supports this claim.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid



Photo: © UNDP Viet Nam/Shutterstock

**1 NO POVERTY**

awareness and understanding of the law. Too often, land rights are still determined by traditional practices of kinship, patrilineal inheritance and succession.<sup>3</sup> In a 2011 study, women-only land use certificates made up for only 20%.<sup>4</sup> Rural women laborers have less access to vocational training, and female-headed households also struggle to access information.<sup>5</sup> Even though poor women-headed households are entitled to loans, they still find it difficult to access services.

Poverty comes with many risks, and gender discrimination makes women more vulnerable. In an economic downturn, poor women are less likely to have savings or able to make up for lost income. Poor girls are more than twice as likely to marry in childhood as those who are wealthy.<sup>6</sup> In Viet Nam, one in ten women still marry before their 18th birthday, mostly in remote ethnic

**FINANCE**

**More than 1.3 billion**  
women don't have an account at a **formal financial institution**

This includes banks, cooperatives, credit unions, post offices, or microfinance institutions.

minority areas.<sup>7</sup> This exposes them to the risks of early pregnancy, and with limited access to education and a heavy burden of household work their options are limited, trapping them in poverty.

3 Hershkovitz, L., 2012. Policy Brief: Legal Framework on Land Rights for Women in Compliance with Viet Nam Commitments to Human Rights/ Women's Rights (Draft) (Unpublished).

4 World Bank, 2011. Viet Nam Country Gender Assessment

5 FAO and Sida, 2010. National Gender Profile of Agriculture Households.

6 [http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child\\_Marriage\\_Report\\_7\\_17\\_LR.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Child_Marriage_Report_7_17_LR.pdf)

7 GSO Viet Nam, 2015. Viet Nam-Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014

# GOAL 2

## END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

**Achieving food security means that all women can consume enough food with adequate nutrients. All women working in agriculture, if unshackled from discrimination, can contribute to greater global food security.**

### Key targets

- *By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.*
- *By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.*

Although women prepare up to 90% of household meals around the world,<sup>8</sup> when times are tough they often prioritize others, and go without. Women headed households may not eat enough simply because they earn less, and are more vulnerable to shocks and sudden crises.

Nourishment is not only about the quantity of food, but also quality. Women in poor households are less likely to get the nutrients they need, making it more difficult to manage the physical demands of pregnancy and breastfeeding. Gender discrimination drives deprivation further when it also leads to inadequate health care, insufficient education and limited income.

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<sup>8</sup> World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund, 2014, "Update: Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water," p. 8–9. [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241563956\\_eng\\_full\\_text.pdf?ua=1](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241563956_eng_full_text.pdf?ua=1)

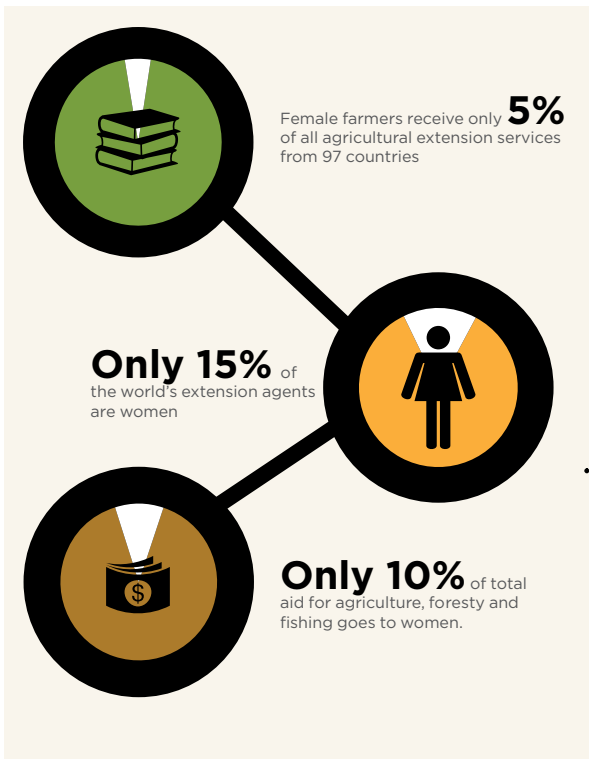


Photo: © UNDP Viet Nam/Shutterstock

**2 ZERO HUNGER**

Poor nutrition is inexcusable given the significant role women play in food production. On average they make up 43% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, and over 50% in parts of Asia and Africa.<sup>9</sup> This rises to 60% in Viet Nam.<sup>10</sup> In Viet Nam, only 9% of farm owners are women<sup>11</sup> and small-scale female farmers have significantly less access to land and other resources than men.

Equal access to agricultural resources for women could increase production on women's farms by 20–30 percent and increase total agricultural production by 2.5–4 percent in developing countries.<sup>12</sup>



9 Food and Agriculture Organization. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4040e.pdf> (p. 35)

10 ICARD, 2012

11 GSO, 2014. Agriculture, Rural and Fishery Census.

12 FAO, 2011. The State of Food and Agriculture.

# GOAL 3

## ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

**If the right to health is to be achieved, health systems must respond fully to women and girls needs, offering higher quality, more comprehensive and readily accessible services. Practices that critically endanger women's health and well-being—among them, all forms of gender-based violence – must end.**

### Key targets

- *By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.*
- *By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.*

The highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental right for everyone. Gender-based discrimination, however, undercuts this right. It can render women more susceptible to sickness and less likely to obtain care, for reasons ranging from affordability to social conventions keeping them at home.

Among women of reproductive age worldwide, AIDS is now the leading cause of death.<sup>13</sup> Not

<sup>13</sup> WHO Fact Sheet N. 334. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs334/en/>

only are women biologically more susceptible to HIV transmission, but their unequal social and economic status undercuts abilities to protect themselves and make empowered choices.

In Viet Nam, women continue to face risks from having unprotected sex with their partners. Nearly 54% of HIV infections among all women in Viet Nam result from risks taken by their male sexual partners.<sup>14</sup> Women living with HIV continue to face stigma and discrimination and are particularly vulnerable to social exclusion. Even within their families they are often neglected, abandoned or forced to remain isolated from their children.<sup>15</sup>

Countries have committed to universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, but many gaps have slowed progress so far. More than 225 million women have an unmet need for contraceptive methods.<sup>16</sup>

In Viet Nam, more than a third of young people lack access to contraception, as well

<sup>14</sup> UNAIDS/UN Women, 2012. Measuring Intimate Partner Transmission of HIV in Viet Nam: A Data Triangulation Exercise.

<sup>15</sup> One UN Viet Nam, 2010. HIV Transmission from Men to Women in Intimate Partner Relationships in Viet Nam: A Discussion Paper.

<sup>16</sup> UNFPA. 2014 "Adding it up" <http://www.unfpa.org/adding-it-up>





Photo: © UNDP Viet Nam/Shutterstock

as appropriate information.<sup>17</sup> Access to family planning services remains limited, particularly for young unmarried women, migrant women, and women in remote and mountainous regions. Male sexual partners may also prevent young women from using contraception, highlighting the consequences of gender inequality. Adolescent pregnancy is on the rise,<sup>18</sup> and over 6 percent of women aged 15 to 19 have had a child, despite the health risks of early pregnancies.<sup>19</sup>

Globally, in developing regions, where maternal mortality rates (MMR) are 14 times higher than in developed ones, only half of pregnant women receive the minimum standard for antenatal care.<sup>20</sup> While in Viet Nam, maternal mortality has declined considerably over the last two decades, regional and socio-economic differences remain a major concern. For example the maternal mortality rate for some ethnic minority women is four times higher than that of majority Kinh. Ethnic minority women are often unable to seek services due to their remoteness, the poor quality of care, language and cultural barriers, and their

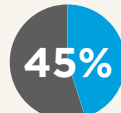
17 UNFPA: 2013 / <http://vietnam.unfpa.org/public/pid/14588>

18 Ministry of Health, Viet Nam, 2014. Report of the Department of Mother-Child Health.

19 GSO and UNICEF, 2015. Vietnam Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014.


20 [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015\\_MDG\\_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20%28July%201%29.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20%28July%201%29.pdf)

MATERNAL DEATHS



**45%**

**fewer maternal deaths**  
worldwide than in 1990.



But

**800 women still die**  
every day from preventable pregnancy-related causes. 99% of these deaths occur in developing countries.

inability to pay.<sup>21</sup> As a result, the coverage of antenatal care for ethnic minority women remains low. One in five ethnic minority women still receive no checkups during pregnancy;<sup>22</sup> and in northern mountainous provinces, between 40-60% give birth at home.<sup>23</sup>

21 Ministry of Labour-Invalids and Social Affairs, 2014. National Review: 20 year implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the 23rd Special session of the General Assembly in Viet Nam.

22 GSO and UNICEF, 2015. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014.

23 Ministry of Labour-Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam, 2014. National Review: 20 year implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the 23rd Special session of the General Assembly in Viet Nam.



# GOAL 4

## ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Education must be equally available for girls and boys throughout their lives. Pre-primary education establishes a foundation on which all later schooling can build. Ongoing learning for adults broadens choices for productive and fulfilling lives.

### Key targets

- *By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.*
- *By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education.*
- *By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.*
- *By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.*
- *By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.*
- *By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.*
- *Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.*

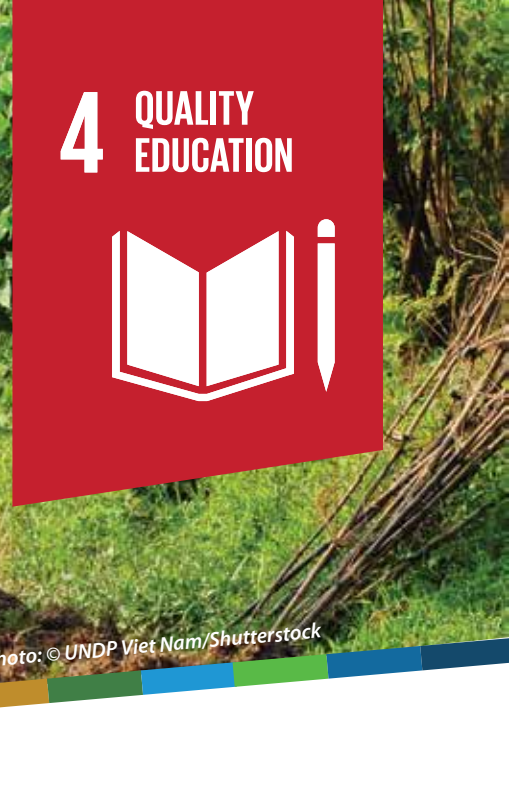


Photo: © UNDP Viet Nam/Shutterstock

All developing regions of the world have achieved—or almost achieved—equal enrolment of boys and girls in primary school. This is an historic accomplishment, but far from complete. Gender gaps widen significantly in many countries in secondary and tertiary schools.<sup>24</sup>

In Viet Nam, although gender gaps in primary and secondary education have largely been closed<sup>25</sup>, women still face many challenges. In particular, women and girls of ethnic minority groups and poor households have fewer opportunities, and have higher rates for school dropout and illiteracy.

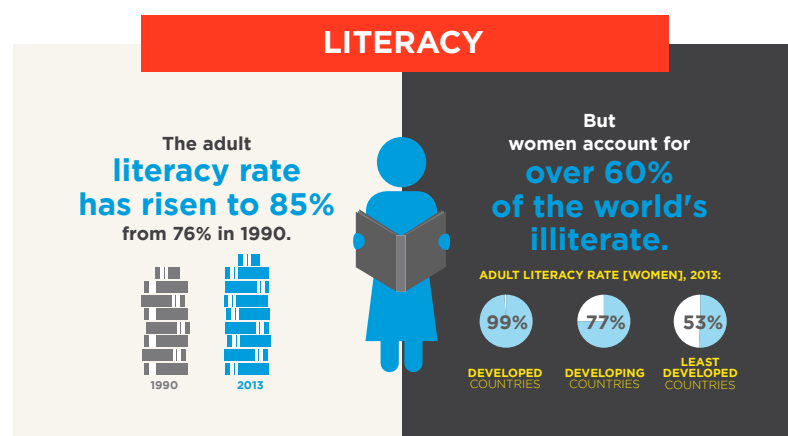
Education is a right. It empowers individuals to increase their well-being and contributes to broader social and economic gains. Improved education accounts for about 50 % of economic growth in OECD countries over the past five decades.<sup>26</sup> About half is due to more women entering higher levels of education, and greater equality as to the years men and women spend in school.<sup>27</sup>

24 UNESCO, UNICEF. 2015. "Fixing the Broken Promise of Education for All." [http://www.unicef.org/education/files/allinschool.org\\_wp-content\\_uploads\\_2015\\_01\\_Fixing-the-Broken-Promise-of-Education-For-All-full-report.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/education/files/allinschool.org_wp-content_uploads_2015_01_Fixing-the-Broken-Promise-of-Education-For-All-full-report.pdf)

25 Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 2015. Country Report: 15 years achieving the Viet Nam Millennium Development Goals

26 OECD, Gender Equality in Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship: Final Report to the MCM 2012. <http://www.oecd.org/employment/50423364.pdf> p. 3.

27 *ibid.* p. 19.



For education to deliver, it must be inclusive and high-quality. Active efforts to end gender stereotypes must tackle those that limit schooling or channel women and girls into 'acceptable' areas of study or work.

In Viet Nam, gender stereotyping is still common in school textbooks, teaching materials and methodologies, reinforcing gender bias and traditional gender roles. Girls and boys are often streamed into different areas of study and training, affecting their future career prospects and earning potential.<sup>28</sup> Dedicated resources for gender mainstreaming are insufficient, thus limiting the considerable potential of education to make a real difference to gender equality.

28 Ministry of Labour-Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam 2014. National Review: 20 year implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the 23rd Special session of the General Assembly in Viet Nam.

# GOAL 5

## ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women have a right to equality in all areas. It must be embedded across legal systems, upheld in both laws and legal practices, including proactive measures such as quotas. Since all areas of life relate to gender equality, efforts must be made to cut the roots of gender discrimination wherever they appear.

### Key targets

- *End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.*
- *Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.*
- *Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.*
- *Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.*
- *Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decisionmaking in political, economic and public life.*
- *Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.*
- *Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.*
- *Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.*
- *Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.*

## 5 GENDER EQUALITY



Photo: © Un Vietnam/Aiden Dockery

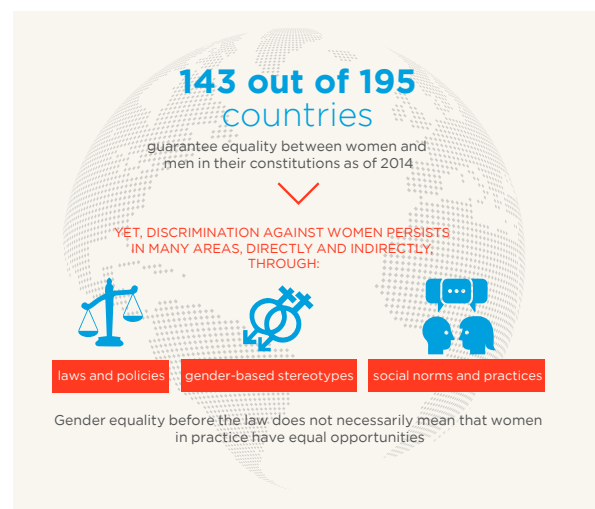
The sustainable development goals seek to change the course of the 21st century, addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality, and violence against women. Women's empowerment is a pre-condition for this.

Women have a critical role to play in all SDGs, with many targets specifically recognizing women's equality and empowerment as both the objective, and as part of the solution. Goal 5 is known as the stand-alone gender goal because it is dedicated to achieving these ends.

Deep legal and legislative changes are needed to ensure women's rights around the world. While a record 143 countries guaranteed equality between men and women in their Constitutions by 2014, another 52 had not taken this step.<sup>29</sup> In many nations, gender discrimination is still woven through legal and social norms.

In Viet Nam, despite progress made on legislating for equality, the most recent UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), review highlighted crucial

29 UN Women Constitutional Database. 2014 <http://constitutions.unwomen.org/en>



gaps in implementing laws and policies that promote gender equality.<sup>30</sup> At the same time, discriminatory provisions still remain in a number of laws, such as different minimum ages for women and men to marry and retire.

30 UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee), 2015. Concluding observations on the combined seventh and eight periodic reports of Viet Nam, CEDAW/C/VNM/CO/7-8, July 6-24, 2015.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In 1993, the  
UN General Assembly  
**Declaration on  
the Elimination  
of Violence  
against Women**  
provided a framework for  
action on the pandemic.



But  
more than 20 years later,  
**1 in 3 women  
still experience  
physical or  
sexual violence,**  
mostly by an intimate partner.



Stark gender disparities remain in economic and political realms. While there has been some progress over the decades, on average women in the labour market still earn 24 % less than men globally.<sup>31</sup> In Viet Nam, women's wages are still lower than men, even with similar qualifications. More women are engaged in informal and vulnerable work<sup>32</sup> with little social protection.<sup>33</sup> Women remain a minority at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life. Globally, as of August 2015, only 22 % of all national parliamentarians were female, a slow rise from 11% in 1995.<sup>34</sup> In Viet Nam, while women's representation in the National Assembly is higher at 24%, only 17% have full decision making powers in the National Assembly.<sup>35</sup> Women's representation also decreased during the most recent term, going against the global trend. The percentage of women in the Party Central Committee is even lower, with fewer than 9%

31 UN Women, Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming economies, realizing rights ; World Bank Gender Data Portal. <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/gender/key%20gender%20employment%20indicators>

32 Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 2015. Country Report: 15 years achieving the Viet Nam Millennium Development Goals

33 ILSA and UN Women, 2015. National Report on Social Protection for Women and Girls in Viet Nam.

34 Inter-Parliamentary Union, "Women in national parliaments, as at 1 August 2015" <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>

35 Ministry of Labour-Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam, 2014. National Review: 20 year implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the 23rd Special session of the General Assembly in Viet Nam.

women over the last three terms.<sup>36</sup>

Overall, the number of women in leadership positions has declined. For example, women holding ministerial and equivalent posts decreased from 12 percent in 2007-2011 to 4.5 percent in 2011-2016.<sup>37</sup> Higher positions in the justice sector, including police, procurators and judges remain strongly male dominated.<sup>38</sup> While civil society plays a crucial role in monitoring progress and advancing claims for women's rights, civil society organizations still faces major obstacles in Viet Nam, including those that promote gender equality.<sup>39</sup>

Gender equality in the home also needs to improve, with Vietnamese women still bearing the burden of unpaid care and domestic work. Only 56% of men help with housework.<sup>40</sup> With growing urban or overseas migration, high costs have shifted responsibility for childcare from younger to older women, often relatives. At the same time migrant women are currently the major source of care workers in urban areas.

Meanwhile, violence against women is a pandemic affecting all countries, even those that have made laudable progress in other areas. Worldwide, 35 % of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.<sup>41</sup>

36 UNDP Viet Nam, 2012. Women's Representation in Leadership in Viet Nam.

37 World Bank, Vietnam Country Gender Assessment, 2011, 78.

38 UN Women and UNODC, Assessment of the Situation of Women in the Criminal Justice System in Viet Nam in support of the Government's Efforts towards Effective Gender Equality in the Criminal Justice System, Ha Noi, 2013.

39 UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee), 2015. Concluding observations on the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Viet Nam, CEDAW/C/VNM/CO/7-8, July 6-24,2015.

40 World Bank, 2011. Viet Nam Country Gender Assessment

41 World Health Organization, Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against Women, [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf), p. 2. (For individual country information, see full compilation of data in UN Women, 2012, Violence against Women Prevalence Data: Surveys by Country.)



Photo: © Colorista/Hoang Hiep

In Viet Nam, nearly 6 out of every 10 ever-married women have experienced some form of physical, sexual, or emotional violence at some time in their life.<sup>42</sup> Domestic violence was estimated to cost 3.2 percent of Viet Nam's GDP, by calculating the total productivity losses and potential opportunity costs. At the same time, women experiencing domestic violence earn on average 35 percent less than other women.

Sexual harassment at work<sup>43</sup> or in public places<sup>44</sup> is commonplace in Viet Nam. Trafficking of women and girls is also on the rise for labour, sexual exploitation and marriage. Strong preference for boys has also seen sex-selective abortion on the rise.<sup>45</sup>

42 UNFPA, 2012. Domestic Violence Prevention and Response in Viet Nam: Lessons Learned from the Intervention Model in Phu Tho and Ben Tre Provinces

43 UN Viet Nam, 2012. Issue Paper: Sexual Harassment at the Workplace in Viet Nam: An Overview and the Legal Framework.

44 ActionAid International Viet Nam, 2014. Safe Cities for Women and Girls: Can Dreams Come True? Policy Brief.

45 UNFPA, 2014. The imbalanced Sex Ratio at Birth in Viet Nam: Connecting Research and Policy for Change (Policy Brief).

#### LAND & OTHER RESOURCES

**In 26 of 143 countries**

statutory inheritance laws (i.e. written laws passed by legislature) differentiate between women and men



#### Impact

Increased vulnerability to poverty and food insecurity; limited or no access to resources and credit; dependency on men to secure livelihood.

#### FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

**200 million**

girls and women have experienced female genital mutilation in the 30 countries where the harmful practice is most common



#### Impact

Severe emotional and physical trauma; potential health risks, including reproductive and sexual health complications, and possible death through loss of blood or sepsis.

Child marriage remains popular in some ethnic minority groups, particularly in remote areas of Viet Nam. In these communities, awareness on reproductive and sexual health and hygienic practices remains low, especially for girls living in boarding schools without parental support.

# GOAL 6

## ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

**Ensuring water and sanitation for all is the goal; achieving it must take all dimensions specific to women and girls on board, and involve them directly in the process.**

### Key targets

- ***By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.***

A drink of water sustains human life, but only if it is safe and affordable. From 1990 to 2015, 2.6 billion people gained access to improved drinking water, but 663 million still rely on unimproved sources like unprotected wells and springs. Water quality has deteriorated through pollution, and worsening scarcity pressures over 40 % of the global population.<sup>46</sup>

For women, inadequate water supplies pose additional burdens. In Viet Nam, some poor, remote, or migrant communities are unable to access clean water, exposing women and girls to increased risk of gynecological diseases.<sup>47</sup>

With nearly 65% of households in Viet Nam lacking a water source on the premises, women and girls are usually responsible for collecting drinking water. This percentage is 10% higher

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<sup>46</sup> UNDP. 2015 MDG Report. [http://www.un.org/millennium-goals/2015\\_MDG\\_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20%28July%201%29.pdf](http://www.un.org/millennium-goals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20%28July%201%29.pdf)

<sup>47</sup> ILSSA and UN Women, 2015. National Report on Social Protection for Women and Girls in Viet Nam.





**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

Photo: © UNICEF Viet Nam/Truong Viet Hung

among ethnic minority households. Although women are still the major users of water, they are less likely to participate in decision making on either domestic or public water supply.<sup>48</sup>

Poor quality sanitation—including open defecation—pollutes water and spreads disease. Sanitation has improved for 2.1 billion people between 1990 and 2015, and open defecation has fallen by nearly half, yet 2.4 billion people still rely on unimproved sanitation facilities. In Viet Nam, poor sanitation is a growing problem in urban areas, especially for female migrants.<sup>49</sup> In schools, the absence of separate toilets for girls, limiting access to education and leading to poorer health outcomes, especially for ethnic minority girls.<sup>50</sup>

48 ILSSA and UN Women, 2015. National Report on Social Protection for Women and Girls in Viet Nam.

49 ibid

50 UNICEF, Viet Nam, 2011. National Study on Impact effects of poor school WASH services on children and teachers' absenteeism and dropout rate in Viet Nam.

**ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER**

**2 billion people gained access to clean drinking water**  
from 1990 to 2010.

But women still spend **16 million hours per day** collecting water in 25 sub-Saharan countries.

<b>WOMEN</b> 16 MILLION HOURS	<b>MEN</b> 6 MILLION HOURS	<b>CHILDREN</b> 4 MILLION HOURS
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# GOAL 7

## ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

**As primary energy managers in households, women could play powerful roles in extending sustainable modern energy. All elements of energy planning and policy-making need to factor in gender dimensions and actively advance women's leadership. Within the energy industry itself, barriers to women executives, entrepreneurs and employees must fall. And their representation on national and global energy council must grow.**

Sustainable modern energy fuels development, from the light that allows a child to do her homework to streetlamps allowing women to travel safely home at night. Universal access requires energy to be affordable and reliable. Generating it must not irreversibly harm the environment.

In households, women are often the primary energy managers. When modern sources are not available, they spend hours each day collecting fuel to cook and heat their homes. In Viet Nam, more than 40% of households still rely on solid

fuel for cooking. In ethnic minority households, this rises to nearly 90%.<sup>51</sup> As women take responsibility for domestic chores, they have the heavy burden to collect fuel, and are more likely to be exposed to related health hazards, including smoke, during the meal preparation process.<sup>52</sup>

Some indications suggest that women are more

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51 GSO and UNICEF, 2015. Vietnam Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014.

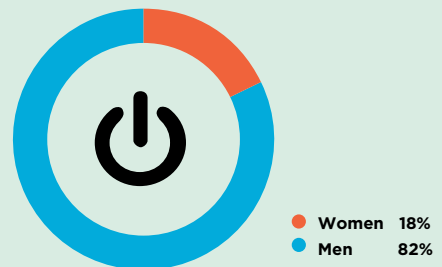
52 Sustainable Energy for All, 2012. Viet Nam: Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis.



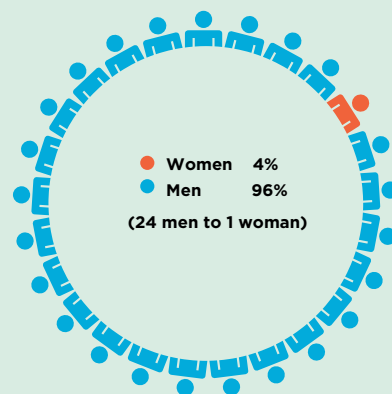
Photo: © UN Viet Nam/Jakub Zak

likely than men to conserve energy—using up to 22 % less, including through a greater willingness to alter everyday behaviours.<sup>53</sup> However, women are largely absent in the industries that produce modern sources of renewable energy, comprising only 20 % of the workforce.<sup>54</sup>

#### WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL SECRETARIES



#### WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL CHAIRS



53 UNIDO. [http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user\\_media\\_upgrade/What\\_we\\_do/Topics/Women\\_and\\_Youth/GUIDANCENOTE\\_FINAL\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/What_we_do/Topics/Women_and_Youth/GUIDANCENOTE_FINAL_WEB.pdf) (p. 11)

54 <http://www.irena.org/home/index.aspx?PriMenuID=12&mn-u=Pri>

# GOAL 8

## PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT, AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

**When economies are geared towards achieving women's rights and gender equality, the benefits, such as fairer societies and greater economic dynamism, accrue to everyone. Women must have equal access to decent work, productive resources and financial services, as well as an equal voice in economic decisions.**

### Key targets

- *By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.*
- *Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.*
- *Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.*

An inclusive, sustainable economy fosters growth with benefits for all. It does not harm the environment, and uses resources judiciously so they will remain for generations to come. For many people, employment is the entry point for economic well-being. In an inclusive economy, decent work means a living wage, workplace safety and protection against discrimination.

There has been some progress. Twenty years ago 40 % of women were engaged in wage and salaried employment; today 48 % of women are being paid wages. Yet, globally, women still work at lower rates than men.<sup>55</sup> In Viet Nam, wage employment accounts for 29% of total female labour, in comparison with 40% of men.<sup>56</sup> Women workers are also more vulnerable: in 2014, 49% of women lacked the protection of a labour contract, compared to only 36% of men.<sup>57</sup> Women's average wage is also lower than men's, with the

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<sup>55</sup> UN Women, Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming economies, realizing rights, Chapter 4, (p. 199).

<sup>56</sup> General Statistics Office, Viet Nam, 2015. Report on Labour Force Survey 2014.

<sup>57</sup> General Statistics Office, Viet Nam, 2015. Report on Labour Force Survey 2014.



Photo: © UN Viet Nam/Aiden Dockery

gap increasing, going against the global trend.<sup>58</sup>

Gender stereotypes often define what is 'women's work', and can channel women into some of the worst jobs. Among 143 countries, at least 90 % have some legal restriction on women's employment.<sup>59</sup> In Viet Nam, women are legally restricted from 77 types of jobs, including installing oil rigs at sea or drilling wells. They are also required to retire five years earlier than men, limiting opportunities for hiring, promotion and trainings. Such measures, although intended to be protective, limit women's opportunities and are based on negative stereotypes about women's capabilities and roles in society.

Women are more likely than men to be in vulnerable employment, with up to 75 % of women's jobs being informal or unprotected in developing countries.<sup>60</sup> Worldwide, 83 % of domestic workers are women—most are not legally entitled to a minimum wage.<sup>61</sup> In Viet Nam, the majority of workers in the informal sector are women, earning on average 50% less than men, with lower job security and little

58 World Economic Forum, 2012. The Global Gender Gap Report; *ibid*, 2013; *ibid*, 2014.

59 World Bank 2014. Women, Business and Law 2014: Removing Restrictions to Enhance Gender Equality. p. 8 [http://wbl.worldbank.org/~/\\_/media/FPDKM/WBL/Documents/Reports/2014/Women-Business-and-the-Law-2014-Key-Findings.pdf](http://wbl.worldbank.org/~/_/media/FPDKM/WBL/Documents/Reports/2014/Women-Business-and-the-Law-2014-Key-Findings.pdf)

60 *Ibid*.

61 UN Women, Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming economies, realizing rights,

**WAGES**

**50% of the world's employed women are in paid wage and salary employment,**  
an increase from 40% in the 1990s.



**But women earn 10-30% less than men for the same work.**



\*based on a study of 83 countries

access to social protection.<sup>62</sup> Moreover, women account for 69 percent of all self-employed and unpaid family workers, which are classified as the most vulnerable section of the workforce.<sup>63</sup> The unemployment rate amongst young women is also higher than young men, making them more likely to migrate to the cities as well as overseas. Combined with limited education and lack of professional skills, they often engage in low-paid, poor quality jobs such as domestic workers and caregivers. This carries a high risk of labour and even sexual exploitation. Their uncertain legal status also limits access to social protection and legal aid.

62 USAID, 2010. Women's Participation in Vietnam's Economy: Agenda for Action

63 General Statistics Office of Viet Nam, Report on Labour Force Survey 2013, Ha Noi, 2014, 31.

# GOAL 9

## BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND FOSTER INNOVATION

**From the factory floor to the high-tech lab, women must have equal opportunities in building a shared, sustainable future.**

### Key targets

- *Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.*
- *Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.*

Economic development builds on infrastructure—the roads, bridges and facilities that allow businesses to operate and people to obtain essential services. Infrastructure needs to be sustainable in its construction and use – including through environmentally sound technologies – and resilient to future risks.

All elements of planning, building and financing must take gender dimensions into account, so that women have facilities and services essential to their needs and rights. For many countries, particularly those less developed, shifting from agriculture and towards industry is the route to better-paying jobs and higher standards of living.



Photo: © UN Viet Nam/Aidan Dockery

In Viet Nam, women still account for a large portion of agriculture labour. The ratio of female workers' movement out of the agriculture, forestry and fishery is lower than that of their male counterparts. In industries and services, women occupy minor sectors and occupations.<sup>64</sup> New and existing industries must pursue sustainable paths, including through innovation and upgraded technology.

Investments in research and development will be key, but most researchers are still men—women account for only 25 % in more advanced OECD countries.<sup>65</sup> Similarly, the construction, manufacturing and energy businesses, with few women employees and decision-makers, fall far short of gender balance.

64 Ministry of Labour-Invalids and Social Affairs Viet Nam, 2014. National Review: 20 year implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the 23rd Special session of the General Assembly in Viet Nam.

65 UNIDO. [http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user\\_media\\_upgrade/What\\_we\\_do/Topics/Women\\_and\\_Youth/GUIDANCENOTE\\_FINAL\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/What_we_do/Topics/Women_and_Youth/GUIDANCENOTE_FINAL_WEB.pdf) (p. 11)

## WOMEN IN SCIENCE



**Just 1/5 countries** have achieved gender parity, and in these countries **45% to 55%** of researchers are women

# GOAL 10

## REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

**Whether the issue is fiscal policy, safe migration or improved regulation of global financial markets, different and potentially unequal outcomes for women and men must be recognized. Only then can deliberate actions be taken to correct them, within and across countries.**

### Key targets

- ***By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.***

Inequalities have widened across and within many countries, even amid high rates of economic growth. Disparities, caused by practices within countries and in the global economy, are unjust and weaken the social fabric.

Today, more women are in the workforce, in politics, in leadership roles, breaking stereotypes and societal taboos. Yet, gender discrimination makes women prone to deeper disparities.

Vietnamese women working as housemaids or caregivers, as well as those working in the sex and entertainment industry are at highest risk. Many are also migrants, making it very difficult to

access social protection. Contracts for overseas work often carry restrictions on pregnancy and childbirth limiting women's opportunities, with the status of migrant and legal dependency on overseas employers significantly hampering women's access to social protection and legal support.<sup>66</sup> Viet Nam's current household registration restrictions have a bigger impact on women, who migrate more often than men. Lacking legal status in their work location, they are unable to access basic services away from home.

Gender discrimination can be multiplied by other forms of discrimination, such as age, disability, ethnicity, economic status and so on, increasing vulnerability many times over. Ethnic minority women, and women with disabilities are particularly vulnerable in Viet Nam. Huge hurdles need to be overcome to access education and health services. They are also far less likely to find work.<sup>67</sup> A lack of investment in the infrastructure

<sup>66</sup> ILSSA and UN Women, 2015. National Report on Social Protection for Women and Girls in Viet Nam.

<sup>67</sup> Ministry of Labour-Invalids and Social Affairs Viet Nam, 2014. National Review: 20 year implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the 23rd Special session of the General Assembly in Viet Nam





Photo: © UNDP Viet Nam/Shutterstock

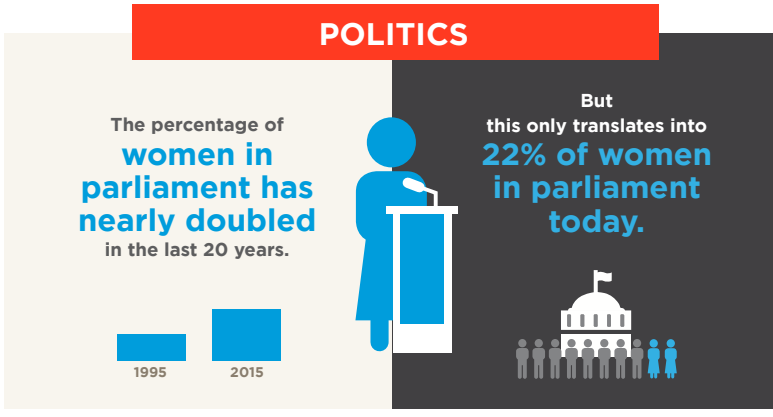
**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES

and services that women need most, such as water and sanitation, childhood education and care also increases women's burdens, particularly in rural areas. This can limit women's ability to play a role in public life or take up more productive work opportunities.

Changing demographics are also seeing a feminization of ageing in Viet Nam, with 58% of those aged 60 and above now women. More than two thirds live in rural areas.<sup>68</sup> Elderly women are more likely to have experienced poor health throughout their life, due in part to gender discrimination. They have less access to social and health care due to inadequate social systems for elderly, and for the high costs of providing these services. Many are now caring for the children of daughters and granddaughters who have little choice but to migrate to cities or overseas to find work. This can lead to stress and deteriorating health among older women.<sup>69</sup>

68 General Statistics Office, Viet Nam, 2014. Report on Major Findings from Midterm Population and Housing Census.

69 Ngo Thi Tuan Dung, 2011. Elderly People in Vietnam: Some Issues of Concern from a Family and Gender Perspective (Presentation at AASSREC Forum "Ageing in Asia Pacific: Balancing State and Family" Cebu Philippines; UNFPA, 2011. The Aging Population in Viet Nam: Current status, prognosis, and possible policy responses.



Social norms that treat women as second-class citizens often translate into structural obstacles to progress, such as laws that fail to punish perpetrators of gender-based violence. In Viet Nam, violence against women is too often regarded to be a private matter, leaving women trapped in abusive relationships. This impacts negatively on every area of their lives.

# GOAL 11

## MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

**Cities and human settlements can be safe, prosperous, equitable and pleasant places to live, but only if every citizen is involved in their development. All elements of urban governance, planning and finance need to actively embed gender equality measures. And women deserve equal roles in making decisions about an ever more urban world.**

### Key targets

- *By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.*
- *By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.*

The world today is urbanizing at an unprecedented rate. For many men and women, the chance to move to a city is a chance for a better life—a larger income, more interesting employment, a more comfortable residence and ready access to modern amenities.

Yet cities are also places of deep inequality and despair. New migrants, many of them women, can end up in crowded slums, poorly connected to public transport or essential services such as clean water. Life becomes dangerous and unhealthy, with many obstacles to gaining a secure foothold in the urban economy.

In Viet Nam, due to a lack of affordable housing, labourers and migrants often live in cramped, unsafe housing. Many lack basic hygiene facilities, and can be far from local markets, childcare and healthcare facilities. Workers, particularly women, face risks of crime or sexual abuse at their accommodation or on their commute,<sup>70</sup> in public spaces and on public transportation.<sup>71</sup>

<sup>70</sup> Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministerial-level project 2012, Current situation of employment and living standards of labourers in industrial zones in Viet Nam.

<sup>71</sup> ActionAid International Viet Nam, 2014. Safe Cities for Women and Girls: Can Dreams Come True? Policy Brief.



## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Photo: © UNDP Viet Nam/Shutterstock

Vulnerable women are most likely to be affected by accommodation policies, but they are usually excluded from city planning and decision making processes. Support and loans for accommodation barely meet the need of female head households, particularly those near poor. Long-term debts incurred for building or renovation can make their situation even more difficult.<sup>72</sup>

City planning needs to build in reliance against natural disaster. In general, women have less access to livelihoods assets and opportunities than men. During natural disasters the likelihood of rape, sexual exploitation and risky behaviour greatly increases the risk of unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and complications regarding reproductive health. In general, natural disasters kill more women than men and kill women at a younger age than men.<sup>73</sup> If she survives a disaster such as a flood or earthquake, a woman will likely have fewer options to recover.

Disasters such as droughts, floods and storms **kill more women than men due to structural gender inequalities.**



<sup>72</sup> ILSSA and UN Women, 2015. National Report on Social Protection for Women and Girls in Viet Nam.

<sup>73</sup> World Health Organization, "Gender, Climate Change, and Health" (Geneva, 2011); Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2014/13) (p. 2).



# GOAL 12

## ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

**A safe and sustainable future depends on reducing extremes. Women in consumption and production must have equal access to means such as land and technology that can boost their standard of living.**



Photo: © UN Viet Nam/Aiden Dockery

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Unsustainable consumption and production patterns, historically concentrated in countries and groups with the highest standards of living, have pushed the world against its planetary boundaries. Surpassing these limits poses the risk of resources being lost forever. Climate change, impacted by greenhouse gas emissions, poses escalating threats.

At the high end of consumption and production, patterns can be wasteful. Food losses occur at every stage, from field to table. Forests are cut down and minerals mined for products used one year and thrown away the next.

The world of waste coexists with a world of want. There, people consume barely enough to survive. Sixty percent of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people are women dependent on their increasingly pressured natural environment to earn a living and feed their families.<sup>74</sup>

74 UNDP. [http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/strategic\\_themes/climate\\_change/focus\\_areas/gender\\_and\\_climatechange.html](http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/environmentandenergy/strategic_themes/climate_change/focus_areas/gender_and_climatechange.html)

# GOAL 13

## TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

**As stewards of many natural resources, women can offer valuable insights into better managing the climate and its risks. They also have a right to all capacities needed to protect themselves, and to participate in decisions with profound implications for people and the planet.**

### Key targets

- ***Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.***

Climate change poses growing risks. Catastrophic storms destroy lives and homes. Droughts pressure rural livelihoods. Sea level rise threatens low-lying areas.

Slowing a dangerous rise in global temperatures depends on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Since some level of climate change is now inexorable, other actions must help people adapt and become more resilient. Adequate education and employment, for example, help build safety nets against disaster.

The most vulnerable people are most at risk from climate change, including many poor women. For them, the impacts are already a daily reality. Many spend increasingly long hours hunting for food, fuel and water, or struggling to grow crops. When disasters strike, women are far more likely to perish.<sup>75</sup>

In Viet Nam, more women than men depend on agriculture, putting them at a higher risk of losing income and resources from storms, floods

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<sup>75</sup> World Health Organization, "Gender, Climate Change, and Health" (Geneva, 2011); Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2014/13) (p. 3).



**13 CLIMATE ACTION**



Photo: © UNDP Viet Nam/Shutterstock

and drought. Moreover, less access to resources, credit, markets and extension services makes women less resilient, especially those from poor households. Increasing pressure on water and forest resources often leads to women having to travel longer distances to fetch water or wood, exposing them to health risks, and increasing the burden of unpaid care.

Although women can be more vulnerable in terms of climate related risks, they also hold the solutions. Experience in Viet Nam shows that women play a vital role in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities, particularly when men migrate for work.<sup>76</sup>

**60% of the world's poorest are women**

**who depend on their natural environment to earn a living and feed their families.**



<sup>76</sup> UN Viet Nam and Oxfam, 2012. Policy Brief: Gender equality in climate change adaptation and disaster.

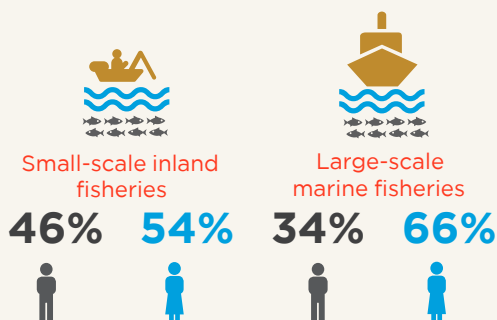
# GOAL 14

## CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Women face the risks of ocean degradation with fewer assets and alternatives for livelihoods, and less resilience against the loss of natural resources. All strategies for conservation and sustainable use need to respond to these vulnerabilities. Women's limited representation in marine science must be corrected towards tapping all perspectives for fair and durable solutions.

### FISHERIES

Women make up 47% of the world's 120 million people working in fisheries and outnumber men in both small-scale inland and large-scale marine fisheries.



And yet women are largely **concentrated in low-skilled, low-paid jobs with irregular, seasonal employment**

in processing, packaging and marketing, and often work without contracts or health, safety and labour rights protections.







14 LIFE BELOW WATER

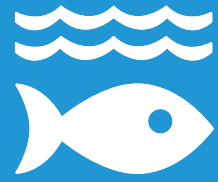


Photo: © UNDP Viet Nam/Anh Tuan

The world's oceans—spreading over 70 % of the planet—are in crisis. Destructive fishing has decimated fish stocks and thrown marine ecosystems out of balance, as have pollution and ocean acidification. As temperatures warm from climate change, melting ice caps are raising sea levels, threatening homes everywhere.

Over the longer term, oceanic changes can result in globally significant climate shifts. For now, the most immediate impacts are felt in coastal communities and among those who depend on oceans for livelihoods.

Women make up 47 % of the world's 120 million people working in fisheries and outnumber men in both large-scale marine fisheries (66 %) and small-scale inland fisheries (54 %).<sup>77</sup> In Vietnam,

80% of the aquaculture workforce are women.<sup>78</sup> And yet, women are largely concentrated in low-skilled, low-paid jobs with irregular, seasonal employment in processing, packaging and marketing. They often work without contracts or health, safety and labour rights protections. Women also earn approximately 64 % of men's wages for the same work in aquaculture.<sup>79</sup>

77 New report by UN Women cites data from Food and Agriculture Organization. 2013. "Good Practice Policies to Eliminate Gender Inequalities in Fish Value Chains." <http://www.fao.org/docrep/019/i3553e/i3553e.pdf>

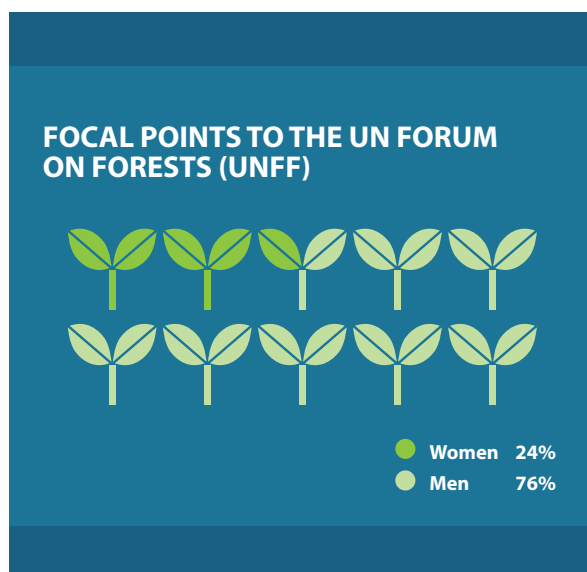
78 <http://www.fao.org/gender/gender-home/gender-programme/gender-fisheries/en/>

79 Ibid.

# GOAL 15

PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION, AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

**Women play a critical role as stewards of the land, comprising much of the agricultural labour force in developing countries.<sup>80</sup> Women, and indigenous women in particular, need to be included in decision-making on ecosystem use at all levels, as essential players in preserving our planet.**



Globally, forests have been cut at devastatingly fast rates, often for profits that bypass local communities. The felling of trees reduces carbon dioxide absorption and biodiversity, cutting links in the intricate web of life. Land use practices have led to land degradation and desertification, as have droughts, including those linked to climate change.

The Vietnamese government finds itself torn between the need to protect forests and convert them into more economically-productive land. As a result, there is a risk that forestry concerns could be ignored at the expense of other development imperatives. Concurrently, deforestation risks further endangering impoverished forest-based communities and undercutting Viet Nam's

<sup>80</sup> FAO, 2014 State of Food and Agriculture. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4040e.pdf>. p. 35.



Photo: © United Nations/Kibae Park

# 15 LIFE ON LAND



progress in poverty alleviation efforts over the last two decades. Land is being degraded each year, more than two million hectares of degraded land is already scattered all over Viet Nam,<sup>81</sup> with consequential loss of agricultural productivity and biodiversity.

All of these patterns undercut resources that sustain environmental health and human well-being. Women can be among the first and most affected, often charged with making up shortfalls in food and fuel. Their limited ownership of land reduces their capacity to adapt to losses or make decisions about how land is used—for the benefit of themselves and the environment.

Despite these constraints, women play a critical role as stewards of the land, comprising much of the agricultural labour force in developing countries.<sup>82</sup> They may be primary collectors of resources such as wood for fuel, as well as wild foods and herbs for medicines. Their knowledge

about traditional practices that are inherently sustainable, however, is often excluded from decisions about sustainable ecosystems.

This is a loss in terms of prospects for sustainable ecosystem use, which also depends on gender equality in all other dimensions—access to land, livelihoods and natural resources, and a say in how they are shared. Women, and ethnic minority women in particular, need to be included in decision-making on ecosystem use at all levels, as essential players in preserving our planet.

81 UNDP and GEF Project Document: Enhancing implementation of Rio Convention, 2015; Viet Nam National Action Programme to combat desertification, 2002.

82 FAO, 2014 State of Food and Agriculture. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4040e.pdf>, p. 35.

# GOAL 16

## PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

**By fully protecting all of women's rights, without exception, in all laws and practices, peaceful and inclusive societies will be within reach.**

### Key targets

- *Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.*
- *End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.*
- *Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.*
- *By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.*

Peaceful and inclusive societies uphold the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice. They protect people from all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, and control corruption and organized crime. Decision-making at all levels is inclusive and responsive, and fundamental freedoms are upheld. Laws and policies apply without discrimination.

Globally, women have made strides in representation in decision-making, in some peace processes as well as governance more broadly. Still, the numbers reflect persistent inequality. From 1992 to 2011, only 9 per cent of negotiators at peace tables were women<sup>83</sup>, despite the landmark UN Security Council resolution 1325 in 2000, which recognized that women must play central roles. Only 22 per cent of all national parliamentarians were female as of August 2015.<sup>84</sup>

For women in many societies, prospects for peace are undermined by gender-based violence. Women comprise 98 % of the estimated 4.5 million people forced into sexual exploitation, for instance. Gender discrimination in legal systems

<sup>83</sup> UN Women, 2012. Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations: Connections Between Presence and Influence, p. 2-3

<sup>84</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2015. Women in national parliaments.



Photo: © UN Women/ Thao Hoang

includes the failure to punish perpetrators of gender-based violence.

In Viet Nam, high prevalence of, and impunity towards, violence against women and the increasing trend of son preference are manifestations of such harmful social norms. Viet Nam's legal framework does not adequately penalize different forms of violence against women and the justice system is failing to provide survivors with protection and justice. The rate of violence against women cases reaching conviction is extremely low. While only 43 percent of disclosed domestic violence cases came to the attention of the police, only 12 percent of reported cases resulted in criminal charges, and only 1 percent of reported cases led to conviction.<sup>85</sup>

Viet Nam continues to be a source country for internal and cross-border trafficking in women. The incidence of reported cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, or domestic violence at the hands of new husbands is on the rise.<sup>86</sup> Nevertheless, a high proportion of

85 GSO, 2010. National Survey on Domestic Violence in Viet Nam; and UN Women/UNODC, 2013. Assessment of the Situation of Women In the Criminal Justice System in Viet Nam.

86 US Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2015; IOM, Labor Migration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, November 2006; MOFA, Consular Department, Review of Vietnamese Migration Abroad, Hanoi, 2012

CONFLICT

In 2000, the pioneering UN Security Council resolution 1325 recognized that **war impacts women differently** and stressed the need to increase women's participation in peace talks.

But from 1992 to 2011 **only 9% of negotiators at peace tables were women.**

survivors never receive assistance, protection or redress – even when formal rights are recognised. Trafficked women and girls face high risks of exploitation and abuse, often finding themselves in an unfamiliar culture, unable to communicate, and without a social network.<sup>87</sup>

Female and male-to-female transgender sex workers are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and violence as sex work is classified as 'social evil' in Viet Nam.<sup>88</sup> Decriminalization of sex work will help sex workers access justice and necessary social services instead of fuelling stigmatization.

87 Ibid, 26, 41; MMN & AMC, Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion—Resource Book: In depth Study: Border Economic Zones and Migration, Chiang Mai, 2013, 166.

88 IOM/MOLISA, Sex Work and Mobility from A Gender Perspective: Findings from Three Cities in Viet Nam, 2012.

# GOAL 17

## STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALISE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Women have the right to equal access to and benefits from each of the means of implementation. They also need to lead decisions being made—whether in ministries of finance, companies that produce technologies, statistical offices or institutions charged with global economic oversight.**

### Key targets

- ***By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.***

The SDGs will mean little without the means to implement them. Finance, technology, capacities, partnerships and data are among the primary tools. Success also depends on a stable global economy and the ability of each country to make policy choices aimed at achieving all of the goals.

Gender equality is central to all the SDGs, but often, women end up on the short end of the means of implementation, in whatever form. While governments increasingly use gender-responsive budgeting to direct funds to services and programmes that benefit women, these exercises have revealed huge funding gaps

in what women need—up to 90 %.<sup>89</sup>

Only 5 % of foreign aid funds had gender equality as a principle objective in 2012-2013.<sup>90</sup> Just around a third of countries have an office for gender statistics, even though data distinguished according to gender is critical to defining the best ways to achieve gender equality.<sup>91</sup> Many countries simply do not know, for instance, how many women lack clean water or face abuse within their homes.

In Viet Nam, budget has been allocated for specific activities on gender equality and the advancement of women. By the end of 2013, the Government of Viet Nam had allocated a total of VND 100 billion (USD 4.7 million) at national and local levels. During 2009-2012, an additional USD 13.8 million was mobilized from development partners for gender equality and women's empowerment projects. These funds, however, were not allocated based on any particular

<sup>89</sup> UN Women, 2015. Handbook on Costing Gender Equality. (p.39)

<sup>90</sup> OECD-DAC reviews. <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/From%20commitment%20to%20action%20FINAL.pdf>

<sup>91</sup> Report of the Secretary-General E/CN.6/2015/3 [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2015/3](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2015/3)



# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



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gender-responsive budgeting methodology.<sup>92</sup> Mobilizing funds for the SDGs, including funds for gender, is likely to be a challenge given rising public debt, budget deficits and shrinking ODA due to Viet Nam becoming a middle income country.

Growing international trade and integration presents both opportunities and risks to Viet Nam's economy. Gender inequalities could reduce but also multiply. Vietnamese export-oriented sectors, for example are highly dependent on women. Although growing industrialization has expanded employment opportunities for women concerns remain over the quality of newly created jobs. Many entail long hours of work, with poor health and safety conditions. There is also limited scope for the technical and skills training needed for women to move up the job ladder.<sup>93</sup>

More sex-disaggregated data is needed in Viet Nam.<sup>94</sup> For example, without a comprehensive national survey on gender equality to collect information on the eight domains included in

92 UN Women, Viet Nam, 2015. Gender Responsive Budgeting in Viet Nam.

93 World Bank, 2011. Viet Nam Country Gender Assessment

94 UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee), 2015. Concluding observations on the combined seventh and eight periodic reports of Viet Nam, CEDAW/C/VNM/CO/7-8, July 6-24, 2015.

PLANS AND BUDGETS

Governments worldwide increasingly use **gender-responsive budgeting** to ensure implementation of gender equality policies and action plans.

But the costing of selected national action plans **show financing deficits as high as 90%.**

FUNDED

NEED

90% DEFICIT

the Gender Equality Law<sup>95</sup>, it will be difficult to monitor progress on implementing the Law. More detailed analysis is needed on the vulnerability of specific high risk groups, such as women living with HIV/AIDS or women with disabilities.<sup>96</sup> Significant gender data gaps also remain in numerous areas from poverty, unpaid care work, agriculture production, abortion to access on services.

95 Gender Equality Law, adopted in 2006 by the National Assembly of Viet Nam, provides the implementation of gender equality in eight domains: Politics; Economy; Labour; Education and Training; Science and Technology; Culture, Information, Physical training and Sports; Healthcare; Families.

96 Ministry of Labour-Invalids and Social Affairs Viet Nam, 2014. National Review: 20 year implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcomes of the 23rd Special session of the General Assembly in Viet Nam.



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