


# SNAPSHOT: UNICEF IN ACTION – 2022

With the support of key bilateral donors and the increasing engagement of the private sector, UNICEF worked with 12 national and six local partners to achieve significant results for children and families in 2022.

UNICEF Viet Nam contributed to strengthening children's rights and further reinforcing the systems and gender-sensitive approaches that children rely on –including health care, protection, mental health support, nutrition, water, sanitation, clean environment and education. By innovating and persevering, by focusing on 'pilots to results at scale', by continuing to increase the reach of supportive communication to a wider audience, measurable results for children and their families were achieved. 2022 required a balancing of the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine rollout in Viet Nam, while navigating a pathway to recovery from the pandemic's impacts. Despite all challenges, UNICEF proudly contributed to achieve tangible results for children last year.

## THE SITUATION

- While national numbers of those living in poverty continued to decline, pockets of chronically poor families and those suffering from multi-dimensional poverty remain a key concern in remote rural areas and some ethnic minority groups.
- Viet Nam was among five countries in the world with the highest rate of COVID-19 vaccination. Unfortunately, the pandemic stalled progress in other health and nutrition areas, as evidenced by significant drops in routine immunization rates for children under one, from 80 per cent in recent years to 67 per cent in November 2022; or the more than 200,000 children suffering from severe wasting; or the one in five children under five that is stunted[1] –a number that almost doubles for poor children in rural areas.
- Access to safely managed water and sanitation remains low in rural areas. An estimated 7.7 million children do not have adequate access to clean water and sanitation at school.[2]
- Despite major strides in education, inequality remains a key issue. By age 19, only one in five from the poorest quintile remains in school, compared with four in five of those in the wealthiest quintile.[3]
- The COVID-19 pandemic period raised awareness and saw the numbers of women and children suffering from gender-based and other forms of violence increase dramatically, highlighting the lack of an effective

[1] National Nutrition Report, 2019. National Nutrition Institute, Ministry of Health.
[2] Ministry of Education and Training data
[3] From the last mile to the next mile – 2022 Vietnam Poverty and Equity Assessment, The World Bank

women/child protection system, leaving them at greater risk of neglect, abuse, trafficking and other forms of violence, including violent discipline of children (at 72.04 per cent) by caregivers.
- 21.7 per cent adolescents reported they experienced a mental health problem over the past year. Anxiety (18.6 per cent) and depression (4.3 per cent) are the most prevalent among Vietnamese adolescents.[4]
- Compounding and further threatening the gains made for children is the country's vulnerability to climate change impacts, with storms, floods, typhoons, droughts and saltwater intrusion disproportionately affecting children and poor families.

## UNICEF'S MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT IN 2022

Implementation of the 2022-2026 country programme commenced this year, actively addressing the broadened disparities; continuing fiscal and social policy work that ensures successful approaches are taken to scale by the Government; building on and creating innovative approaches that reach the most vulnerable – supporting children's rights and ensuring that children are at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### Health and Nutrition

- Since 2021, UNICEF has procured more than **85 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines** and supported efforts to raise awareness about the vaccines.
- UNICEF supported the Government in strengthening **routine child immunization** coverage.
- UNICEF supported **awareness-raising** and **system-strengthening** on maternal, new-born and child health and nutrition services.
- In UNICEF-supported provinces, roughly 45,000 pregnant women **received antenatal care** at least four times, over 73,600 mothers were supported by **skilled birth attendants** and around 67,500 new-borns received early **essential newborn care**.
- UNICEF supported the health authorities to **increase resources** and focus on nutrition. This included a study on the impacts of a proposed tax on sugar sweetened beverages (SSB) on disease prevalence.



***"Since we started using this ready-to-use therapeutic product, the baby crawls faster, yells stronger and louder."***

Giay Thi Dua, mother of Yeu, from Dien Bien province. Yeu suffered from severe wasting and was supported by UNICEF to get the treatment she needed.

### Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

- UNICEF supported the upgrading of WASH systems with innovative **climate resilient technology** such as water-recycling zero net toilets, rainwater devices and solar power to provide clean water and safe sanitation for 20,000 people, including school children.
- Events like National WASH Week, World Handwashing and Toilet days contributed to raising awareness among communities and increasing investments for WASH. This involved **WASH in schools**, reaching more than 10,000 people including 7,223 students – of which 6,322 were from ethnic minority background and 64 with disabilities.



***"Without clean water, learning and studying would be very difficult. I haven't been sick or had a sore throat since we got clean water."***

Nisa, 10 from Dien Bien province. UNICEF and partners supported her school with financial resources and technical guidance to ensure safer water and better sanitation.

[4] Viet Nam Adolescent Mental Health Survey (V-NAMHS)

## Education

- UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) in reopening schools, recovering lost learning, with an emphasis on building back better through more resilient and crisis-informed planning.
- UNICEF contributed to providing **inclusive learning opportunities** for children with disabilities, children of ethnic minorities and LGBTI children.
- UNICEF partnered with Education authorities and the Global Digital Library[5] to promote early childhood development and inclusive education by providing access to **free early grade reading resources** in Vietnamese, ethnic and sign languages. 1,440 digital resources were made available in nine languages.
- UNICEF and partners collaborated to **adapt virtual reality game modules** to improve the concentration skills of children with attention deficit hyperactive disorder.
- UNICEF developed a study on school-related mental health risk factors as part of its support to MOET to **embed positive mental health promotion, prevention and programming** in schools.
- UNICEF conducted a market study analysing the benefits and challenges of installing rooftop **solar power systems** in public schools.

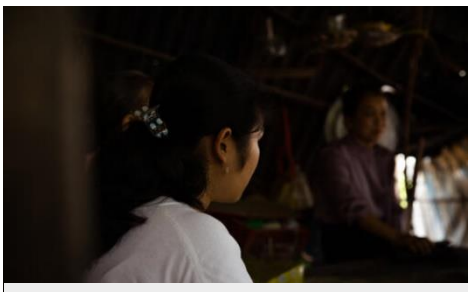


***"After going to the Inclusive Education Resource Centre for a few months, my son started to interact with people…Now he can concentrate, and he can speak."***

Le Thanh Ngan's son, Hoang Nhan, has autism and has significantly improved after going to one of UNICEF-supported Inclusive Education Resource Centres in Ninh Thuan province.

## Child protection

- UNICEF network supported UN Joint Programme to **reach more than 20 million** people through awareness and behaviour change campaigns to **end violence against women and children**.
- UNICEF focuses on supporting the Government to strengthen the child protection regulatory framework, making the justice system more child-sensitive and enhancing the capacity of the workforce in the social welfare, health, education and justice sectors to **provide strengthened child protection services and access to child justice**.
- UNICEF helped ensure the availability of quality services for **prevention, early identification and intervention in cases of child abuse, violence, trafficking, labour and commercial sexual exploitation**, with referrals of thousands of survivors to rehabilitative and specialized services.
- UNICEF contributed to the development of an **alternative care system for children** in need of special protection, especially orphans and children affected by COVID-19. It enhanced case management skills for 700 frontline officers and supported 100 COVID-19 orphans from 600 assessed children.
- UNICEF leveraged partnerships with the Government, law enforcement, schools, businesses, and other stakeholders in safe internet usage to better **protect children in the digital age.**



***"I wish to finish high school and college to become a police officer"***

Nhu Y, 16, Dong Thap province. Her education was interrupted as she quit school to work and support her family. A commune child protection officer trained by UNICEF helped Nhu Y to receive scholarships and financial support to resume her education.

[5] Global Digital Library

## Social protection

- UNICEF conducted wide consultations with Government and NGO partners, sharing information and agreeing follow-up steps to the significant recommendations across all child rights areas made by the **Committee on the Rights of the Child**.
- UNICEF provided data and research to support the Government to develop more **effective, equitable and climate-friendly social policies** and programmes for children**.**
- UNICEF advocated to ensure **public investments** in children are adequate and reflected in the 2021-2030 National Financial Development Strategy.
- **Parenting support reaching more than 10,000 parents** in factories across Viet Nam by 2022
- UNICEF continued to collaborate with the **Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry** (VCCI) to promote Children's Rights and Business Principles and responsible businesses across corporate practices, standards and public policies.



***"Since we received cash assistance, Duong has been able to improve significantly."***

Ngo Thi Phuong, Da Nang province. Her family received social assistance, helping address children's basic needs. UNICEF will support the development of a child-sensitive social assistance scheme in the province.

This snapshot provides 2022 results made possible by the generous support of all individuals, corporate donors, foundations, multilateral organizations and governments contributing to UNICEF Core Resources globally, as well as softly earmarked thematic funding received from various partners.

UNICEF Viet Nam would like to express its sincere appreciation for these contributions, which are delivering results for children in Viet Nam.

UNICEF works every day to achieve tangible results for children in Viet Nam.
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