

**Monitoring and Review
of SDG 16 Plus at the National
and Regional Level
(2015-2020) in Vietnam**

CSOs perspective

**Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD)
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TABLE OF CONTENT

TABLE OF CONTENT	2
LIST OF FIGURES	3
LIST OF TABLES	3
CHAPTER I: WHAT IS GOAL 16 PLUS IN YOUR NATIONAL CONTEXT?	4
CHAPTER II (TO BE WRITTEN BY ADA-FORUS-JANIC)	7
CHAPTER III: UNDERSTANDING SDG 16 PLUS	8
3.1 Introduction of SDG 16 Plus	8
3.2 Review of SDG 16 Plus Implementation in Vietnam according to Vietnam Sustainable Development Goals by 2030	8
CHAPTER IV: HOW SDG 16 ENCOMPASSES WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH OR LEAVE NO-ONE BEHIND	14
CHAPTER V: SDG16 PLUS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN VIETNAM	17
CHAPTER VI: SDG16 PLUS PROGRESS STORIES	22
CASE 6.1: Voluntary National Report 2018 – Goal 16, 17 and participation of CSOs	22
CASE 6.2: “Inspiring CSO and Enabling environment” (2016 – 2020) by MSD and Action for CSO Development Alliance (CSA Vietnam) – Target 16.A, 16.B, 17.1	24
CASE 6.3: Progress in gender equality in Viet Nam – Target 5.5	26
CASE 6.4: Story of Change – ActionAid in Vietnam – Goal 16	27
CASE 6.5: Protect children online (2017 – 2020) – ChildFund Australia in Vietnam – Target 16.2.1	28
CHAPTER VII: Engagement and Roles of Parliamentarians and Civil society organisations in SDG 16 Plus progress	30
7.1 Engagement and Roles of Parliamentarians in national SDGs mechanism and Review process (especially on SDG 16 Plus) in the last 5 years	30
7.2 Role of CSOs in implementation, progress, monitoring and review of Goal 16 Plus in your country	32
CHAPTER VIII: Concrete Recommendations	35
8.1 Your national Government	35
8.2 Regional Institutions	35
REFERENCES	36

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3.1: Data Source Distribution	12
Figure 4.1: Possible Roles of Civil Society Organizations in Vietnam Goal 16 Plus Progress	15
Figure 4.2: Institutional arrangement for SDG implementation in Viet Nam	16
Figure 5.1: Access to basic living conditions (%).....	19
Figure 5.2: Proportion of household living in poorly built housing (%).....	20
Figure 5.3: Sex ratio at birth (number of boys per 100 girls)	20
Figure 6.1: The first-ever Chairwoman in the 14 th National Assembly – Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan.....	27
Figure 6.2: ActionAid provides psychological and legal advice to garment workers on sexual harassment in 2019.....	28
Figure 7.1: Satisfaction Index of Public Administration Services (SIPAS)	30
Figure 7.2: Parliamentarians, Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Nguyen Van Giau chaired the meeting on Enhancing the role of the National Assembly in the implementation of the SDGs	31

LIST OF TABLES

Table 5.1: Number of cases of domestic violence and violence against children reported to authorities from 2016 to May 2019.....	17
Table 5.3: Number of illegal weapons, explosive materials and supporting equipment confiscated.....	18

LIST OF ACRONYMS

Agenda 2030	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
NAP	National Action plan
CSI	Corporate Sustainability Index
EU	European Union
GSO	General Statistics Office
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICs	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MOC	Ministry of Construction
MOCST	Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOIC	Ministry of Information and Communications
MOIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MOLISA	Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MOST	Ministry of Science and Technology
NCDs	Non-communicable diseases
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NSIS	National statistical indicators system
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PCI	Provincial Competitiveness Index
R&D	Research and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDG NAP	National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
SEDP	Socio- economic Development Plan
SEDS	Socio- economic Development Strategy
SIPAS	Satisfaction Index of Public Administration Services
SMEs	Small and medium enterprises
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

VBCSD	Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development
VCCI	Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
VNR	Voluntary National Report
VSDG	Viet Nam Sustainable Development Goal
VUSTA	Viet Nam Union of Science and Technology Associations
WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

CHAPTER I: WHAT IS GOAL 16 PLUS IN YOUR NATIONAL CONTEXT?

The year 2020 is of great importance, marking nearly 5 years of Viet Nam's implementation of the Agenda 2030 and being the last year of the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2016-2020, creating momentum for the implementation of the Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) 2021-2030. In 2020, the Covid-19 Pandemic has suddenly caused a number of problems such as health security, unemployment, inequality that leads to decelerate economic growth and social development. To achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), these problems cannot not be solved in insolation.

According to the 2030 Agenda, SDG 16 emphasizes the need for capable, participatory political institutions designed to (1) reduce inequality; (2) provide access to justice for all and (3) build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. Therefore, the targets of SDG 16 are highly interconnected with other SDGs that forces us to apply SDG 16 to other goals on education, poverty, access to services, health, gender equality, and climate change.

As the next step after the first four year of the 2030's Agenda Implementation, SDG 16 Plus (SDG16+), extending from SDG16, has been considered as an integrated and mutually-reinforcing whole focused on advancing government accountability, building trust, and sustaining peace, at the national level.

The strong commitment of Vietnam to the 2030's Agenda is reflected in the Decision No. 622/QD-TTg on the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG NAP). Although SDG 16 Plus is known as a new concept in the 2030's Agenda implementation in Vietnam, under the SDG NAP, the efforts of Vietnam in achieving 3 pillars (peace, justice and inclusion) of the 2030's Agenda are expressed in five polices and mechanism to deliver SDG 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16, and 17 which are integrated in SDG 16 Plus.

To ensure the transparency and accountability, Vietnam government has issued main documents creating a legal basis for SDG Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) that have currently been formed: (1) The Prime Minister's Decision No. 681/QD-TTg dated June 4, 2019 on the roadmap for VSDG implementation; (2) The Prime Minister's Decision No. 468/QD-TTg dated March 26, 2020 on the guidance for monitoring and evaluation of the VSDG implementation.

The aim of fostering a peaceful, just and inclusive society is leveraged by various dimensions of the National Action Plan (2017-2030) that intends to prevent violence, eliminate corruption and bribery, build effective institutions, promote the rule of law and access to justice, improve the delivery of public services, reduce inequality, and set the necessary conditions for long-term development. The government has also involved multi-stakeholders in the progress of SDG, including ministries, related agencies, provinces and other stakeholders such as business community and civil society organizations (CSOs) such as Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2018. These efforts are thus aligned with the SDG16+ targets and are strongly supported by the multi-stakeholder alliance and people-centered justice approach.

Management Sustainable and Development Institute (MSD) as a Vietnamese non-governmental organization is taking efforts to build capacity and promote CSO's engagement in SDGs (3,4,6,7,11,12,16,17) and advocate for CSO's enabling in order to promote the rights of marginalized groups, especially children, youth, women and people with disabilities. Our slogan is "Unleashing local potentials, inspiring for changes". MSD has been elected as the Secretariat – Country Coordinator of CSA Vietnam for the 2016 – 2020 term, and as the Country Leader of Leave No-one Behind Vietnam (LNOB Vietnam) for the 2020 – 2023 term.

Leave No-one Behind Vietnam consists of 15 members including both Vietnamese NGOs and international NGOs in Vietnam who aims to mainstream a scalable and broadly applicable

approach for a more inclusive and evidence-driven SDG implementation worldwide, with a focus on the empowerment of marginalised groups. LNOB Vietnam was established in 2017 and coordinated by ActionAid in Vietnam as country lead from 2017 - 2020. MSD has been elected to play as the Country Lead since June 2020. The objectives of the LNOB coalition in 2020 - 2023 are:

- Implemented representative researches / data generation in different municipalities/cities across the country where the LNOB members work, focusing on the inclusion and empowerment of marginalised groups in national SDG implementation.
- Integrated the produced evidence in official monitoring and reporting as a complementary source of information.
- Used the evidence to produce concrete recommendations for policies and services that are capable of addressing the situation of the marginalised populations in their local context.

CHAPTER II (TO BE WRITTEN BY ADA-FORUS-JANIC)

CHAPTER III: UNDERSTANDING SDG 16 PLUS

3.1 Introduction of SDG 16 Plus

SDG 16 has known as the key goal to protect and maintain the peace and the justice for the development over the world in order to foster a common ground where “free from fear and violence”.

Inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental resilience eliminate conflicts in many fields (economics, social issues, religion, race, natural resources, etc.) and encourage people to work together for a better future – peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Reversely, to prevent all the source of violence and insecurity, we need to solve thoroughly the economic, social and environmental problems including inequality, corruption, poor governance, illicit financial and arms flows, and other factors that can lead to all forms of conflicts. The cost of violence to the global economy was estimated by IEP¹ to be \$14.8 trillion or 12.4 per cent of global gross domestic product.

Therefore, enabling the SDG 16 Plus Targets will create a complementary set for SDG 16 to rapidly turn the 17 SDGs to reality by 2030. The SDG16 Plus including “*12 targets from SDG 16 and 24 targets from seven other goals*”² encourages all stakeholders to take full account of the complex interactions between sustainable development issues (quality education, gender equality, human rights, economic growth, inequalities, sustainable cities and communities and partnership issues) and peace, in particularly with the vulnerable and furthest behind at risk of violence, injustice, and exclusion.

Vietnam and many other countries (including Armenia, Canada, Bhutan, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Mali, Malta, Senegal, Singapore, and Spain) have highlighted the importance of upholding the rule of law; ensuring universal access to justice as well as to government and information; building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions; and the delivery of public services³.

3.2 Review of SDG 16 Plus Implementation in Vietnam according to Vietnam Sustainable Development Goals by 2030

Box 3.1: Understanding the SDG16+ Indicators

There are 36 targets for SDG16+, which become 56 indicators in total. However, 16.8.1 and 10.8.1 are measured globally and not disaggregated by country. These indicators are therefore omitted. Removing these two indicators allows for 54 indicators that are measured at the national level. Of these 54 indicators, 11 have no official data or suitable proxy/indicator. As a result, 43 indicators are reviewed in this report. Indeed, data availability remains a significant issue for SDG16 Plus.

¹ Institute for Economics & Peace

² [Joint Statement by a group of Member States in support of SDG16+ - United Nations Partnerships for SDGs platform](#)

³ UNDESA, Voluntary National Reviews

To evaluate country performance on each indicator relative to other countries, this report applies People's Scorecard⁴ of Action for Sustainable Development members with a 5-point scale that “considers a number of key categories and offers an overview of the level of delivery in each area”⁵. At the end of each section, we agree a score of 1-5 (Appendix 1).

TABLE 3.1: SDG16 Indicators Review in Vietnam – Data Source and Progress

Target/ Indicator	Title	Data Source			People's Scorecard					
		Official Indicator or Proxy	Government's data	CSO's data	No/weak Policy/Plan (1 point)	Initial planning phase (2 points)	Plans or actions started (3 points)	Delivery underway (4 points)	Successful implementation (5 points)	Total
16.1 REDUCE ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE										
16.1.1	Intentional Homicide				✓					1
16.1.2	Conflict Related Deaths				✓					1
16.1.3	Victims of Violence	✓	✓				✓			3
16.1.4	Safe Walking Alone				✓					1
16.2 END ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN										
16.2.1	Violence Against Children	✓	✓	✓				✓		4
16.2.2	Human Trafficking		✓	✓				✓		4
16.2.3	Sexual Violence Against Young People	✓		✓				✓		4
16.3 PROMOTE ACCESS TO JUSTICE THE RULE OF LAW										
16.3.1	Underreporting of Violence			✓		✓				2
16.3.2	Unsentenced Prisoners					✓				2
16.3.3	Dispute Cases		✓	✓		✓				2
16.4 REDUCE ILLICIT FINANCIAL AND ARMS FLOWS										
16.4.1	Illicit Financial Flows			✓	✓					1
16.4.2	Arms Tracking	✓	✓				✓			3
16.5 REDUCE CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY										
16.5.1	Government Corruption (Citizens)	✓		✓			✓			3
16.5.2	Government Corruption (Business)	✓	✓	✓			✓			3
16.6 DEVELOP EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT INSTITUTIONS										
16.6.1	Responsible Budget Spending	✓	✓					✓		4
16.6.2	Satisfaction with Public Services	✓	✓					✓		4
16.7 RESPONSIVE, INCLUSIVE, AND REPRESENTATIVE DECISION-MAKING										
16.7.1	Representative Politics		✓			✓				2

⁴ [A4SD-Peoples-Scorecard-Toolkit-1.pdf \(action4sd.org\)](https://www.action4sd.org/A4SD-Peoples-Scorecard-Toolkit-1.pdf)

⁵ Ibid

16.7.2	Inclusive Decision Making			✓		✓				2
16.8 COUNTRY REPRESENTATION IN THE GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS										
16.8.1	Country Voting Rights in International Organisations									
16.9 PROVIDE LEGAL IDENTITY FOR ALL										
16.9.1	Birth Registration	✓	✓	✓				✓		4
16.10 PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PROTECT FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS										
16.10.1	Violence Against Journalists				✓					
16.10.2	Public Access to Information		✓	✓				✓		4
16.A STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE										
16.a.1	National Human Rights Institutions	✓	✓	✓				✓		4
16.B PROMOTE NON-DISCRIMINATORY LAWS AND POLICIES										
16.b.1	Discrimination				✓					1
Total										59

Source: Own Elaboration

TABLE 3.2: SDG16+ Indicators Review ('plus' indicators only) in Vietnam - Data Source and Progress										
Target/ Indicator	Title	Data Source			Scorecard					
		Official Indicator or Proxy	Government's data	CSO's data	No/weak Policy/Plan (1 point)	Initial planning phase (2 points)	Plans or actions started (3 points)	Delivery underway (4 points)	Successful implementation (5 points)	Total
1.b CREATE SOUND PRO-POOR AND GENDER-SENSITIVE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES										
1.b.1	Social Spending	✓					✓			3
4.5 ELIMINATE EDUCATION DISPARITIES										
4.5.1	Parity Indices for Education		✓	✓				✓		4
4.7 PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT										
4.7.1	Education on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom	✓	✓	✓				✓		4
4.a ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE EDUCATION FACILITIES										
4.a.1	Education Access and Facilities	✓	✓	✓				✓		4
5.1 END ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FEMALES										
5.1.1	Non-discrimination Against Females	✓	✓	✓		✓				3
5.2 ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST FEMALES										
5.2.1	Women Subjected to Violence by a Current or Former Intimate Partner	✓	✓	✓		✓				3
5.2.2	Women Subjected to Violence by Persons Other	✓	✓	✓		✓				3

	Than an Intimate Partner									
5.3 ELIMINATE HARMFUL CHILD PRACTICES										
5.3.1	Child Marriage	✓	✓	✓				✓		4
5.3.2	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting				✓					1
5.5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN										
5.5.1	Gender Equality in Government	✓	✓	✓				✓		4
5.5.2	Gender Equality in Managerial Positions	✓	✓	✓				✓		4
5.c THE PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY										
5.c.1	Monitoring of Gender Equality	✓	✓			✓				2
8.5 FULL, FAIR AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT										
8.5.1	Wages of Female and Male Employees	✓	✓			✓				2
8.5.2	Unemployment Rate	✓	✓				✓			3
8.7 ERADICATE FORCED LABOUR, MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING										
8.7.1	Child Labour	✓	✓	✓				✓		4
8.8 SAFE AND SECURE WORKING ENVIRONMENTS										
8.8.1	Fatal and Non-fatal Occupational Injuries	✓	✓	✓				✓		4
8.8.2	Higher Levels of Economic Productivity Through Diversification, Technological Upgrading and Innovation				✓					1
10.2 SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INCLUSION OF ALL										
10.2.1	Social, Economic and Political Inclusion of All	✓				✓				3
10.3 ENSURE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND REDUCE INEQUALITIES OF OUTCOME										
10.3.1	Ensure Equal Opportunity and Reduce Inequalities	✓	✓	✓				✓		4
10.4 ADOPT FISCAL, WAGE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES										
10.4.1	Labour Share of GDP	✓				✓				2
10.5 IMPROVE THE REGULATION AND MONITORING OF FINANCIAL MARKETS										
10.5.1	Regulated Financial Markets				✓					1
10.6 COUNTRY REPRESENTATION IN THE GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS										
10.6.1	Country Voting Rights in International Organisations									
10.7 FACILITATE ORDERLY, SAFE, AND RESPONSIBLE MOBILITY OF PEOPLE										
10.7.1	Recruitment Cost	✓				✓				2
10.7.2	Well-managed Migration Policies	✓				✓				2
11.1 ACCESS TO SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND BASIC SERVICES										
11.1.1	Population Living in Slums	✓	✓	✓				✓		4
11.2 ACCESS TO SAFE, AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEMS										

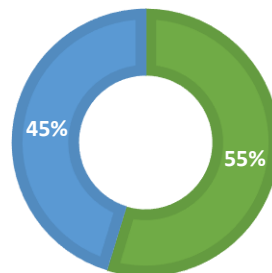
11.2.1	Access to Public Transport	✓	✓	✓			✓			3
11.3 INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION										
11.3.1	Inclusive and Sustainable Human Settlement Planning and Management		✓		✓					1
11.3.2	Civil Society Participation in Urban Planning		✓		✓					1
11.7 ACCESS TO SAFE, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SPACES										
11.7.1	Access to Safe, Inclusive and Accessible Public Spaces	✓	✓		✓					1
17.1 STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TO IMPROVE DOMESTIC CAPACITY										
17.1.1	Total Government Revenue as a Proportion of GDP	✓	✓				✓			
17.1.2	Domestic Budget Funded by Domestic Taxes				✓					1
17.10 PROMOTE MULTILATERAL TRADE										
17.10.1	Worldwide Weighted Tariff Average				✓					1
Total										63

Source: Own Elaboration

With the proportion of 45% in data contribution on SDG implementation, citizen-driven data can be a check against official governmental data in Vietnam and this statistic reveals an essential role of CSO in collecting this kind of data to enable all voices to be heard in the monitoring step of Agenda 2030. In essence, NGOs contribute strongly to this aspect as they fight for the marginalized groups so that their heard and voice can be count and the policy-makers need to care about their demand to ensure inclusive societies.

Figure 3.1: Data Source Distribution

■ Government's data ■ CSO's data



Source: Own Elaboration

As the 2020 National Report on Implementation of SDGs of the Government, among 9 targets, Vietnam will likely achieve 3 (target 16.6 on transparent and effective institution; target

16.8 on legal identification for all and target 16.9 on ensuring information access and fundamental freedom). Overall, it will be difficult for Vietnam to achieve SDG16 by 2030. The remaining challenges and difficulties are: (i) violence takes place with increasing complexity, violence against and sexual abuse of children become more serious (target 16.1&16.2); (ii) the reformation of some judicative processes does not follow the laid out roadmap; cases of unjust and wrong trials still take place (target 16.3); (iii) anti-corruption activities have resulted in positive changes, yet failed to bring out breakthrough impacts; corruption is still taking place in serious, complex and delicate forms, especially in banking and finance sector, land use and management, mineral and resource extraction and public investment (target 16.5); (iv) the role and responsibility of the people to participate in local consultation and decision-making, to monitor and comment to the work of the Party and the government is still limited (target 16.7).

CHAPTER IV: HOW SDG 16 ENCOMPASSES WHOLE OF SOCIETY APPROACH OR LEAVE NO-ONE BEHIND

The Whole of Society approach describes levels of engagement and the meaningful participation of different stakeholders in the sustainable development process. Also, the “leave no one behind” principle of the Agenda 2030 forces diverse stakeholder groups to engage in collective actions so as to strengthen the resilience of communities and society as a whole. Based on commitment to “leave no one behind” target, the government needs to provide *“opportunity and access for everyone to participate in decision-making processes and in the formulation of policies and programmes that affect their lives”*⁶.

This chapter aims to explore the participations of various stakeholders including state and non-state actors (civil society, the private sector and academia, where civil society refers to CSOs, NGOs and multi-stakeholder partnerships) in the Goal 16 Plus progress in last 5 years in Vietnam. By delivering SDG 16+ targets, we are together fostering and ensure the inclusion and the respect towards people of different ethnic origins, religions, gender, sexual orientations or unsimilar opinions. Therefore, we can help to improve conditions for a life of dignity for all and to turn *“leave no one behind”* principle into reality.

First of all, **Government** has responsibility for implementing the SDG16+ targets to ensure inclusive and equitable policies that adhere to the leave-no-one-behind ethic. The government has set up national working groups for further implementation of the plan, including a governance group working specifically on SDG16. For instance, the lead agency for target 16.1, 16.2, 16.4 is the Ministry of Public Security (MOPS), for targets 16.2.a, 4.5, 5.1, 5.2, 8.7, 8.8 is the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), for target 16.5 is Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), for target 16.7, 16.8, 16.9 is The Ministry of Justice (MOJ). Moreover, to enhance coordination and cooperation among stakeholders in SDG implementation, numerous forums and dialogues are organized annually, notably the National Conference on Sustainable Development, Business Forum on Sustainable Development and Viet Nam Development Partnership Forum (VDPF)⁷.

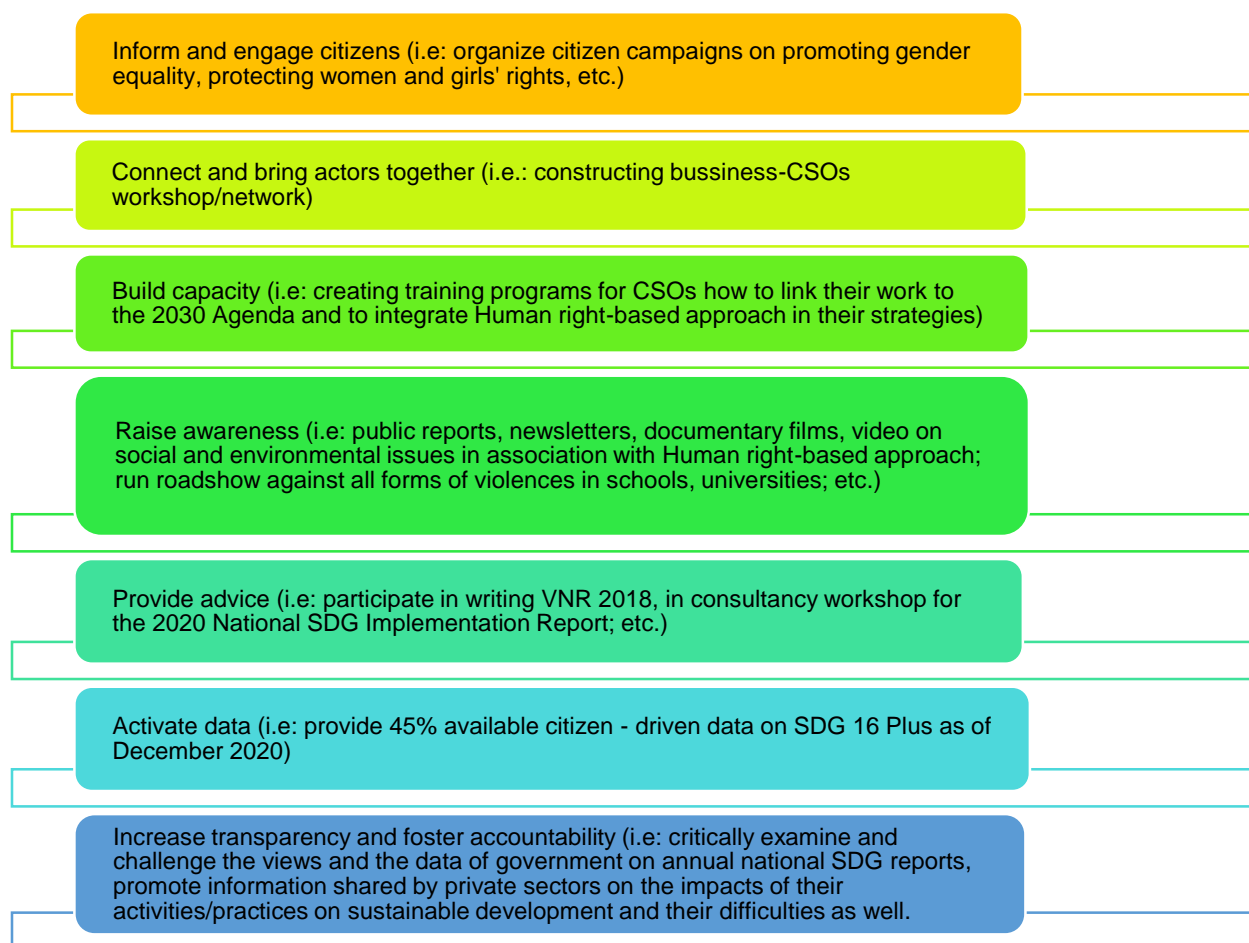
Secondly, to deliver the national roadmap by 2030, **International/ regional organizations and multi-stakeholder partnerships** are the key supporters. The UN SDG Technical Working Group was established to cooperate with the GOVN in implementing the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the networks of local and international NGOs, of social organizations like the Women’s Union and Youth Union as well as the Association of Persons with Disabilities have conducted activities to implement SDGs and made direct contributions to the Voluntary National Review in 2018.

Thirdly, in Vietnam, **Civil society networks** and organizations, both as advocates have perceived their important role in frontline delivery of “leave no one behind” principle and had many meaningful contributions to the implementation progress. As such, they act as a pillar in mobilizing the people’s participation and organizing activities to aim for sustainable development.

⁶ [Whole-of-Society-P4R-Discussion-Paper-Oct.-2018-1.pdf \(unescap.org\)](#)

⁷ VDPF is a high-level policy dialogue forum between the GOVN and Development Partners on critical policies in which are mutually interested to promote socio-economic development in a comprehensive way and improve life quality for Vietnamese people.

Figure 4.1: Possible Roles of Civil Society Organizations in Vietnam Goal 16 Plus Progress



Source: Own Elaboration

The fourth actor is **Business leaders** with the role in integrating SDG16+ into their operating environment to tackle violence and abuse, curb corruption, and increase inclusion. Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD) encourage the business community to exchange and scale-up good practices and business models towards sustainable development. The Corporate Sustainability Index (CSI) is one of the important contributions of VBCSD in promoting Vietnamese businesses engagement in SDG process. The CSI is a toolkit for businesses to disclose their sustainable practices, in which including human rights (employees), equality in the working environment, and most importantly, corruption issues. During 2016-2018, the ratio of female director in Board of director in 100 Vietnam listed companies increases, the employee's statistics (i.e.: age of workers, child labour) are more and more disclosed by most listed companies. However, the indicator on anti-corruption and anti-bribery, and "the ability to express concerns without fear of repercussion" are not widely reported by companies⁸.

Given the fifth actor, **Research networks** play an essential role in generating the evidence-based research to provide the empirical evidences and experiences that will meet

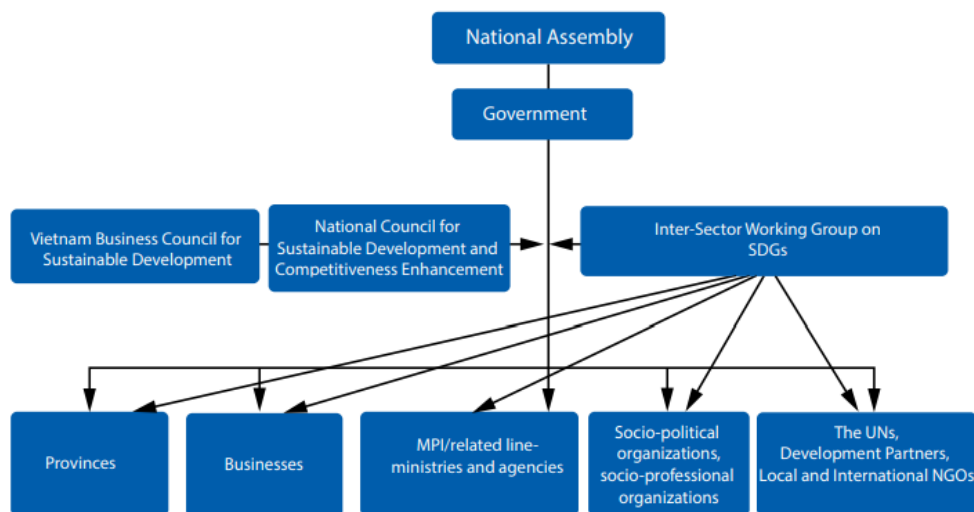
⁸ Own elaboration on corporate annual reports during 2016 – 2020

the future needs of policymakers. Vietnam research institutes and scientists are one of key members in the process of the annual national SDG report formulation of the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI). The Prime Minister's Decision No. 681/QĐ-TTg of also stated that the research institutes and other stakeholders are encouraged to submit their reports, studies, evaluation and peer reviews on the SDG to the MPI and authorities of various fields. In particularly, to follow-up Goal 16, a large number of masters, and PhDs of law, as well as judges, procurators, investigators, lawyers, enforcers, and notaries, etc. have been trained to meet the requirements of standardized qualifications of judicial and legal aid officers.⁹

Finally, we need to consider **the funders**, “especially those prepared to invest in innovation or committed to building more strategic approaches to peace, justice and inclusion”¹⁰. Vietnam government identifies that sustainable development need to integrate into development cooperation strategies of donors. However actual capital flow into Vietnam’s sustainable growth sector is still very limited. Data from Vietnam’s central bank shows that by the first quarter of 2019, total outstanding "green loans" amounted to \$10.42 billion, just around 3% of total outstanding credit of the banking sector, which by February 2019, the latest figure, was VND7.28 quadrillion (\$313 billion)¹¹

In summary, the level of participation of multi-stakeholders in Vietnam remains the level 2 – the consultative step, which means that non-state actors are given space to voice their concerns and share their knowledge and expertise, but separately from the government’s works. The good point is that the government can benefit from available information and data from a variety of non-state actor groups, however, if concerns and/or advice provided by these actors do not go beyond the meeting room, mechanisms at this level will end up being part of a symbolic participation.

Figure 4.2: Institutional arrangement for SDG implementation in Viet Nam



Source: Viet Nam’s voluntary national review on the implementation of the sustainable development goals (2018)

⁹ The 2020 National Sustainable Development Goals Implementation Report (2020)

¹⁰ Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, *The Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies – A Call to Action to Change our World*. (New York: Center on International Cooperation, 2019), available at <http://www.sdg16.plus>

¹¹ [Vietnam urged to diversify funding sources for sustainable, green development - VnExpress International](#)

CHAPTER V: SDG16 PLUS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN VIETNAM

UN Human Rights, since 2015, have identified four essential human freedoms as “the birthright of all people” – freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom of speech, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This chapter will analyze the available data of 43 indicators in Table 2.1 and Table 2.2 to emphasize how SDG16+ deals with these four fundamental freedoms and also, the drivers of freedoms in Vietnam. All the SDG16+ targets are integrated, interlinked and universal, working together to create conditions for sustainable development outcomes.

First of all, protecting **freedom from fear** explicitly involves a various of tasks and targets to ensure that people can live in a positively peaceful society. Above all, the SDG16+ indicators help us to scale up violence prevention for human, in particularly for women and children, and for vulnerable communities.

Table 5.1: Number of cases of domestic violence and violence against children reported to authorities from 2016 to May 2019

Year	Number of cases	Of which	
		Number of children as victims	Domestic violence victims in financial difficulties
2016	87.421	3478*	315
2017	85.987	4736**	114
2018	50.547	2684	197
May 2019	16.345	1584	110
Total	513.184	12482	736

** In 2016: Only helpless children getting legal aid; ** In 2017: Including helpless children, and children regulated in the Law on Children 2016*

Source: Review and evaluation report on the implementation of gender equality in the VSDG, MPI-GIZ, 2019

Regarding the target 16.2, Vietnam has implemented a variety of measures and solutions to promote communication, advocacy and coordination in child protection, and prevention and treatment of child abuse cases in localities in a timely and effective manner with minimized injuries for abused children. Number of children as victims has significantly diminished from 3478 to 1584 in 3 years.

In **Vietnam**, as the report of the government, Viet Nam currently has no statistics on the indicator 16.1.1, but only data released from the National Survey on Violence against Women conducted by the GSO in 2010 and 2019. The results of this survey are presented in the target 5.2 (indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.1). Therefore, it is impossible to evaluate the implementation progress of the target 16.1 at present.

Fostering the target 5.2 (among SDG16 Plus indicators), we can eliminate the types of violence against women include physical, sexual, and spiritual violence and some other types of violence, such as behavior control or economic violence, as shown in table 5.2 below.

Table 5.2: Proportion of ever-partnered women aged 15 and older subjected to violence (*) by their husbands or partners (%)

Indicator 5.2.1	2010		2019	
	At present (Last 12 months)	Lifetime (Any time in life)	At present (Last 12 months)	Lifetime (Any time in life)
Physical	6	32	4.6	26.1
Sexual	4	10	5.7	13.3
Spiritual	25	54	19.3	47
Physical, Sexual, Spiritual	27	58	21.8	52.9

* only for the most common types of violence, i.e.: physical, sexual and spiritual violence

Source: Survey on Domestic Violence against Women in Viet Nam in 2010 and 2019¹²

More than half of the Vietnamese women aged 15 years and older have experienced violence in their lifetime. In particular, spiritual violence accounted for the highest proportion, although it decreased from 54% in 2010 to 47% in 2019. Meanwhile, sexual violence tended to increase from 10% to 13% in the same period. Therefore, develop SDG16+ indicators will complement the understanding of works to prevent all types of violence against women and children.

In addition, the target 16.3 also allows us to increase justice and legal empowerment which will protect better human rights so that citizens' beliefs are enhanced and people may feel free from many forms of violent, illegal and unsecure concerns. Promoting the rule of law, and ensuring equal access to justice are always the top targets that the Party and Government of Viet Nam aim to build a rule-of-law state of the people, by the people and for the people. For instance, the law on judicial proceedings including The Criminal Procedure Code, the Civil Procedure Code, the Administrative Procedure Law and many guiding documents, has been gradually promulgated, amended or supplemented.¹³

As all we know, fighting corruption and stemming illicit financial and arms flows help to prevent the risks of wars which contribute to the delivery of all social, economic and environmental issues, not only human freedoms.

According to the Circular No. 03/2019/TT-BKHDT, the indicator 16.4.1 takes into account the number of confiscated illegal weapons, explosive materials and supporting equipment to assess the level of safety in the population, and the danger to social security. In the period 2010 - 2019, a significant reduction in the number of illegal arms was witnessed.

Table 5.3: Number of illegal weapons, explosive materials and supporting equipment confiscated

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Guns	3003	1483	6968	11841	9455	6842	1121	1550	4656	3211
Supporting tools	201	997	4473	2531	2051	222	181	559	746	822

¹² Source for 2019: https://vietnam.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/1_bao_cao_tom_tat.pdf

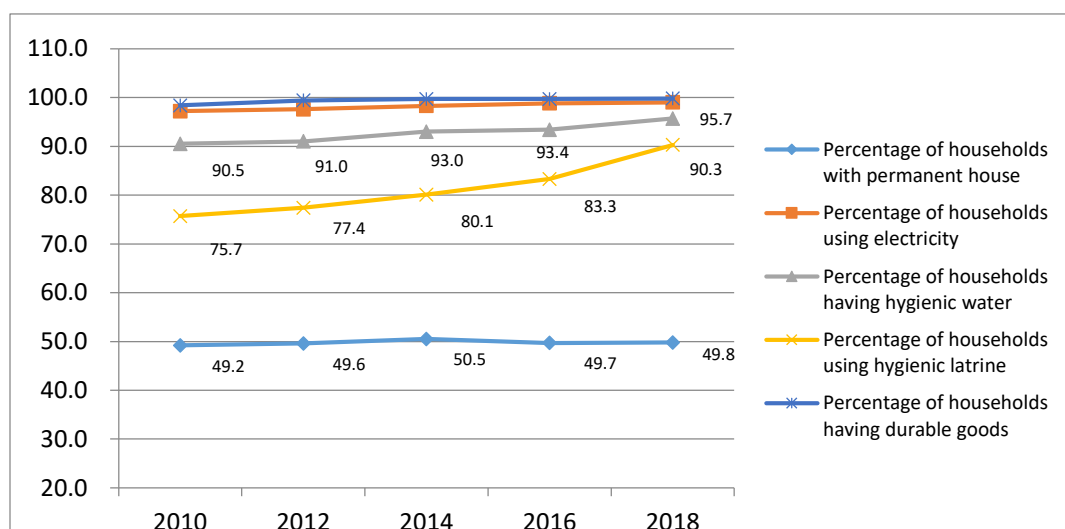
¹³ The 2020 National Sustainable Development Goals Implementation Report (2020)

Grenades	58	183	660	715	584	275	216	251	807	0
Bombs	9	170	67	1311	641	45	30	25	13	16
Bullets	2646	6780	28646	45817	31047	12577	13981	4134	6245	20600
Explosives (kg)	140.8	929	4805.7	4490	2175	622	386	135.7	251	29.7
Detonators	3799	493	0(*)	15796	8786	993	432	714	761	420
Shells and Warheads	113	0	1759	3014	1568	1276	173	160	548	1087
Rudimentary weapons	1821	1000	12217	12257	9725	2874	1177	1058	3062	7388

* In 2012, there was no detonator confiscated, but 27,682 meters of flame retardant wire were seized

Source: Ministry of Public Security

Figure 5.1: Access to basic living conditions (%)



Source: Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey, GSO

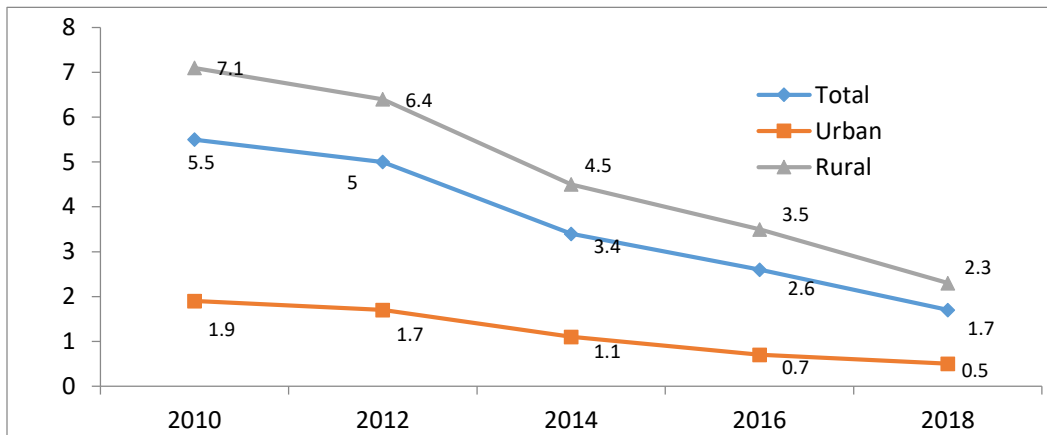
Secondly, the **Freedom from want** basically means to be in a situation where you don't have to worry about such things as where your next meal is coming from, how you can clothe yourself and your children or get a roof over your head. "Want" in this context refers to dire poverty, such as is experienced by many people in the third world.¹⁴ Referring to Figure 5.1, except for the percentage age of households with permanent house which has not increased significantly in the past 8 years, and remained at only 50%, other indicators of access to basic living conditions have grown and remained high.¹⁵

Furthermore, according to the target 11.1, the proportion of households living in poorly built houses (in Figure 5.2) declined rapidly, from 5.5% in 2010 to 1.7% in 2018. However, by 2018, 4.4% of the bottom 20% of income quintile (quintile 1) still lived in poorly built housing while this figure of the top 20% quintile (quintile 5) was 0.2%. Thus, with the aim of protect the freedom from want – the most basic need of people, the attention should be paid to housing policies that support low-income groups and more specific condition areas.

¹⁴ [freedom from want \(unescwa.org\)](https://unescwa.org/)

¹⁵ National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (2017). Available on [Print \(un.org\)](https://un.org/)

Figure 5.2: Proportion of household living in poorly built housing (%)



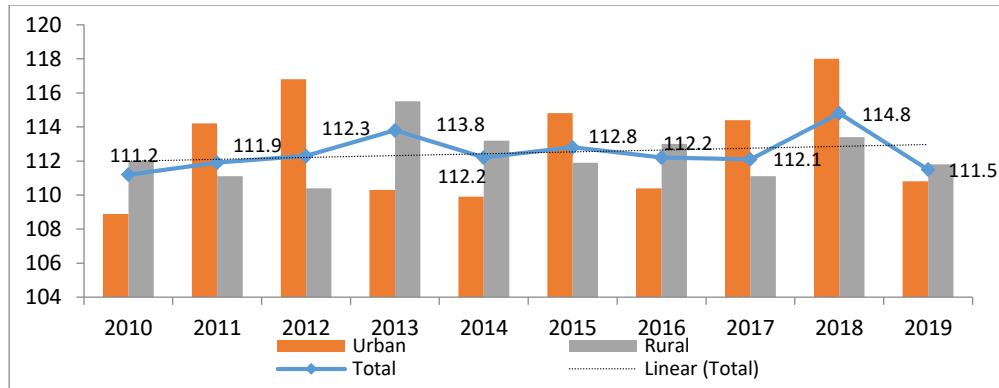
Source: Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey, GSO

In term of the **Freedom of speech**, the target 16.10 provides two key indicators to protect the liberty of people on accessing to information and the security of journalists from violence. Vietnam has set a separate target and roadmap by 2030 to “*Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedom, in accordance with Vietnamese legislation and international agreements that Viet Nam has signed*”¹⁶. However, Vietnam has not yet set any target, indicator or roadmap to prevent “*violence against journalists*” as the global indicator 16.10.1.

The final fundamental freedom is also the most difficult freedom to protect - **Freedom of thought, conscience and religion**, since the thought, conscience and religion are invisible and they are long-standing rules and/or prejudices. To deal with this type of freedom, Vietnam has made many efforts to consolidate gender equality, fight off discrimination and respect all human rights, focusing on women, children and vulnerable groups. For example, to minimize and eventually end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls in all sectors and everywhere (target 5.1), the sex ratio is annually collected by GSO to monitor the progress of the National Action Plan for SDGs.

Figure 5.3: Sex ratio at birth (number of boys per 100 girls)

¹⁶ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19967VNR_of_Viet_Nam.pdf



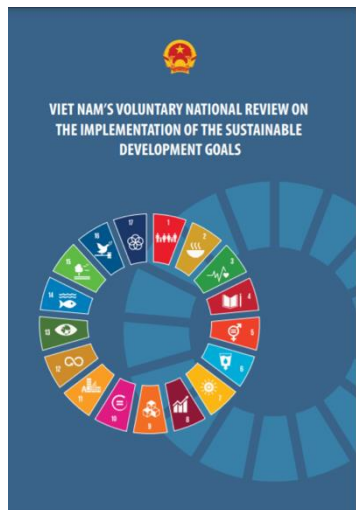
Source: GSO; Results of the Population and Housing Census 2019

For the whole 2010-2019 period, sex ratio at birth tended to increase and the gender imbalance were not improved. Sex imbalance at birth has occurred in both urban and rural areas. This will negatively affect Viet Nam's population structure in the future, leading to excess of men in the society. Without timely interventions, it is forecasted that by 2050, Viet Nam will lack from 2.3 to 4.3 million women.

The imbalance in sex ratio at birth stems from the custom of having a son to continue the lineage and ancestor worship, leading to the selection of sex before birth in the current context of fertility decline. Gender imbalance can cause serious consequences for the country's socio-economic development and affect women lives, families and communities. Gender imbalance may also lead to increased trafficking of women and girls and domestic violence against women and girls, gender inequality and social unrest (related to other targets, such as 5.2, 5.3, etc.).

CHAPTER VI: SDG16 PLUS PROGRESS STORIES

CASE 6.1: Voluntary National Report 2018 – Goal 16, 17 and participation of CSOs



In 2018, Viet Nam was one of 47 countries to have implemented the VNR at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2018. The report assessed the progress on 17 Vietnam SDG, sharing difficulties, challenges and lessons learnt in Vietnam SDG implementation with other countries in the world. The implementation of the VNR has affirmed Viet Nam's commitment to the implementation of the Agenda 2030, especially the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the progress on the SDG implementation.

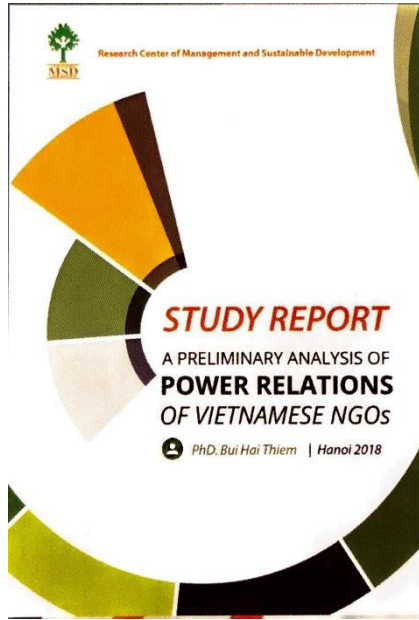
Action for CSO Development Alliance Vietnam (CSA Vietnam – lead by MSD Vietnam) have conducted proactive activities to implement the SDG and contributed directly to the formulation of the VNR and the National Report on the Implementation of the Viet Nam's Sustainable Development Goals.

The process includes some activities:

- Provide capacity building on advocacy, SDG and VNR to more than 100 local CSOs throughout Vietnam to ensure that they recognized their roles and participated effectively in the process;



- Conduct the complementary report of CSOs on “Civil Society Organizations’ roles and contribution to achieve Sustainable Development Goals” with the participation of more than 100 local CSOs. The report was used as complementary report to submit to the High-level political forum on Sustainable Development Goals (HLPF) in New York, July 2018;



- Organize various workshops and dialogues in different levels with the government and VRN Drafting team to include the comments, ideas of local CSOs in the VNR Report. Some cases of the Complementary report and inputs from CSA Vietnam were included in the final VNR of Vietnam;



- Participate in the VNR report of Vietnamese government and share the statement of CSOs in Vietnam



After the process, CSA Vietnam was invited by Ministry of Planning and Investment to the SDG consultation and monitoring process.

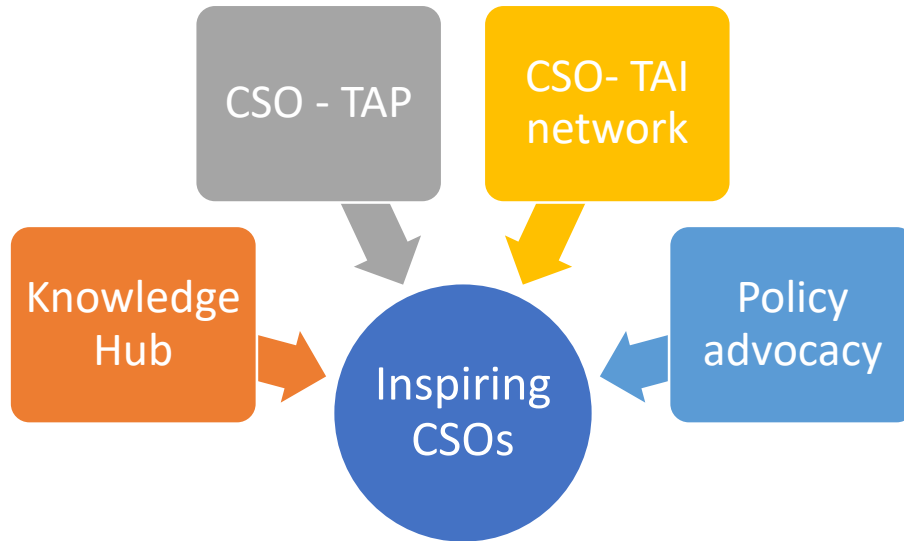


CASE 6.2: “Inspiring CSO and Enabling environment” (2016 – 2020) by MSD and Action for CSO Development Alliance (CSA Vietnam) – Target 16.A, 16.B, 17.1

Enabling strong institutions and an inclusive environment is one of three pillars of SDG 16 Plus. During 2 years (2016-2018), “Inspiring CSO Program” remains the mutual effort of MSD and CSA Vietnam with the aim of (1) increase the level of transparency and accountability practices and

advocacy for the CSOs and multi-stakeholders in Vietnam; (2) strengthen the effective network for learning and joint advocacy efforts for CSOs' enabling environment; and (3) promote the joint policy advocacy and evidence-based advocacy for CSOs' enabling environment.

Key components of Inspiring CSOs includes:



Some Achievements:



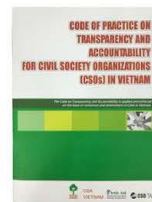
1 - ODIC

Organizational Development Methodology of Inspiring Culture (ODIC) is a method of organizational capacity enhancement towards good and accountable governance and culture. The methodology considers accountable and inspiring culture is the highest level of organizational development, when the structure, system of accountability was transferred to regular practice, become staffs' behavior, belief and value of the organization - culture.



2 - CSO SELF - REGULATION SYSTEM:

- Self-regulation system
- Code of practice for Civil Society Organization's Transparency and Accountability with 113 CSOs' commitment
- Code of partnership of Civil Society Organizations with development partners



TAP CODE



Partnership CODE

4 CSOs Community of Practice

CSO online Talkshows; Facebook group; Quarter newsletter; & Online knowledge Hub.



MELP.org.vn First online learning platform For CSOs



3 CSO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

2018 - 2019: Number of organizations participated and trained on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

From 2014 - 2019

380 local CSOs participating in

235 local CSOs with capacity built

67 Certificates on Transparency and Accountability



Training workshop on "Civil Society Organizations' roles and contribution to achieving Sustainable Development Goals"



CASE 6.3: Progress in gender equality in Viet Nam – Target 5.5

In Asia-Pacific, Viet Nam is one of the few countries with female deputies making up more than 25% of seats in the National Assembly. The number of female deputies holding important positions in the National Assembly agencies has risen recently. Women in the 2016-2021 term make up 26,72%, an increase of 2.62% as compared to the previous term.

However, this percentage remains lower than the target of more than 35% set out in the National Strategy on Gender National Equality in 2011-2020. In particular, Viet Nam has the first-

ever Chairwoman in the National Assembly (14th National Assembly), a Vice Chairwoman out of four Chairpersons (accounting for 25%), five women out of 18 members of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly (accounting for 27.8%); 3/13 Committees, Councils and Bureaus led by women (accounting for 23.1%); five Vice Chairwomen out of 34 Vice Chairpersons of Ethnic Council and Committees (accounting for 14.7%) and 13 female members out of 45 standing members (accounting for 28.9%).

Figure 6.1: The first-ever Chairwoman in the 14th National Assembly – Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan



Source: Report 454/BC-CP by the Government on 17/10/2017 regarding implementation of the national gender equality target

CASE 6.4: Story of Change – ActionAid in Vietnam – Goal 16

With the aim of (1) increase awareness and capacity of female garment workers to raise their voice on their rights and (2) develop effective mechanisms to protect women from gender-based violence, especially, sexual harassment in garment factories, ActionAid in Vietnam has launched the project entitled “**Initiative to End Gender-Based Violence in the Garment Industry**” (2019 – 2021)

This program has organised a series of activities during 3 years for Local Activists Groups Against Sexual Harassment to raise awareness on Human Rights Based Approach, rights for Sexual Autonomy and Body Integrity to garment workers involving multi-actors with participation of LAGASH, corporate, policy makers, service providers and the media and has also supported to garment workers who are at risk, or suffered from sexual harassment.

With total of 278,087 direct beneficiaries, this program has increased leadership, voice, and capacity of women garment workers to realize their rights and influence decisions on gender-based violence in the supply chain and increased political will, capacity, and resources among governments and businesses to prevent and respond to gender-based violence as well. The multi-actor policy dialogues promoted the visibility of the nature and prevalence of gender-based violence in the supply chain and effective strategies for addressing it. In addition, effective

mechanisms are in place to enable safe reporting of gender-based violence in and around factories—and survivors are receiving comprehensive services and support.

Figure 6.2: ActionAid provides psychological and legal advice to garment workers on sexual harassment in 2019



Source: ActionAid in Vietnam website¹⁷

CASE 6.5: Protect children online (2017 – 2020) – ChildFund Australia in Vietnam – Target 16.2.1

“**ChildFund Swipe Safe**” – a project of ChildFund Australia in Vietnam contributing to target 16.2.1 in order to help young people make the most of the online world. This program aims to empower young people to make the most of the online world, through educating them on internet risks and protective strategies, and by equipping their parents and teachers to be online-safety partners.

Commenced in July 2017, ChildFund started the project by building a set of comprehensive training materials for children and adults, accompanied with variety of communication products including animated videos, posters and leaflets for both online and offline use. That was followed up by more than 600 trainings on online safety skills and knowledge, including ToT trainings to local young facilitators, school-based training to more than 12,000 children and almost 3,700 parents and teachers by end of 2020. In addition, trainings were provided to hundreds of Youth Union members and cyber coffee/internet vendor owners, who we identified as child online safety partners who will help raising awareness in the communities around children through multiple communication events.

After 3 years of piloting the training program and training model, more than 90% of young people demonstrated improvements in online safety knowledge and skills and over 90% of the participants found the training helpful to their daily life. Moreover, the project has received great support from provincial governments, who shared their commitment in adopting the training

¹⁷ <https://vietnam.actionaid.org/en/news/2019/actionaid-provides-psychological-and-legal-advice-garment-workers-sexual-harassment>

manuals and integrating online safety education in schools' activities, which will ensure the sustainability of the project in the future.

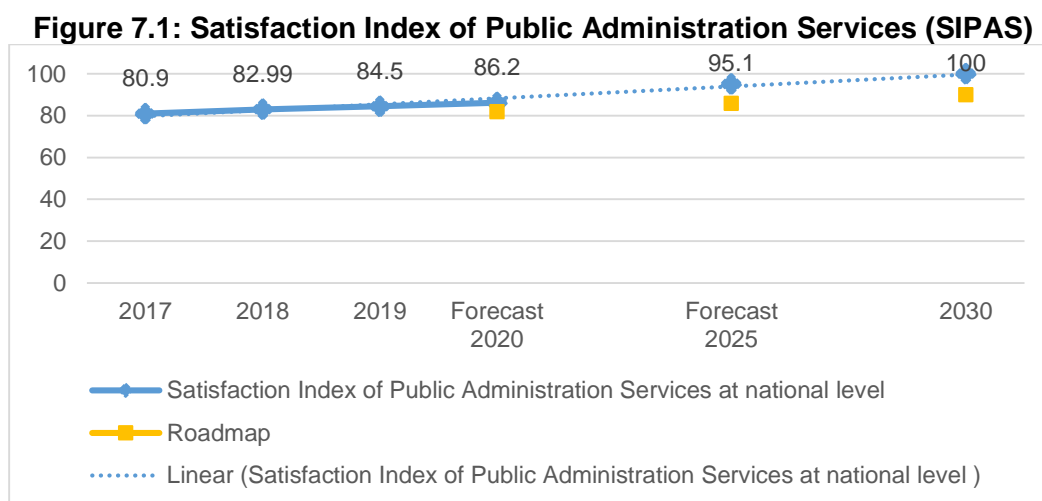
CHAPTER VII: Engagement and Roles of Parliamentarians and Civil society organisations in SDG 16 Plus progress

7.1 Engagement and Roles of Parliamentarians in national SDGs mechanism and Review process (especially on SDG 16 Plus) in the last 5 years

The “essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets, and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments”, stated the Agenda 2030 Declaration. Parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to act as an interface between the people and state institutions, and to promote and adopt people-centered policies and legislation to ensure that no one is left behind.¹⁸

As early as April 2015, Vietnam has actively engaged in the process of developing Agenda 2030 by being the host country of the 132nd Inter-Parliamentary Assembly which includes parliamentarians from 130 global legislatures to endorse the Hanoi Declaration - The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action. Parliamentarians explicitly committed that “as representatives of the people, we are responsible for ensuring that each and every voice is heard in the political process without discrimination and irrespective of social status”¹⁹ and parliamentary one need to make efforts to raise awareness of people on how the goals are relevant to their own life.

While parliamentarians have a responsibility to support and monitor implementation of all 17 SDGs and safeguard the integrity of Agenda 2030, Goal 16 and Goal 16 Plus, known as the “sustaining peace, justice and inclusive society with good governance goal” has special significance for parliamentarians. In which, targets 16.6 and 16.7 directly depict the work of parliamentarians. Target 16.6 calls for the development of “effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels” monitored by two main indicators on “responsible budget spending” and “satisfaction with public services”. The Decision No. 681/QĐ-TTg has defined a roadmap for the indicator 16.6.1 every 5 years.



Source: Ministry of Home Affairs and expert's

According to the report on 2019 SIPAS released by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), the level of people satisfaction with the public administrative services in 63 provinces/cities is

¹⁸ Parliament’s Role in Implementing A Parliamentary Handbook (UNDP, 2016). Available on: [parliaments role in implementing the SDGs.pdf](#)

¹⁹ Hanoi Declaration: www.ipu.org/conf-e/132/rpt-gendebate.htm

slightly improved from 2017 till this year. The overall Administrative Satisfaction Index of the whole country in 2019 increased by nearly 1.5% compared to that in 2018, and nearly 3.6% compared to that in 2017, in which, Quang Ninh led the index (95.26%) while Binh Thuan possessed the lowest index with 73.81%, making a difference of 21.45%. With the constant trend, this proportion is forecasted to reach 86.2%, 95.1% and 100%, respectively.

However, a very important aspect of the target 16.6 – the development of mechanisms to ensure the transparency, integrity and accountability of the state agencies – has not been evaluated yet. For example, to fight off anti-corruption, it is of importance to set the disclosure mechanisms for assets and income of the state staff. Meanwhile, the supervision of assets and income of holders of the state staff is already promulgated in the Anti-Corruption Law (in effect from July 1st 2019 and in guidance on October 30th 2020).

In addition, the target 16.7 concerns “responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels”. According to the data of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Initiative, a prominent multilateral initiative in the world to promote open governance and increase citizen participation, Vietnam has only reached 2/4 points in terms of people’s participation. Besides, the study of Towards Transparency Vietnam, Vietnam has created a favorable environment to mobilize the engagement of people and social organizations in state management processes. Also, the development of multimedia communication and legal framework are increasingly completed, with many important laws issued such as Law on Access to Information, Law on Referendum, Election Law.

However, in reality, the citizen’s participation is still limited and formalistic due to the lack of effective mechanisms to protect the transparency and accountability of state agencies in the planning and implementation of public policies. The legal mechanisms for people to comment on the formulation of legal documents are still incomplete and also, the legal framework for the organization and activities of social organizations remains limited. Therefore, to achieve this target, parliamentarians need to build open and respective parliamentary committees which will release more parliamentary information, encourage better outreach by legislators and implement specific strategies to improve the position of women and members of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Figure 7.2: Parliamentarians, Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Nguyen Van Giau chaired the meeting on Enhancing the role of the National Assembly in the implementation of the SDGs



Source: National Assembly web portal²⁰

At the same time, Vietnam Nation Assembly established diverse activities to broaden the better understanding of parliamentarians, People's Assembly at all levels on what they have done and what they need to do going forward to deliver the 2030 Agenda. In term of SDG16+, although the recent implementation of judicial reform tasks has not yet achieved the expected progress, there have been important and outstanding results. Changes have been made in the perception of cadres, party members, party committees and party organizations on the requirement of building a judicial system of the socialist rule-of-law state of Viet Nam which is transparent, strong, democratic, strict, and justice and human rights protection-oriented.

7.2 Role of CSOs in implementation, progress, monitoring and review of Goal 16 Plus in your country

Over the last 5 years, NGOs have actively joined in national or international organisations and accompanied with the people and authorities in implementing development programs at the local level across the country, supporting communities to improve: food security, nutrition health, child protection and development, employment training, livelihoods, clean water and sanitation, gender equality, education, technology innovation and social development. These significant efforts of NGOs contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) before and now SDGs. In the nature of their work, the organizations also carry out capacity building, communication, research and advocacy programs to enhance the country's economic and social development.

Being of interest in the review process of the 2030 Agenda can give CSOs an opportunity to connect with and learn from bigger partnerships/ networks since *“key actors can help them to empower themselves and institutionalise their work”*²¹. International and local CSOs in Vietnam has benefited 17 SDGs as a tool for joining forces to reorganise and coordinate their activities.

According to Survey Report in 2018 on Civil Society Organisations' roles and contribution to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (MSD, 2018), CSOs in Vietnam are typically characterised by diversified activity fields that are mainly associated with SDGs. The survey results have shown that a majority of CSOs worked in different fields; 95.6% of them worked in more than two fields of activity and 86% in more than 3 fields. There are two main factors that manifest the characteristics of CSOs: beneficiary – oriented factor and field – oriented factor. In addition, the contribution of civil society organisations has been seen in 17/17 of SDGs at different levels. CSOs have made both indirect and direct efforts to the achievement of SDGs. Their direct contribution has been made to 13 out of 17 goals.

CSOs in Vietnam apply a number of influencing factors to contribute to the delivery of SDGs achievements including Policy, Community, Resource, and Partnership. Moreover, the capacity of personnel, is also a factor promoting their contribution to the SDGs achievement. 89% of CSOs said that the support and interest of communities and society is the most favourable factor, and then their capacity (75.9%), development partnership (68.3%) and financial support (55.2%). Beside advantages, the participation of civil society organisations in contribution to SDGs also faces challenges, namely declining trend in funding over the past years (79.3%), the poor support of relating State's policies (64.8%), opportunity to access information of SDGs from the State authorities as partners (64.8%), the development of partnership with Business (51%), collaboration between development partners (48.3%), participation in impartiality and equality with development partners (domestically and internationally) (40%) and the capacity of CSOs (34.5%).

²⁰ National Assembly web portal. Available on quochoi.vn

²¹ [Whole-of-Society-P4R-Discussion-Paper-Oct.-2018-1.pdf \(unescap.org\)](http://Whole-of-Society-P4R-Discussion-Paper-Oct.-2018-1.pdf)

With regard to development of partnerships, all CSOs do not work alone in contributing to SDGs but in collaboration with other partners, of which domestic CSOs play the most important role therein, account for 86.9%, international NGOs for 73.8%, state agencies for 67%, donors for 66.2% and Business sector for 51%.

Action for CSO Development Alliance Vietnam (CSA Vietnam) is the first CSO national platform working on SDGs. CSA Vietnam, involving more than 100 members, is well-known network to participate effectively in SDGs process in Vietnam, and contributed significantly to Vietnam VNR, representing local CSOs in New York in 2018, then was recognised by the government as CSO partner to engage in SDG implementation process. CSA Vietnam strategize to participate in SDGs to promote the role and voices of local CSOs to advocate for their enabling environment.

There main activities of CSA Vietnam alliance are (i) capacity building on advocacy, enabling environment and SDGs; (ii) networking with civil society organization community of practice; (iii) Bi-monthly webinars or livestream; (iv) evidence-based policy advocacy and dialogues. In terms of capacity building, there were 2 rounds of training courses organized in 2016 and 2018. During three years (2016 – 2018), 97 organizations in the North, 54 organizations in the Central and 70 organizations in the South joined in CSA training program with 4 main courses: Roles and Development of CSOs in Vietnam (173 learners); Basic Policy Advocacy (212 learners); An enabling environment for CSO development (126 learners). In terms of bi-monthly activity, CSA Vietnam hosted 5 networking workshops including 323 representatives from government offices and CSOs to raise awareness of government offices on CSOs' role and contribution and to help CSOs connect with municipal government for enabling local works of CSOs. In terms of policy advocacy, Ms. Nguyen Phuong Linh – the Country Coordinator of CSA Vietnam provided a short speech on the statement of local CSOs at the Vietnam Partnership Forum organized by the government and the World Bank in 2017.

In addition, Leave No One Behind Vietnam (LNOB Vietnam) – “No one is left behind” Partnership Network Vietnam, including 15 members of both Vietnamese and international NGOs, was established in 2017 with the motivation of enhancing “peace, justice and strong institutions” and promoting “partnership for the goals”. LNOB Vietnam committed to support the implementation, progress, monitoring and review of SDGs process embedding the marginalized groups in Vietnam. This network encourages the shared experiences among members in implementing SDGs in Vietnam and ensures that all types of groups which are easily left behind in the development process such as children, women, people with disabilities, the poor, and the poor. residents, ethnic minorities too, etc. participate and have a voice in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in Vietnam. In December 2020, LNOB Vietnam has continuously contributed to the 2020 National SDGs Implementation Report by providing critical comments on data sources and monitoring mechanisms used by Ministry of Planning and Investment. LNOB members state that the participation of citizens, communities and social organizations and NGOs has contributed to the initial implementation of the SDGs in Vietnam and ensured that “no one is left behind.

Particularly, Vietnam's Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the High-Level Political Forum 2018 in New York is known as the first official declaration of the whole Vietnam multi-stakeholders to monitor and report on the status of on the implantation of Vietnam SDGs process at the international level. The VNR report of Viet Nam aims to share with the global community the country's initial results in the implementation of Agenda 2030. The preparation of the VNR has been done by a collective of CSOs, private sector, academia, professional associations, trade unions, etc., thus facilitating an inclusive transformation towards sustainable development in Vietnam. Also, the publication of Vietnam VNR provides an opportunity to raise SDG awareness and mobilize the participation of different stakeholders including the National Assembly, the

Government, the UN system in Viet Nam, Political, Social, Professional and Mass Organizations (PSPMOs), international and local NGOs, the business community, and other development partners.

Therefore, the participation in the review process of the 2030 Agenda can allow CSOs with greater opportunities to have the endorsement, especially by the government, and hence *“bring them closer to influencing public policy although this also depends on how open and genuine governments are”*.²²

²² Ibid

CHAPTER VIII: Concrete Recommendations

8.1 Your national Government

First of all, to upgrade the level of participation of multi-stakeholders in Vietnam from the second level (the consultative engagement) to the highest level (the partnerships of knowledge), the meaningfulness of the interaction can be undermined when a government tries to co-opt stakeholders through the partnership. It is possible, for example, for a government to collaborate with CSOs to buy their allegiance.

Vietnam government is to recognize and to create an enabling environment for CSOs, local and international NGOs, community-based organizations, etc. that should be given legal endorsement. In addition, it is necessary to develop a framework for engagement, contribution and collaboration between CSOs and specific indicators for the implementation of the National Action Plan; to create an enabling environment for local CSOs to access and mobilize diverse resources for development; to strengthen the roles and capacities of CSOs and invest in partnerships at the stages of planning cycle, consultation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Another recommendation for government is to implement better monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the SDGs in the annual National reports, which increase the engagement of CSOs, community-based organizations and local and international NGOs in monitoring and contribution to the report, and recognize the data provided by citizens. For instance, the report writing process should include the participation of all stakeholders from the beginning.

A separated budget for investing in capacity building and in SDG implementation is also very of essence in order to develop specific strategies and plans for SDG implementation at all levels.

One more recommendation is that Vietnam government should strengthen measures to 'Leave no one behind' in the implementation of the SDGs. The engagement of children and young people in SDG implementation should be taken into account since their voices, contributions and actions are known as the key factors for the success of the SDGs and later.

8.2 Regional Institutions

Firstly, regional partnerships with the bigger resources and better capacity from their members need to provide to the weaker national members more strongly the supports (technical, financial and human resources) and to create an enabling environment for local CSOs to be able to access SDG16 Plus principles and then plan an initial and even detailed roadmap to achieve a peace, justice and inclusive society.

Secondly, regional institutions take the advantages of knowing well the situation and the strengthens as well as the challenges that their own regional countries have so it is a plausible responsibility that regional organizations can conduct the guidelines on the Sustainable Development Goal 16 Plus associated with Human right-based approach and “No one leave behind” principle for specific regions. For instance, the indicator 5.3.2 among SDG16+ “plus” indicator – “Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting” – describes a type of violence against girls and women that explicitly exists many years and is hotly debated in the Africa, especially in the north Africa, also in the west Asia and in several American countries, however, in South East Asia (except from Indonesia) this form of violence has not been popular like the human trafficking or child marriage.

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