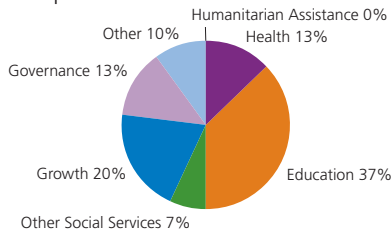


# Vietnam

Indicator	Proportion of population below \$1 a day	Net enrolment in primary education	Ratio of girls to boys in primary education	Under 5 mortality ratio	Maternal mortality ratio	HIV prevalence, 15-49 years old	Improved water source
<b>Current assessment</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Amber</b>	<b>Green</b>

### Bilateral aid by sector, 2008-09

Total spend: £55.1 million



The food, fuel, and financial crises have impacted on poverty through food price inflation during 2008. Though 59% of poor households are net food sellers and benefit from higher prices, poor urban households and non-farmers are worse off. The global economic downturn is also having an adverse effect on employment and wage levels, particularly in export clothing and footwear sectors. Government estimates 400,000<sup>1</sup> jobs losses in the first half of 2009 but data is poor. DFID is providing support for better information on this. Sharp downturns have also occurred in construction, and tourism – both important parts of Vietnam's economy.

### MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Government has undertaken fresh analysis of the poverty situation during the year but the findings of its Vietnam Household Living Standards Survey 2008 will not be available until mid 2009. Government's provisional estimates suggest that poverty has been reduced from 15% in 2007 to 13%<sup>2</sup> in 2008. A reduction of two percentage points would be a good achievement in the light of surging inflation and global economic downturn. However, this gain is fragile and vulnerable people may fall back into poverty. DFID is helping to monitor the situation closely as the poverty line has not been adjusted for inflation. During 2008/9, DFID provided **£20 million of general budget support through the Poverty Reduction Support Credit (PRSC) to Government's poverty reduction plans**. It helped accelerate policy reforms including those on social protection.

### MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

Progress on universal primary education remains good with enrolment at 96%<sup>3</sup> and equal numbers of boys and girls enrolling. The focus now is to improve the quality of education and ensure it reaches the poorest. DFID's investment in education has ensured better school and teacher quality in disadvantaged areas. Preliminary findings show an overall improvement in learning outcomes. Improvement is greatest in Vietnamese language, building during 2008 on independent learner levels which had already increased from 50% in 2001 to 62% in 2007.<sup>4</sup> But the educational attainment of the poor and ethnic minorities still lags behind the rest of the population and children rarely have the opportunity to attend school all day. During the year DFID has been planning new support to increase the hours and quality of schooling for poor children thus improving their learning and life chances.

### Opening up pre-schools to Vietnam's ethnic minority people

In 2008, three year old Tu started kindergarten in the mountainous Lao Cai province of north-west Vietnam. She has taken to kindergarten life enthusiastically, making new friends, learning songs and dances, and even getting to grips with Vietnamese, which is not her native language. Indeed, Tu, who is a member of the minority Nung group, belongs to the very first generation in her community to attend school before the primary level.

Tu's kindergarten was built under a Vietnamese national poverty reduction programme, a major Government initiative to which DFID is the biggest donor. As well as the kindergarten, the programme has also built a primary school and improved roads and farms in Tu's village.

### MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Through the PRSC and a World Bank Trust Fund, DFID funds are helping monitor the implementation of the Gender Equality Law and the Domestic Violence Laws (both enacted in 2007). Through the One UN Initiative, we are part of the donor coalition, building the capacity of government officials to implement these laws. Dramatic gains are already being felt in the economic sphere. Access to jobs for women has improved. **During 2008, 49%<sup>6</sup> of new jobs were filled by women**. These gains are however fragile in the economic downturn and DFID is helping to monitor the situation.

### **MDG 6: Combat HIV/ AIDS, malaria and other diseases<sup>7</sup>**

In 2008/2009, DFID made a substantial contribution to curb the spread of HIV in Vietnam by funding Government's HIV prevention programme. DFID funds have increased the availability of condoms in those hotels and guest houses where sex workers take their clients. Over **17 million condoms were available** in these locations, and a further **43 million condoms were made available through pharmacies. Over 95% of street-based sex workers and 65% of sex workers working in entertainment establishments gained access.** Transmission among drug users drives the country's epidemic. To address this, the project distributed **15 million clean needles and syringes to drug users in 2008**, an increase from zero in 2004 to 15 million in 2008. The programme now accounts for 75% of all needles distributed across the country. During the year DFID also contributed to the start-up of a long-resisted methadone treatment programme, piloting treatment with 800 patients, and to be scaled up in 2009/2010. DFID has maintained its lead donor role in harm reduction.

### **MDG7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

Sanitation is one of only two MDG targets that remain off-track in Vietnam (the other is HIV.) While reasonable progress has been made on increasing access to water supply, investment and action on sanitation has seriously lagged behind. Sanitation was a priority policy reform requirement for our general budget support to the Government of Vietnam during 2008-09. During the year DFID Vietnam has been considering options for support and is proposing to allocate programme funds from 2009-2012 to improve rural household (including ethnic minorities) access to basic sanitation. The purpose will be to help put the MDG back on track by specifically targeting the sector, building on our past advocacy and improving the effectiveness of the government systems.

- 1 Ministry of Labour, War Invalid and Social Affairs Report, 2009
- 2 Ministry of Labour, War Invalid and Social Affairs Report, 2008
- 3 Education Management Information System, Ministry of Education and Training, 2006-2007
- 4 Study in Grade 5 Student Achievement in Mathematics and Vietnamese Language in the 2006-2007 School Year, Ministry of Education and Training, 2008
- 5 Story from the National Targeted Programme for Poverty Reduction, 2008
- 6 Government of Vietnam's Mid-term Review Report on Socio-Economic Development Plan, 2009
- 7 Data in this section are from the Independent Project Completion Survey 2009, Under DFID's Prevention HIV in Vietnam Programme