



Country card
Vietnam





HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Vietnam program has 15 staff members.





General data of the country

a. General Data

Country ¹	Vietnam	Neighboring country (Cambodia)	France
Population	98.168.929	16.946.446	67.499.343
IHDI	0.588	0.475	0.90
Maternal mortality	42	184	4
Gender Development Index	0.997	0.922	0.987
Population under HCR mandate	35.475	75.036	580.898
INFORM index	3.7	4.6	2.3
Fragile State Index	60.9	80.5	30.9
GINI Index	35.7		32.4
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	38.8	6.2	100

b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Not joined
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Not joined
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed 20/10/2007

c. Geopolitical analysis

1. Geography

Vietnam stretches for over 1600 km along the eastern cost of the Indochinese Peninsula, with 3451 km of coastline and 3818 km of land borders, with China, Laos and Cambodia. The country is “S” shaped, wide in the North and South, and very narrow in the centre where at one point it is only 50 km wide. The country’s two main cultivated areas are the Red River Delta (15.000 km²) in the north, and the Mekong Delta (40.000 km²) in the south. Three quarters of the country consist of mountains and hills (the highest point being the Mount Fansipan, 3.143 m high). The

¹ https://hinside.hi.org/intranet/jcms/pl1_2540344/fr/2020-update-country-indicators-2ndary-data/-/donnees-secondaires-mises-a-jour



Truong Son Mountains (Annam Cordillera), which form the central highlands, run almost the full length of Vietnam along its borders with Laos and Cambodia. The largest metropolis is Hô Chi Minh City, followed by Hanoi capital, Hai Phong, Da Nang and Can Tho.

2. Socio-Economy

Following the Cold War and associated Vietnam conflict, the one-party Vietnamese economy graduated from being state-run to embedding capitalist elements which have proven to be predominantly successful for the Southeast Asian nation. One-party government at the centre led by the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) and newly developed free-market ideals have aided the country develop notably in recent times. Eco-political reforms under the Doi Moi (Economic Renovation) that were launched in 1986 have transformed one of the poorest nations in the world into a vibrant Asian economy with genuine potential.

Since 1990, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of Hanoi has been among the largest in the world that averaged 6.4 percent per year in the 2000's. A significant reduction in the poverty rate coupled with an egalitarian developmental approach have led to equitable growth bringing approximately 40 million Vietnamese citizens out of poverty since the unification of the country. Infrastructural and social development of the population has also seen a relative upward shift as 99% of the population receives electricity while approximately 62% have access to clean water. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has witnessed a steady increase highlighting Vietnam's potential as a destination for external investors due to the perceived political stability coupled with the participation of Vietnam in several multilateral trade forums such as the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) as well as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). The commitment of successive governments to revitalizing business and investment climate in the country has served its purpose and has led to breakthroughs such as market economic institutions, development of advanced and integrated infrastructure and a skilled workforce. Since 2016, inflation rate in Vietnam has been quite steady (around 3%) and is expected to remain just above 3% until 2020. GDP growth rate was closed to 7% at the end of 2019 and was expected to remain between 6 and 7% until 2023. However, it slowed down to 4% due to the COVID-19 crisis in 2020. Vietnam main economic sectors include: agriculture, fishery and forestry (e.g. rice, coffee, seafood...), energy, mining and minerals (e.g. crude oil and coal), industry and manufacturing (e.g. food processing, tobacco, textiles...) and tourism (over 1.5M visitors/month in January and February 2019 – 8% increase compared to the same period in 2018). Unemployment rate was just above 2% at the end of 2019.

3. Politics

On November 28, 2013, Vietnam adopted a new constitution ensuring that the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) remained the only player in the nation's politics. While the promulgation of several amendments to the constitution was perceived to bring political and economic reforms, civic groups in the country have alleged that the amendments only served the purpose of strengthening the hold of the CPV on the country, while disregarding issues such as human rights and freedom of expression.

Summary of HI presence in the country



HI has been working in Vietnam for 30 years (with its first project in 1989) and has implemented projects in most disability-related areas, ranging from rehabilitation (orthopaedic workshops, leprosy, spinal cord injury, brain lesions) to health and prevention (Mother and Child Health, Road Safety, HIV/AIDS) and inclusion (education, social and economic inclusion, community-based rehabilitation/inclusive development).

Over the projects implemented, HI has been working alongside governmental partners at national, provincial and district level as well as civil society organizations in all three regions of the country (North, Central and South).

The projects' beneficiaries encompass the full variety of situations in terms of gender, age, residence (urban/rural) as well as types and causes of disability.



Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Main sectors of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project
Rehabilitation	Development and rolling out of evidence-based and contextualized rehabilitation guidelines	In 2022: 3,600 persons with brain lesion benefitting from rehabilitation services.	Ministry of health (and provincial departments of health), Vietnamese Rehabilitation Association,	Hanoi, Quang Tri, Hue	USAID: 1.10.15 / 30.09.23
	Continuing medical/rehabilitation education	Rehabilitation professionals benefitting from training (10,000 person-hour).	11 national/provincial/district hospitals, 3 Universities		Botnar Foundation: 1.10.19 / 30.09.22
	Provision of rehab equipment.				
	Development education programs for physiotherapists and occupational therapists.	110 persons with disabilities benefited from house accessibility and tailor-made assistive technology.			
	Strengthening rehabilitation services management.				



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