VIETNAM – BELGIUM PARTNERSHIP

In the 70s, at the beginning of the bilateral cooperation between Vietnam and Belgium, the main objective of the development cooperation programme was to contribute to the rehabilitation of infrastructure that had been damaged during the war. At the onset of the 90s, with the launch of Vietnam’s Reform Policy toward an open market economy, the bilateral cooperation shifted to social and poverty-oriented programmes in order to tackle the social challenges linked to these economic reforms. Priority was given to education, training, public health, water and sanitation.

In 2001-2010, the cooperation programme was fully aligned with Vietnam’s “Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy” and “Socio-Economic Development Plan” (SEDP). The focus areas of the cooperation programme were water, sanitation and waste management, education and training, and governance. Belgium’s commitment to these efforts was strengthened by taking part in the “Education for All” Programme with the Ministry of Education and Training.

A new 2011-2015 Indicative Cooperation Programme was developed in conformity with the new SEDP 2011-2015 and signed in June 2011.

ABOUT BTC

The Belgian development agency, BTC, mobilizes its resources and expertise to combat poverty in the world. BTC contributes to the efforts of the international community and works towards a society that provides present and future generations with sufficient resources to build a sustainable and fair world.

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CONTACTS

Belgian development agency
F7, 14 Thu Khuê St., Tây Hồ disrict, Hanoi
+84 (4) 37 28 05 71
+84 (4) 37 28 05 72
BTCrepresentation.vietnam@btct.be
WWW.BTCctB.org

Belgian Embassy
Hanoi Tower, 9th Fl., 49 Hai Bà Trưng
Hoàn Kiem District, Hanoi
+84 (4) 39 34 61 79
+84 (4) 39 34 61 83
Hanoi@diplomatie.be
WWW.diplomatie.be/Hanoi/

Ministry of Planning and Investment
Foreign Economic Relation Department
6B Hoàng Diệu, Ba Đình, Hanoi
WWW.mpi.gov.vn

DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS BY SECTOR (2011–2015)

- WATER & SANITATION: 30 million euro (50%)
- GOVERNANCE: 12 million euro (20%)
- CAPACITY BUILDING: 12 million euro (20%)
- DELEGATED COOPERATION: 3 million euro (5%)
- STUDY & CONSULTANCY: 3 million euro (5%)
FACTS AND FIGURES

- Population: 66.6 million
- Percentage of the population living with less than 1.25 $/day: 13.1%
- Human Development Index: 0.581, ranking 128 out of 179 countries
- Under-five mortality rate: 24 (per 1,000 live births)
- Life expectancy at birth: 75.2 years
- Gender Inequality Index: 0.305, ranking 48 out of 179 countries
- Human Development Index: 0.593, ranking 128 out of 179 countries
- Adult literacy rate: 104.1%
- GDP per capita (at purchasing power parity): 2,953 dollars
- Population affected by natural disasters: 19,794 (average annual per million people)
- Infant mortality rate: 13.1%

STRATEGY 2011–2015: 2 PRIORITY SECTORS

The new cooperation programme is based on the following key principles:
- Good governance in areas of public administration.
- Water and sanitation management in the framework of urbanization and climate change.
- Strengthen institutional reinforcement, and to ensure overall coherence in the policy dialogue.

The set-up of a Facility in order to support the implementation of the Green Growth Strategy. This project addresses barriers to green growth through investigating, training, and capacity building; policy and sectoral studies; and project cases studies.

The portfolio in this sector includes:
- These projects aiming at strengthening the capacity in water management and urban planning for climate change adaptation.
- The set-up of a Technical Support Unit providing the technical and institutional assistance to support the authorities at central and provincial level in knowledge management and institutional reinforcement, and to ensure overall coherence in the policy dialogue.
- The portfolio in this sector includes:
- Development of new instruments and modalities; and
- The support to the governance sector comprises another component: the innovation and development of a multi-Donor Trust Fund for adapting the Ministry of Science and Technology to developing, adapting, and implementing a new technical assistance framework for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME). This will be based on an improved legal framework, as well as a set of concrete mechanisms for advising, and compelling businesses to enhance the science and technology SME sector.

DELEGATED COOPERATION

A financial support of € 3 million to the One Planet Fund 2013–2016 has been earmarked to strengthen the viability of the United Nations Development Program’s efforts in the field of governance.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOCUSED ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The Belgian bilateral scholarship programme is a unique instrument for strengthening the human resource capacity needs of Vietnam by enabling young Vietnamese professionals to pursue postgraduate studies in Belgium. Since 2004, Belgium provides annually a quota of 40 scholarships for Mixed PhD and Master training in Belgium.

STUDY AND CONSULTANCY FUND

Through a multi-Donor Trust Fund, the Flemish government has been using this fund to tackle the human resource capacity needs in Vietnam by enabling young Vietnamese professionals to pursue postgraduate studies in Belgium.

PRIORITY INTERVENTION ZONES

The programme focuses on areas like the provinces of Binh Thuan and Ninh Thuan where the Belgian bilateral cooperation strategy has already worked before and built up expertise and a strong relationship with the local implementing authorities. This will allow for a more rapid and efficient implementation of interventions.
VIETNAM – BELGIUM PARTNERSHIP

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In 2001-2010, the cooperation programme was fully aligned with Vietnam’s “Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy”, and “Socio-Economic Development Plan” (SEDP). The focus areas of the cooperation programme were: water, sanitation and waste management; education, and training; governance. Moreover, Belgium’s commitment to more efficient budget support was reflected in the “Education for All” programme with the Ministry of Education and Training.

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CONTACTS

Belgian development agency
F7, 14 rue Huynh Khue, 104 Taylor District, Hanoi
+84 (4) 37 28 05 71
www.bitco.be

Belgian Embassy
Hoan Kiem District, Hanoi
+84 (4) 39 34 61 79
www.diplomatie.be/hanoi

Ministry of Planning and Investment
Foreign Economic Relations Department
6B Hoang Dieu, Ba Dinh, Hanoi
www.mpi.gov.vn

Vietnam-Belgium Partnership
Managing editor: Carl Michiels, rue Haute 147, 1000 Brussels - 04 / 2013 - Photos: © BTC / Eric de Mildt
**FACTS AND FIGURES**

- **Population:** 88.8 million
- **Percentage of the Population Living with less than $2.50/day:** 13.1%
- **Human Development Index:** 0.593, ranking 128 out of 179 countries
- **Under-Five Mortality Rate:** 13.1%
- **Gross Domestic Product per Capita:** 2,953 dollars
- **Life Expectancy at Birth:** 75.2 years
- **Gross Primary Enrolment Ratio:** 104.1%
- **Gender Inequality Index:** 0.305, ranking 48 out of 179 countries
- **Adult Literacy Rate:** 92.8%
- **Human Development Index:** 0.593, ranking 128 out of 179 countries

The new cooperation programme is built on the following key principles:

- **Good Governance in Public Administration**
- **Water and Sanitation Management**
- **Water and Sanitation**

**STUDY AND CONSULTANCY FUND**

The fund will continue to focus on capacity development and knowledge management, and enhance the science and technology SME sector. This will be based on an improved legal framework as well as a set of concrete measures for attracting and strengthening businesses to enhance the science and technology SME sectors.

**PRIORITY INTERVENTION ZONES**

The programme chooses to work in geographical areas like the provinces of Binh Thuan and Ninh Thuan where the Belgian bilateral cooperation has already worked before and built up expertise and a strong relationship with the local implementing authorities. This will allow a more rapid and efficient implementation of interventions.

**DELEGATED COOPERATION**

A financial support of € 3 million to the One Planet Fund 2012-2016 has been made. This will strengthen the implementation and coordination role of the United Nations in the fight against climate change.

**CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

The new cooperation programme is designed to contribute to the long-term growth and stability of Vietnam by promoting public governance, water and sanitation management, and institutional support. It will focus on capacity building, policy and sectoral strategic, pilot projects and case studies.

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOCUSED ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

Three projects of the former programme (2007-2010) aim to provide pre-professional education through capacity development for piloting processes and projects. The new programme has already worked before and built up expertise and a strong relationship with the local implementing authorities. This will allow a more rapid and efficient implementation of interventions.

**STUDY AND CONSULTANCY FUND**

The fund will continue to focus on capacity development and knowledge management, and enhance the science and technology SME sector. This will be based on an improved legal framework as well as a set of concrete measures for attracting and strengthening businesses to enhance the science and technology SME sectors.
**FACTS AND FIGURES**

- **Population**: 66.8 million
- **Percentage of the population living with less than 1.25 $ / day**: 15.1%
- **Human Development Index (HDI)**: 0.556, ranking 118 out of 179 countries
- **Life expectancy at birth**: 75.2 years
- **Under-five mortality rate**: 24 (per 1,000 live births)
- **Population affected by natural disasters**: 19,794 (average annual per million people)
- **Gross primary enrolment ratio**: 104.1%
- **Gender inequality index**: 0.305, ranking 48 out of 179 countries
- **Adult literacy rate**: 59.3%
- **Human Development Index (HDI)**: 92.8%

**STRATEGY 2011-2015: 2 PRIORITY SECTORS**

The new cooperation programme is built on the following key principles:

- **Response for the needs of the Government of Vietnam**
- **Coherence and continuity with the previous Belgian cooperation programme in Vietnam**

**WATER AND SANITATION MANAGEMENT**

- The new programme puts the emphasis on institutional reform to ensure coherence and accountability in water management and sanitation.
- The portfolio in this sector includes:
  - Three projects aiming at strengthening the capacity in water management and improving the level of water and sanitation services in Binh Thuan, Ha Tinh and Ninh Thuan.
  - The set-up of the Technical Support Unit to support the authorities at central and provincial level in knowledge management and institutional reinforcement, and to ensure overall coherence in the policy dialogue.
- The support to the governance sector comprises another component, the innovation and development of interventions in supporting the Ministry of Science and Technology in developing a legal framework for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME). This will be focused on an improved legal framework, as well as a set of core mechanisms for advisory and capacity-building services to enhance the science and technology SME sector.

**GOOD GOVERNANCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

- The set-up of a Facility in order to support the Vietnamese Government in the implementation of the Green Growth Strategy. This project addresses Vietnam’s green growth through awareness raising, training, and capacity building, policy and sectoral strategies, and projects and case studies.

**DELEGATED COOPERATION**

A financial support of € 3 million to the One Fund (2013-2020) has been earmarked to strengthen the allocative role of the United Nations in its new co-operation in the field of governance.

**STUDY AND CONSULTANCY FUND**

The support to the governance sector comprises another component, the innovation and development of interventions in supporting the Ministry of Science and Technology in developing a legal framework for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME). This will be focused on an improved legal framework, as well as a set of core mechanisms for advisory and capacity-building services to enhance the science and technology SME sector.

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOCUSED ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

- The Belgian bilateral scholarship programme aims to contribute to the long-term growth and stability of Vietnam by enabling Vietnamese professionals to benefit from their country. Since 2004, Belgium has already worked before and built up expertise in the field of governance and capacity development.

**PRIORITY INTERVENTION ZONES**

The programme focuses on two priority areas, namely the provinces of Binh Thuan and Ninh Thuan, where the Belgian bilateral cooperation has already worked before and built up expertise in the field of governance and capacity development.

**STRATEGY 2011-2015: 2 PRIORITY SECTORS**

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CONTACTS

Belgian development agency

F7, 14 #HUy KHUe St., tay Ho diStRict, Hanoi

+84 (4) 37 28 05 71

+84 (4) 37 28 05 72

RepReSentation.vie@BtcctB.oRg

WWW.BtcctB.oRg

Belgian Embassy

Hanoi toWeRS, 9tH F/l, 49 Hai Ba tRUng

Hoan Kiem diStRict, Hanoi

+84 (4) 39 34 61 79

+84 (4) 39 34 61 83

Hanoi@diploBel.Fed.Be

WWW.diplomatie.Be/Hanoi/

miNiStRy oF planning and inveStment

FoReign economic RelationS depaRtment

6B Hoang dieU, Ba dinH, Hanoi

WWW.mpI.gov.vn

VIETNAM-BELGIUM PARTNERSHIP

DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

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+84 (4) 37 28 05 72

RepReSentation.vie@BtcctB.oRg

WWW.BtcctB.oRg

Belgian Embassy

Hanoi toWeRS, 9tH F/l, 49 Hai Ba tRUng

Hoan Kiem diStRict, Hanoi

+84 (4) 39 34 61 79

+84 (4) 39 34 61 83

Hanoi@diploBel.Fed.Be

WWW.diplomatie.Be/Hanoi/

miNiStRy oF planning and inveStment

FoReign economic RelationS depaRtment

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