



Support for the improvement of national gender statistical system in Vietnam

Project title	MACROECONOMIC REFORMS/ GREEN GROWTH PROGRAMME
Country	Viet Nam
Sector	Sustainable Economic Development
Commissioning party	BMZ
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1. Promoting gender equality (40% of marks)

Which objectives and results has your initiative achieved? Describe the context, the organizational unit, the sector or the situation in your country or region. Tell us which approaches have proven effective, which results have already been generated and which specific impacts you expect in the short, medium and long term.

Objective:

- To improve the monitoring of national gender indicators in Vietnam

Context:

Gender statistics and indicators have the potential to contribute to the narrowing of gender inequalities by supporting policy making with evidence-based information. The gender indicators can help to correctly measure the access to resources and opportunities for men and women in different areas. The importance of gender statistics and indicators is reaffirmed at the Beijing Platform for Action through commitments towards the improvement of the collection of gender statistics. And development of gender statistical indicators is an integral part of the national progress to improve its statistical system.

Vietnam has undergone a major socio-economic transformation in the past 30 years, from one of the poorest countries in the world to a lower middle-income country in 2011. Vietnam has also made a substantial progress on key gender equality measures with little difference between male and female poverty rate, gender parity in universal education of primary and lower primary education but gender inequality still remains challenging. Even though making an essential contribution to the country's socio-economic development, Vietnamese women are confronting with different challenges fueled by lack of political and economic opportunities, inequality, and discrimination. Lack of

reliable gender statistical data is one of major obstacles for the government and other agencies to identify gender gaps and formulate targeted solutions to close them.

The Set of National Statistical Indicators on Gender Development (SNSIGD) of Vietnam which consists of 105 indicators were adopted by the Prime Minister in 2011 at Decision 56/2011/QĐ-TTg, dated 14 October 2011. However, in reality, data from many mentioned indicators in SNSIGD cannot be collected and there has been no regular publication/ database on gender statistics in Vietnam since 2011 (see figure 1). The challenge exists in producing data for the SNSIGD and there is necessity to harmonize the national indicators with regional and international standardization as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. Thus, at Decision No. 178 / QĐ-TTg dated 28th January 2016, the Prime Minister requested Ministry of Planning and Investment to review SNSIGD. Being further emphasized at Decision No. 668, dated 16th May 2017 of the Prime Minister on Approval of implementation plan of Recommendations of The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discriminations Against Women by the United Nations, Ministry of Planning and Investment was assigned to take lead in revising the SNSIGD.

Since 2017, GIZ has been providing technical support to the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the General Statistics Office (GSO) of Vietnam in the formulation and review of statistical indicators related to gender equality. The major results of this work stream are the endorsement of the SNSIGD and the Vietnam Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (VSDGI), which include gender indicators. A first review study of the implementation of the gender related VSDGI has recently been concluded and is an input for the next year's national progress report on Agenda 2030 implementation. Within the next year, those indicators will also provide a basis for the development of the Gender and Social Impact Assessment for the review of the Law on Biodiversity.

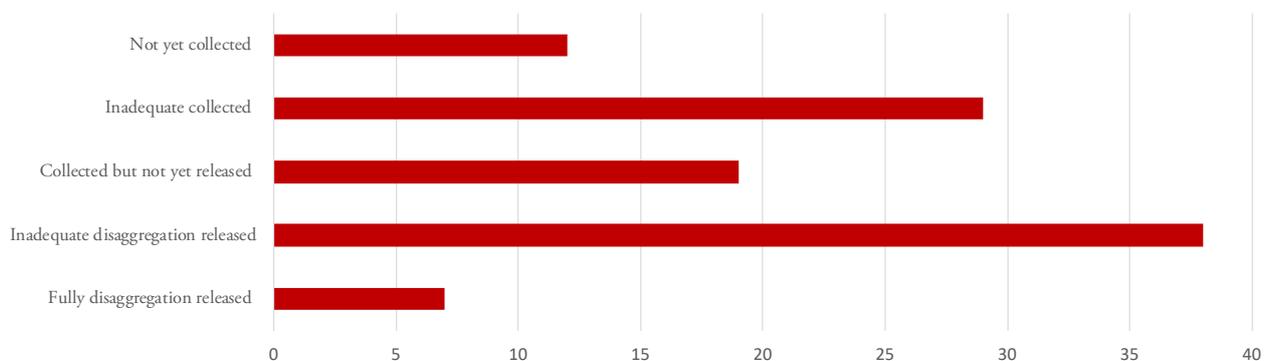


Figure 1 - The situation of collecting statistical indicators
Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam

Approach: The revision of SNSIGD follows three key steps, including:

- **Step 1:** Assessing the collection of gender statistical indicator
- **Step 2:** Reviewing the existing gender indicators, relevant documents (e.g. The National Strategy on Gender equality; the global minimum set of gender statistical indicators of the United Nations; the core set of gender indicators for Asia and the Pacific; SDGIs and VSDGIs; the other set of indicators of Vietnam: NSIS; system of statistical indicators of ministries and branches); and needs of using gender indicators
- **Step 3:** Synthesizing, proposing the list of indicators

Results:

- On July 30, 2019, the Minister of Planning and Investment issued Circular No.10/2019/TT-BKHDT stipulating the Set of National Statistical Indicators on Gender Development (SNSIGD) (*see document [here](#)*). This includes 78 indicators with 6 domains.
- The Vietnam Sustainable Development Goals Indicators with 158 indicators including **70 gender indicators** was promulgated by the Minister of Planning and Investment with the Circular No.03/2019/TT-BKHDT dated 22nd January 2019. (*See available document [here](#)*).

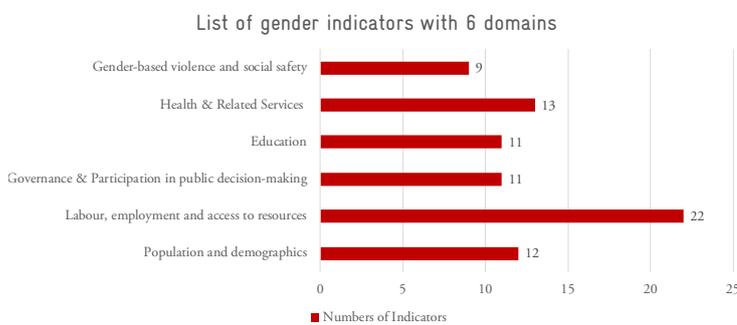


Figure 2: List of gender indicators with 6 domains
Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam

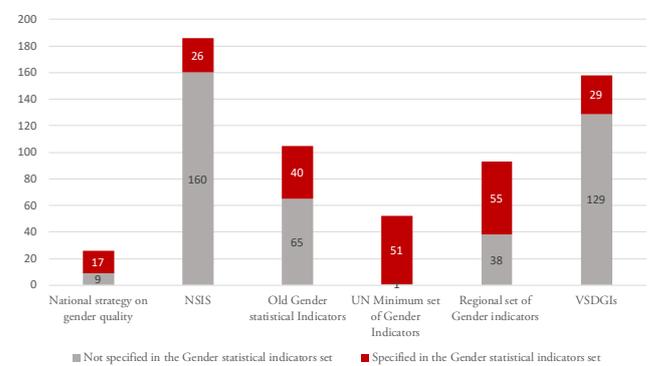


Figure 3: Comparing the SNSIGD with other related indicator sets
Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam

GIZ's support focused the consultative process under step 3. In particular, GIZ, together with World Bank, Australian Embassy, UN Women, supported GSO to organize a number of technical consultation workshops on the revised draft NSIGD with line ministries, other government agencies, Vietnam Women Union, NGOs and development partners. Upon receiving comments and inputs from different stakeholders as well as GSO departments via workshops and official channels, the draft NSIGD was updated and finalized before submitting to the Minister of Planning and Investment for approval. GIZ had a particular interest in this process as we had supported the development of Vietnam Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (VSDGI) which include gender indicators and gender disaggregation. We wanted to make sure that both indicators sets are coherent.

The gender indicators do not automatically lead to gender equality on their own. However, having those in the official statistics makes it mandatory for line ministries to report on their progress. The gender data is vital for evidence-based policy making and thereby targeted policies towards gender equality.

2. Gender as a quality feature of our work (20% of marks)

Our gender-differentiated approach and unfailing commitment to equal opportunities for everyone, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation or gender identity, are among the values GIZ upholds as an actor, partner and service provider for sustainable development. Is or has your work in the field of gender been particularly acknowledged?

GIZ was the key actor to support the Vietnam's GSO in the consultative process for revision of The Set of National Statistical Indicators on Gender Development (SNSIGD) and development of the Vietnam Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (VSDGI). This efforts were highly appreciated and acknowledged by government partner via publication of documents, press releases, opening remark, and media (e.g. website of [GSO](#) and [MPI](#) or online newspaper: [Investment Newspaper](#); [Communist Party Newspaper](#); [Vietnam Integration News](#), etc.). Besides, these good practices will be updated in the GIZ Vietnam's gender factsheets, used as organization's gender communication materials.

3. Gender and result-based monitoring (20% of marks)

Are the contributions to enhancing gender equality and reducing gender-based discrimination and disadvantages documented in the project? Are the results in the area of gender equality an integral part of the monitoring and evaluation system and systematically recorded and/or reflected in an evaluation report? Are the mechanisms for measuring results clearly documented?

The development of gender indicators and their introductions into the formal national SDG monitoring system is an important contribution to the monitoring of gender equality in the project. In the past years, the gender equality monitoring of the project has been relatively weak and basically related to female participation in workshops, trainings etc. Thanks to the new indicators and the data collection by the GSO, as well as the report reviewing the gender SDG indicators the project will be able to better assess the impact of the green growth policies it supported on gender equality.

4. Cooperation (20% of marks)

Gender equality cannot be achieved by individuals alone. It is a joint task – how did you go about it? Who did you cooperate with: colleagues, partners, donors, civil society representatives, etc.? What united you in all your efforts to enhance gender equality (shared or same goals, strategies, international or other obligations and requirements, etc.)? What were the major challenges you encountered individually or together? What were the three key success factors?

This initiative was jointly implemented by GIZ, GSO and some other stakeholders including World Bank and AusAID for the revision of SNSIGD; and Hans Seidel Foundation; UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNSD, ILO, UNAIDS etc. for development of VSDGI. GSO played a key role to coordinate the technical and financial support from different donors.

The challenge was related to the fact that the initial stage of the development of the gender indicator system was managed by a different department, with a strong support of the World Bank on behalf of AusAID. As such, the VSDGI gender indicators and the gender indicator system were being developed in parallel and without much coordination, we insisted to be part of the finalization process in order to ensure the coherence between the two indicator sets.

Three key success factors:

- **Commitment of the cooperation partner:** The political will and commitment of GSO for the revision of SNSIGD was very important. And within GSO, there were several individuals in the leadership who were motivated and very committed to this work and had strong technical expertise in methodology. Those persons were assigned to coordinate the SNSIGD revision and VSDGI processes.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** Both indicator sets were developed in close cooperation and with inputs from the line ministries, civil society, academia and other development partners on the national and also provincial level. Knowing the importance of leaving no one behind, it was crucial for us to reach out to other actors, for example in provinces, to collect their perspectives on the availability of data and feasibility of indicators. GSO adjusted the statistical set in order to acknowledge the inputs during the consultation processes.
- **Formalization:** Both indicator sets were adopted by the MPI minister and are now an integral part of the national statistical system. This is extremely important as their nature is now binding with a clear timeline to improve data collection for the monitoring. Currently, many efforts are being undertaken to improve evidence-based policy making. One of which is climate resilient economic modeling. However, as outlined by the participants of the recent conference on this topic, a model is only as good as the underlying data. Thanks to the adoption of the indicator sets, there is an enormous potential to improve the economic modeling in the future, including gender aspects.



Launching workshop of Set of National Statistical Indicators on Gender Development (SNSIGD) - Photo ©: GIZ