



Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)

Viet Nam

Country Setting

- ▶ 65 per cent of Vietnamese live in rural areas.
- ▶ Vietnam is experiencing rapid economic changes and rising living standards, but poor, remote and mountainous populations still require assistance with basic services.
- ▶ The country's 11 million ethnic minorities suffer the greatest disadvantage.
- ▶ 37 per cent of the population live below the international poverty line.
- ▶ Primary school enrolment is over 90 per cent, but one third of children do not complete grade 5 and 70 per cent of dropouts are girls.

WES Sector Setting

- ▶ The ongoing transition from an externally driven, highly subsidized focus to a demand-centred, community-focused approach has helped diversify the rural water supply management models.
- ▶ There is a growing government commitment in relation to rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene, but urban regions still receive higher investment. The National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy includes 50 per cent cost sharing with targeted communities.
- ▶ Wells, bores, rainwater harvesting, protected springs and gravity water systems, small- and medium-sized piped systems with household connections are common. Sanitation options include hygienic ecological latrines, double vault latrines, dry pit latrines, VIP and septic latrines.
- ▶ Annual floods, particularly in the Mekong Delta Region, affect tens of thousands of families.

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	81,377
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	23
Total adult literacy rate (%)	93

Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	93	84
Rural	67	26
Total	73	41

UNICEF WES Programme

Main Components

- ▶ Creating an Enabling Environment: establishing sustainable management structures and processes, including training of counterparts, reaching poorest households and maintaining water quality standards.
- ▶ Supporting Community WES: construction of community water systems and WES facilities in schools and day care centres, establishing local operation and maintenance systems.
- ▶ Hygiene and Sanitation Promotion: increased focus on hygiene and sanitation, as well as intersectoral and community-focused approaches.

Programme Highlights and Achievements

- ▶ UNICEF has been critical in the development of rural water supply and sanitation, advocating for 100 per cent rural coverage and hygiene education and piloting demand-responsive and participative approaches.
- ▶ UNICEF has been active in arsenic research and mitigation activities.
- ▶ 200,000 community water points have been constructed.
- ▶ UNICEF has helped introduce hygiene education into school curriculums and increase the focus on child-friendly facilities.