

APFSD YOUTH FORUM 2023



Asia-Pacific Regional Youth Call to Action 2023



Vietnam

Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels in Asia and the Pacific with Young People at the Forefront

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Vietnam is making progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, challenges still remain in achieving the targets.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put immense pressure on the public health system in Vietnam with most of its resources being pulled to COVID-19 management, leading to a lack of resources for other health priorities. The public health network is well-structured down to the community level but the human resource is overburdened due to overlapping reporting systems, and inefficient information technology.

Public education is of decent quality and implemented nationwide in Vietnam. Though there is growth in digitalisation of the education system in the country,

digital literacy among teachers is insufficient, equipment is insufficient in the rural areas, making it difficult to conduct online classes.

Gender inequality is still prevalent in Vietnam. Gender education in the school curriculum is not comprehensive, leading to gender misrepresentation in the curriculum. Gender responsive approaches to sustainable development, which includes access to comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) to ensure young people's health and wellbeing need to be implemented in order to affect change. The policies for LGBTQ+ people are not comprehensive enough, leading to weak systems of acceptance and protection. Patriarchal traditions and beliefs still favor male children, leading to treatment bias within families, workplaces and schools. Public communication mediums still idealise women with household works and traits like softness that increase social expectations from the female population.

Many economic center-point areas and rural areas lack the facilities of clean public toilets and sanitation. Poor management and irresponsible waste handling have led to scarcity and contamination of Vietnam's rivers, lakes, and ponds, resulting in severe consequences on health and the economy. Overuse of water in agriculture cultivation and food production has also led to water scarcity.

Coal continues to be an important source of energy in Vietnam, contributing to carbon in the environment. More than 25% of the population still relies on traditional cooking fuels like biomass. Vietnam is heavily reliant on imported petroleum fuels as well. Transportation routes and infrastructures in Vietnam are complicated, non-resilient to disasters and lack effective systems, leading to many traffic accidents. There is poor urban planning, with slums still prevalent in some cities. Furthermore, environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues remain of low priority, resulting in a shortage of high-quality professionals in the field of climate action.

The lack of coordination among the government agencies at different levels has led to ineffective implementation of policies. Vietnam has supported other countries in reaching SDGs via financial and technical support, and has promoted industrialisation and improved production capacity to enhance its value in international markets. Vietnam has also joined international organisations such as ASEAN, APEC, WTO, and CPTPP to establish multilateral partnerships.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

As Vietnamese youth, we urge our government, international organisations, United Nations agencies, civil society organisations, development partners, and other duty bearers to take the following actions:

SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation

- To improve agricultural production systems to limit water waste and reduce the use of chemicals.
- To improve data collection and sharing in water management systems to ensure efficient use of resources.
- Private companies should be encouraged to build public toilets with fees to promote cleanliness and hygiene.

SDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy

- To invest in sustainable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower so that 15-20% of the energy being used can be generated from renewable sources.
- To promote energy efficiency through measures such as promoting energy-saving practices, supporting the use of efficient appliances, and encouraging the development of energy-efficient buildings.

SDG9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

- To promote innovation and entrepreneurship by supporting young people through funding, mentorship, and networking opportunities.
- To improve the reliability, accountability and sustainability of infrastructure systems, including transportation, communication and water supply networks.
- The use of technology and digital tools should be promoted to enhance industrial production, management and distribution.

SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- To create sustainable cities and communities, we need to promote smart and green urban planning, that includes improving public transportation systems, developing green spaces, and promoting the use of renewable energy in buildings.
- To ensure that all citizens have access to affordable housing and basic services such as water supply, sanitation and waste management.

SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals

- To foster partnerships and cooperation among government agencies, across sectors, and between the central and provincial levels.
- To develop an effective reporting hierarchy that aligns with the actual situation of the country.
- The international partnerships and collaborations should be strengthened by joining international organizations such as ASEAN, APEC, WTO, CPTPP, etc., and supporting other countries to reach SDGs through financial and technical support.

In conclusion, the recommendations that have been outlined are aimed at promoting sustainable development in Vietnam through the efficient use of resources, innovation and infrastructure development, and partnerships and collaborations among stakeholders.

The APFSD country and sub-regional briefs were developed through collective discussions and engagements between youth advocates at the APFSD Youth Forum in Bangkok on March 18-20, 2023. The Vietnam drafting team was led by Hồ Thị Kim Hằng, with input provided by Nguyễn Hoàng Huy, Phạm Thị Minh Huệ, Đậu Hoàng Thanh Luy, Cao Văn Minh, Lê Thuỳ Trang, Nguyễn Hoàng Bảo Ngọc. Overall supervision was provided by the ARROW Call To Action team.
