

# *Viet Nam: Country WID Profile*

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# Country WID Profile (Vietnam)

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**Abbreviation  
(Vietnam)**

<b>ADB</b>	<b>Asian Development Bank</b>
<b>CIDA</b>	<b>Canadian International Development Agency</b>
<b>DPT</b>	<b>Diftheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus</b>
<b>GDP</b>	<b>Gross Domestic Product</b>
<b>GNP</b>	<b>Gross National Product</b>
<b>GTZ</b>	<b>German Agency for Technical Cooperation</b>
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	<b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus /Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome</b>
<b>ILO</b>	<b>International Labor Organization</b>
<b>IUD</b>	<b>Intra-Uterine Devices</b>
<b>NCFAW</b>	<b>National Committee for the Advancement of Women</b>
<b>NGO</b>	<b>Non-Governmental Organization</b>
<b>SIDA</b>	<b>Swedish International Development Agency</b>
<b>STD</b>	<b>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>United Nations Development Programme</b>
<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>United Nations Children's Fund</b>
<b>UNIFEM</b>	<b>United Nations Development Fund for Women</b>
<b>UNFPA</b>	<b>United Nations Population Fund</b>
<b>VWU</b>	<b>Vietnam Women's Union</b>
<b>WID</b>	<b>Women in Development</b>

## 1. Basic Profile

### 1-1 Socio-Economic Profile

Socio-Economic Profile					Ref.	
Economic indicators (1998)	GNP per capita	Growth rate of real GDP ('91-'98)		Inflation rate*	Gini coefficient*	1)
	US\$330	9.0%		3.6%	0.357	
Public sector ('91-'95)	Health	Education	Social Welfare	Defense	Others	1)
Expenditure to each sector	2.1%	1.53%	NA	NA	NA	
Population (Mid of 1996)	Total	% of urban population		Population growth rate(1997)		1)
	Total	76.7 million	20.8%		1.8%	
	Women	39 million	51.9%			
Industry/GDP (1997)	Agriculture	Industry	Service	Manufacture/Industries		2)
	27%	31%	42%	NA		
Proportion of workers	Agriculture	Industry	Service	Aid/GNP('94)		1)3)
	Total	21.4%	10.01%	24.15%	4.0%	
	Women	53%	NA	15%		
Labor Indicators	Total No.	Unemployment Rate	Minimum wage	Women's income/Total income*		2)4)
	Total	38.33 million	2.97%	NA	42%	
	Women's workers/women	51.9%	NA	NA		
Participation in decision-making	Women/Total		Women/Total(1991)			3)
	Member of parliament	NA	Managers		NA	
	Ministries (1995)	7.0%	Technical experts		NA	
	Deputy ministries (1995)	2.0%				
Law for women			Details			2)
	1959 Constitution	1959	Both sexes are equal in all aspects			
	Law on Marriage and The Family	1959	A spouse has equal right of properties			
	1980 Constitution	1980	Freedom of marriage and equal right to all children			
	1992 Constitution	1992	Responsibility of state and society for sexual equality			
Ratification and signature of international law for women				Ratification	Year	2)
	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women			Yes	1980	
Policy of WID	National Program of Action for Women		Improving women's substantial and mental life			2)
Governmental organization of WID	National machinery		National Committee for Women			3)
			Within the government			

#### References

- 1) GENDCEN, 1998. Women in Development Profile; Vietnam, 1998
- 2) World Bank, World Development Report 1998, 1999
- 3) UNDP, Human Development Report 1998, 1998
- 4) JICA, Study for Establishment of WID information, Cambodia, Vietnam, 1996b

\*Refer to 7. Definitions (P.39)

## 1-2 Health Profile

Health Profile					Ref.
Life expectancy (1996)	Total 66.4	Male 64.0	Female 68.5	Population growth rate (1997) 1.8%	1)
Expansion of health services	Population per Doctor (1996)		2.256	Population per Nurse and Midwife	930
Government expenditure to health (% of GDP '91-'95)			1.53%		1)
Infant mortality rate* (per 1,000)			% of infants with low birth weight*	% of the vaccinated ('90-'95)	1-year-old children
Total	48.5 persons (1996)		17% ('90-'94)	BCG	29%
Female	NA			DPT	94%
Under-5 mortality rate* (per 1,000)				Polio	94%
Total	ersons (1998)			Measles	96%
Family planning	Contraceptive prevalence rate (1997) 68.5%			Total fertility rate* (1996)	2.9
% of births attended by trained health personnel*	95%			Age at first marriage	23.3
Maternal anemia rate*	NA				
Maternal mortality rate	100 persons per 100,000				
Nutrition				Oral rehydration therapy use rate*	NA
Iodine deficiency	% of households consuming iodized salt	59%		Malnutrition	Under-five 45%
Community health service (1990-96)					
Access to safe water	43%		Access to adequate sanitation		21%
HIV/AIDS	HIV infected	AIDS cases		Cause	Sexual Transmission
Statistics (1996)	0.5 per 100,000	NA			

## 1-3 Education Profile

Education Profile					Ref.
Education system	Compulsory education 5 years, Primary education 5 years				4)
Public expenditure on education	20.9% (1995)				
/GDP (1995)	2.1% (1997)				1)
Adult literacy rate (1995)	Total 93.7%	Female 91.2%, Male 96.5%			1)
by region	NA				
Primary education (1996)	Net enrolment ratio*	% of completion	% of drop out (Day time class)	(Evening class)	
Male	84.9%	NA	NA	NA	1)
Female	84.0%	NA	NA	NA	1)
Secondary education (1993)	Net enrolment ratio*	% of completion	% of drop out (Day time class)	(Evening class)	
Male	70.0%	NA	NA	NA	1)
Female	60.9%	NA	NA	NA	1)
Higher education (1993)	Enrolment ratio		Technical and professional higher education		
Total	27.2%		% of female	NA	1)
Female	19.3%				1)

### References

- 1) GENDCEN, 1998, Women in Development Profile; Vietnam, 1998
- 2) UNICEF, the State of the World's Children, 1998
- 3) World Bank, World Development Report 1998, 1998
- 4) UNESCO, World Education Report 1998, 1998

\*Refer to 7. Definitions (P.39)

## 2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on WID/Gender

### 2-1 General Situation of Women

#### General Situation of Women in Vietnam

- Compared to neighboring countries, women's status in Vietnam has enhanced. However, under the influence of Confucian culture, there exists a gender gap in terms of access to education, health, and employment.
- In rural areas, the incidence of illness such as anemia and malnutrition is high due to overwork and undernourishment. The maternal mortality rate is, 100 persons per 100,000, high.
- Compared to other low-income countries, adult literacy rate and standard of education are high despite the gender gap.
- Rural women account for 78.7% of the total female population: 50% of those engaged in agriculture play a significant role in economic development.

Vietnam, having a long history of wars, is a socialist country led by the communist party. In 1986, the Vietnamese government changed its policy and started promoting "Doi Moi" based on the abolishment of the planned economy and introduction of a market economy. The government actively promotes trade, and opens the market to Western investors. As a result, since the early 1990s, Vietnam has become attractive because of: 1) relatively rich natural resource, 2) good-quality of human resource, and 3) the possibility of market growth resulted from foreign investment to economic development. Politically, Vietnam returned to the international society, through establishment of a diplomatic relations with America in 1995, and joined ASEAN in the same year (Kokusai Kyoryoku Suishin Kyokai, 1997).

GNP per capita is US\$330 in 1998. Vietnam is classified as low-income country, according to DAC(GENDCEN, 1998). Annual growth rate of GDP is 6% in 1997-1998 and inflation rate is 3.6%. Vietnam is one of the countries which have achieved rapid economic growth recently (GENDCEN, 1998). In 1997, Vietnam was relatively not influenced by the Asian currency crisis and the private sector attained the moderate growth due to increasing industrial production (ADB, 1998). The international competitiveness, however, is still weak due to low quality of production by state-owned enterprises. Although its Gini coefficient is 0.357 (GENDCEN, 1998), the population under poverty line is 50.9% as a whole; 25.9% in urban areas; 57.2% in rural areas (World Bank, 1998b). The gap between the poor and the rich has widened along with the economic development and transition of market economy.

Since the Indochina Communist Party came to power in 1930, under the socialist government, Vietnam has tried to establish the society with gender equality, paralleling with a racial movement and class struggle (JICA, 1995). Vietnam has reflected gender equality in the policies, since the government ensured

the gender equality in the constitution enacted in 1959. Besides, the Vietnamese government ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1980.

Total fertility rate is 2.9, and the population growth is 1.8%, which is slightly lower than the average in low-income countries (GENDCEN, 1998). The health services are relatively well-provided as indicated in that the population per doctor is 2256, and the rate of birth attended by trained health personnel (GENDCEN, 1998). The reasons are that the government has attempted to improve condition free-of-charge public health service, and has established health centers at commune level. The contraceptive prevalence rate is 68.5%, which is relatively high, since the government has enacted the policy on birth control and implemented family planning. On the other hand, in rural areas, the female morbidity rate (anemia, malnutrition) is high. Adult literacy rate is 91.2% for women; 96.5% for males. The net enrolment rate for primary education is 84.0% for women; 84.9% for males. Similarly, the net enrolment rate for secondary education is 60.9% for women; 70.0% for men. Likewise, despite the gender gap, these indicators are higher than other low-income countries (GENDCEN, 1998).

Female population is larger than male's due to the impacts of wars. The percentage of the working population for women is 51.9%. 28% of the households are female-headed (GENDCEN, 1998). Rural women account for 78.7% of the female population in the country. 53% of women engaged in agriculture play a significant role in economic development (GENDCEN, 1998). The Women's Union has expanded the activities to the commune level in rural areas and implemented family planning, micro-finance and vocational training.

90% of the total population are Kinh, and the rest are composed of 60 groups of the minorities (Kokusai Kyoryoku Suishin Kyoukai, 1997). Buddhists constitute 80% of population (40 millions), which are the majority. Catholic, Hoa Hao, Cao Dai are following (JICA, 1995). Other minorities believe in original Aminosum, and Cham believe in Islam (Sunni). Historically, Vietnam has been strongly influenced by the Chinese culture and Confucianism. Vietnam is also a patriarchal society where it tends to prioritize males who are expected to succeed families with a dominant position to females. During the War, women participated in army, supported agricultural and economic activities. Under the socialist government, women came to achieve legal equality, socio-economic participation, access to public service. However, due to the "Doi Moi" introducing a market economy, a gender gap is likely to be widened (JICA, 1996b).

## 2-2 Government Policy on WID/Gender

### Government Policy on WID/Gender

- Since the government announced "Development Strategy for the Advancement of Vietnamese Women to the Year 2000" in 1995, the government has had strong and positive policies on gender equality.
- In order to achieve women's advancement, "National Program of Action for Women Advancement" was established in 1997.

#### [Laws]

Since the independence in 1945, the government has taken a strong initiative on gender equality and reflected on laws and policies. The laws related to WID/Gender are as follows (GENDCEN, 1998).

#### The Laws Related to WID

Laws	Contents
The First Constitution in 1946	All power in the country belongs to the Vietnamese people irrespective of race, gender, fortune, class or religion (Article 1). Men and women are equal in all aspects (Article 9).
The Constitution of 1959	Women in Vietnam are equal to men in all spheres of activities-political, economic, and cultural, in society and in the home (Article 24).
The Marriage and Family Law of 1959	The spouses have equal rights and obligations regarding common property. Purchases, sales, exchanges, mortgage, loans, borrowings and other transactions related to property of great value require agreement between the spouses (Article 15).
The Constitution of 1980	Marriage principles are free choice and progress with one husband and one wife, and they are equal...the State and the society do not accept a discrimination between sons and daughters (Article 64).
The Constitution of 1992	Male and female citizens have equal rights in all political, economic, cultural social aspects and in family life. The State and the society will create good conditions for women to improve their standards in all aspects and develop their roles in the society (Article 64).
The Law of Governmental Organization, 1992	Implementing policies and measures to assure gender equality in all aspects- political, economic, cultural and social and in family life, mother and child protection and care(Article 1, Provision 4). The government invites representatives of the Women's Union to take part in Governmental meetings on the legal rights and benefits of women.

(Source : GENDCEN, Women in Development Profile: Vietnam, 1998)

### **[Government Policy on WID/Gender]**

Vietnam ratified CEDAW in 1980. The Government announced "Development Strategy for the Advancement of Vietnamese Women to the Year 2000" in the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing held in 1995. The National Program of Action for Women Advancement was established in October, 1997 in order to achieve this plan. The government aims to improve the material and spiritual life of women, enhance and bring into full play their qualification, ability and role, and ensure the full and equal participation in all sorts of activities, especially in political, economic cultural and social fields in the cause of industrialization and modernization of the country towards the goal of "Wealthy People, a Powerful Country, and Civilized Society" (GENDCEN, 1998).

### **National Program of Action for Women Advancement (May, 1998)**

#### **Overall objectives**

- To improve the material and spiritual life of women
- To enhance women's ability
- To promote equal participation in all activities, in political, economic, cultural and social fields

#### **Specific Objectives**

- To create job opportunities, increase income, improve the quality of life for women
- To create equal opportunities for women in education and training
- To improve health care for and protection of women and children
- To enhance the role and position of women in leadership mechanisms and decision making
- To enhance the role of family
- To develop the role of women in the management of the environment and natural resources
- To intensify communication activities to enhance the awareness of equal rights among men and women
- To contribute to preserving and strengthening peace
- To protect girl-children and facilitate their development in all fields.

Source: GENDCEN, Women in Development Profile, 1998

As mentioned above, the government adopted policies related to WID/Gender. However, these policies have not been effectively implemented due to a financial shortage. The advocacy activities which encourage women in development and change social prejudices towards women, are not carried out. Market-oriented economy introduced by "Doi Moi" has led to an unequal value between men and women, and has excluded women from political and leading roles again (GENDCEN, 1998).

### **[The Agencies Related to the Action Plan and the Roles ]**

The following agencies are assigned to the tasks of managing and implementing the Plan of Action, and bear the responsibility for submitting annual reports on the progress to the Prime Minister through the Ministry of Planning and Investment (Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 1997).

Agencies	Tasks
The National Committee for the Advancement of Women in Vietnam	- To promote the activities of agencies, and coordinate among the agencies in order to assess the Plan of Action
Ministry of Planning and Investment	- To arrange plans for implementing the Plan of Action for different time lengths by ministries, branches and localities on the basis of the consensus exchange with the National Committee for the Advancement of Women in Vietnam
Ministry of Finance	- To balance the budget for the contents of the Plan so as to implement the Plan of Action and administrative expenditures according to the existing regime
People's Committees at provinces and cities	- To implement the adopted relevant contents in order to gradually implement the Plan of Action
Social and Mass Organizations	- To implement the Plan of Action by undertaking activities in support of their female members and at the same time participate in supervising the implementation of the Plan of Action by localities concerned

(Source: Socialist Republic of Vietnam, National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Vietnam by the Year 2000, 1997)

## 2-3 National Machinery

### National Committee for the Advancement of Women (NCAFW)

The National Committee for the Advancement of Women was established as a preparatory committee of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, and plays a role to coordinate the activities of the governmental agencies related.

#### [Background]

The National Committee for the Advancement of Women in Vietnam changed its name to the National Committee for the Decade of Women on February 1993. The chairperson is Madame Ha Thi Khiet, member of the Central Committee' Vietnam Communist Party, President of Vietnam Women's Union (GENDCEN, 1998).

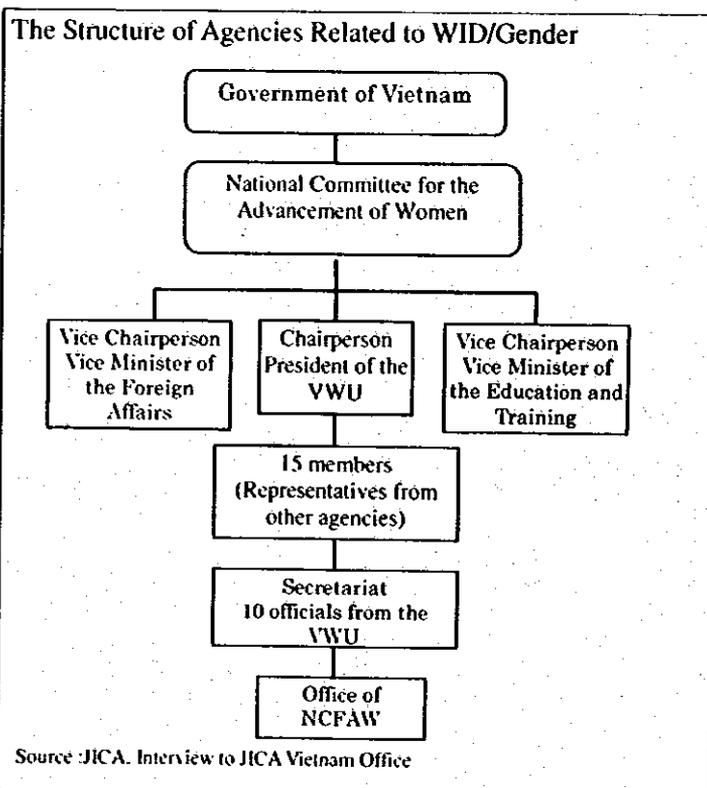
#### [Budget and Staff]

The budget to NCAFW is US\$36000. There are 4 full-time staff, and 3 part-time staff with the project by UNDP in the central offices of NCAFW (GENDCEN, 1998).

#### [Main Activities]

The main activities are as follows (GENDCEN, 1998, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 1995):

1. To continuously disseminate and widen the significance of the CEDAW, introducing achievement gained by the women's movement and good examples in the cause for women's emancipation and gender equality, recommending to the government ways and means to implement CEDAW as well as women-related government policies
2. To provide inter-agency coordination and supervision in implementing CEDAW in accordance with the recommendations of the UN and other international organizations
3. To cooperate with the UN, other international organizations, NGOs and GOs in activities aimed



- at the Nairobi strategic objectives: peace, equality and development
4. To write country reports on Nairobi strategic implementation and to provide the UN and international organizations with information and other material on CEDAW implementation as they may be necessary
  5. To monitor and supervise the implementation of the laws and policies related to women and children, and to manage training courses on gender issues for policy planners
  6. To strengthen the function of NCFAW
  7. To implement research on women
  8. To develop an international women's network

#### **[Other Agencies]**

Except NCFAW, there is the Vietnam Women's Union (VWU) under the communist party. Originally, the VWU was established in 1930 for the purpose of becoming independent from France and supporting women and came to belong to the communist party in 1946. The activities for 1997-2000 are to: 1) implement the programs for capacity-building, 2) promote women to do scientific and technological research and development, and support women in employment and income generation, 3) provide health care for women and children, and family planning, 4) strengthen the institution of the VWU, and 5) to monitor and supervise the implementation of laws and policies related to women (ADB, 1995).

The VWU is actively involved in the advance for women through the branches of the VWU in the country, while NCFAW are responsible mainly for coordinating among the governmental agencies.

### 3. Current Situation of Women by Sector

#### 3-1 Education

#### Education

- The Minister announced a plan of action for the advancement of women for the Education and Training Ministry to be implemented by the year 2000.
- Overall adult literacy rate is 93.7%; 96.5% for men; 91.2% for women.
- Since the independence, the Vietnamese government has emphasized on girl's education, in particular, at the level of primary education. In 1997, at the primary educational level, the net-enrollment rates are 84.9% for men; 84.0% for women.

#### 【General Situation】

General education starts from the age of 6. The duration of primary education is 5 years, later, that of lower secondary school is 4 years; that of higher secondary school is 3 years. The rates of adult literacy, including those with lower and higher secondary education, and higher education are higher than other South-Eastern Asian and neighboring countries (world Bank, 1998b). Recently, the gap of enrolment by sex has widened due to the influence of economic reform, in particular, the drop-out rate for women is higher than males, while the attainment rate of women is lower than that of males (Tran & Le, 1997).

#### 【Government Policy and Budget of WID】

The Ministry of the Education and Training established the Commission for the Advancement of Women in June 1993. 1 September 1994, the Minister announced a plan of action for the advancement of women for the Education and Training Ministry to be implemented by the year 2000. The Trade Union of the Ministry surveyed on the work conditions of female teachers in a market economy and set up a trade union federation of private pre-schools. There is no gender discrimination in education. Primary education is compulsory for everyone. The Ministry of the Education and Training does not have a budget allocated only for women in development activities. These kinds of activities have been integrated in the normal activities of the sector (GENDCEN, 1998).

It is needed to improve the quality and quantity of education at all educational levels. Particularly, the issues below have to be tackled to: 1) provide school-building and textbooks and to support teachers in order to improve primary and secondary education in terms of quality and quantity, 2) reorganize vocational and higher education to respond to the needs of the market economy and economic development, and 3) establish teacher training and decentralize educational administration. The target groups in the educational

sector by the government are that; 1) female aged 15-35 years become literate, and 2) 35-40% of female managers participate in technical training (Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 1995).

### **[Literacy Education]**

Overall adult literacy rate is 93.7%, that of male is 96.5%, that of female is 91.2% (GENDCEN, 1998). The gender gap of literacy rate becomes remarkable over the age of 45 years. In 1989, while 45-54 year-old female literacy rate is 75%, that of male is 94%. The geographical gap is also remarkable. While female literacy rate in urban area is 92% and that of male is 97%, the female rate in rural area is 82% and that of male is 92% (ADB, 1995). The programs of adult education concentrate on 15-35 year-old group, the total number of participants of the programs is 1.4 million. The Ministry of Education and Training and Women's Union implement the programs to decrease the number of female illiterate. Although educational opportunities between men and women are equal, 2/3 illiterates are female, and 89% of the illiterates live in rural areas (GENDCEN, 1998).

### **[Primary and Lower Secondary Education]**

Since the independence, the Vietnamese government has emphasized on girl's education, in particular, at the level of primary education. In 1997, at the primary educational level, the net-enrollment rate for male is 84.9%, while that of female is 84.0%. At the lower secondary educational level, while the net-enrollment rate for male is 70.0%, that of female is 60.9% (GENDCEN, 1998). As indicated in Table 1 below, the net-enrollment at the all levels has increased since 1989. As indicated in Table 2, the geographical gap between male and female enrollment is remarkable, in rural, mountainous, and marginal areas. The higher the level of education goes, the lower female enrollment gets (ADB, 1995). Table 3 shows the duration of enrollment by gender and region, and the educational attainment differs, according to gender and region. In Central Highland and Mekong Delta, the duration of enrollment is shorter than the average in the country, and that of female rate is smaller than male rate. The reasons are as follows:

1. Economic factor: Although the school fee for primary education is free, the poor families can not afford to buy textbooks, uniform. In the case that all of children can not be sent to school, boys are given priority, due to the cultural factor.
2. Time-factor: In poor families, the child-labor force is significant. Since girls normally have to assist household and take care of brothers and sisters, it is hard for them to take time to go to school.
3. Physical factor: There is far distance to school. At present, along with the governmental policy, classrooms with less than 25 students have to be closed. Therefore, since each school covers a wide range of students living in mountainous and marginal areas, they have to walk long distance.
4. Language factor: the language for school education is Vietnamese, despite of the fact that the minorities have their own language and use in daily life.

Table 1 School Enrolment Rate by Sex and Educational Level: 1989-1995 (%)

	1989		1990		1995	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Primary	78.0	79.4	79.0	80.3	84.0	84.9
Lower Secondary	58.2	67.4	58.7	67.9	60.9	70.0
Higher Secondary	18.1	26.2	18.4	26.4	19.3	27.2

(Source: Statistics on the Vietnamese, cited in JICA, Kunibetu WID Jyoho Seibi Cyosa Hokokusyo, 1996b)

Table 2 School Enrolment Rate by Educational Level and Region (%)

Educational Level	Rural Areas		Urban Areas	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Primary	87.5	86.9	97.6	97.5
Lower Secondary	58.5	72.0	75.0	85.1
Higher Secondary	12.5	27.6	41.8	50.6

(Source: ADB, Women in Development; Viet Nam, 1995)

Table 3 The Number of Years Spent in School by Sex and Region (Years)

	Nation	Northern Highland	Red River Delta	North Central	Central Coastal	Central Highland	East-Southern	Mekong Delta
Male	5.9	5.8	7.2	6.4	5.8	3.7	6.1	4.7
Female	4.9	5.0	6.1	5.4	4.6	2.9	5.2	4.9
Average	5.4	5.4	6.6	5.9	5.2	3.3	5.6	4.8

(Source: Tran & Le, Women and Doi moi in Vietnam, 1997)

### [Vocational Training]

The type of training received beyond general schooling is 27.2%, while that of female is 19.3%(ADB, 1995). The type of training differs by sex, while women major in natural and social science, economics, literature, art, males major in technique and technology, forestry and fisheries.

Type of Training Received Beyond General Schooling by Age Group and Sex (%)

Field of Study	22-34 Years		35-44 Years	
	Female	Males	Females	Males
Natural and Social Science, Economics	55.9	44.1	58.7	41.3
Technique and Technology	25.6	74.4	21.6	78.4
Forestry, Fishery	40.5	59.5	20.0	80.0
Medicine, Pharmacy	57.4	42.6	54.8	45.2
Literature, History, Culture and Art	70.7	29.3	56.3	43.8
Other	54.1	45.0	27.3	72.7

(Source: ADB, Women in Development; Viet Nam, 1995)

### [Impact of Economic Policy on Educational Policy]

Since 1986, Vietnamese economy has transferred to a market-economy and the macro-economy

policy has changed significantly. The government has abolished the subsidy policy and imposed restrictions on budget expenditure, including the portion for education. The change of education policy has resulted in: 1) restructuring the system of education and training, 2) diversifying the forms of education and training, 3) charging education fees, and 4) cutting the subsidy of text books and study materials (GENDCEN, 1998).

## 3-2 Health

### Health

- Infant mortality rate under one year-old is 39 persons per 1,000, and infant mortality rate under 5 years old is 48.5 persons per 1000. However, there is a remarkably geographical gap.
- About 50 % of rural women and about 30% of urban women are anemia. The main diseases for women are fatigue resulted from overwork and malnutrition as well as lack of inappropriate health service before and after the birth.
- Maternal mortality rate is 100 per 100,000 persons due to overwork, poor nutrition, inappropriate health service before and after the birth. In particular, abortion and the use of intra-uterine devices were main causes of poor health in women.
- The economic reform has impacted on medical care.

#### [General Situation]

Vietnam's health services are appreciably better than in most other low-income countries, reflecting Vietnam's long-standing priority to human resource development. During the 1960's, an impressive network of commune health centers and district hospitals was established and there have been considerable achievements in public health over the last 30 years. Overall life expectancy in low-income countries on average is 66.4 years (males: 64.0 years, females: 68.5 years). Infant mortality rate below 5-year-old children in low-income countries is 94 persons per 1000, while that of Vietnam is 48.5 persons. There is, however, a regional gap. The rates in mountainous and marginal areas are higher due to the lack of medical facilities. The other problems are that: 1) the salary for medical staff is relatively low, and 2) the quality of medical service is low due to the lack of medical equipment and medicines (ADB, 1995).

#### [Government Policy and Budget]

The Ministry of Health established the Committee for the Advancement of Women and has implemented the National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women by the Year 2000. The Ministry of Health allocates a part of its budget on these activities. The activities in 1998 are as follows (GENDCEN, 1998):

1. To open training courses (in the North and the South) to disseminate information about the National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women by the Year 2000 in the Ministry of Health
2. To establish a club for female managers and held seminars to enhance capacities as managers
3. To disseminate information about the activities to newspapers related to health issue

4. To evaluate and assess the results of the survey on female employees in the medical service and outlining concrete policies resolutions for female employees in this service.
5. To ensure the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women by the Ministry of Health
6. To check five central and five local medical institutions on the activities for the advancement of women

#### **[Reproductive Health]**

The reproductive health service system of Committee for the Population and Family Planning can be classified into four levels; central, provincial, district and commune. The Committee has two main sections, the leadership and the responsible executive. The leadership constitutes the Chairman of the Committee and representatives of branches and services. The responsible executive includes the standing vice-chairperson of the Committee and assistants. The responsible executive at the provincial level has 12-14 members; the district level has four persons. At the commune level, there is often an officer paid by the government and some volunteers (one person from each village). Contraceptive methods, such as IUD, condoms are distributed free of charge. Sterilization and abortion are also done free of charge. The regulations in each commune indicate that there should be an obstetrician, a paediatrician or a midwife. At present, 40% of communes have an obstetrician or paediatrician, and 50% have midwives (GENDCEN, 1998).

#### **[Women's Health and Nutrition Conditions]**

About 50% of women in rural areas and 30% of women in urban areas were anemic (GENDCEN, 1998). Due to inappropriate nutrition, malnutrition is also a main disease for women. About 50% of pregnant women are anemic (GENDCEN, 1998). In particular, the rates in rural areas are about 70-80% due to poor nutrition and working condition. Maternal mortality rate is 100 per 100,000 persons. This results from overwork, poor nutrition, inappropriate health service before and after the birth (JICA, 1995). In particular, abortion and the use of intra-uterine devices were main causes of poor health in women. Abortion was the third largest cause of death. The incidence of illness for women is higher. 68% of women and 64% of men reported illness in the past twelve months. In 1996, 82.1% of pregnant women are immunized against tetanus, and 88% of them are attended by trained health personnel in birth delivery (GENDCEN, 1998).

#### **[HIV/AIDS]**

8417 of HIV infections are reported at present, the rate for males are 83.8%. Due to workers' migration to the urban along with the transition to a market economy, the number of dual households has increased. More men come to have plural sexual partners. It is estimated that AIDS cases will rapidly

increase in near future (JICA, 1995).

The Cases and Rates of HIV

	No. of person	Ratio(%)
Males	7053	83.8
Females	1246	14.8
Unknown	118	1.4
Total	8417	100.0

(Source: National Report on Implementation of CEDAW, cited in GENDCEN, 1998)

### [Family Planning]

There are many women's organizations which implement health care, family planning, social activities at the commune level are legally forbidden providing that they are done in standard health care institutions authorized by the Ministry of Health. Condoms and pills are freely distributed by governmental institutions and sold widely in pharmaceutical shops and medical service institutions. Sterilization can be done by qualified health care institutions. The Health Insurance Office pays costs of abortion and sterilization (GENDCEN, 1998).

The government has attempted to slow down population growth and implemented family planning programs, after adopting a policy of practicing birth control in 1963. The policy on family planning indicates that: 1) each couple should have only two children, 2) the two children should be spaced for five years, and 3) a woman should be at least 22 years old before having a child. Through family planning, the government aims at reducing population to 82 millions and to decrease fertility rate to 2.9 by the year 2000. The information on contraception is widely prevailed, while 90% of women have knowledge about at least one method of contraception. As indicated below, IUD is the most prevailing use. The reasons are that: 1) monitoring is simple, 2) the valid duration is long, and 3) cost is low (GENDCEN, 1998).

Married Women Using Contraception (%)

Method	Nation	Urban	Rural
Pill	2.1	2.8	1.9
IUD	33.3	30.9	33.9
Injection	0.2	0.3	0.2
Diaphragm	0.1	0.0	0.1
Condom	4.0	9.1	2.7
Female Sterilization	3.9	5.2	3.6
Male Sterilization	0.2	0.2	0.2
Rhythm	9.8	14.3	8.6
Withdrawal	11.2	11.9	11.0
Others	0.2	0.0	0.2
Total	65.0	74.7	62.4

(Source: GSO 1995, ICDS, cited in GENDCEN, 1998)

### **[Impact of Market Economy on Health and Medical System]**

The government has provided healthcare services to all citizens free of charge and managed hospitals, clinics, research institutions, and an overwhelming part in state-owned enterprises. At the commune level, co-operatives finance all the healthcare activities of their medical institutions after the economic reform and the transition to a market economy, which have deeply affected the healthcare system. Service users have to pay for services through healthcare insurance or make direct payment after use of these services. In addition, the introduction of a market economy leads to a decrease in the quality of health care at the lower levels of medical institutions due to financial problems. While the healthcare centers at the commune level can still be maintained through government's subsidy on wages and some expenditure, healthcare system at the village level has disappeared. The government has announced to improve health services. However, it is unlikely to meet the demand of the people, particularly, in mountainous and marginal areas (GENDCEN, 1998).

### 3-3 Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries

#### Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries

- There is no article of gender-discriminative provisions. The Certificates of Land Use, however, have been given to men. Hence, women have limited access to loan due to lack of mortgage.
- There are Women's Unions all over the country. The Women's Unions at commune level introduce technical assistant, health care, birth control, and supervise the way for implementation.
- The economic reform resulting from closing the welfare facilities at the commune level has led to increasing the burden of women's work.

#### [General Situation]

The agricultural sector is important in the Vietnamese economy. The trend of food production centered by rice cultivation has led to the stabilization of domestic economy, and forestry and fisheries are also situated in important sectors. Rice cultivation has been done in Red River in the North and Mekong Delta in the South which are known as two largest producing centers. Major crops except rice are corn, sweet potato, cassava, sugar cane, coffee, rubber plants (Kokusai Kyoryoku Suishin Kyokai, 1997). Agricultural sector constitutes 27% of GNP (World Bank, 1998a). The percentage of working population in this sector is 21.4% of total working population, 53% of which are women (GENDCEN, 1998). The number of women engaged in agricultural sector tend to increase. This results in: 1) a natural increase in working population through population increase, 2) re-emigration for female working population due to the reorganization of state-owned sector, and 3) closing of export industry to Eastern Europe in rural areas (Tran & Le, 1997).

#### [Policies and Budget on WID/Gender]

The Committee for the Advancement of Woman in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development was established on March 9, 1996, led by Vice Minister Nguyen Thien Luan. This committee, however, has no budget to implement the Plan. The objectives of the Action Plan are as follows (GENDCEN, 1998):

1. To create job opportunities and increase income of women
2. To create equal opportunities for women in education, and improve educational standards at all educational levels
3. To promote women's participation in decision-making process and increase status in organizations
4. To improve living and working condition, and strengthen medical service for women and children
5. To develop the role of women in the management of environment and natural resources
6. To build prosperous, progressive, equal and happy families

7. To enhance the capacity of the Committee for the advancement of women

**[Land Ownership for Women]**

The Land Law was enacted in 1993. It distributes lands to each household, and admitted to use land for 20 years. In this law, there are no articles or provisions which bear gender discrimination. In fact, the Certificates of Land Use have been succeeded to men. A daughter, once married, uses her parents land and she also does not obtain any land from her parents-in-law. Women usually do not inherit land due to traditional custom and the thought of "respect men and despise women" (GENDCEN, 1998).

**[The Activities of Women's Organizations in Rural Areas]**

There is a Women's Union at commune level. The chairperson employed by the government take part in the meetings of the leaders of the commune on women and women's matters. Under the Women's Union, there are branches or inter-branches in villages. According to regulations, those organizations at commune level holds a monthly meeting to evaluate and exchange information and to help one another tackle social-family problems (GENDCEN, 1998).

Women's Unions at the commune level are financially and technically supported by the Women's Unions at upper levels or from other organizations. Women' Union gets involved in credit activities, and becomes a guarantor of its member to banks. Women participate in a Saving Day for poor women. Saved money is lent to poor women without interest or at a low interest rate to develop production. Women's Union at commune level also collaborates with other organizations for technical support such as training in planting techniques, in livestock breeding or capital management. The Union introduces knowledge on health care and birth control measures. Moreover the Union participates in education problems to eradicate illiteracy, by encouraging people to send children to school. However, these activities in poor, remote areas have limited operation (GENDCEN, 1998).

**[Support for Training in Micro Enterprises]**

There is a national program on job creation, managed by the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs. The main activity of the program is to supply medium-term loans (from 3-5 years) at favorable interest rates to small enterprises and to organizations and individuals which establish small enterprises in rural areas. These enterprises are expected to create jobs and attract abundant working population in countryside. This program has also implemented training courses on a small-scale basis (GENDCEN, 1998).

### **[Women's Situation in Rural Areas]**

Rural women compose of 78.7% of the female population in the nation. 53% of women in rural areas are involved in agriculture sector. 28% of rural households are female-headed (GENDCEN, 1998). Rural women participate in all the productive and service activities in agricultural, forestry, aquaculture. In particular, rural women are mostly involved in food production and livestock breeding which is heavy manual work, while men cultivate and prepare the land for plowing. Although the working hours between women and men in production are equal, almost all housework is done by women. Importantly, since welfare facilities such as kindergartens, childcare centers have been declined and closed due to the impact of economic reform, the work associated with reproduction has become more burden on women. Women are an important labor force in implementing programs for rural development such as irrigation, road building, clean water supply, construction, environment, social and cultural activity programs and other communal work. Hence, the total working hours for women are much longer than that of men (GENDCEN, 1998).

At present, the main problems faced by rural women are as follows (GENDCEN, 1998) :

1. Often overwork in order to maintain family life
2. Seasonal lack of jobs and low effectiveness of labor
3. Low level of education and almost no skill training
4. Negative effects of traditional customs, and of family and village links
5. Poor infrastructure and poor living conditions and environment
6. Lack of information and less opportunity to take part in cultural activities

### **[Migration from Rural to Urban Areas]**

Agricultural modernization and industrialization rapidly taking place in recent years have led to male migration from rural to urban areas. On the other hand, female migration is less than male cases, since women: 1) are responsible for housework, 2) are short of fund and skill, and 3) cultural factors (ADB, 1995). The rapid migration to urban areas has increased labor mobilization in rural and urban areas. It is estimated that there are about 30,000-40,000 migrants during the off-season for farmers, most of whom are low-paid, unskilled, heavy workers. Female migrants are likely to be involved in housework, petty-trading on the street, and garbage collection in informal sector. Those women are relatively young (from 13-15) and most of them are single. The cases that women are involved in crime or in sex industry have increased for the reasons of 1) imperfect labor market, 2) lack of information and knowledge, 3) no legal security, and 4) no reliable accommodation (Tran & Le, 1997).

## 2-4 Economic Activities

### Economic Activities

- Informal sector is important in the Vietnamese economy, and 2.9 million workers, are involved in industrial sector, which is equivalent to over 80% of the total working population in this sector. Women workers constitute 70% of the workers in industrial sector.
- Though women are mainly involved in agriculture and forestry, most of them have sub-business. The average working hours for women are 16-18 hours, which are longer than men's working hours (12-14 hours).
- 10% workers of the total working population participate in vocational training. Male participants constitute 12%, while females do only 7%. In the 5-year plan adopted in 1997, it is planned to implement to train 3000 females in the long course, 5000 females in the short course.

#### [General Situation]

The number of people in industrial sector is 10.1% of working population, and the industrial sector creates 31% of GDP (GENDCEN, 1998). Female labor in this sector is 42% of the total female labor force, in particular, in important industries such as textile, garment and food processing, where female ratio of labor force is large (ADB, 1995). Women are largely involved in trading (64.0%), education (66.3%), health and social service (64.0%). In financial sector, women workers constitute 52%, however, number of women in a managerial position is relatively small.

#### [Policy for WID/Gender]

Ministry of Industry set up a Commission for the Advancement of Women, led by Vice Minister and announced a program for working women to be implemented by the year 2000. The contents are to: 1) assure full employment and income for female employees, 2) improve working conditions and implement favorable policies for female employees, 3) provide health care for female employees, 4) enhance working opportunities of gender equality and equal rights for women, 5) provide equal opportunity to women in all areas of education and training, 6) increase role and position of female employees at the managerial level, and 7) to enhance the effectiveness of the commission for the advancement of women. There is, however, no budget to implement these policies (GENDCEN, 1998).

#### [Informal Sector]

In general, the informal sector plays a significant role in the economy particularly in industries. Out of the total of 3.5 million (the total working population) workers in industry, 0.6 million work in formal

sector, the rest (2.9 million), over 80%, work in informal sector. The worker in informal sector are not protected with respect to minimum wage levels, working hours, labor safety conditions and other conditions for women workers (GENDCEN, 1998). Women workers in informal sector constitute 70% of the total working population in this sector. According to a survey of administrative districts (Hanoi, Ho Chi Min, Tay Ninh, Hatay) carried by the Ministry of Labor, Invalid and Social Affairs in 1994, the percentage of women workers engaged in the non-agricultural informal sector was 89.9%. The level of education for them was relatively low. 61.6% had elementary and secondary education: 82.7% were without any kind of training. The economic activities of the informal sector were 1) handicraft (26.3%), 2) garment (24.1%), 3) processing materials and making traditional goods (23.4%), 4) food processing (17%), and 5) textile, needlework and pottery (9.3%) (ADB, 1995).

#### **{Women Workers in Public and Private Sector}**

Out of 38.33 million of total working population, 3.3million workers are in the state-owned sector. According to the Census in 1989, 51.2% of workers in public sector were male, 48.2% were female. In private sector, male workers were 46.8% of total employees, females were 53.2% (GENDCEN, 1998)

#### **{Vocational Training }**

On average, over 10% of the total working population have had vocational training. However, only 7% of women workers had vocational training, while 12% of male workers did (GENDCEN, 1998). In 1993, there were 55 units in the vocational training center system of the Ministry of Labour, Invalid and Social Affairs, located mainly in cities and towns. Many training courses were organized by universities, colleges and vocational schools under support of the Ministry of Labour, Invalid and Social Affairs. In 1996, there were 70,000 students in skill training schools and the ratio of female students is smaller than males. Private vocational centers have developed rapidly, particularly in urban areas. The purpose of the courses is to provide a minimum level of skill in simple work and the training courses involve computer skills, repair of electronic and electrical goods, tailoring, driving courses, photography, and video. The trainees were mainly unemployed young people (GENDCEN, 1998).

Other organizations such as the Women's Union and the Communist Youth League also have special vocational training centers. They are, however, located mainly in cities and towns. In 1994, the Women's Union had 109 vocational training centers, running more than 3,600 training courses, with 90,000 trainees. In the 5-year plan adopted in 1997, it was planned to implement the training of 3000 females in the long course, 5000 females in the short course (JICA, 1996a).

#### **{Support in Training in Micro Enterprises}**

The small scale-enterprises constitute 88% of the total number of enterprises, 7-8 million workers are involved in small-medium-scale enterprises. This accounts for 25% of the total and this area generates about 24% of GDP. The government announced policies to establish small-medium enterprises, to simplify the provision of tax-system, to support small-medium-scale enterprises. For example, the Development Program for Medium and Small Enterprises, managed by the Ministry of Planning and Investment. The project for providing loans, was financed by the EC through financial loans and performed by the Ministry Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs (GENDCEN, 1998).

The activities for supporting small-medium enterprises are, however, very limited and have low effectiveness. Only 30% of the demand for loans of the enterprises has been through the formal credit system. Commercial banks provide mainly short-term loans from 6-12 years and very few medium and long-term loans. Since a mortgage is normally required, women are unlikely to be able to get access to loans. Recently, some NGOs have implemented credit projects for poor women in limited areas. They do not need a mortgage for a loan. However, the amount of the loans is small, usually from one hundred thousand to a million VND (equivalent 10 to 100 USD), with terms ranging from 6 months to a year (GENDCEN, 1998).

#### **[Situation of Women Workers in Economic Activity]**

Women workers constitute 51.9% of the total working population (GENDCEN, 1998). The ratios of the working population by sex and occupation are as follows. Under the socialist system, the increasing number of women workers results from 1) the promotion of equal rights for both sexes toward employment opportunity, and 2) the establishment of social facilities such as day-care centers. The main occupation for women is in agriculture and forestry. Most women have side-business. While women work for 16-18 hours per day on average, men work for 12-4 hours (JICA, 1996b). Despite the fact that the number of women workers has increased, the positions are relatively low. Since women play significant roles not only in economic activities but also in housework and child-rearing at home, they are more disadvantaged than men in terms of promotion (GENDCEN, 1998).

Ratios of the Labor Force by Sex and Occupation

Occupation	Ratio by Sex (%)			Ratio by Occu.(%)		
	Total Num.	Female	Male	Total Num.	Female	Male
Administration/manager	2231	51.9	48.1	7.7	7.7	7.8
Industry	2606	48.4	51.6	9.1	8.4	9.7
Construction	391	23.8	76.2	1.4	0.6	2.1
Agriculture/forestry	20671	52.6	47.4	71.9	72.8	71.0
Transportation/communication	622	11.3	88.7	2.1	0.5	4.0
Trade	1570	78.7	21.3	5.5	8.3	2.4
Public service	315	27.0	73.0	1.1	0.6	1.7
Others	339	47.2	52.8	1.2	1.1	1.3
Total	28745	42.6	57.3	100	100	100

(Source: Statistics on the Vietnamese Women 1995, JICA, cited in Kunibetsu WID Jyoho Seibi Chyosa Houkokusyo Cambodia, Vietnam, 1996)

**【Support System for Women Workers】**

The government and co-operatives have provided child nursing, such as kindergartens and child-care centers. Women workers in state-owned sector have utilized these services. However, in the process of transformation to a market economy, many facilities have faced difficulties to run due to cuts in the state budget for subsidized services. Moreover, the transformation of the system of kindergartens and child-care centers to a market mechanism, leads to the fact that the poor can not afford to use them, since the fees become higher. The system had collapsed in many rural areas from 1986-1990, while local governments tried to rebuild these facilities, by subsidizing wages for nurses, and providing some basic infrastructure (GENDCEN, 1998).

#### 4. WID/Gender Projects by Other Donors

Title	Implementing Agency	Donor	Duration	Content
<b>&lt;General&gt;</b>				
Project Support	UNICEF	UNICEF	1996-2000	Provide supporting activities to Gender and Development Program
Beijing and beyond: Strengthening Women's Policy in Vietnam	WU	AUL/AUSAID	1995-1998	To provide training for the Vietnam Women's Union to enhance their capacity to effectively participate in Vietnam delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the NGO Forum'95 in Beijing; To assist the Vietnam Women's Union to establish a strategic planning unit (WOMEN'S UNION OF VIETNAM)
Gender awareness for field workers		Net/Net	1996-1997	Gender training manual and work
Income generation/Literacy	VWU	UNICEF	1996-2000	Provide small loans to 6000 households; train Women Union's members on credit and savings management; provide knowledge on project objectives and principles, child care, literacy education. Old project for 1991-1995 (Vietnam Women's Union)
No Title	WU	BEL/BADC	1996-1997	Village development, improvement of the living conditions (Women's Union of Vietnam)
Vietnam-Canada social Women's Initiative Fund		CAN/CIDA	1996-2000	This fund, which is administered by the Canadian Embassy in Hanoi, aims to improve Vietnamese women's entrepreneurial, managerial and technical skills and strengthen the capacity of Vietnamese Institutions to heighten gender equity awareness and deliver programmes that benefit women. It also increases linkages between Vietnamese and Canadian and when appropriate, regional institutions involved in programmes which benefit women
Income Generation/Communication	VWU	UNICEF	1996-2000	Improve women development status through an integrated socio-economic development approach aims at improving family income, women's education, knowledge and skills with regard to health and child survival (Vietnam Women's Union)
Research/policy Development	VWU	UNICEF	1996-2000	Carry out research and studies on problems and needs of poor women, especially ethnic minority groups to

				develop appropriate materials on income generation, health care, literacy education to improve their life condition (Vietnam Women's Union)
Improvement of the Sow Breeding by Village Women at Son Thanh, Yen Thanh district, Nghe An Province	WU	BEL/BADC	1996-1997	Village development, improve the living conditions (Women's Union of Vietnam)
Social Mobilization and Communication	CPCC	UNICEF	1996-2000	Strengthening existing communication and mobilization alliances, mechanism and activities and use these to sustain social goal and create new civil society alliances for improved child and woman welfare. Old project for 1991-1995 (National committee for protection and care of children)
Strengthening Vietnam Women's Union	VWU	UNIFEM UNDP	1994-1997	To strengthen the organization capacity of the Vietnam Women's union to address gender concerns in development in the context of NIEM. Immediate Objective: To promote an analytical understanding of the gender implications of macroeconomics reforms; To formulate an integrated plan of action for the VWU as operational strategy and to promote gender in development; To mobilize support for the implementation of the plan of action for the VWU through effective negotiation and dialogues with relevant agencies of the government and the donor community (Vietnam Women's union)
Capacity Development for the Implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women	NCFW	UNDP	1996-2000	To strengthen the training of gender in public policy and planning decisions
Support Vietnam Women's Union	VWU	SWE/SIDA	1996-1999	To increase the management capacity with special emphasis on the local level; To improve the study and research capacity of women to contribute to the law and policy making process; to produce and disseminate information to women to improve their situation; To create favorable conditions for women to access to the labor market in order to increase to the labor market in order to increase their household economy (Vietnam Women's Union)

Audience Analysis of User's Knowledge, Attitude and CARE Practices of Contraceptives in Rural Vietnam	CARE/I	NET /NETGOV	1996-1997	Provide to complete audience analysis to the primary program planners, policy makers and organizations in family planning in order to allow them to develop effective communication campaigns for pregnancy prevention for men and women in rural Vietnam; Provide guidance to program planners and policy makers about measures to improve family planning programmes and service delivery based on current men and women's values ideas.
<b>&lt;Education&gt;</b>				
Education Improvement- Upgrading Ethnic Minority Boarding Schools.	PES	USA/CWS	1992-1997	Improve existing ethnic minority boarding schools by assisting schools to meet basic health, nutrition and clothing needs; introducing new teaching methodologies and possible curriculum enhancements to meet the ethnic minority need. Special emphasis is placed on female students (Provincial Education Service)
Vocational training for KonTum Women	WU-KT	BEL/BADC	1996-1997	Training the local women's group (Women Union of Kon Tum province)
English Language Training (for Senior Officials and One Women's Union Representative)		NZE/ NZODA	1990-1997	To offer English Language Training to Vietnamese senior officials, including travel to New Zealand for 6 month
Training program for women entrepreneurs in the food processing industry	UNIDO	UNIDO	1995-1997	To provide women entrepreneurs with the skills requires to efficiently operate viable micro and small-scale agro processing units. This is intended to be achieved through strengthening the training capacity of a national counterpart in Vietnam and through the concept of training of trainers (Council of Handicraft and small industry cooperatives)
<b>&lt;Health&gt;</b>				
Community Environmental Health Improvements for the Provincial Towns		ASDB	1995-2000	To optimize the benefits of the Project in towns by developing a community environmental health program to target women and children; households in areas of greatest burden and risk of disease from lack of water and sanitation facilities; public areas such as markets and schools (Vietnam Women's Union)
Integrated Credit and Nutrition Project		BEL/CIDSE	1994-1997	To promote credit generating activities; Health and nutrition status (Binh Phuoc Women's Union)

Poverty Alleviation and Nutrition Program	UK FOUND	UKM/UK	1996-1998	To improve the general welfare of target communities through training, nutrition and health programmes and improvement to water supplies, improvement of basic health services for target women
Drinking Water Supply, Kien Hung		BEL/BADC	1996-1997	Acquisition and installation of equipment for safe water Women's Union of Hue)
Primary Prevention of Rheumatic Fever 896-95-009	VNHI	USA/CRS USA/FB	1995-1998	Train local health personnel for home visits; Train primary/secondary school teachers and pupil's parents; Identify and treat all school aged children in Bac Hong village suffering from Tonsillopharyngitis; Mobilize support from People's Committee, Women's Union, Farmer's Union
Poverty Alleviation and Nutrition Program		UKM/ PLAN-VN	1996-1998	To reduce the incident of malnutrition among under-five children & pregnant women from the current 60% to 20% within two years, through the training of health workers and community volunteers in health knowledge and skill, improved access to health resources, "nutrition education and rehabilitation program(NERP)" for pregnant women and children and credit scheme for families with a poor diet to increase the amount and variety of food grown; strengthen the managerial skills of women and community volunteers to ensure sustainable management of their social economic development
Nutrition Improvement and Household Food Security	DOST-MAR	AUL/ AUSTRAL	1996-1999	To improve the nutritional status of young children and women of child bearing age with special focus on Vitamin A deficiency, protein energy malnutrition, and low birth weight, through creating an environmental in which households in Vietnam will have sufficient food available and the necessary knowledge and skills in the use of that food to consume nutritionally adequate diets (Department of Sciences and Technology, MARD)
Expanded Program of Immunization	MOH	UNICEF	1996-2000	To immunize 2218000 persons under-one children with six antigens; 10110000 persons under five children

				with OPV2 (Oral Polio Vaccine); 2240000 pregnant women and 5372000 childbearing age women with TT2+(Tetanus Toxic); 480000 children aged 9-23 months with measles vaccine (Ministry of Health)
Vitamin A Deficiency Control	MOH	UNICEF	1996-2000	To virtually eliminate Vitamin A Deficiency among children and mothers (Ministry of Health)
Vietnam Family Planning Project	WU	AUL /AUSAID	1993-1997	The project integrates family planning, community health, agricultural extension, women's savings, groups and home gardens through comprehensive community based rural development project. Objectives: Improve capacity of Vietnam Women Union to implement rural development projects, improve access to family planning methods, decrease abortion rates, improve MCH, improve economic situation in rural areas, especially for women. (Women's Union of Vietnam)
Mother and Child Protection in Ha Bac	GVC-ITA	ITA/DGCS	1994-1999	Build the diagnostic and curative capabilities at Provincial Hospital of Ha Bac, Bac Giang through supply of equipment and training. Create a new health network in the district of Yen Hung, Son Dong, Luc Ngan (total 24 health centres). (Ha Bac Health Service)
<b>&lt;Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Mining and Industry&gt;</b>				
Breeding Pigs in Australia and Vietnam		AUL/OSB	1996-1998	To increase the production of clean pork per unit of cost
Improvement of Pig Breeding in Nghe Tinh province		BEL/BADC	1991-1997	Improvement of pig breeding; income growing (Provincial Veterinary (Breeding centers)
Women and Fish Processing in Hai Phong	UNIFEM	UNIFEM	1995-1997	To empower women in the fish processing communities of Do Son, Hai Phong by improving their access and control over productive resources; To create a model to show how a women's organization can ensure distributive justice in a market-oriented economy; To reduce vulnerability of women in the informal sector (Hai Phong Women's union)

<b>&lt;Economic Activities&gt;</b>				
The Song Be Credit and Saving Project		BEL/CIDSE	1993-1997	To develop the capacity of Binh Duong WU in planning in implementing and managing credit program for poor women; To assist at least landholders in comprising their income; To organize the project beneficiaries with solidarity group and to implement credit and saving project for the community (Binh Duong Women's Union)
Credit and saving for income generating activities	HWU	BEL/CIDSE	1995-1997	To support the production and credit management of 1050 poor women; To constitute the modest granting by the poor as a credit mechanism
Credit and Income Generation Save the Children - JFS 1037	SCF(UK)	UKM/UK	1995-1997	To create sustainable income generating opportunities through credit networks; To increase the income of impoverished rural households; Reduce malnutrition of women and children during the hungry period
Credit and Savings Program	SCF(UK)	UKM/UK	1993-1997	Increase ability of local Women's Union to manage a credit and saving project; Enable women in families without access to capital to increase productivity; Promote improvements in the well-being of children; Increase the solidarity and self-confidence of local women
Credit and savings Program for Women		BEL/CIDSE	1995-1997	The project is a three year credit and savings project with the following objectives: to train 35 cadres of Bac Thai Women's Union in community organizing and group building and basic credit management; to train and organize 1000 eligible women for poor households into viable credit and savings group; to establish a guarantee seed fund at Vietnam Bank of Agriculture of Bac Thai which will provide non-collateralized credit to women savings group for production and income generation; to promote saving mobilization.

Credit Program in Quy Chau district		BEL/CIDSE	1994-1997	The credit and saving program in Quy Chau district is aimed to accomplish the following objectives: to strengthen an improve the capacity of the women's union of Quy Chau district in managing saving and credit project; to assist 1000 poor women in improving income generation activities by providing loan; to develop the habit of savings and skills in managing their income generation activities by organizing training for the borrowers; promote solidarity in the target area
Tao Yu Mai Credit Fund		BEL/CIDSE	1995-1997	Tao Yu Mai credit fund is a two year credit and savings project. It is designed to provide 1200 poor women non-co-lateralized credit for income generating activities thereby providing them the opportunity to increase their incomes and consequently improve the quality of their lives and that of their families. At the same time, the TYM fund will be institutionalized into a viable rural financial institution owned and managed by the members themselves.
Job creating for women and income increasing for families in Van Mai village, Mai Chau, Hoa Binh	WU	BEL/BADC	1996-1997	Job creating, income increasing Women's Union of Van Mai village, Mai Chau, Hoa Binh province)
Skill training for incarnated women		DEN/ DANIDA	1995-1997	Conduct business courses; Skills transfer; Credit and saving scheme
Vietnam-Canada Women's Economic Development		CAN/CIDA OXFAM- QU	1996-1998	Increase the participation of rural poor women in economic activities. The establishment of entrepreneurial units and provide training problems on development business plans, micro-enterprises management, loan analysis, information on existing credit opportunities and group formation and participation
Improving the Training Capacity of the VWU in Micro-enterprises in Combination with Community Development	CWS2-HCM	NET/ NETGOV	1996-1998	Improving the training capacity of the Vietnam Women's Union in micro-enterprises in combination with community development. (Central Women's School No.2, Ho Chi Minh city)

Income generation training for women HRA		EU	1994-1997	Credit and saving ; Business planning; Income generation
Financial Service for Khome women		AUI/ AUSAID	1995-1998	Credit and savings; Business plans; Establish link with financial institutions
Training program for women entrepreneurs in the food processing industries-Hai Phong	UNIDO	BEL/BADC	1995-1997	To provide women entrepreneurs with the skills required to establish and efficiently operate viable small-scale agro-processing units. This is intended to be achieved through strengthening the training capacity of a national counterpart in Vietnam (Women's union of Hai Phong)
Support Vietnam Women's Union's RH/FP and Savings Groups	UNFPA	UNFPA	1995-1997	To contribute to the improvement of the socio-economic status of rural women through strengthening their control over reproductive decisions and preparing them for the free market economy system (Vietnam Women's Union)

## 5. WID/Gender Information Sources

### 5-1 List of International Organizations and NGOs related to WID/Gender

#### [International Agency]

Name	Main Activities	Contact Address
UNDP		Ms. Suzette Mr. Trinh Tien Dung Tel: 825 7495 Fax: 825 9267 Email: undp@netnam.org.vn
UNICEF		Ms. Thanh Nga Tel: 826 1170-5 Fax: 826 2641 Email: pnanh@unicef.ac.vn
SIDA Sweden		Ms. Hoang Dieu Hang Tel: 845 4824/5 Fax: 832 2195 Email: hang@se
C/o Embassy of Canada		Ms. Vu Thi Yen Tel: 823 5500 Fax: 823 5333

#### [Governmental Organization]

Name	Main Activities	Contact Address
National Committee for the Advancement of Women		Mr. Tran Xuan Nhi Ms. Mai Huong Tel: 821 0068 Fax: 971 1349 Email: Ncfaw@netnam.org.vn
The Vietnam Women's Union		Ms. Ha Thi Khiem Mr. Pham Hoai Giang Tel: 825 3436 Fax: 825 3143 Email: vwunion@netnam.org.vn
Center for family and Women's Studies		Ms. Do Thi Binh Ms. Tran Thi Van Anh Tel: 825 2372 Fax: 821 2890
Centre for Gender, Environment and sustainable Development Studies (GENDCEN)		Ms. Tran Thi Que Mr. Tran Dang Tuen Tel/Fax: 853 3860 Email: que@hn.vnn.vn
Centre for Reproductive and Family Health		Ms. Nguyen Thi Hoai Duc Tel: 823 4288 Fax: 823 4288

Research center for Gender, Family and Environment in Development		Ms. Le Thi Nham Tuyet Tel: 823 3130 Fax: 823 2410
Centre for Women's Studies		Ms. Bui Thi Kim Quy Tel: 08-829 5838 Fax: 08-822 3735

[NGO]

Name	Main Activities	Contact Address
OXFAM ENGLAND		Ms Heather Grady Ms Le Kim Dung Tel: 832 5491/2 Fax: 832 5247 Email:oxfamuki@netnam.org.vn
Bread for the World		Ms. Pham Thu Thuy Tel: 832 5646 Fax: 832 6332 Email:bfdw@netnam.org.vn

## 5-2 List of Reports and References related to WID/Gender

[Socio/Gender Analysis]

Title	Author	Year	Publisher
National Report on Implementation of The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	NCAFAW	1998	NCAFAW
Country Gender Analysis Vietnam	Tran Thi Que Suki Allen	1992	GENDCEN
Gender and Development Briefing Kit	UNDP	1996	UNDP
EC- Vietnam country gender profile and Pipeline Programs	Tran Thi Que	1997	GENDCEN
Women in Development : Vietnam	Margaret McDonald	1995	ADB

[Women in General]

Title	Author	Year	Publisher
National Plan of Action for The Advancement in Vietnam by The Year 2000	NCAFAW	1997	NCAFAW
Development Strategy for The Advancement in Vietnam by The Year 2000	NCAFAW	1997	NCAFAW
Human Development Report 1998	UNDP	1998	UNDP
Constitution of Socialist Republic Vietnam 1992		1992	GENDCED
Statistic on The Vietnamese Women 1985-1994	NCAFAW	1995	NCAFAW
The New Idea for Gender Equality development Workshop	MRDP	1998	MRDP

**(Health)**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Publisher</b>
Personnel Machinery Situation of Committees of Population and Family Planning and Trend Developing	UNFPA & NCPFP	1996	UNFPA
Vietnam Population and Planning Program	NCPFP	1996	NCPFP
Health Statistic Yearbook 1997.	MOH	199	MOH

**(Economic Activities)**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Publisher</b>
Impact of Macroeconomics Reform on Women in Vietnam	Melanie Beresford	1994	UNIFEM

**(Social Development)**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Publisher</b>
Report on Impact of Economic Reform on Education Through Gender	Tran Thi Que	1998	GENDCEN

**(Others)**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Publisher</b>
Population Data of Sparsely Populated Areas in Vietnam	Tran Thi Que	1996	GENDCEN
Development Cooperation Vietnam Report 1997	UNDP		UNDP

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- Asian Development Bank, 1995  
*Women in Development: Viet Nam,*
- Center for Gender, Environment and sustainable Studies(GENDCEN), 1998  
*Women in Development Profile Vietnam*
- The Economist Intelligence Unit(EIU), 1998  
*Country Profile 1997-98: Vietnam*
- Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA), 1996a  
*Country Report for Seminar for Officers of Women's Education*
- Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 1995  
*Vietnam's Country Report to the Forth World Conference on Women  
"For Equality, Development, and Peace"*
- Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 1997  
*National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Vietnam  
by the Year 2000*
- Tran Thi Van Anh & Le Ngoc Hung, 1997  
*Women and Doi Moi in Vietnam, Women Publishing House*
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) , 1998  
*The State of The World's Children 1998*
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 1998  
*Human Development Report 1998*
- United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 1998  
*World Education Report , UNESCO Publishing*
- World Bank, 1997  
*World Development Report 1997*
- World Bank, 1998a  
*World Development Report 1998*
- World Bank, 1998b  
*World Development Indicator 1998*  
(In Japanese)
- Kyokusai Kyoryoku Suishin Kyokai, 1997  
*Vietnam*
- JICA, 1995  
*Vietnam Kunibetsu Enryo Kenkyu Houkokusyo  
(Report for researching development assistance to Vietnam )*
- JICA, 1996b  
*Kunibetsu WID Jyoho Seibi Cyosa Houkokusyo, Cambodia, Vietnam  
(Country WID Profile; Cambodia, Vietnam)*

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Committee for the Advancement of Women, Ministry of Health. 1997

*Plan of Action for The Advancement of Women in Vietnam by The Year 2000.*

Committee for the Advancement of Women, Ministry of Planning and Investment. 1997

*Plan of Action for The Advancement of Women in Vietnam by The Year 2000.*

Constitution of Socialist Republic Vietnam 1992.

Do Thi Binh, LeNgoc Lan, 1996

*Poor Rural Women Under Market.* Political Publishing House.

Melanie Beresford. 1997

*Impact of Macroeconomics Reform on Women in Vietnam*

Ministry of Education and Training. 1997

*Education Statistic Yearbook 1997.*

Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs. 1997

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*National Report on Implementation of the International Convention on The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.*

NCFAW. 1998

*Women and Advantage Review - No. 3(12) 1998*

NCFAW. 1998

*Workshop on Implementation of The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women on Education and Training.*

NCFAW. 1997

*Development Strategy for The Advancement of Women in Vietnam by The Year 2000.* Women's Publishing House.

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*National Plan of Action for The Advancement of Women in Vietnam by The Year 2000.* Women's Publishing House.

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NCFAW. 1995

*Vietnam's Country Report to The Fourth World Conference on Women "for Equality, Development and Peace".*

NCPFP. 1996

*Vietnam Population and Planning Program.*

Nguyen Ba Ngoc. 1998

*Unemployment in Our Country Phenomena and Nature.* Labor and Social Affairs Review No. II/1998.

Nguyen Hai, 1998

*Major Solutions for Hunger Eradication and Poverty Alleviation Until The Year 2000.* Labor and Social Affairs Review No. II/1998.

Nguyen Thi Hang, 1998

*Promptly to Realize the 4<sup>th</sup> Central Party Committee's Resolution on Hunger Eradication and Poverty Alleviation.* Labor and Social Affairs Review No. II/1998

Phan Thi Thanh. 1997

*Report on Women's Participation in Leadership Mechanisms in Vietnam.*

Statistic Department, 1997

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*Report on Impact of Economic Reform on Education Through Gender*

Tran Thi Que. 1997

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*Population Data of Sparsely Populated Areas in Vietnam.* Statistical Publishing House.

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*Gender Relationships and Status of Women in Development.* Vietnam's Socio-Economic Development Review- No. 4, 1995

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Vietnam Sweden Mountain Rural Development Program (MRDP). 1998

*The New Idea for Gender Equality Development Workshop.*

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*Document of the Eighth Vietnamese Women's Conference.* Women's Publishing House.

Vietnam Women's Union. 1996

*Pushing Up the Participation of Women on Economic Development in Indo-china.*

## 7. Definition

### <Technical Terms>

#### Gender

Analytical concept to clarify the social and cultural role of men and women and interrelation between them. Sex (biological) is basically impossible to change, while gender varies from place to place, time to time, according to social norm and sense of values.

#### Informal sector

Part of economy consisting of small competitive individuals or family firms that are not listed in the labor indicators. According to the definition by ILO, those engaged in this sector have simple technology, insufficient amount of capital, unidentified business location, minimum number of employees (or none of them), lack of legality and registration, and no capability of bookkeeping. Workers of the Informal Sector often have no jobs but unstable and less-paid jobs.

#### WID (Women in Development)

Concept of development incorporating women's participation into every development process, taking it into account that women are active agents and beneficiaries of development.

#### Reproductive health/rights

Health/Rights concerning sex and reproduction. To be able to have safe and satisfied sex life, and to have freedom of choice on whether, when and how many children to deliver.

#### National machinery

Administrative organization to promote equality of men and women. It also promotes gender equal policies among other ministries. It plans and implements the national policies for gender equality.

#### Empowerment

To develop political, economic and social abilities of an individual or a group of individuals.

#### Affirmative action/Positive action

Prioritized positive measure to promptly correct the gap between the discriminated group(s) and other group(s), when the discriminated have been placed in extremely unequal conditions to other group(s).

#### Access and control

"Access" means to be able to use resources(land, labor, fund, etc.) and services for the economic activity, or to have a right to exercise them. "Control" means a right to manage resources and services or to own them.

#### Reproductive activity

Activity to reproduce next generation including bearing and rearing children, and to reproduce labor force by sustaining daily life, such as, washing and cooking for the family

#### <Indicators>

##### Inflation rate

Instead, GDP deflator is used.

##### Gini coefficient

Aggregate numerical measure of inequal income distribution ranging from 0 to 1. 0 means perfect equality, and 1 means perfect inequality. Larger than 0.4 are supposed to be high inequality.

##### Percentage of Women's Income

There are no appropriate data comparable to each country. UNDP works out that the women's income is 75% of men's in non-agricultural sector.

##### Total fertility rate

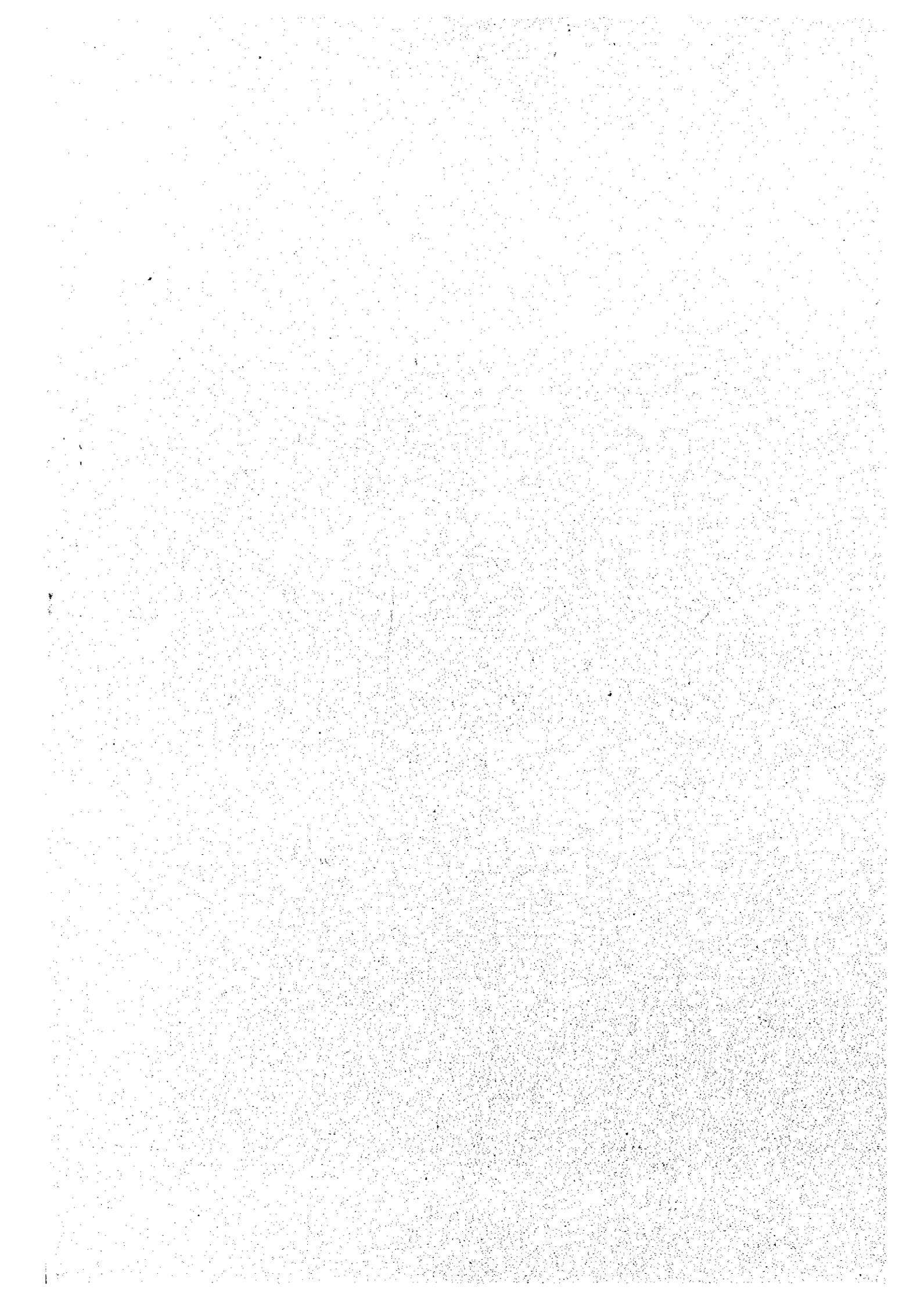
The average number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime, if she were to bear children at each age in accord with prevailing age-specific fertility rates.

##### Under-one mortality rate

The annual number of deaths of infants under one year of age per thousand live births. More specifically, the probability of dying between birth and exactly one year of age times, 1,000.

##### Under-five mortality rate

The annual number of deaths of infants under five years of age per thousand live births. More specifically, the probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age times, 1,000.



**Maternal mortality rate**

The annual number of deaths of women from pregnancy-related causes per 100,000 live births.

**Percentage of births attended by trained health personnel**

The percentage of births attended by physicians, nurses, midwives, trained primary health care workers or trained traditional birth attendants.

**Percentage of infants with low birth weight**

The percentage of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams.

**Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) use rate**

The percentage of all cases of diarrhoea in children under age five treated with oral rehydration salts or an appropriate household solution.

**Enrolment ratio of primary and secondary school**

The gross enrolment ratio is the number of students enrolled in a level of education-whether or not they belong in the relevant age group for that level-as a percentage of the population in the relevant age group for that level. The net enrolment ratio is the number of students enrolled in a level of education who belong in the relevant age group, as a percentage of the population in that age group.