



DA NANG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

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SUMMARY REPORT OF THE **SITUATION ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN DA NANG**

A RIGHTS-BASED AND EQUITY-FOCUSED ANALYSIS



NOVEMBER 2020

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BUILDING A CHILD-FRIENDLY CITY IN DA NANG

In 2019, Da Nang became the second city in Viet Nam to officially join the Child Friendly City Initiative (CFCI) following Ho Chi Minh City, with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). A Child Friendly City is a community in which the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes and decisions¹. Within the CFCI, Da Nang aspires to better implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as Viet Nam's Law on Children (2016), and turn them into tangible, meaningful and measurable results.

To be fully recognized as a CFCI, Da Nang will undergo a rigorous assessment. **The Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents in Da Nang** is the city's first step in such a journey and applies a rights-based approach to analyze the key progress, trends and gaps on child rights using the latest data. A key objective of the Situation Analysis is to support an evidence-based approach to development of the city's Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021-2025, City Programme of Action on Children 2021-2030 linked with city urban planning. The inclusion of key targets and indicators on children in such policies and plans guides the allocation of budgets and supports an inclusive process involving a wide range of stakeholders, especially children. These efforts will collectively contribute towards the goal of making the city more child friendly and accelerate progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

¹ United Nations Children's Fund (2018). *Child Friendly Cities and Communities Handbook*.

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

The analytical framework of this report is based on the four groups of rights stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Viet Nam's 2016 Law on Children: every child survives and thrives, every child learns, every child is protected, and every child participates. The analysis covers all children and adolescents under the age of 18, wherever official data was available during 2016-2019. As changes in trends in some specific areas, such as child nutrition and mortality rates, can only be seen over longer periods of time, the analysis also refers to data from 2010-2019 in selected areas. This report reviews the latest quantitative and qualitative data to identify key issues that impact on children in the city and analyses trends over the years as well as disparities and causalities. The analysis of the policy environment seeks to identify gaps in institutional mechanisms, policies, legal frameworks and budgets that hinder the implementation of child rights. Based on such evidence, key recommendations are drawn to identify priority actions for Da Nang authorities on child rights and areas requiring further resources.

This report was prepared and led by Da Nang City People's Committee, coordinated by the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA), with participation from relevant line departments, localities and technical support from UNICEF. A consultation meeting with child representatives of the Da Nang Children's Council was held in January 2020 to solicit views on priority issues of concern as well as their recommendations and solutions to key child-related issues faced by the city.

A CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF CHILD RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION

Key information on Da Nang

Da Nang's population: 1,134,310 ²	Female: 575,328 (50.72%)
Children and persons under 18: 307,377 (27.1%)	Female: 146,985 (47.8%)
Children under 16: 282,556 (24.9%)	Female: 135,166 (47.8%)
Kinh group: 99.47%	Ethnic minorities: <1%
GRDP growth: 7.21% (2016-2019)	Da Nang's annual GRDP per capita: 4,156 USD (2019) ³
Rate of poor households as per the national multi-dimensional poverty standard: 0.3% (end of 2018) ⁴	
Number of poor households as per the Da Nang City poverty standard (at the beginning of 2019): 14,983 households (5.53%) ⁵	Number of near-poor households as per the Da Nang City poverty standard (at the beginning of 2019): 6,395 households (2.36%)

2 Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2019). *Results of the Viet Nam Population and Housing Census of 00:00 hours on 1 April 2019*, Statistical Publishing House.

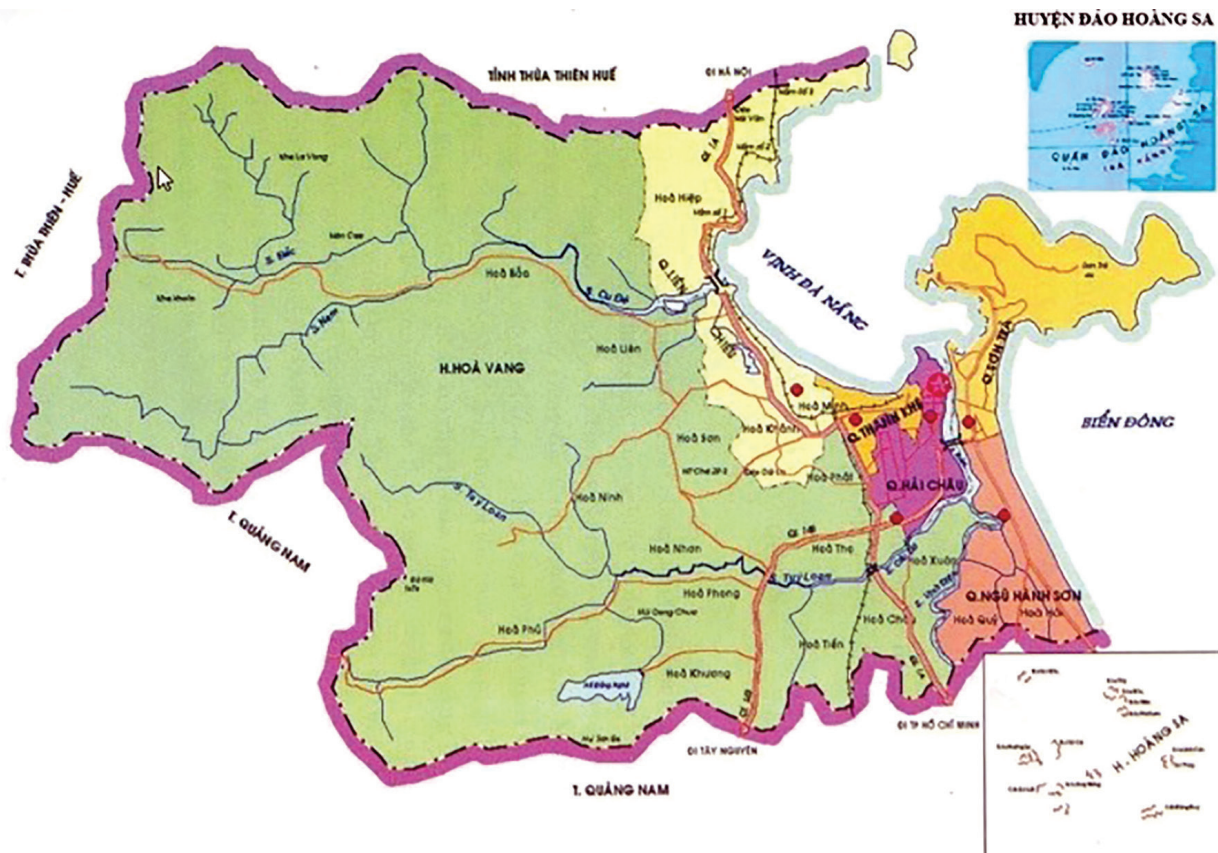
3 Statistics Office, Da Nang City (2019). *Da Nang Statistical Yearbook 2018*.

4 Government of Viet Nam (2015). Decision No. 59/2015/QĐ-TTg (dated 19 November 2015) by the Prime Minister on the national multi-dimensional poverty standard applicable for 2016-2020.

5 Da Nang People's Council (2018). Resolution No. 195/2018/NQ-HDND (dated 19 December 2018) by Da Nang People's Council on the poverty standards of Da Nang City during 2019-2020. It specifically regulates as follows:

- Urban areas: households with average monthly income per capita of VND 1,500,000 or less; or households with average monthly income per capita from VND 1,500,000 to VND 1,900,000 and have a deficient in three out of 12 indicators that measure lack of access to basic social services according to regulations.
- Rural areas: households with average monthly income per capita of VND 1,300,000 or less; or households with average monthly income per capita from VND 1,300,000 to VND 1,600,000 and have a deficient in three out of 12 indicators that measure lack of access to basic social services according to regulations.
- Six basic social services: education, healthcare, housing, access to clean water and sanitation, access to information, and employment.
- 12 indicators measure lack of access: access to adult education services, school attendance of children, access to healthcare services, housing quality, housing area, housing ownership, water supply, latrines, access to telecommunication services, properties and conditions for access to information, employment and social insurance.

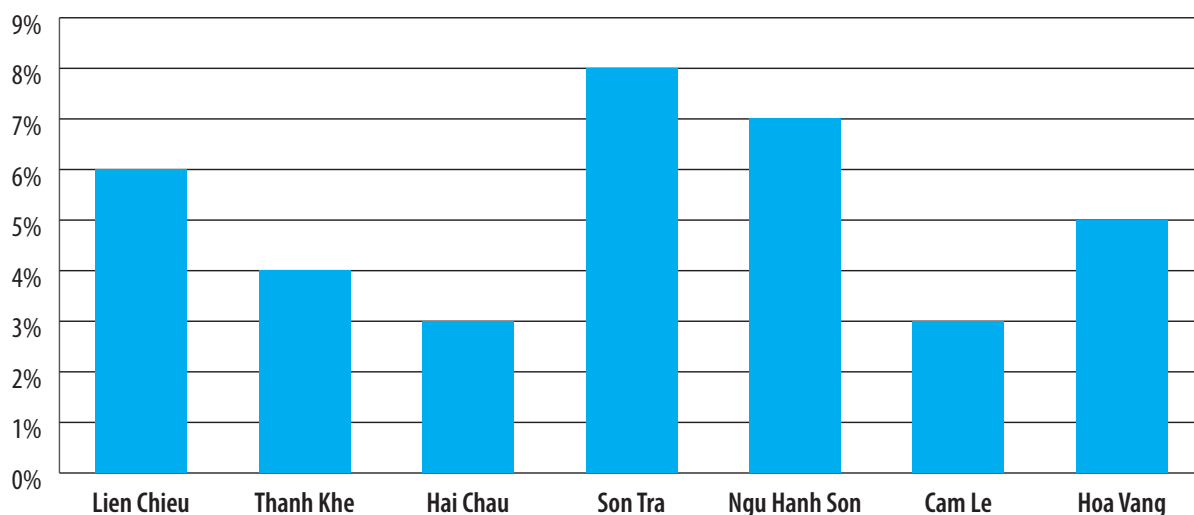
Administrative boundary map of Da Nang



Source: <https://bandovietnam.maytinhtml.com/ban-do-hanh-chinh-da-nang.html>

Disparities and poverty: Despite significant progress in socio-economic development and poverty reduction in the past decade, disparities are increasing between Da Nang's urban and rural areas. The average income per capita in urban areas, 1.7-fold higher than in rural areas in 2014, jumped to 1.9-fold in 2018. While the income per capita of the richest quintile was 6.4 times higher than the poorest quintile in 2014, it had increased to 6.7-fold by 2018⁶. Across the earlier highlighted four groups of children's rights, those living in poor, near poor or migrant households and children with disabilities are the most vulnerable – notwithstanding the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 could place further pressure on all families and children in the medium- and long-terms. As seen in Figure 1.1, the highest rates of children living in poor households in Da Nang are found in urban districts of Son Tra, Ngu Hanh Son and Lien Chieu⁷.

Figure 1.1 Proportion of children under 16 living in poor households (at the beginning of 2019)⁸



⁶ Statistics Office, Da Nang City (2019). *Da Nang's Household Living Standards surveys in 2014, 2016, 2018*.

⁷ Da Nang City has six urban districts (Lien Chieu, Thanh Khe, Son Tra and Ngu Hanh Son districts located close to the East Sea; and Cam Le and Hai Chau districts located inland) and two rural districts (Hoa Vang rural district and Hoang Sa island).

⁸ Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Da Nang City. *Report on the implementation of poverty reduction policies in 2019, applying Resolution No. 195/2018/NQ-HDND (dated 19 December, 2018) by Da Nang People's Council on the poverty standard of Da Nang City during 2019-2020*.

Urbanization and migration: As a vibrant industrial, commercial, financial, education, technological and tourist hub, Da Nang has experienced rapid urbanization in recent years. In 2019, the urban population accounted for 87 per cent of Da Nang's total population⁹ – the highest proportion nationwide. Da Nang ranked third (2004-2009) and fourth (2014-2019) amongst cities and provinces where inbound migrants outnumbered outbound ones. Although urbanization has brought opportunities for many, families and children are affected by income disparities with a widening gap between rural and urban areas. While the city issued the Master Project on Population Distribution in Da Nang 2013-2020, the large influx of migrants into Da Nang is placing pressure on infrastructure (transportation, power, water supply and drainage as well as environmental sanitation) and social services (education, healthcare and housing) that cannot keep up with the pace of inbound migration.

Climate change and natural disasters: Da Nang is impacted by multiple and increasingly severe effects of climate change. Its average temperature increased by 0.45-0.5°C between 1979-2016, with 15-25mm annual rises in precipitation witnessed during 2006-2016¹⁰. Land erosion has affected districts along rivers and coastal areas. In recent years, the city has experienced more intense and frequent natural disasters such as typhoons, tropical depressions, flooding, drought and saltwater intrusion. These intense and large-scale natural disasters have had city-wide impacts, however, coastal districts and rural Hoa Vang district are particularly vulnerable to multiple forms of natural disasters.

Environmental pollution: Under the goal of “Building Da Nang as an environmental city”, the city has implemented numerous green initiatives in residential and public areas. However, alongside urbanization, Da Nang has experienced increasing noise from residential areas, business and entertainment establishments, as well as traffic congestion. It is also affected by limited capacity in waste collection and treatment. At some coastal estuaries, untreated wastewater spills into the sea polluting seawater in several coastal areas. Smells from the Khanh Son landfill in Lien Chien district remain problematic¹¹. All such environmental hazards have negative implications for the health, learning and protection of children and adolescents.

9 The Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2019). *Results of the Viet Nam Population and Housing Census of 00:00 hours on 1 April 2019*, Statistical Publishing House.

10 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Da Nang City (2019). *Administrative report in 2019*.

11 <https://baotainguyenmoitruong.vn/da-nang-cu-tri-tiep-tuc-buc-xuc-o-nhiem-keo-dai-295113.html>

Disease outbreaks: With the service sector accounting for 64.3 per cent of the city's GRDP¹², the COVID-19 pandemic has heavily impacted the city's economy, suspending all tourism-related services and cancelling conferences. More than 186,000¹³ tourism-related jobs have been furloughed for an extended period. The loss or reduction in income had a significant impact on households, especially self-employed households without labour contracts or with short-term contracts. Children in Da Nang, like their peers in other provinces, were impacted by school closures and social distancing for more than three months from February to mid-May. These measures changed many aspects of children's routines and challenged their physical and psychological well-being, while exposing them to potential risks of violence and abuse, including through increased use of the internet. Further research is necessary to monitor the evolving situation of children and adolescents, as well as progress in the city's response, encompassing online learning and protection and social security relief packages.

12 Statistics Office, Da Nang City (2019). *Annual Da Nang Statistical Yearbooks 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019*.

13 Viet Nam Tourism (2018). *Tourism contributes greatly to Da Nang's economic development*. <http://vietnamtourism.gov.vn/english/index.php/items/12892>





EVERY CHILD SURVIVES AND THRIVES

Da Nang has made significant progress in saving the lives of mothers and children. By 2018, the maternal mortality rate was 12.8¹⁴ - a fourth of the national average at 48 per 100,000 live births¹⁵. From 2010 to 2018, the under-5 mortality rates decreased from 15.1 to 12.8, while the infant mortality rates dropped from 10.1 to 8.5 per 1,000 live births¹⁶. These figures are much lower than the national averages and can be attributed to numerous factors, including near universal coverage of essential maternal and child healthcare services and continuum of care through at least three ante-natal care visits during pregnancy, institutional delivery, post-natal care, immunization and micronutrient supplementation. Since 2014, Da Nang has been one of five provinces and cities in Viet Nam that piloted interventions to improve early breastfeeding practices by adopting the Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC) in all hospitals that provide obstetric and pediatric services. Da Nang also established the first breast milk bank in Viet Nam to support babies whose mothers cannot breastfeed, as well as infants with low birth weights, premature infants and infants with congenital diseases. Today, 98.17 per cent of newborns are breastfed within an hour after birth¹⁷.

Yet, there are persistent challenges that threaten the health and well-being of children and adolescents in Da Nang. While child mortality rates have declined remarkably, child injuries are on the rise. In 2018, some 5,029 rounds of hospital consultations and treatments of children under 14 years suffering from injuries were conducted, 1.5-fold higher than in 2017. Major causes of child injuries in 2018 included traffic accidents (37 per cent), falls (29 per cent) and violent incidents (20.4 per cent)¹⁸.

Children in Da Nang face the “double burden of malnutrition”¹⁹. Stunting among children under-5 reduced sharply during 2006-2014, however progress has stalled with a subsequent annual reduction of only 0.9 per cent²⁰. Without concerted effort and additional investment, it will be challenging to accelerate

14 Department of Health, Da Nang City (2018). *Statistical Report 2018*.

15 Ministry of Health (2019). *Summary report 2019 and main tasks and solutions for 2020*.

16 General Statistics Office. *Infant mortality rate by province*. <https://www.gso.gov.vn/default.aspx?tabid=714>

17 Department of Health, Da Nang City (2019). *Administrative report in Dec 2019*.

18 Department of Health, Da Nang City (2019). *Administrative report in Dec 2019*.

19 World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/nutrition/double-burden-malnutrition/en/>

20 National Institute of Nutrition (2018). *Percentage of under-5 malnutrition by region 2018*. <http://www.gso.gov.vn/default.aspx?tabid=723>

progress in reducing the stunting rate to 12 per cent as per the city's target. Meanwhile, overweight and obesity among children under-5 is rising in Da Nang with 8.9 per cent of children under-5 identified as overweight and obese, higher than the national average of 7.1 per cent²¹. Excess weight and obesity in children have increased rapidly in urban areas, while the rates among primary school students in inner city districts was 6.7 per cent, eight-fold higher than peers in suburbs at 0.9 per cent, with the highest figure identified in Hai Chau district (11.7 per cent). More boys are likely to be overweight and obese than girls²². In-depth analysis is urgently needed to further understand the root causes and identify appropriate solutions.

The greatest challenges to health and well-being are found among the most vulnerable children. Abortions among adolescents 15-19 years were identified, with 41 cases recorded by public and private health facilities in 2018²³. Around 300 out of 300,501 households²⁴ in Da Nang still use unhygienic toilets. Although clean water is generally accessible, water quality is still an issue and several communities experience severe water shortages due to drought.

Although policies and action plans to improve the health and wellbeing of children, adolescents and women are in place, their effectiveness must be reviewed, particularly the extent to which the city has reached the most vulnerable populations. A key challenge is expenditure on healthcare, population and family planning, that accounts for less than 7 per cent of total recurrent expenditure. It decreased from 7 per cent in 2016 to 6.7 per cent in 2017 and then 4 per cent in 2019²⁵. While the city has a sound health facility-based system equipped with the ratio of doctors per 10,000 people (17.52 in 2018) and patient beds per 10,000 people (79.14 in 2018) of standards higher than the national average, it does not have a sufficient number of staff for health promotion and provision of basic healthcare services at community level and in school settings.

21 *National Institute of Nutrition (2018). Prevalence of undernutrition by severity, by six ecological regions 2018.* <http://chuyentrang.viendinhduong.vn/vi/so-lieu-thong-ke/so-lieu-thong-ke-266.html>.

22 *Ngo Van Quang, Le Thi Quy et al. (2010). Overweight among primary school children of Da Nang and related Factors. Nutrition and Food magazine, Volume 6, no 3+4, page 77 – 83.*

23 *Department of Health, Da Nang City (2019). Administrative report in Dec 2019.*

24 *The Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2019). Results of the Viet Nam Population and Housing Census of 00:00 hours on 1 April 2019, Statistical Publishing House.*

25 *Statistics Office, Da Nang City (2019). Annual Da Nang Statistical Yearbook 2015-2019.*

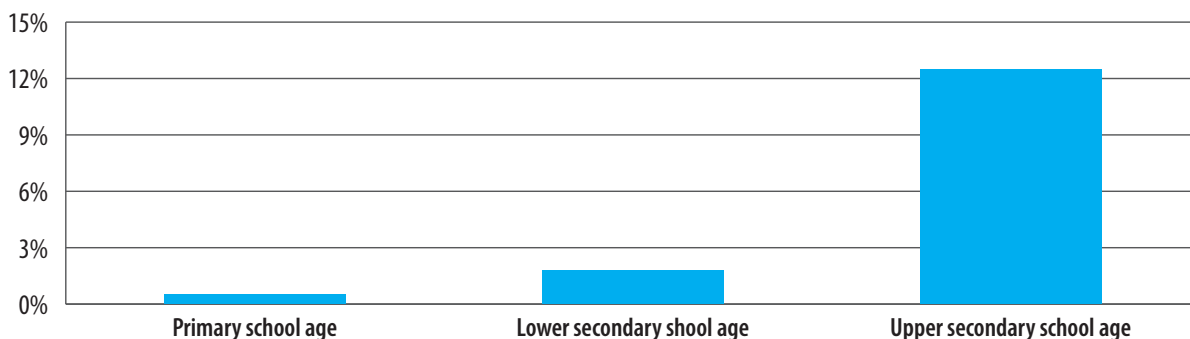


EVERY CHILD LEARNS

Da Nang has chalked up notable achievements in the education sector. In the 2018-2019 school year, 97.4 per cent of children were enrolled in public primary schools. Notably, the lower secondary school enrolment rate reached 98.3 per cent, and the upper secondary school enrolment was 93.1 per cent.²⁶ Some 97.04 per cent of students in Da Nang attend schools offering a full day's programme. Da Nang has proactively worked towards digitalization of applied teaching and learning methods. Since the 2017-2018 school year, the Department of Education and Training (DOET) has developed a system of e-books, e-learning materials and online software for all upper secondary schools. Environmental protection content was integrated into educational activities to support climate change mitigation and enabling a clean and safe environment to help Da Nang build an environmentally-friendly city.

With the goal of leaving no child behind, a key focus of the city is addressing disparities among localities. The percentage of out of school children (OOSC) by school age indicates the higher the education level, the more likely it is for children to be out of school. Similarly, the rate of male OOSC is higher than for female peers and the OOSC rate in rural areas is 1.3-fold higher than in urban areas. The OOSC rate at upper secondary level in Da Nang is 12.5 per cent²⁷.

Figure 1.2 Percentage of out-of-school children in Da Nang by school age in 2019



²⁶ Statistics Office, Da Nang City (2019). *Annual Da Nang Statistical Yearbook 2018*.

²⁷ The Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2019). *Results of the Viet Nam Population and Housing Census of 00:00 hours on 1 April 2019*, Statistical Publishing House.

Figure 1.3 Percentage of out-of-school children in Da Nang by gender in 2019

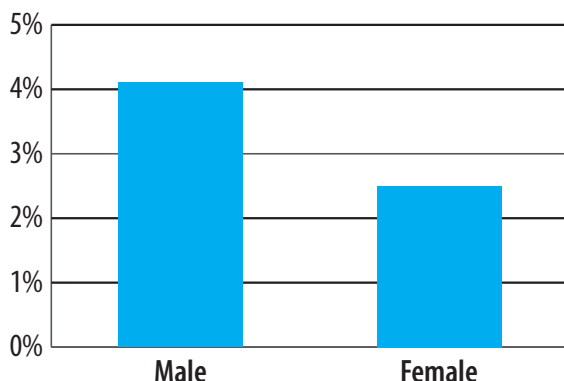
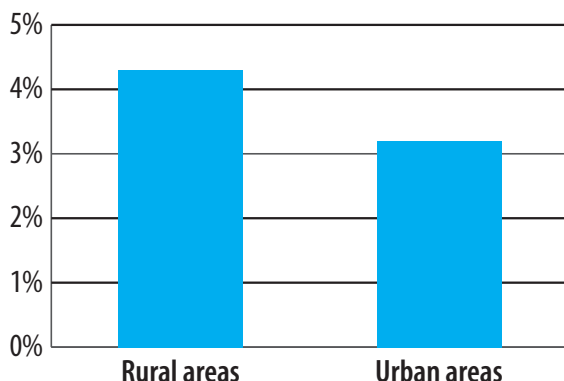


Figure 1.4 Percentage of out-of-school children in Da Nang by geographic locations in 2019



In analyzing these disparities, it is important to understand the challenges in the early years of education. In the 2018-2019 school year, the enrolment rate of pre-school children reached 99.1 per cent²⁸. However, the public system met only 36.7 per cent of the actual demand for pre-school education, especially in industrial zones²⁹. The private pre-school provision expanded in these areas, but brought challenges in terms of teaching quality and meeting safety and security standards. Private early childhood service providers, which include day-care services for 0-2 year olds and preschools for 3-5 year old children, offer more flexible opening hours and accept children from six months old. This caters to the needs of working parents employed in industrial zones. However, the fees of such private services pose a heavy financial burden for disadvantaged families.

The proportion of schools meeting national standards is still low in Da Nang, especially those related to playground and school campus requirements, a challenge given the limited space for schools in urban areas. An example of challenges noted included full-day attendance rates at Lien Chieu district (79.06 per cent³⁰), as

28 Department of Education and Training, Da Nang City (2019). Administrative report in December 2019.

29 Statistics Office, Da Nang City (2019). Annual Da Nang Statistical Yearbook 2018.

30 Department of Education and Training, Da Nang City (2019). Report on the implementation of school year 2018-2019 and direction for 2019-2020 by education and training sector.

a double shift system is required in this densely populated district to meet education demand.

Availability and access to reliable data on children with disabilities in Da Nang is a key challenge for policy-makers. The city has made progress in the gradual transition of children with disabilities from special needs institutions into mainstream schools by establishing an Inclusive Education Resource Centre. The centre specializes in services for children with disabilities and coaching and training for parents, teachers and caregivers. However, the quality of education and support for students with disabilities in a number of schools remains limited. Specifically, many teachers have not received training on inclusive education, and especially lack in-depth knowledge about special needs education. The number of students with disabilities attaining lower and upper secondary education is low. Many students with disabilities at upper secondary school age do not have opportunities to attend vocational training and seek employment.





EVERY CHILD IS PROTECTED

Da Nang has developed several policies³¹ to promote and protect vulnerable and at-risk children. The standard cash assistance rate of Da Nang City is 1.3 times higher than national standards. In addition, the city has expanded its beneficiaries of cash assistance to include children not on the list of social assistance beneficiaries under Decree No.136/2013/ND-CP dated October 21, 2013, national policy on social assistance. Da Nang's expenditure on protection and care of children increased modestly between 2015-2018, however, the overall budget allocation for the child protection sector is still limited, especially at commune and ward levels³². The city has implemented a model of early identification and intervention for children with disabilities in three districts (Cam Le, Hoa Vang and Lien Chieu) and has scaled this approach up in four districts (Hai Chau, Ngu Hanh Son, Son Tra and Thanh Khe) over the past three years.

31 Da Nang People's Council (2017, 2018, 2019). 1) Resolution No. 134/2017/NQ-HDND (dated 7 December 2017) on endorsement of standard support and social assistance rate, expansion of beneficiaries applied in Da Nang in addition to Decree No.136/2013/ND-CP on national social assistance policy. 2) Resolution No. 195/2018/NQ-HDND (dated 19 December 2018) by Da Nang People's Council on the poverty line of Da Nang City for 2019-2020. 3) Resolution No. 244/2019/NQ-HDND (dated 11 September 2019) on policy support to poor, near poor, escaped poor, ethnic minority households in Da Nang.

32 Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Da Nang City (2018). Report on the 2-year Implementation of the Law on Children (2017-2018).

In 2019, some 2,937 children in Da Nang were identified as vulnerable or at risk³³, accounting for 1.2 per cent of the city's total child population³⁴. Of these, 87.6 per cent or 2,573³⁵ were children with disabilities, followed by orphans³⁶. There were 202 children without parental care, including 160 orphans, eight abandoned children and 34 children not cared for by their biological parents. In 2012, there were 5,349 children 5-17 years old engaged in labour, accounting for 2.7 per cent of the city's child population³⁷. Although this figure is low compared to the national average, the situation should be monitored carefully in light of socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 which may result in children's increased vulnerability. There were 1,056 minors in conflict with the law (2015-2019), with children under 16 years old accounting for 30.9 per cent, while adolescents from 16 to under 18 years hit 69.1 per cent. Among minors in conflict with the law, school dropouts accounted for 52.3 per cent, of which 93.2 per cent were in lower secondary school or higher³⁸.

There is a lack of data on the overall situation of violence and abuse against children. The only available data are reported cases of sexual abuse and violence against children under the age of 16. According to the Department of Public Security, there were 63 reported cases during 2016-2019, of which 15 cases (24 per cent) involved child victims of violence and 48 cases (76 per cent) victims of sexual abuse. Among these reported cases, 86.7 per cent of violence victims were boys, while all sexual abuse survivors were girls³⁹. The actual figures may be higher as many cases of child abuse remain unreported.

Living in a SMART and highly connected city, children in Da Nang are more exposed to the potential risks of online abuse. Children use the internet from an early age, some even before the age of nine years. One-in-six surveyed children spent more than three to five hours per day on the internet, with two-thirds of boys playing online games. Yet, only half of surveyed children were aware of online risks, whilst only 10 per cent of parents and a third of teachers have basic knowledge on online sexual abuse to provide

33 National Assembly of Viet Nam (2016). *The Law on Children (dated 5 April 2016)*. Article 10 on 14 groups of children.

34 Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Da Nang City (2019). *Administrative reports from district level*.

35 Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Da Nang City (2019). *Administrative report in December 2019*.

36 Children who lost both parents.

37 Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, the General Office of Statistics and the International Labour Organization (2014). *The first National Child Labour Survey in 2012*.

38 Department of Public Security, Da Nang City (2019). *Report on implementation of legal policy on child abuse prevention*

39 Department of Public Security, Da Nang City (2019). *Report on implementation of legal policy on child abuse prevention*

guidance and protect children⁴⁰. Online bullying via SMS and social networks appears to be on the rise, with one in six students of upper secondary school age reporting being victimized⁴¹.

While protective policies and laws are in place, the enabling environment and systems for protecting children from violence, exploitation and abuse should be further strengthened. A key gap is the lack of qualified trained social work/child protection officers at all levels in Da Nang. Such workers are needed on the frontlines to identify vulnerable and at-risk children and provide necessary support to prevent them from becoming victims of violence and abuse. These workers can play a crucial role in reversing the norms that consider domestic violence and violence against children as a legitimate measure of disciplining children. Likewise, professional and trained staff at commune and district levels can help children and women victims access needed services and legal remedies. Monitoring and reporting of child abuse cases is currently weak and must be strengthened. In addition, the city currently only has one social work service centre at provincial level, limited psychosocial support and no child-friendly justice services. Coordination between departments, agencies, localities and stakeholders is essential for the prevention, identification and responses to child abuse cases and yet remains a challenge. There are still many shortcomings in disseminating policies and laws to all families and people. This is partly due to limited financial and human resources in the child protection system.

40 World Vision (September 2018). *The Initial survey report of the Project on Protecting Children and Adolescents from the risk of being sexually abused online in three Districts of Da Nang, namely Son Tra, Hai Chau, and Cam Le. The respondents included 564 children, 572 parents and caregivers, and 114 teachers and educators.*

41 A survey conducted by the University of Education (University of Danang) and the University of Education (Vietnam National University, Hanoi), with the participation of 500 students at two upper secondary schools (including one public school and one private school) in Da Nang <https://baodanang.vn/channel/5411/201805/bao-dong-bao-luc-hoc-duong-kieu-moi-2597611/>



“ Hai Chau district has paid attention to renewing the activities that promote children’s participation, such as organizing annual children’s forums, establishing the Children’s Council at district level and holding meetings, and establishing and maintaining the activities of the Club on Children’s Rights at different wards. However, children’s input revolves around how they do not get to learn or eat what they like, early learning time, their art interests. They have not given much thought to political and socio-economic issues of the district. Although a toll-free hotline to provide counselling is available, children are still hesitant and inactive in accessing this service.”

Hai Chau District People’s Committee

EVERY CHILD PARTICIPATES

Da Nang is one of six provinces and municipalities to have established a “Children’s Council” in 2019. Hai Chau is one of six districts nationwide that have a district-level Children’s Council and Phu Dong primary school (Hai Chau district) is among the first in the country to have a Children’s Council at school level. District authorities have organized children’s fora and set up Child Rights Clubs in all its 56 communes and wards to provide valuable means for children to voice their views to representatives and leaders at all levels on issues in their locality. Furthermore, the city has implemented many models to facilitate children exercising their rights to participate such as: “Junior Reporters” club, a club about children’s rights and budding advocate teams at school-based young pioneer organizations⁴². The city has held numerous events, fora and dialogues between children in the city and leaders of agencies, sectors and organizations to encourage children to voice their opinions.

While Da Nang upholds good governance and aspires to nurture meaningful and inclusive child and adolescent participation, promoting participation at community level and the most marginalized girls and boys remain challenging. Existing mechanisms are newly established and yet to be evaluated. At the same time, while Da Nang has flourishing Smart City initiatives and e-governance systems, these are not explicitly targeting children and adolescents. As digital natives, children and adolescents can be instrumental in designing and taking advantage of innovative and digital platforms to exchange their views, provide feedback and bring new solutions to city decision-makers and service providers.

42 Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (2018). *Report on results of the implementation of the Law on Children in the 2017 – 2018*.



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

OVERALL PRINCIPLES

Going forward, the future directions and policies of the city and each sector shall be guided by the following principles, in line with the CFCI approach:

- In terms of policies and building on achievements, **strengthening the normative framework to progressively realize child rights as well as support and care for children.**
- **Focusing on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and adolescents**, including those affected by migration, those with disabilities, minors in conflict with the law, poor children as well as other vulnerable children and adolescents.
- **Improving data collection** to understand where the poor live, key problems facing children and their families; and ensuring **effective monitoring and evaluation systems** with the engagement of local people, adolescents and children.
- **Improving the capacity** of key stakeholders and local authorities to ensure equitable and comprehensive social service delivery to children and adolescents, in addition to improving the quality of essential services.
- **Strengthening institutions and systems to take into account climate change risks, natural disaster scenarios and social impacts of environmental degradation** to ensure sustained investment in human capital development.
- **Enhancing the mobilization of resources and budget investment, including from the private sector**, to ensure adequate services for children and deployment of essential staff (teachers, health and social workers) to deliver these services to the most disadvantaged children.

- Facilitating an enabling environment and encouraging **the participation of children, adolescents and young people** as key partners of the “Child-Friendly City Initiative” in Da Nang.
- **Raising the awareness** of children, adolescents and their families and increasing their knowledge on issues and decisions that affect their lives.
- Taking appropriate measures and introducing mechanisms to **encourage and enhance gender equality** in the city’s programmes and policies and in the implementation of children’s rights, especially to address issues related to gender-based violence, equal access to basic social services, including education and training, and healthcare and information access.

“ We want Da Nang to be a smart and friendly city in the future. In order to achieve this goal, the city needs to develop towards green architecture, energy efficiency, and climate change adaptation. Moreover, digital technology and the internet should also be applied. Students must have a clean and high-quality learning environment with clean water, low crime rate, and a diverse number of recreational activities to better serve Da Nang’s citizens and ensure benefits for future generations. Furthermore, the city needs to introduce measures related to accessing information on social networks for children, communicating to children on how to use the internet, taking strict information management measures, and creating a separate network for children, such as ‘Facebook Kid’.”

The City’s Children’s Council

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the main challenges associated with the exercising of four groups of children's rights to ensure "every child survives and thrives, every child learns, every child is protected and every child participates", the report makes specific recommendations to the Da Nang city government. In order to implement these recommendations effectively, the city government is encouraged to work closely with local communities, the private sector, non-governmental and mass organizations, the media and other important partners to mobilize additional resources, raise awareness and create consensus and sustainable change across society.

1. Every child survives and thrives

- Generate evidence to understand the root causes of the stagnant progress in stunting reduction and increases in prevalence of overweight and obesity amongst children and adolescents. Develop the city's strategies and action plan to address the problem of "double burden of malnutrition".
- Strengthen measures preventing accidents and injuries that focus on reducing traffic accidents and violence against children as part of the city child-friendly action plan.
- Allocate adequate and sustained budgets for strengthening the district and commune health system and universal coverage of maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health for children and women in the city.

2. Every child learns

- Continue and scale-up Da Nang's ongoing work to address challenges in the provision of quality day-care and preschool opportunities for children in industrialized zones, including implementation of adopted policies to prioritize the enrolment of children from poor households and workers in industrial zones into public pre-schools.
- Ensure documentation of the piloted public day care programme for children aged 6-18 months old in industrialized zones, with plans and budgets in place for further expansion if the pilot results are positive.

- Expand Da Nang's ongoing digital learning efforts to all school levels and develop, test and institutionalize technology-based innovation to empower and support teachers with new approaches to personalized and adaptive learning, which can have measurable impacts on learning outcomes.
- Support school-based and community approaches – including through system strengthening – that tackle school-related gender-based violence affecting girls and boys in Da Nang.
- Address gender and social norms that inhibit equitable access to education for children with disabilities.
- Continue to promote green habits through sustainable environmental education packages and advocate for the piloting of climate-smart schools in Da Nang.

3. Every child is protected

- Enhance public awareness on the rights of children to be protected from violence, abuse and exploitation and the importance of reporting violence and abuse against children.
- Establish an effective mechanism to assess and respond to any alleged violence and abuse of children.
- Strengthen the child protection workforce, especially at commune and district levels, by allocating adequate budgets and deploying qualified trained child protection/social workers to better prevent and respond to child abuse and violence.
- Improve child protection services such as case management, psychosocial care, day care for children with disabilities, community and family-based alternative care for children without parental care, and child-friendly justice services for children in conflict with the law, child victims and witnesses of violence.
- Expand social assistance especially for young children up to three years old and pregnant mothers, in alignment with Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform and Development⁴³ targets to tackle persistent and new forms of poverty, as well as vulnerabilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, urbanization and climate change.

43 *Decision No. 488/QĐ-TTg dated April 14, 2017 by the Prime Minister: Approving the Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform and Development in the period 2017-2025 with vision to 2030.*

4. Every child participates

- Support innovative child- and youth-led initiatives to promote children's role as agents of change, including for climate change and green and clean environment action.
- Strengthen sustainable and accessible mechanisms for child participation: namely Children's Councils and through making use of existing e-governance mechanisms to create digital-based solutions that promote children's and adolescents' participation.
- Ensure new and existing participation mechanisms are inclusive and specifically create space for the most vulnerable children - such as ethnic minority children, children with disabilities and migrant children - to share their opinions and ideas.
- Foster opportunities for dialogue with children and adolescents during the formulation of programmes, policies, legal documents, decisions, plans and socio-economic development plans.

ROADMAP FOR BUILDING A CHILD-FRIENDLY CITY INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING STEPS

This summary report of situation analysis elucidated that the city and its socio-economic development offer many opportunities for children, while at the same time, complex and multiple challenges need to be addressed to strengthen the enabling environment for every girl and boy to maximize their full potential. Each recommendation presented in this report will be the responsibility of a wide range of competent authorities at national and municipal levels, the media and other stakeholders, as well as right holders (especially all children and adolescents under the age of 18), their parents, communities, social organizations and non-governmental organizations.

As the city is preparing for development of the City Programme of Action on Children 2021-2030 as well as the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP), a roadmap for Child Friendly City comprised of the following steps has been developed:

- 2019-2020: Briefly review and evaluate the situation of children and adolescents in the city, using existing data and develop a summary report of the situation of children and adolescents. Review and evaluate the coordination mechanism to implement children's rights, review implementation of the City Programme of Action on Children for 2013-2020, adjust actions and mechanisms accordingly, and identify key issues and priorities for children as well as identify monitoring and evaluation indicators and criteria.
- 2020-2021: Develop and finalize the City Programme of Action on Children 2021-2030 (which includes ensuring implementation of CFCI goals). Based on the findings and recommendations of the Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents in Da Nang, incorporate child-related priorities into the sectoral plans and SEDP (2021-2025) of Da Nang and specifically instruct the annual budget allocation.
- 2021-2022: Comprehensively and systematically evaluate prioritization and implementation of child-related activities in the sectoral plans and SEDP (2021-2025) and budget allocation for such priorities.
- 2021-2025: Implement a preliminary review and evaluate the City Programme of Action on Children 2021-2030. Make efforts to partially meet criteria relating to children's rights approved in the City Programme of Action on Children 2021-2030, sectoral plans, SEDP (2021-2025) and related to budget allocation and use.

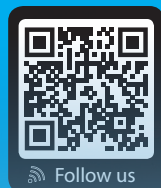


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