Country Profile on Disability
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

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Abbreviations

ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
CBR	Community-based Rehabilitation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
NCD	National Committee on Disability
OPD	Organizations of Persons with Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNPRPD	United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VFD	Vietnam Federation on Disability
VND	Vietnamese dong

1. Basic Profile

1-1. Basic Indicators[1]

Gross Domestic Product[2] per capita	USD 4,715.3	2024

Expenditure by Sector

Healthcare (% of GDP)	4.6 %	2022
Education (% of GDP)	2.9 %	2022
Social welfare (% of GDP)[3]	5.1 %	2020

Population

Total Population	100,987,686	2024
Male	49.0 %	
Female	51.0 %	
Urban	38.5 %	
Rural	61.5 %	
Life expectancy (Total)	74.5 years	2023
Male	69.8 years	
Female	79.2 years	

Healthcare

Prevalence of undernourishment	5.3 %	2023
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000)	14	2023

Education

Education system[4]		
Primary education	5 years	
Compulsory education	5 years	
Literacy rate (% of ages 15 and above)	96.1 %	2022
Adult male	97.2 %	
Adult female	95.0 %	

[1] https://data.worldbank.org/indicator (Accessed: 17 January 2026)
[2] Hereinafter referred to as "GDP"
[3] https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/WSPR_2024_EN_WEB_1.pdf (Accessed: 17 January 2026)
[4] The Vietnamese education system consists of primary school (5 years), lower secondary school (4 years), upper secondary school (3 years), and university (4 years). Students begin school at age 6. Source: (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) website, https://download.uis.unesco.org/SDG4/SDG4-Profile-Viet%20Nam.pdf (Accessed: 5 June 2026)

School enrollment		
Primary (% gross) (total)	106.3 %	2024
Male	108.4 %	
Female	104.1 %	
Secondary (% gross) (total)	93.4 %	2022
Male	96.2 %	
Female	90.5 %	
Tertiary (% gross) (total)	37.5 %	2024
Male	34.3 %	
Female	40.8 %	

Employment

Unemployment	1.4 %	2024
Male (% of male labour force)	1.6 %	
Female (% of female labour force)	1.3 %	

1-2. Definition of Disability and Indicators on Disability

1-2-1. Definition of Disability

In the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereinafter referred to as “Viet Nam”), the definition of disability is set out in the Law on Persons with Disabilities enacted in 2010. Under this law, persons with disabilities are defined as 'those who have one or more functional impairments, which manifest as different types of disability and may cause difficulties in work, daily life, or study.' The law classifies disabilities into six types: motor, hearing and speech, visual, mental, intellectual, and other[5]. The degree of disability is divided into three levels: mild, moderate, and severe.

[5] In an interview conducted by Sano and Hizume (2025) with the representative of the Vietnam Autism Network's group of individuals with autism and their families, it was pointed out that developmental disorders such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (hereinafter referred to as “ASD”) are included in the category of "other," indicating that accurate statistical data on developmental disorders does not currently exist. Source: ： Sano, R., & Hizume, M. (2025) “Current status and challenges of disability policy and practice in the Concluding Observations on Vietnam” *Bulletin of the National Nozomi-no-Sono*, 18, 55–61. https://doi.org/10.34334/nozominosonokiyou.18.0_5 (Accessed: 8 March 2026)

1-2-2. Indicators on Disability

Number of persons with disabilities (total)[6]	6,225,519 671,659	6.6 % of total population	2016
2-17 years old	5,553,860		
Over 18 years old			

The 2019 national census included a section on disability using the UN Washington Group Short Set of Questions. The 2023 Survey on People with disabilities[7] used the Washington Group disability identification toolkit[8] for adults and the UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)–Washington Group on disability statistics toolkit for children aged 2–17. According to the National Statistics Office (2025), among persons with disabilities aged 16 and above, 39.3% are male and 60.7% are female.

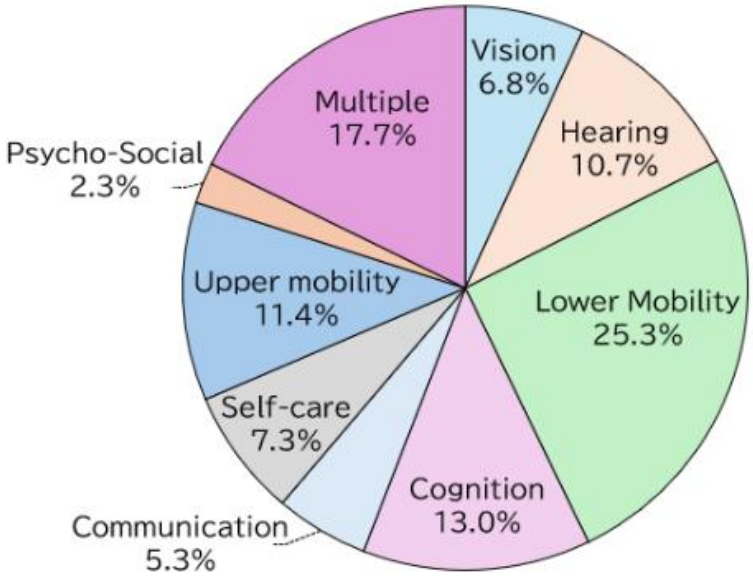


Figure 1 Distribution of Persons with Disabilities by Type of Functional Impairment (Age 16 and above) (2023)

The largest category is "Lower mobility" at 25.3%, followed by "Multiple disabilities" (17.7%), "Cognition" (13.0%), "Upper mobility" (11.4%), and "Hearing" (10.7%). "Self-care" (7.3%), "Vision" (6.8%), and "Communication" (5.3%) account for smaller shares, while 'psychosocial' is the lowest at 2.3%.

Source: Compiled by the survey team based on the National Statistics Office (2025)

[6] The latest figures for people with disabilities released by the Vietnamese government. The 2019 census and the 2023 disability survey only publish the percentage of people with disabilities. According to the 2019 census, the percentage of people with disabilities (aged 5 and over) is 3.7%.Source: ：UNFPA (2019) *Results of the 2019 Population and Housing Census.* United Nations Population Fund https://vietnam.unfpa.org/en/publications/results-2019-census-population-and-housing-viet-nam (Accessed: 25 January 2026)). According to the 2023 survey on persons with disabilities, the percentage of people with disabilities (aged 2 and over) was 6.11%.

[7] National Statistics Office(2025) *Results of the Survey on People with Disabilities 2023,* https://www.nso.gov.vn/en/default/2025/09/results-of-the-survey-on-people-with-disabilities-2023/ (Accessed: 25 January 2026)

[8] Although the abbreviation table for the disability survey lists both the short questionnaire set (WG-SS) and the expanded questionnaire set (WG-ES), the report itself does not specify which one was used.

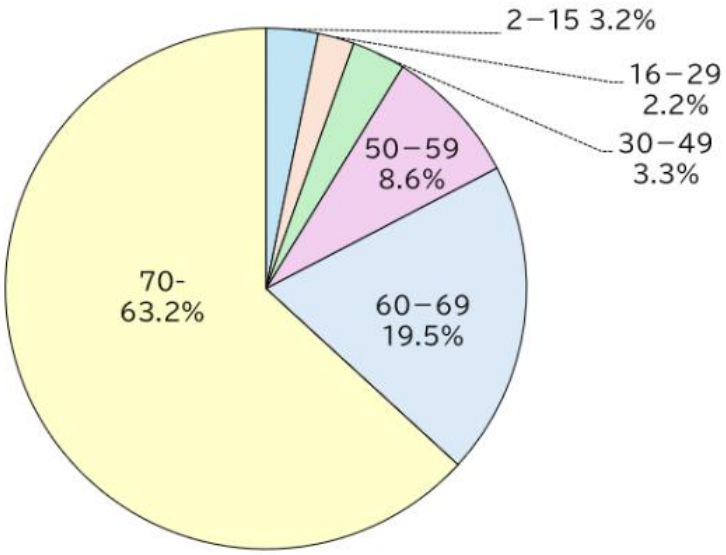


Figure 2 Age Distribution of Persons with Disabilities (2023)

Persons aged 70 and above account for the largest share at 63.2%, far exceeding half. This is followed by those aged 60–69 (19.5%) and 50–59 (8.6%). Those aged 30–49 (3.3%), 2–15 (3.2%), and 16–29 (2.2%) each represent low proportions.

Source: Compiled by the survey team based on the National Statistics Office (2025)

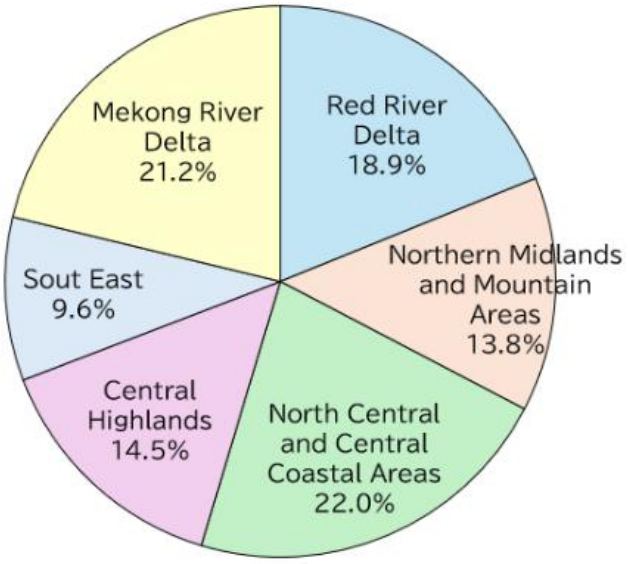


Figure 3 Residential Region of Persons with Disabilities (Age 16+) (2023)

The largest share is in “North Central and Central Coastal” (22.0%), followed by the “Mekong Delta” (21.2%) and “Red River Delta” (18.9%). These three regions together account for a majority. The “Central Highlands” (14.5%), “Northern Midlands and Mountains” (13.8%), and “South East” (9.6%) are relatively lower.

Source: Compiled by the survey team based on the National Statistics Office (2025)

2. Administration and Policy on Disability

2-1. Administration on Disability

To coordinate domestic support for persons with disabilities, the 'National Coordinating Council on Disability (NCCD),' composed of representatives from various ministries, was established in 2001. Following ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "CRPD") in 2015, the 'National Committee on Disability (hereinafter referred to as "NCD")' was established in 2015 to replace the NCCD and promote implementation of the CRPD. The NCD assists the Prime Minister and supports coordination among relevant ministries, government agencies, and disability support organizations. It consists of 18 members: vice ministers from 12 related ministries and representatives from 6 disability-related organizations[9].

<Central government administration>

Disability support was previously overseen comprehensively by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "MOLISA"). However, following a large-scale administrative restructuring in March 2025, MOLISA was dissolved and integrated into the Ministry of Home Affairs. Labor and employment functions were transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs, while social security and child protection were moved to the Ministry of Health, and vocational training to the Ministry of Education and Training[10]. While the Ministry of Health has been designated as the lead ministry for disability, it is expected to take time for the organizational restructuring and functional transfers to fully settle[11]. The disability-related agencies in Vietnam prior to administrative reorganization were as follows (see table below).

Entities responsible for disability issues

Table 1 Entities Responsible for Disability Issues Before Administrative Restructuring

Name / Restructuring Status	Overview
Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA)	・ Conduct surveys to assess implementation of disability-related policies, regulations, and laws; promote vocational education, employment creation, livelihood models, and entrepreneurship support for persons with disabilities; support independent living; raise awareness among caregivers; report to the Prime

[9] Government of Vietnam (2018) *CRPD initial State Party's Report submitted by Vietnam*

[10] PS Engage (2025) "Government Overhaul in Vietnam", 3 March 2025 https://ps-engage.com/vietnam-government/ (Accessed: 8 March 2026)

[11] Sano, R., & Hizume, M. (2025)

	Minister on outcomes of support programs; conduct mid-term evaluation in 2025 and final evaluation by end of 2030.
Ministry of Health	・ Provide medical support and, in collaboration with MOLISA, implement Community-based Rehabilitation (hereinafter referred to as "CBR") and provision of assistive devices.
Ministry of Education and Training	・ Implement activities to ensure access to education for persons with disabilities.
Ministry of Construction	・ Promote access to and use of the built environment by persons with disabilities.
Ministry of Transport (→ merged into Ministry of Construction)	・ Promote access to and use of transportation by persons with disabilities.
Ministry of Planning and Investment (→ merged into Ministry of Finance)	・ Coordinate relevant ministries to secure Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding for disability-related projects and programs.
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (→ reorganized as Ministry of Agriculture and Environment)	・ Coordinate with MOLISA in disaster prevention and mitigation activities.
Ministry of Information and Communications (→ merged into Ministry of Science and Technology)	・ Implement activities to ensure access to and use of Information Communication and Technologies (hereinafter referred to as "ICT") by persons with disabilities.
Ministry of Justice	・ Implement legal support activities for persons with disabilities.
Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism	・ Implement support for persons with disabilities in culture, sports, and tourism.
Ministry of Finance	・ Allocate funds for development plan implementation in accordance with national budget regulations and laws.

Source: Compiled by the survey team based on Government of Vietnam (2020a) [12] *and PS Engage (2025)*

Status of Coordination Committee

Name of the mechanism	National Committee on Disability (hereinafter referred to as "NCD")
Members [13] (before March 2025	MOLISA, Ministry of State, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of

[12] Government of Vietnam (2020a) *Prime Minister Decision No. 1019/QD-TTg,* https://thuviennhadat.vn/van-ban-phap-luat-viet-nam/decision-1190-qd-ttg-2020-approving-support-program-for-persons-with-disabilities-2021-2030-479209.html (Accessed: 17 January 2026)

[13] No government ordinance has been issued regarding the members of the NCD after the administrative reorganization in March 2025.

restructuring)	Education and Training, Ministry of Culture Sports and Tourism, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Information and Communications, Ministry of Science and Technology, Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee, Vietnam Federation on Disability, Vietnam Women's Union, Vietnam Association for Support of Disabled Children and Orphans, Vietnam Blind Association, Vietnam Agent Orange Victims' Association
Roles	Assists the Prime Minister and provides guidance and coordination to relevant ministries, government agencies, and local authorities in disability support activities, including: formulating 5-year and annual plans; guidance and coordination of relevant ministries and local governments in the design of programs, projects, and plans for supporting persons with disabilities; promoting international cooperation; advancing implementation of the CRPD and the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities recommendations; reviewing, monitoring, and evaluating the Law on Persons with Disabilities and related policies; submitting annual reports.
Implementation Status	The NCD has supervised disability-related laws and policies, and formulated the National Strategy of Action 2012-2020 and 2021-2030 to support persons with disabilities. The NCD has established local councils in 34 provinces[14], with authority to assist the Prime Minister in guiding relevant agencies and local authorities[15].

<Local government administration>

Entities responsible for disability issues

Name	Overview
People's Committees	People's Committees at the provincial, district, and commune levels oversee and most directly implement all disability-related policies[16]. Provincial or centrally administered city People's Committees are responsible for organizing the implementation of disability support programs within their jurisdiction, formulating and implementing annual plans, actively allocating budgets and personnel, and ensuring the achievement of program targets[17].
Department of Health	Since the March 2025 administrative restructuring, the Department of Health is responsible for compiling and reporting on policy implementation to the People's Committees[18].

[14] As of July 1, 2025, the 63 provinces were consolidated into 34 provinces.

[15] United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) (2021) *Situation analysis of the rights of persons with disabilities in Viet Nam* https://vietnam.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/Situation_Analysis_CountryBrief_Vietnam_0%20%281%29.pdf (Accessed: 25 January 2026)

[16] ILO（2013）*Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Viet Nam*

[17] Government of Vietnam (2020a)

[18] ILO (2026) *Building an inclusive future: Social protection as a catalyst for disability empowerment in Viet Nam*, Geneva: International Labour Office, https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/ILO-Building%20an%20inclusive%20future-EN.pdf (Accessed: 15 March 2026)

2-2. Laws and Policies on Disability

The Vietnamese government enacted the Law on Persons with Disabilities in 2010. This law defines the responsibilities of the government, families, and society in ensuring and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

Title	The Law on Persons with Disabilities
Year of Enactment	2011
Overview	As the foundational law for persons with disabilities in Viet Nam, this law clarifies the responsibilities of families, the government, and society, as well as the rights and obligations of persons with disabilities. The 10 main provisions cover: (1) General provisions; (2) Disability certification; (3) Healthcare; (4) Education; (5) Vocational training and employment; (6) Cultural, physical, sports, leisure, and tourism activities; (7) Access to housing, public facilities, transport and ICT; (8) Social security; (9) Government responsibilities; (10) Implementation provisions.

Other major laws related to the rights of persons with disabilities include[19]:

Title	Labour Code
Year of Enactment	1994 (revised 2012 and 2019)
Disability Provisions	The Labour Code strictly prohibits discrimination based on disability. Employers must ensure equal pay for equal work regardless of disability. Employers must also ensure appropriate working conditions, tools, occupational safety, and health for employees with disabilities, and conduct regular health checks. Employers must consult with employees with disabilities on matters related to their rights and interests. In addition, to protect the rights of employees with disabilities, the law also regulates prohibited practices when employing persons with disabilities. However, the law does not prohibit indirect forms of discrimination and does not recognize failure to provide reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "OPDs") have reported being unable to seek legal remedies for discrimination, including failure to provide reasonable accommodation. The law focuses on discrimination by individuals rather than organizations[20].

Title	Employment Law
Year of Enactment	2013
Disability Provisions	Stipulates that employers of persons with disabilities must assign appropriate jobs, establish suitable working conditions, and prepare an

[19] JICA & Nippon Telesoft Co., Ltd. (2019). *Final report of the project for dissemination and pilot implementation of ICT education centers aimed at empowering persons with disabilities in Vietnam.* JICA.

[20] UNPRPD (2021)

	accessible work environment. Enterprises with 30% or more employees with disabilities are eligible for subsidies, low-interest loans, priority land leases, and corporate income tax reductions when improving working conditions for employees with disabilities, depending on the proportion of employees with disabilities, the severity of their disabilities, and the size of the business.

Title	Vocational Education Law
Year of Enactment	2014
Disability Provisions	Revised from the 2006 Vocational Training Law. Organizations and individuals establishing vocational education institutions for persons with disabilities receive financial support for infrastructure and equipment. Facilities, materials, curricula, and duration must be adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities. Equipment must comply with standards set by the construction law. Teachers must have the skills and qualifications to teach persons with disabilities, and are entitled to additional incentive pay.

Other recent circulars related to persons with disabilities include:

- 2019: National standards on Braille
- 2020: National standards on sign language and Braille;

  Standards and technology for access to ICT products and services by persons with disabilities
- 2022: Regulations on the organization and operation of Inclusive Education Development Support Centers
- 2024: National technical standards for accessibility in buildings

Disability Policies:

Title	the National Plan for implementation of the CRPD
Year of Enactment	2016
Overview	A comprehensive plan promoting and guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities in healthcare and rehabilitation, education, vocational training and employment, life support, and accessibility in public facilities, transport, ICT, and the justice system. Defines the responsibilities of relevant ministries and agencies to comply with CRPD obligations. Originally supervised by MOLISA; transferred to the Ministry of Health after the March 2025 restructuring[21].

[21] Vietnam Law and Legal Forum magazine (2025) "Vietnam ramps up implementation of Convention on the Rights of

Title	National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
Year of Enactment	2017
Overview	Disability-related tasks are included under Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Goals 1 (poverty), 4 (education), 6 (water and sanitation), and 11 (sustainable cities). The Ministry of Planning and Investment is responsible for leading and coordinating relevant ministries.

Title	Support Program for Persons with Disabilities in 2021–2030[22]
Year of Enactment	2020
Overview	Covers 12 areas including healthcare, education, employment and livelihood support, disaster prevention, accessibility to buildings, transport, and ICT, and support for women with disabilities. Sets numerical targets for 2025 and 2030, for example, by 2026–2030, approximately 90% of persons with disabilities should have access to healthcare services and 90% of children with disabilities should have access to education.

2-3. Measures on Disability[23]

1) Healthcare

The 2013 Constitution of Viet Nam stipulates that all people have the right to receive healthcare and protection, the right to equal access to health services, and the obligation to comply with regulations on disease prevention, examination, and treatment. The Law on Persons with Disabilities stipulates that persons with disabilities have the right to receive primary healthcare, health examinations, and treatment at their place of residence on an equal basis with others, as well as the right to enrol in health insurance as defined under the Health Insurance Law. Persons with moderate or severe disabilities, children with disabilities, and elderly or pregnant persons with disabilities receive priority in examination and treatment. Medical institutions are also required to provide counselling for early detection and prevention of disability, certify congenital disabilities in newborns, and provide appropriate treatment and rehabilitation.

The Law on Medical Examination and Treatment stipulates that all citizens, including persons with disabilities, have the right to receive high-quality examination and treatment

Persons with Disabilities" September 11, 2025, https://vietnamlawmagazine.vn/vietnam-ramps-up-implementation-of-convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-75795.html (Accessed: 8 March 2026)

[22] Government of Vietnam (2020a)

[23] Unless otherwise specified, this information is based on the State Party's Report on CRPD (2018), Replies of Viet Nam to the list of issues in relation to its initial report (2025, CRPD/C/VNM/RQ/1)), and concluding observations (2025).

appropriate to their condition, the right to choose their healthcare provider, the right to approve or refuse participation in biomedical research, and the right to have their dignity respected and health protected during medical care. Violations in the field of medical examination and treatment are subject to administrative penalties.

Viet Nam has established the National Strategy for Protection, Care, and Improvement of People's Health by 2030 with a Vision Towards 2045[24], as well as related programs and laws, to ensure access to quality, accessible, and affordable healthcare services for persons with disabilities. Specific measures include: expanding health insurance coverage; implementing CBR programs; providing specialized medical services for persons with disabilities; delivering services as close as possible to communities including rural areas; and promoting medical ethics training in public and private facilities.

The Support Program for Persons with Disabilities includes components on implementing medical and preventive measures to meet all the needs of persons with disabilities, with priority given to free vaccinations.

No discrimination exists in the use of health insurance between persons with disabilities and others as prescribed by law. Persons with moderate and severe disabilities are provided with free health insurance cards. Those who are moderate or severe, or mild but receiving social assistance, and who are treated at the appropriate administrative level, can receive 100% reimbursement of examination and treatment costs.

In 2023, the rate of free health insurance enrolment among persons with disabilities was 95.7%, exceeding that of others (92.5%)—a 5.6 percentage point increase compared to 2016[25]. Viet Nam's insurance system for persons with disabilities has been cited in global best practice compilations on inclusive health[26].

Viet Nam has established a rehabilitation service delivery system from the central to the local level. At the central level, there is one National Rehabilitation Hospital, a rehabilitation center at Bach Mai Hospital, and rehabilitation departments in all central general hospitals. At the provincial level, there are 38 hospitals/rehabilitation centers managed by provincial health departments and 23 managed by other ministries, along with rehabilitation

[24] Government of Vietnam (2020b) *Prime Minister Decision No. 89/QD-TTg https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/EN/The-thao-Y-te/Decision-89-QD-TTg-2024-National-Strategy-protection-care-improvement-of-the-people-s-health/603960/tieng-anh.aspx* (Accessed: 25 January 2026), Disability-related goals include "reducing the number of children with disabilities" and "adopting policies and appropriate measures to ensure that citizens, especially children, people with disabilities, and the elderly, have access to and use basic medical services."

[25] National Statistics Office (2025)

[26] Missing Billion Initiative "Vietnam's Disability-targeted Health Insurance" in *Compendium of good practice examples to improve health services for people with disabilities 2020-2023* https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d79d3afbc2a705c96c5d2e5/t/67869069e8956b082008498d/1736872041536/GP_Health+Financing_Vietnam%27s+Disability+Health+Insurance.pdf (Accessed: 25 January 2026)

departments in 90% of provincial general hospitals and 50% of specialized provincial hospitals. At the district level, 75% of district hospitals have rehabilitation departments. At the commune level, 10,000 of 11,000 communes have staff responsible for rehabilitation, of whom about 50% have received training in rehabilitation and CBR. The country also has 10,668 commune health stations, 65% of which have physicians[27].

In response to questions from the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities regarding the state party's report submitted to the Committee, the Vietnamese Government stated that in Vietnam, nearly 100% of persons with disabilities have access to available assistive devices through support from individuals, families, the State, and the community.

However, the CRPD Committee's Concluding Observations noted the following concerns:

- The lack of accessibility of health facilities' infrastructure, including ambulances and equipment in general, accessible information on health programmes and accessible communication for persons with disabilities, including in their original languages, in general clinics and hospitals.
- The lack of adequate and regular training for medical and paramedical personnel on their interactions with persons with disabilities, including Indigenous persons with disabilities.
- Reports from women with disabilities of having experienced negative, insensitive and unsupportive attitudes from maternal healthcare providers during their pregnancy
- The inaccessibility of reproductive health services, information and education for women and girls with disabilities, especially those with sensory and intellectual disabilities, limits their ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights.
- Significant barriers faced by persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities, who live in rural and remote areas and among Indigenous communities, in accessing timely healthcare services, including rehabilitation and assistive technologies.
- The specification in the Persons with Disabilities Act 2010 that only persons with "severe or very severe disabilities[28]" receive free health insurance cards and are fully reimbursed for medical examination and treatment costs.
- The low employment rate of persons with disabilities, resulting in only a small proportion of persons with medium support needs disabilities being eligible for

[27] Government of Vietnam (2018)

[28] The State Party's Report states that "free health insurance cards will be issued to people with moderate to severe disabilities."

compulsory employment-based health insurance, which is partially sponsored by employers.

- The serious harm caused to farmers by the irrigation of crops with pesticides, leading to high rates of blindness among the Khmer Krom population[29].
- The lack of coverage for psychological intervention services for persons with intellectual and/or psychosocial disabilities under health insurance, and the lack of recognition of autism as a disability.
- The proportion of persons with disabilities attending rehabilitation centers is very limited, with only 1.2 % of the total number visiting rehabilitation centers in 2016
- Persons who are deafblind are not receiving the necessary supports to communicate and therefore be able to be included in education and employment and lead independent, employed and active lives.
- The focus of training for rehabilitation professionals is mainly physical therapy
- Rehabilitation orthotics and prosthetics, hearing aids and mobility aids are listed as non-reimbursable items in health insurance plans.
- Over the last 50 years, tens of thousands of veterans with disabilities have only received financial support from overseas Vietnamese charities, not from the government.

2) Education

According to the State Party Report, Viet Nam's Law on Children (2016) stipulates that children, regardless of disability, have the right to receive education and training to develop comprehensively and to their fullest potential. Rights of children with disabilities and persons with disabilities are secured under Article 35 of the law (the right to receive support, care, special education, rehabilitation, capacity development, and social inclusion).

The Education Law stipulates that the State prioritizes allocation of teachers, infrastructure, equipment, and budgets to support inclusive education for students with disabilities, and implements teacher training programs on inclusive education. The Education Law and the Law on Persons with Disabilities essentially guarantee inclusive education for 2.1 million children with disabilities. The government has also: (1) converted textbooks into Braille for schools for persons with visual impairments; (2) produced 100 videos for Vietnamese language instruction and 50 for mathematics instruction for schools and children with hearing impairments; and (3) established a nationwide network of Inclusive Education Support

[29] Indigenous people of the Mekong Delta region in southern Vietnam

Centres[30].

Going forward, the Vietnamese Government plans to appropriately implement the Law on Planning[31], the Education Law, the Law on Persons with Disabilities, the Education Development Strategy, and the Vocational Education and Training Institution Network Plan, incorporating measures to improve access to education for children with disabilities.

The 2021 National Programme of Action for Children 2021–2030 sets targets that by 2025, 55% of schools should have appropriate facilities and materials for children with disabilities (rising to 60% by 2030), and that 80% of children requiring learning support should receive special education, inclusive education, and appropriate rehabilitation support (rising to 90% by 2030).

In Viet Nam, the two main educational approaches for children with disabilities are inclusive education (the primary approach) and special education. Children with disabilities in special education or special needs classes in general educational institutions must follow disability-specific curricula set by the Ministry of Education and Training. Where children with disabilities cannot meet general education requirements, school heads may decide to modify, exempt, reduce, or substitute certain subjects or activities. These are reflected in Individual Education Plans. The government provides support to special needs schools. For students with visual impairments, schools receive materials such as paintings, photographs, Braille books, audiovisual materials, and abacuses.

The table below presents the net enrolment rates for children with disabilities and the rates of provision of facilities and teaching materials suitable for students with disabilities.

[Net Enrolment Rates] As shown in the table below, the net enrolment rates of students with disabilities across all three levels of general education have declined since 2016, with particularly notable decreases at the primary and lower secondary education levels. At the

[30] Inclusive Education Support Centers conduct multifaceted assessments of children with disabilities, considering their educational needs, individual characteristics, and home environment, and support the selection of appropriate teaching methods for each subject through early educational and psychological intervention. For example, the Ho Chi Minh City Inclusive Education and Development Support Center diagnoses and evaluates children in need of support (1,200-1,500 children per year), provides early intervention and therapeutic activities (200-250 children per year), conducts training sessions for parents, raises awareness in the community, and provides outreach such as dispatching specialists to schools.
Source：Nguyen, M. C., Hashimoto, S., & Moriya, N. (2024) "Report on the educational support system for children with disabilities in Vietnam: Inclusive education and special needs education" *Journal of Developmental Disability Support Systems*, 23(1). https://www.jasssdd.org/Journal/pdf/2306.pdf (Accessed: 17 January 2026)
Kuroda, M., Ii, I., Oka, H., Hiranuma, H., & Mukai, K. (2023) "Trends and challenges in education and welfare for children with disabilities in Vietnam: A case study of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City". *Ritsumeikan Journal of Social Sciences*, 59(1), 319–336. https://www.ritsumei.ac.jp/ss/sansharonshu/assets/file/59-1_5-21.pdf (Accessed: 25 March 2026)

[31] A legislation on national planning enacted in 2017 (21/2017/QH14), which designates the "Plan for the Network of Specialized Educational Institutions and Inclusive Education Centers for Persons with Disabilities" as one of the national sector plans for which the Prime Minister bears responsibility for implementation.
Source: Government of Vietnam (2017) *Law on Planning* (21/2017/QH14)
https://filevbpl.mpi.gov.vn/qlvb/2022/5/5/21.2017.QH14.Law%20on%20Planning.pdf (Accessed: 17 January 2026)

upper secondary level, the decline was marginal, at 2.8 %[32].

Table 2 Net Enrolment Rate by Education Level (2016／2023) (%)

	Primary		Lower secondary		Upper secondary	
	2016	2023	2016	2023	2016	2023
Children with disabilities	81.7	68.1	67.4	53.0	33.6	30.8
Children without disabilities	96.1	95.2	88.6	90.0	68.7	76.6

Source: Compiled by the survey team based on National Statistics Office (2025)

[Facility and Educational Material Availability Rate] While the availability of facilities and educational materials suitable for students with disabilities improved in 2022 compared to 2021, it remains low, as shown in the table below. The Vietnamese government attributes this to the fact that many schools were built decades ago and therefore lacked the necessary facilities for students with disabilities[33].

Table 3 Rate of Schools with Appropriate Facilities and Materials for Children with Disabilities (2021/2022) (%)

2021			2022		
Primary	Secondary	High	Primary	Secondary	High
33.8	20.6	18.5	37.1	28.9	19.9

Source: Compiled by the survey team based on the Government of Vietnam (2023)

The Ministry of Education and Training has worked to realize inclusive education for children with disabilities through such measures as converting textbooks into Braille format, issuing national Braille standards, and promoting sign language. However, significant disparities exist in the availability of accessible textbooks and facilities between major cities and rural areas, particularly among inclusive education centers located in remote regions. At the higher education level, the availability of accessible learning materials is even more limited[34].

[32] National Statistics Office（2025）
[33] Government of Vietnam (2023) *Voluntary National Review 2023 on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals* https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Viet%20Nam%20Summary.pdf (Accessed: 17 January 2026)
[34] UNPRPD (2021)

In recent years, the Vietnamese Government has expanded investment in inclusive education centers, and as of 2019, 107 special education facilities and 12 educational centers for persons with disabilities have been established across 21 provinces. Despite these efforts, only 0.5% of children with disabilities attend special education classrooms, and fewer than 1% attend special education schools or inclusive education centers[35].

[Teachers] As of 2025, Viet Nam has approximately 1.251 million pre-school and general education teachers, of whom about 7% are persons with disabilities. All teacher training institutions nationwide have special education departments for training and capacity development of inclusive education teachers[36]. However, a 2018 UNICEF report[37] found that approximately three-quarters of schools lacked teachers trained in educating children with disabilities.

[The literacy rate] The literacy rate for persons with disabilities aged 15 and above in 2023 was 79.0%, compared to 96.3% for others—a 4.6 % improvement over 2016. The National Statistics Office analyzes that the gap in literacy rates between persons with disabilities and others stems from the difficulties they face in accessing educational opportunities and in their ability to acquire knowledge[38].

The Vietnamese government has established a legal framework and taken measures to promote education for children with disabilities, but providing education for these children remains challenging[39].

The Concluding Observations noted the following concerns:

- The persistence of segregated special education settings for all children with disabilities, especially those who need a higher level of support, and Indigenous persons with disabilities
- The lack of comprehensive plans for accessibility, reasonable accommodations and educational materials at all levels for students with disabilities who have diverse support needs;

[35] https://education-profiles.org/eastern-and-south-eastern-asia/viet-nam/~inclusion?utm_source=copilot.com#School%20Organization (Accessed: 29 April 2026)), UNPRPD (2021)

[36] UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2025) *Replies of Viet Nam to the list of issues in relation to its initial report (CRPD/C/VNM/RQ/1) https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCRPD%2FRLI%2FVNM%2F62475&Lang=en* (Accessed: 25 January 2026)

[37] UNICEF, NSO (2018) *Children with Disabilities in Vietnam*

[38] National Statistics Office（2025）

[39] Government of Vietnam (2018)

- The limited training for teachers, social workers and school staff on different types of disabilities, reasonable accommodations, and strategies to create inclusive and equitable learning environments free from bullying and other forms of violence;
- The shortage of teachers with disabilities in mainstream schools;
- The absence of physical accessibility and access to information and communication in mainstream schools hinders educational inclusion.

3) Gender (Women and Girls with Disabilities)

Article 26 of the 2013 Constitution of Viet Nam stipulates that male and female citizens are equal in all respects, and that the government has policies to guarantee equal rights and opportunities for men and women. Under this principle, men and women with disabilities are equal in all aspects of social life and must not be discriminated against on the basis of gender. Similarly, women with disabilities must not be discriminated against on the grounds of disability compared to women without disabilities. The Children's Law also recognizes the principle of non-discrimination between boys and girls, including children with disabilities, and between girls with disabilities and girls without disabilities.

Viet Nam has implemented many programs to support women in general and women with disabilities in particular. To support women who are victims of violence, including women with disabilities, Viet Nam has established many social-political and social organizations such as social work centers, Women's Unions at all levels, and community mediation teams.

The Support Program for Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030 targets 80% of women with disabilities receiving "extensive support" by 2025 and 100% by 2030. Among its 12 priority activities, Activity 10 focuses on support for pregnant women, which will involve raising public awareness and strengthening the capabilities of government officials, and Activity 3 on vocational training, employment, and livelihood support lists women with disabilities as a priority group[40]. The Communication Plan for Gender Equality to 2030 sets out goals, challenges, solutions, and funding targets to change perceptions, particularly regarding the division of household chores and gender norms that disadvantage women and girls with disabilities.

In addition, the Act on Prevention and Control of Trafficking in Persons, the National Programme on Prevention and Management of Domestic Violence, and the Anti-Trafficking Programme include measures to protect women and girls with disabilities from all forms of gender-based violence, specifically: "Development of support and intervention procedures for exploitation, violence, and abuse cases," "Investigation, prosecution, and trial procedures

[40] Government of Vietnam (2020a)

for such cases," "Implementation rules for inter-agency cooperation," "Establishment of reporting and complaint hotlines," "Provision of psychological, legal, and policy advice," and "Coordination with support services."

Vietnam ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as "CEDAW") in 1982. The Gender Equality Law, enacted in 2006, adopts the principles and measures of the Convention to ensure general gender equality, including for men and women with disabilities[41]. However, while the Law acknowledges discrimination against women in rural areas and ethnic minorities, it does not cover indirect discrimination and does not specifically address other groups that suffer disadvantages due to their gender, such as women with disabilities. It lacks reference to harmful practices as defined by the Convention, such as medical procedures performed on women with disabilities without their consent, and there are no prohibited acts or related sanctions[42].

From 2019 to 2022, Vietnam developed gender indicators and sex-disaggregated data broken down by age and disability. This complements the socioeconomic database of the Vietnam Disaster Monitoring System. This dataset will help to deepen our understanding of the risks faced by vulnerable groups, gender-specific impacts, and details regarding their vulnerability levels to disasters[43].

A 2025 UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) report[44] found that women with disabilities experience higher rates of physical and sexual violence than women without disabilities (33% vs. 25.3%). A 2019 UN Women report[45] revealed that up to two-thirds of women and girls with disabilities who experienced abuse could not receive support from authorities. The report also cited Vietnam Federation on Disability (VFD) survey findings[46] that approximately 2.3% of women with disabilities are forced to marry or cohabit with men with disabilities, and that persons with hearing and speech impairments are most commonly subjected to forced marriage.

The Concluding Observations raised concerns about:

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[41] Government of Vietnam (2018)

[42] UN Women (2024) *Country Gender Equality Profile – Viet Nam* https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/10/country-gender-equality-profile-viet-nam-2021（Accessed: 25 January 2026)

[43] UN Women (2025) *Viet Nam country report: 30 years of implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (2019–2023)*. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2025/11/viet-nam-beijing-30-country-report (Accessed: 25 February 2026)

[44] *Ibid.*

[45] UN Women, GBVNET (2019) *Independent Report: 25-Year Implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in VietNam, Focusing on Gender-Based Violence from Perspectives of Civil Society Organizations* https://vietnam.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Beijing%2025-GBVnet%20-EN-FINAL.pdf (Accessed: 25 February 2026)

[46] An umbrella organization for OPD and people with disabilities that operates at a national level, and a member of NCD.

- Despite legal frameworks on gender equality, women and girls with disabilities continue to experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in areas such as employment, healthcare, education and family life.
- There is insufficient gender-disaggregated data on the participation of women with disabilities in political, economic and social decision-making processes, particularly in leadership, employment, and access to public services.
- Cultural norms on gender and disabilities discourage discussions on sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially for single women, deterring them from seeking information.
- Opportunities for the economic empowerment of women with disabilities remain limited, particularly in terms of entrepreneurship, vocational training and employment opportunities.

4) Vocational Training, Employment, and Work

Viet Nam's labour and employment laws make no distinction between public and private sectors. All persons with disabilities have equal access to basic services and social protection. A database on persons with disabilities in the informal sector has yet to be developed.

The Vietnamese government has adopted a policy of providing preferential loans from the National Employment Fund to employers who hire persons with disabilities. It also allocates a portion of the national budget annually to support vocational rehabilitation, vocational training, and low-interest loans for self-employed persons with disabilities. Policies to support vocational training for persons with disabilities include providing meal allowances and travel expenses, and expanding the scope of eligible programs to include persons with disabilities in both rural and urban areas.

The existing legal framework's provisions regarding vocational training, employment, and work are as follows (see table below).

In addition, the Vietnamese government plans to support the establishment of six specialized vocational training facilities in six regions across the country to provide vocational training for persons with disabilities, as well as to invest in equipment and facilities for these facilities.

Table 4 Provisions Related to Vocational Training and Employment in Existing Laws

Law/Policy	Provisions
Law on Employment	Stipulates preferential credit policies for job creation and support for job transition for workers with disabilities in rural areas, including job transition support, vocational training support, loan assistance, provision of information on product markets, tax exemptions and reductions for enterprises, cooperatives, and business households creating jobs for persons with disabilities.

Law on Public Investment, the Law on Education, the Law on Vocational Education, the Law on Persons with Disabilities, the Vocational Education and Training Institutions Network Planning	Stipulates policies on investment in facilities and training programs to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities.
Vocational Education Development Strategy	Stipulates modernization of facilities and innovation in training programs and methods; targets 40% of employable workers with disabilities to receive appropriate vocational training by 2030.
Support Program for Persons with Disabilities	Targets provision of vocational training and employment creation support for 300,000 persons with disabilities in difficult circumstances during 2026–2030.

Source: Compiled by the survey team based on the Vietnamese government's reply to the list of issues on the State Party Report (2025)

The Law on Persons with Disabilities and the Labor Code stipulate that all employers employing persons with disabilities must ensure appropriate working conditions and environments that enable them to perform their duties under the same conditions and at the same level as others. However, neither law sets clear standards or regulations. Because renovations are expected to be expensive, employers are often reluctant to change the work environment to make it more accessible for persons with disabilities, and often prefer to pay administrative fines of 1 million to 15 million Vietnamese dong (hereinafter referred to as "VND").

As a preferential treatment for employers, since 2013, "production and business establishments" with 20 or more employees and more than 30% of their workforce being persons with disabilities have been exempt from corporate income tax[47]. The implementation of this policy remains a challenge, and many persons with disabilities work in the informal sector. The Ordinance on Disabled Persons of 1998 included a requirement to have a minimum of 2-3 % of employees with disabilities in agencies and enterprises. However, since the mandatory quota requirement for persons with disabilities has been abolished under the Law on Persons with Disabilities and the Labor Code the proportion of employees with disabilities and accessibility adjustments to meet work requirements are no longer taken into consideration[48].

The labour force participation rate[49] of persons with disabilities is 23.9% (2023), significantly lower than for others (77.4%). The employment rate among working-age persons with disabilities in 2023 was 23.5%, compared with 76.3% for the general population. The gap

[47] UNPRPD (2021)
[48] *Ibid.*
[49] An indicator showing the proportion of people aged 15 and over (or the working-age population) who are willing to work (employed + unemployed).

is particularly wide in the 18–40 age group[50].

Table 5 Employment Rate by Age Group – Persons with and without Disabilities (2023, %)

Category	15–17	18–40	41–64	65+	Total
Total	17.9	86.9	81.1	29.5	72.5
Persons with disabilities	8.3	37.1	42.7	12.4	23.5
Persons without disabilities	18.0	87.8	83.1	37.2	76.3

Source: National Statistics Office (2025)

The employment rate varies significantly by type of disability. Employment rates are higher among those with physical, hearing, and intellectual disabilities, while those with visual, communication, upper mobility, neurological, and mental disabilities have employment rates below 10%[51].

In 2019, approximately 44,391 persons with disabilities participated in vocational training (2.2 times the number in 2017), half of whom were between 19 and 35 years old, and 15,581 persons with disabilities found employment[52]. In 2023, the proportion of persons with disabilities aged 15 and above who received vocational training (8.8%) was significantly lower than for others (25.4%). The National Statistics Office analyzes that this difference is due to persons with disabilities having more limited access to vocational training programs than others, which limits their ability to acquire work skills and find suitable employment[53].

The Concluding Observations noted the following concerns:

- The State Party continues to train persons with disabilities in activities such as massage therapy, computer maintenance and artisanal production, offering mainly professional subjects that "fit" their type of impairment;
- The number of persons with disabilities receiving adequate vocational training remains modest, due to insufficient information about programmes in some communities and a lack of professionals;
- The rejection rate for job applicants with disabilities is quite high, at 53 %.

5) Social Security and Disability Welfare Services

Persons with disabilities are among the groups covered by social security. The State

[50] National Statistics Office（2025）
[51] *Ibid.*
[52] UNPRPD (2021)
[53] National Statistics Office（2025）

provides monthly social allowances and free health insurance cards to persons with moderate and severe disabilities. The elders or children with moderate or severe disabilities are entitled to a higher allowance than other persons with disabilities of the same disability level. Monthly care allowances are provided to households with members with moderate or severe disability members, pregnant persons with moderate or severe disability, and caregivers of children under 36 months.

The Vietnamese government has adopted the Law on Persons with Disabilities, the Decree on Social Security in Communities, and the Support Program for Persons with Disabilities and is allocating a budget to the operation and development of independent living programs in communities for persons with disabilities. The Vietnamese government allocates approximately VND 35 trillion annually to support over 1.6 million persons with moderate and severe disabilities, as well as approximately 350,000 households and individuals caring for persons with severe disabilities and children with disabilities. Of these, persons with disabilities from ethnic minority groups, including the Khmer people, benefit from monthly social allowances and subsidies, as well as occasional social allowances and subsidies, based on the Decree on Social Security in Communities and the Health Insurance Law.

The Law on Persons with Disabilities, Decree No. 20/2020/ND-CP[54], the Support Program for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, and the National Target Program for Socioeconomic Development of Ethnic Minority Areas establish policies and budget allocations to ensure that all persons with disabilities, including ethnic minorities with disabilities, receive an adequate standard of living and social protection.

Housing laws regulate exemptions and reductions in rent or purchase prices for state-owned housing for persons with disabilities, and identify them as priority beneficiaries of social housing policies. Under this policy, in central and local social housing development projects, persons with disabilities are given priority in purchasing or renting social housing. Persons with severe disabilities without caregivers or those who have difficulty living in the community can enter social care facilities to receive assistance.

Persons with disabilities in general employment can receive a pension if they are 60 years old for men and 55 years old for women, and have been enrolled in social insurance for 20 years or more. Persons with disabilities whose work capacity has decreased by 61% or more can receive a pension if they are 50 years old for men and 45 years old for women, and have

[54] Deree concerning the Implementation of a Pilot Program on Labor Management, Wages, and Bonuses for Some State-Owned Economic Groups and Corporations. https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Lao-dong-Tien-luong/Nghi-dinh-20-2020-ND-CP-quan-ly-lao-dong-tien-luong-tien-thuong-doi-voi-tap-doan-kinh-te-434782.aspx (Accessed: 25 February 2026)

been enrolled in social insurance for 20 years or more.

Vietnam is implementing the National Target Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction and the National Target Program for New Rural Development. These programs are implemented across all regions, and persons with disabilities living in impoverished households are beneficiaries.

The social security benefits available to persons with disabilities are shown in the table below.

Table 6 Types of Social Security Benefits for Persons with Disabilities

Beneficiary	Type of Benefit
Persons/children with extremely severe/severe disabilities due to Agent Orange	Monthly allowance: VND 540,000–720,000; Free mandatory health insurance; Fare discounts on buses, trains, and aircraft; Free entry to parks and museums
Persons with disabilities due to occupational or labour injuries/disease	Monthly allowance when a 30%+ reduction in work capacity is certified by the Ministry of Health Medical Assessment Committee; VND 710,000 /month for 40% reduction; Lump sum equivalent to 4–8 months' basic salary for 11–30% reduction
Students with disabilities	Individual education plans with exempted or reduced requirements; Enrolment deferral up to 3 years; Adjusted admission criteria for high schools, vocational schools, and universities
Students with disabilities in poor/near-poor households	Free vocational training; Exemption from tuition fees and a scholarship of VND 1,000,000 for learning materials
Persons with depression, suicidal tendencies, or risk of harm to others	Daily allowance, travel expenses, and hospitalization costs during compulsory treatment
All persons with disabilities	Educational guidance on disease prevention and rehabilitation

Source：UNPRPD（2021）[55]

In 2023, 43.4% of persons with disabilities received monthly allowances, up from 40.3% in 2016. In rural areas, the proportion of persons with disabilities receiving monthly allowances is higher than in urban areas (45.8% vs. 37.6%), the rate of monthly allowance receipt is higher for women with disabilities than for men (44% vs. 42.7%), and the rate of monthly allowance receipt is higher for the Kinh/Hoa ethnic group than for other ethnic groups (44.2% vs. 38.1%)[56].

According to UNPRPD (United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[57]) analysis, while monthly allowances have increased, they are insufficient to cover basic living costs and additional disability-related expenses—equivalent to 36–48% of the rural minimum living standard (USD 64/month) and 27–36% of the urban standard (USD

[55] UNPRPD (2021).
[56] National Statistics Office（2025）
[57] As of the time of this survey, the fund's name has been changed to Global Disability Fund.

86/month). Only 40.6% of persons with disabilities receive such allowances[58].

The percentage of persons with disabilities who have been issued a disability certificate and recognized as disabled (2023) was 69.6%, a slight increased from 2016 (67.2%). There was no significant difference in this percentage between urban areas (70.6%) and rural areas (69.3%)[59].

The survey also found that the living conditions for persons with disabilities in 2023 had improved compared to 2016, with no significant difference between households with and without persons with disabilities. The survey cited data such as average housing area per person, access to clean water sources, use of sanitary toilets, radio and television usage, and the percentage of persons with disabilities using disability devices as reasons for this improvement. However, disparities still exist between ethnic minorities and the Kinh Hoa ethnic group[60].

Families of persons with disabilities and children with disabilities bear direct and indirect costs, including hospitalization, assistive devices, reduced income due to childcare, additional care for elderly persons with disabilities, and accompanying family members to medical services. These are estimated to account for 11.5% of household income. When these additional costs are taken into account, the poverty rate for households with disabilities rises to 22.3%[61]. The multidimensional poverty rate for children with disabilities is almost twice that of children without disabilities. In all aspects of multidimensional poverty, children with disabilities exhibit a much higher poverty rate than children without disabilities[62].

According to a MOLISA survey, more than 90% of persons with disabilities in difficult circumstances will receive timely support, care, and rehabilitation as of 2023[63].

The Concluding Observations noted the following concerns:

- Persons with disabilities are not benefiting from or having progress reported under the National Programme for Sustainable Poverty Reduction and the National Plan for New Rural Development based on the specific indicators developed;
- There is a lack of dissemination regarding how many persons with disabilities have received information and benefits under the legislation regulating exemption from or reduction of the rental or purchase price of public housing, and how many have taken advantage of social housing policies;

[58] UN Women (2025)
[59] National Statistics Office（2025）
[60] *Ibid.*
[61] UNPRPD (2021)
[62] GSO & UNICEF (2021) *Situation and trends of multidimensional child poverty in Viet Nam*. Cited in Government of Vietnam (2023)
[63] UN Women (2025)

- Persons with disabilities continue to be classified under the pre-Convention welfare model, resulting in only a portion of them benefiting from monthly social benefits and free health insurance cards;
- Persons with disabilities are not included in the Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development and the Work and Society Plan 2021–2025.

6) Transport and Urban Development (including accessible urban planning)

The Vietnamese government has established a legal framework to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities. Medical, educational, cultural, physical education, sports, and tourism facilities are responsible for renovating their infrastructure to ensure accessibility. Relevant laws, such as the Construction Law and the Road Traffic Law treat accessibility for persons with disabilities as a fundamental requirement in construction and road traffic activities.

During the drafting and promulgation of the legislation, emphasis was placed on reviewing and supplementing provisions on mechanisms and policies to facilitate the convenient use of public transportation by persons with disabilities and the elderly. This includes exemptions or reductions in fares for persons with disabilities and the elderly, priority in ticket purchases and seating for persons with disabilities and the elderly, and provision of support information for persons with disabilities and the elderly.

The Law on Persons with Disabilities defines accessibility as 'ensuring equal access to and use of public works, public transportation, information technology, cultural, sports, tourism, and other services so that persons with disabilities can fully integrate into social life.' The law states that persons with disabilities have the right to ensure appropriate accessibility in public buildings, public transport, information technology, cultural services, sports, tourism, and other services, in accordance with the type and degree of their disability.

The Law on Road, the Law on Road Traffic Order and Safety, the Law on Persons with Disabilities, and the Program to Support Persons with Disabilities stipulate the following measures and solutions to promote individual mobility for persons with disabilities:

- Development of plans and roadmaps to upgrade infrastructure and invest in supportive devices for persons with disabilities;
- Directing localities to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities when executing building works; prioritizing and supporting persons with disabilities in purchasing tickets and completing the procedures; arranging seats and handling luggage for them;
- Exemptions and reductions of ticket and service prices, free transportation of specialized assistive devices for persons with disabilities;
- Developing universal accessibility transportation criteria;

- Enhancing monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of regulations on traffic works.

Viet Nam has set a roadmap for the period 2026 - 2030 to promote accessibility for old and newly built public buildings in the Program to support persons with disabilities.

- 100% of new constructions and 50% of old constructions ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- 50% of persons with disabilities in need of participating in traffic can access means of transport that meet technical standards for accessible traffic or equivalent assistive services;
- Traffic fares for 100% of persons with disabilities are exempted or rebated according to regulations, especially traffic fares reduced by 60% for inter-provincial roads.

The Law on Persons with Disabilities and the Program to Support Persons with Disabilities stipulate measures to effectively support persons with disabilities by utilizing existing science and technology and to ensure access to transportation. As of 2025, bus stop search software, online air ticket booking, voice-guided maps, online ticketing, signal assistance devices, tactile paving, and Braille displays in public areas are available. Smart shoe devices to assist visually impaired persons in mobility have also been developed.

A Ministry of Transport circular issued in 2024 (No. 35/2024/TT-BGTVT) sets out specific regulations regarding the training, examination, and issuance of driver's licenses for persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities can choose their training format and receive driving instruction in a real vehicle rather than a training cabin. Regulations are also set out regarding the content, process, and format of examinations for persons with disabilities.

The State Party Report states that transport infrastructure basically meets requirements to ensure accessibility and convenience for persons with disabilities. In aviation, approximately 75% of flights meet requirements; in urban areas, approximately 30% of bus terminals and 70% of bus stops are compliant; all buses have priority seating; and 57.6% of national railway stations have convenient wheelchair access facilities. All railway infrastructure construction and renovation projects have been reviewed, approved, and supervised for compliance with technical standards regarding transportation accessibility. In some areas, policies are in place to offer discounted public transport fares and service charges for the elderly, persons with disabilities, and children[64].

However, the government's accessibility standards only apply to passenger vehicles in urban areas such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, and are not mandatory for taxis or fixed-route passenger vehicles. As of the end of 2019, even in Hanoi, which has the largest number

[64] Government of Vietnam (2023)

of buses in operation, there were only 243 vehicles equipped with wheelchair ramps and 159 buses equipped with voice guidance systems and LED destination displays connected to surveillance cameras[65].

As of 2017, 30% of Vietnam's 457 bus terminals had accessibility features to support persons with disabilities. While bus terminals are making progress in supporting people with visual, hearing, and speech impairments, there is a lack of tactile paving for persons with visual impairments[66]. Bus terminals and bus stops do not have a unified design. Paved paths and sidewalks with tactile paving are rare, and access is difficult due to parked motorcycles and street vendors[67].

Due to budget constraints and the low number of railway users with moderate to severe disabilities (only 5,000 out of 11 million annual railway users have impairments), Vietnam has only one accessible carriage for passengers with disabilities. The 16 first-class stations in the country have waiting rooms and ramps to the trains. All stations have ramps to the main entrance[68]. Priority seating in carriages for persons with disabilities is limited, as are information services within stations, dedicated waiting rooms for passengers with disabilities, and staff capacity to meet their needs[69].

Regarding air transport, all Vietnamese airlines have established special regulations to assist passengers with disabilities. All aircraft used by Vietnamese airlines meet international standards and are highly accessible to all passengers, including those with disabilities. Vietnamese airports have invested in specialized facilities such as elevators and wheelchair services to assist passengers with disabilities on the ground and in the air. With the exception of some regional airports, most of the 22 airports have wheelchair ramps and accessible restrooms. The six major airports have wheelchair stairlifts, forklifts, or jet bridges to assist passengers with disabilities during boarding and disembarking. On the other hand, some airports that do not have disability assistance facilities or services require passengers with disabilities and their companions to sign a waiver stating that they will relinquish their rights in the event of an accident[70].

Regarding the accessibility of other facilities, 24.8% (2023) of commune health stations are designed for persons with disabilities[71]. A 2019 Ministry of Construction report revealed that

[65] UNPRPD (2021)
[66] Government of Vietnam (2018)
[67] UNPRPD (2021)
[68] Government of Vietnam (2018)
[69] UNPRPD (2021)
[70] UNPRPD (2021)
[71] Percentage of health stations designed to be suitable for persons with disabilities according to both criteria, including: (1) health stations with walkways and ramps for persons with disabilities and (2) health stations with sanitary facilities designed to be suitable for persons with disabilities (1) health stations with walkways and ramps for persons with disabilities、(2) health stations with sanitary facilities designed to be suitable for persons with disabilities. Source: ：National

only a small fraction of facilities were accessible, including schools (3%), government offices (11%), supermarkets (6%), post offices, train stations, and border checkpoints (4%), nursing homes and social protection centers (7%), and banks (2%). The most frequently cited reason for the slow progress was cost[72].

The Concluding Observations raised concerns including:

- A significant percentage of public buildings, including healthcare facilities, educational establishments, justice service locations and supermarkets, do not meet accessibility standards, hindering the full participation of persons with disabilities in these areas;
- The availability of accessible public transport is minimal, with only a few buses nationwide being accessible and some cities having regulations on the ratio of accessible vehicles;
- Only one accessible train carriage exists in Viet Nam, and only certain major train stations have ramps to waiting rooms, limiting access to rail travel for persons with disabilities;
- Although airports have improved accessibility, smaller local airports still lack the necessary accessible facilities, affecting air travel for persons with disabilities;
- Although Viet Nam is a country with much shipping, there is no consideration of accessibility to both transport and tourist boats;
- The persistent inaccessibility of public spaces and sidewalks due to obstacles such as street vendors and parked motorcycles;
- The barriers to obtaining driving licences for persons with disabilities, including regulations that disproportionately affect them and limited support for acquiring and adapting private vehicles;
- The high cost and limited availability of assistive technologies, despite encouraging policies, and the lack of clear funding or guidelines for accessibility-related innovation.

7) Information Accessibility

The Law on Access to Information and related circulars set out measures to help persons with disabilities access community information effectively, including developing and promulgating standards and regulations, developing and improving websites with features such as text resizing, background color change, and article reading/rating/sharing functions for persons with disabilities; and developing production tools, training materials, websites, and libraries accessible to persons with disabilities. The law also stipulates that preferential

Statistics Office（2025）

[72] UNPRPD (2021)

conditions must be provided to ensure that persons with disabilities and those living in border areas, island regions, mountainous regions, and socioeconomically disadvantaged areas have access to information.

Vietnam has established numerous accessibility standards for ICT. Examples include:

- National standards on public internet access points – technical requirements to support the elders and persons with disabilities
- National standards on telecommunication products and services to support persons with disabilities and the elders – Fundamental requirements
- National standards on telecommunication products and services to support persons with disabilities and the elders – Instructions on design of interactive services using DTMF as input signal
- National standards on ICT products and services to support persons with disabilities and the elders – Instructions for design

The "Law on Persons with Disabilities " and the "Support Program for Persons with Disabilities" stipulate training measures regarding the provision and use of assistive devices and technologies for persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. Vietnam is assessing the need for assistive devices and technologies for persons with disabilities, creating relevant documents and conducting training, monitoring usage, screening and providing advice, performing maintenance, inspection and repair of assistive devices for persons with disabilities, and conducting research and development of standards to guide accessibility and use of information on websites.

To ensure that persons with disabilities can access government websites, the Ministry of Information and Communications issued a circular mandating that they be made accessible. The ministry also issued a circular outlining the application of accessibility standards and technologies to support persons with disabilities' access to and use of ICT. In accordance with the Ministry of Information and Communications' regulations, Vietnam's state-run television broadcasts programs with Vietnamese subtitles and sign language interpretation for persons with disabilities.

In Vietnam, most websites have introduced new features such as audio-visual content, text-to-speech, text enlargement, background color changes, article rating, and article sharing. All libraries provide accessible pages, news, and eBooks for persons with disabilities.

Vietnam's "Program for Supporting Persons with Disabilities" aims to increase the percentage of persons with disabilities who have access to and use information and communication technology services to at least one-third of the national average by 2030. The program also stipulates the following measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities have appropriate and effective access to relevant information and policies:

(1) Development and promulgation of national technical standards and regulations for supporting persons with disabilities

(2) Maintenance, development, and updating of electronic portals/websites for supporting persons with disabilities

(3) Development of training tools and materials for persons with disabilities

(4) Development of online education and training systems and solutions for persons with disabilities

(5) Research and development of assistive technologies for persons with disabilities

The government is legally obligated to provide "favorable conditions for persons with disabilities to access information," and has issued a circular calling for the inclusion of accessibility features for persons with disabilities on government portal sites. However, persons with hearing and visual impairments still face significant barriers. While the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Health have developed websites compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 standard with many accessibility features, other government websites have not yet adopted these standards[73].

In 2023, information technology access by persons with disabilities increased significantly compared to 2016, but gaps remain between urban (40.1%) and rural areas (31.0%), between men and women (29.6% vs. 39.3%), and between persons with disabilities (33.6%) and others (83.7%). The mobile phone usage rate among persons with disabilities (2023) was 53.7%, up from 38.9% in 2016. However, there are differences between persons with disabilities (53.7%) and others (89.2%), as well as between men and women (49.9% for men, 59.1% for women)[74].

The Concluding Observations raised concerns including:

- While the Law on Persons with Disabilities and the Law on Information Technology recognize ICT accessibility, implementation remains inconsistent, and many government websites and digital services do not fully comply with accessibility standards.
- Viet Nam Television provides limited programming with sign language interpretation and subtitles, and other media services provide no accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- The enforcement of accessibility standards remains unclear, with few penalties issued for non-compliance with regulations, and there is no transparency in the allocation of funds collected from penalties for accessibility violations.

[73] UNPRPD (2021)

[74] National Statistics Office (2025)

- The limited compliance of government websites with accessibility standards, and the insufficient availability of accessible content, including subtitles and sign language interpretation on national television.
- Barriers faced by persons with disabilities, particularly Indigenous persons with disabilities and those living in rural or remote areas, in accessing public information and digital tools.
- The adequacy of qualified sign language interpreters available to serve in all public services where they are needed by persons with hearing impairments, such as healthcare, justice, education and work.
- The lack of official recognition of Vietnamese Sign Language.
- The lack of accessible modes and methods of information, such as Easy Read, Braille, sign language and others for persons with disabilities.

8) Disaster Risk Reduction

Viet Nam's Law on Disaster Prevention and Response designates persons with disabilities as a vulnerable group entitled to priority support for living and working during natural disasters. In the event of a disaster, the government and local authorities take measures to quickly provide food, clean water, shelter, and relief assistance to those affected, and appeal for and accept donations and humanitarian aid. Persons with disabilities in disaster-stricken areas are considered a high-priority group for relief and support efforts.

The Vietnamese government has established measures to ensure the inclusion and consultation of all persons with disabilities and local organizations for persons with disabilities in risk situations and emergencies, including: "assistance with cash, food, and daily necessities from the national budget and social mobilization," "assistance with medical expenses for the seriously injured," "assistance with housing construction and repair," "emergency assistance for children whose parents have died or gone missing," "assistance with job creation and production development," and "establishment of a hotline for hearing and responding to public opinions."

The Disaster Management Law stipulates that disaster prevention measures must be approached from a humanitarian, equitable, transparent, and gender-equal perspective. The law also designates vulnerable groups, such as pregnant women or mothers with infants under 36 months, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, those with serious illnesses, and the poor, as priority beneficiaries of national assistance for the recovery of livelihoods and productive activities following disasters[75]. The Support Program for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 includes the development of documents and organization of training

[75] UN Women (2025)

to improve the capacity of officials working to support persons with disabilities, working in affairs related to persons with disabilities and OPDs in disease prevention and natural disaster remediation as part of its activities. In addition, as a signatory to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), Vietnam has established a comprehensive legal framework for disaster management, which fully meets the requirements of the CRPD[76]. The Vietnamese government states that 100% of households severely affected by natural disasters and risks receive support promptly as prescribed[77].

On the other hand, according to UNPRPD (2021)[78], OPDs have cited inaccessible evacuation routes, flood-prone housing, and early warning systems[79] as major disaster management challenges. Only 20% of OPDs reported collaborating with local authorities in relevant disaster preparedness activities. OPDs pointed out that there is a lack of meaningful participation from persons with disabilities in local disaster prevention and response efforts.

Vietnam has developed numerous national programs on disaster preparedness and management, raising awareness of disaster risks for persons with disabilities and enabling many to participate in disaster preparedness plans. However, only 20% of local governments provide emergency information for persons with disabilities. Only 13.0% of local governments have shelters suitable for persons with disabilities, and only 12.7% conduct disaster response training for persons with disabilities[80].

The Concluding Observations, while taking note of the establishment of provincial steering committees for disaster prevention and control and of provincial search and rescue committees, raised concerns about:

- Certain regulatory and implementation gaps remain as regards the prevention and management of natural disasters, as well as the reduction of disaster risk for persons with disabilities, and persons with disabilities and their representative organizations have not been adequately included in these processes;
- The languages to be used for communication and information during risk situations remain undefined, and targeted groups, including individuals with hearing and visual disabilities, have not received adequate information and warnings;
- From the central to the local level, no awareness-raising has been conducted on the planning and execution of disaster risk reduction and early warning activities, and

[76] UNPRPD (2021)
[77] UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2025)
[78] UNPRPD (2021)
[79] For example, existing research has pointed out that Vietnam's early warning system is primarily voice-based, which hinders the hearing-impaired community from accessing warning information. Source: https://preparecenter.org/resource/early-warning-messages-and-dhh-communities-in-vietnam/ (Accessed: 29 April 2026)
[80] UNPRPD (2021)

on the prevention and management of situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies;

- The absence of disaggregated data on persons with disabilities by type of impairment, age and sex hinders the assessment of their situations and the identification of their backgrounds, making it challenging to develop suitable support plans in risk and humanitarian emergency scenarios.

3. International Treaties and International Cooperation

3-1. Status of Implementation Following the Ratification of the CRPD

The Vietnamese government signed the CRPD on 22 October 2007 and ratified it on 5 February 2015. The State Party Report was submitted to and accepted by the CRPD Committee on 4 April 2018. As of January 2026, Viet Nam has not signed the Optional Protocol. The CRPD Committee issued a list of issues on 16 September 2022, and the Vietnamese government submitted its replies on 24 February 2025. Civil society parallel reports were submitted in April 2021 (one report[81]), July 2022 (two reports[82] in response to the list of issues), and January 2025 (two reports for the session[83]). Concluding Observations were issued by the CRPD Committee on 21 March 2025. The deadline for the next State Party Report is March 2036.

3-2. Status of Implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty

The Vietnamese government ratified the Marrakesh Convention in 2022.

According to the State Party Report, visually impaired individuals can access books in Braille and alternative formats at libraries. Vietnam's library system provides support services for persons with disabilities, including two libraries specifically designed for them.

Over 200 libraries, associations for the blind, schools, and inclusive education centers provide library information services to persons with visual impairments through alternative text. While there are over 1 million persons with visual impairments in Viet Nam, the number of persons with other print disabilities remains unknown. For students with disabilities, especially those who cannot read printed materials, the lack of accessible reading materials limits their opportunities in higher education and employment. Intellectual property law permits the conversion of printed materials into Braille or other languages for persons with visual impairments[84].

Vietnam has established national standards for Braille (Circular No. 15/2019/TT-BGDDT) and for sign language and Braille (Circular No. 17/2020/TT-BGDDT), expanding opportunities for persons with hearing impairments and those using alternative communication methods to access information fully and effectively. It has also translated textbooks into sign language and Braille and instructed Vietnamese television stations to increase the broadcast time of television programs with sign language interpretation[85].

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[81] The submitting organization was the "Vietnam Federation on Disability (VFD)".
[82] The submitting organizations were “Khmer Kampuchea-Krom Federation” and “VFD and OPD members”.
[83] The submitting organizations were “Boat People SOS and Advocates for Faith & Justice in Vietnam”, and “Intersex Asia.”
[84] UNPRPD (2021)
[85] UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2025)

A parallel report from the Khmer Kampuchea-Krom Federation[86] noted that most indigenous villages lack libraries, and where they do exist, support is insufficient, particularly for Khmer-language Braille or alternative format books for visually impaired Khmer persons. The Concluding Observations noted that 'many libraries provide only limited accessibility services, with some offering Braille and alternative text materials but lacking full accessibility to reading materials, including for Indigenous persons with disabilities.'

3-3. Initiatives on Disability Issues within SDG-related Policies

Each year, the Ministry of Planning and Investment submits a report to the government and National Assembly verifying SDG implementation. However, data gaps identified in Circular 03/2019/TT-BKHDT present challenges for SDG monitoring and evaluation, particularly disaggregated data by criteria and target groups such as children and persons with disabilities, making it difficult to assess implementation of the 'Leave No One Behind' principle[87].

According to Viet Nam's 2023 Voluntary National Review (VNR), among disability-related indicators, only the 'rate of schools with appropriate facilities and materials for students with disabilities' (Table 3) is presented with figures. Target values are not specified and achievement levels are unclear. Consultations with representatives of disability organizations were conducted during the review[88].

3-4. Ratification of and Initiatives regarding Other International Treaties related to Disabilities and Development

Viet Nam's ratification status of international treaties related to disability and development:

- February 1982: Ratification of CEDAW
- February 1990: Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- March 2019: Ratification of ILO Convention No. 159 (Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention)

The 2026 CEDAW Committee Concluding Observations expressed concern that women and girls with disabilities continue to face intersecting forms of discrimination and have limited access to decision-making in political and public life, sexual and reproductive health services, inclusive education, employment and vocational training, justice, sport and cultural life, and

[86] Khmer Kampuchea-Krom Federation (KKF) (2022) *Submission to the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the consideration of the initial report submitted by Viet Nam (CRPD/C/VNM/1)*

[87] Government of Vietnam (2023)

[88] *Ibid.*

recommended ensuring such access[89].

The 2022 CRC Committee Concluding Observations[90] expressed deep concern about discrimination faced by children with disabilities and recommended: developing comprehensive and inclusive strategies for children with disabilities; establishing monitoring mechanisms to enforce laws, regulations and policies that protect the rights of children with disabilities, including protection from discrimination; developing an efficient system for early detection, intervention and support for children with disabilities, including children with psychosocial disabilities; and strengthening awareness-raising campaigns targeted at government officials, families and the general public in order to combat stigmatization and discrimination against children, including girls, with disabilities, and promoting a positive image of children with disabilities as rights holders.

3-5. International Cooperation on Disability[91]

• The Government of Japan

<Grant Assistance for Japanese NGO Projects >

- Building Inclusive Education Training System in Dong Nai and Lam Dong Province in Vietnam (Phase 3) (2015)
- Project for Improvement of Welfare and Independent Support for Children with Disabilities in 4 Provinces through Used Wheelchairs for Children with Disabilities (2016)
- Project for Development of Inclusive Education Training System at Primary Schools in Binh Thuan and An Giang Provinces (2016–2018)
- Project for Development of Inclusive Education Training System at Primary Schools and Kindergartens in Kien Giang and Tra Vinh Provinces (2020–2022)
- Project for Development of Inclusive Education Training System at Primary Schools and Kindergartens in Bac Lieu and Soc Trang Provinces (2024)

<ODA Loans (key projects promoting disability mainstreaming)>

- Ho Chi Minh City Urban Railway Construction Project (Ben Thanh–Suoi Tien (Line 1)), Phase III (2016)

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[89] UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2026) *Concluding observations on the ninth periodic report of Viet Nam* (CEDAW/C/VNM/CO/9) https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2FC%2FVNM%2FCO%2F9&Lang=en (Accessed: 8 March 2026)

[90] UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2022) *Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Viet Nam* (CRC/C/VNM/CO/5-6) https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2FC%2FVNM%2FCO%2F5-6&Lang=en (Accessed: 8 March 2026)

[91] Compiled by a research team based on information from the Cabinet Office's White Paper on Persons with Disabilities, JICA's Disability and Development pamphlet, and websites of other donors and international NGOs. Project names are listed exactly as they appear in the original text. However, this does not apply in cases where there is no English name or the English name is unknown.

<JICA Partnership Program>

- Project for Development of a Rehabilitation Model Using Pedal-Powered Wheelchairs and Training of Rehabilitation Personnel in Vietnam (2013–2016)
- Project for Training Support Leaders for Children with Developmental Disabilities through Psychological Rehabilitation (2018–2020)
- Project for Development of Vocational Training Model for Persons with Agent Orange-related Disabilities in Ho Chi Minh City (2021–2023)
- Establishment of Esophageal Speech Classes and Training System for Laryngectomized Persons in Vietnam (2022–2024)

<Private Sector Partnership>

- Basic Survey on Business for Manufacturing and Selling Welfare and Care Equipment (2016)
- Project for Promoting Hearing Examination and Diagnostic Equipment for Persons with Hearing Loss (2016–2018)
- Project for Dissemination and Demonstration of ICT Education Centers to Enhance Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (2017–2019)
- Feasibility Survey on Stair Lift and Step Eliminator Business for Elderly and Persons with Disabilities (SME Support Type) (2019–2021)

• Other Donors

<International organization>

ILO, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF

- Accelerating Vietnam's Transition Toward Inclusive and Integrated Social Protection[92] (2020-2022)

UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP

- Working together for an inclusive future. Implementing the CRPD through effective collaboration[93] (2021-2026)

World Bank

- Improved Delivery of Legal Aid for the Poor and Vulnerable Project[94] (2022-2026)

<Bilateral Aid>

United States Agency for International Development: USAID[95]

- Advancing Medical Care and Rehabilitation Education (2015-2023)
- Disability Rights Enforcement, Coordination and Therapies (2015-2023)

[92] https://jointsdgfund.org/programme/accelerating-vietnams-transition-toward-inclusive-and-integrated-social-protection (Accessed: 25 January 2026)
[93] https://globaldisabilityfund.org/programme/vietnam-2/ (Accessed: 25 January 2026)
[94] https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P171660 (Accessed: 25 January 2026)
[95] JICA (2021) *Country Profile on Disability: Socialist Republic of Viet Nam*

- Disabilities Integration of Services and Therapies Network for Capacity and Treatment (2015-2022)

Australia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)

- Technical support for revision of Vietnam's Gender Equality Law and Disability Law[96] (2021-2025)

Germany (GIZ)

- Strengthening technical and vocational education and training for the socially just, green and digital economic change[97] (2024-2027)

• International NGO

Humanity & Inclusion[98]

- Stroke prevention campaigns, national and international conferences on stroke management (2015–2025) (Funded by USAID)
- Provision of rehabilitation services and assistive devices, strengthening disability-related policies (2023–2026) (Funded by USAID)
- Employment support using apps and digital platforms (2024–2027) (Funded by European Union: EU)

CBM (Christian Blind Mission) UK[99]

- Cataract surgery for persons with visual impairments; transportation and accommodation support for treatment, etc.

[96] https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/australia-vietnam-development-partnership-plan-2025-2030.pdf (Accessed: 25 January 2026)
[97] https://www.giz.de/en/projects/reform-der-berufsbildung-vietnam-iii (Accessed: 25 January 2026)
[98] https://www.hi.org/sn_uploads/federation/country/pdf/2024-Country-Sheet-Vietnam-Long-EN_1.pdf (Accessed: 31 January 2026)
[99] https://www.cbmuk.org.uk/news-and-blogs/loveyoureyes-stories-from-vietnam/(Accessed: 25 March 2026)

4. Disability-related Organizations and Activities

The main disability-related organizations in Vietnam are as follows:

4-1. Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)

Organization Name	Overview
Vietnam Blind Association (VBA)	The first national disability organization established in Viet Nam (1969). As of 2023, there are 58 blind associations nationwide with 73,775 members. Key activities in 2020–2023 include providing scholarships to students with visual impairments, printing and distributing Braille textbooks, building online libraries, providing white cane support and usage training, and participating in international conferences and seminars on visual impairment[100].
Hanoi City Association of Persons with disabilities (DP Hanoi)	Established in 2006 by the Hanoi People's Council as a civil society organization for persons with disabilities in Hanoi. Promotes the realization of rights of persons with disabilities. As of April 2020, 48 organizations and over 15,000 persons with disabilities are members. Key activities include awareness-raising, capacity building, and international cooperation[101].
Vietnam Federation on Disability (VFD)	A national-level umbrella organization for OPDs and persons with disabilities; a member of the NCD. Represents persons with disabilities and OPDs domestically and internationally, and monitors the implementation of disability-related policies[102].
Vietnam Youth with Disabilities Association (VNYDA)	Supports young persons with disabilities in overcoming barriers, recognizing their own value, and actively contributing to society[103].
Hanoi Association of the Deaf (HAD)	Promotes social reintegration of persons with hearing impairments and the development of the deaf community[104].
Vietnam Autism Network (VAN)	Established in 2013. Composed of individuals with ASD, their parents, families, and organizations and individuals interested in ASD-related activities. Key activities include sharing knowledge and experience, raising awareness, policy advocacy, and implementing programs beneficial to the ASD community[105].

[100] https://wbuap.org/archives/1591 (Accessed: 25 January 2026)
[101] http://dphanoi.org.vn/gioi-thieu-hoi-nguoi-khuyet-tat-thanh-pho-ha-noi.html (Accessed: 25 January 2026)
[102] UNPRPD (2021)
[103] https://thanhnienkhuyettat.vn/en/home/ (Accessed: 25 January 2026)
[104] https://www.dvv-international.de/en/adult-education-and-development/editions/aed-842017-inclusion-and-diversity/columns/raising-the-voice-of-deaf-people/ (Accessed: 25 January 2026)
[105] https://vietnamautism.net/ (Accessed: 25 January 2026)

4-2. Disability Support Organizations

Organization Name	Overview
Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH)	A US non-profit organization active since 1991. Supports the restoration of mobility and improvement of socioeconomic conditions for persons with disabilities and other Vietnamese in difficult circumstances[106].
Association in Support of Vietnamese Handicapped and Orphans (ASVHO)	A volunteer organization established by Prime Minister's decision in 1992 to support persons with disabilities and orphans. Activities include free cataract surgery for poor visually impaired persons, surgery and orthopaedic rehabilitation for persons with physical disabilities, congenital heart disease surgery, free health examinations and medicine distribution, donation of wheelchairs and other equipment, provision of housing and vocational training, scholarships, and livelihood support[107].

[106] https://www.vnah-hev.org/ (Accessed: 31 January 2026)
[107] https://asvho.vn/bao-cao-30-nam-xay-dung-va-phat-trien-cua-hoi-bao-tro-nguoi-khuyet-tat-va-tre-mo-coi-viet-nam-2541992-2542022-a1873.html (Accessed: 31 January 2026)

5. Barriers and Needs Faced by Persons with Disabilities

5-1. Barriers to and Needs regarding Healthcare Services

VFD's parallel report identified the following barriers for persons with disabilities in accessing healthcare: unequal health insurance systems and inadequate protection of the right to receive specialized medical services; access to medical services; insufficient resources and awareness of rehabilitation programs, technologies, and services; access to sexual and reproductive health and information for persons with disabilities; provision of healthcare services for persons with psychosocial disabilities; and insufficient specialized knowledge, equipment, and standardized screening and assessment tools for early detection and intervention for children with disabilities[108].

5-2. Barriers to and Needs regarding Education

VFD's parallel report[109] noted, based on the 2016 National Survey on Persons with disabilities, that persons with disabilities have lower literacy rates (particularly women with disabilities and those in rural areas) and enrolment rates compared to others. Based on regional surveys, many children with disabilities are unable to attend school. Among children with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in Da Nang and Thua Thien Hue Province, only 9% were attending school at the time of the survey, while 59% had attended previously but had dropped out. VFD's own 2016 survey found that 53.7% of adults with disabilities who had attended school had dropped out, and 64.5% of children with disabilities currently in school faced disability-related difficulties. The most common reason for dropout was lack of school accessibility (ramps, elevators, accessible toilets) at 60.7%, followed by inability to afford education and schooling costs (52%), lack of confidence among children with disabilities (50%), and ridicule, teasing, exclusion, and contempt from peers at school (38.5%). Some schools were also reported to refuse admission to children with severe disabilities if they do not have a caregiver.

5-3. Barriers to and Needs regarding Employment

VFD's parallel report[110] noted that the number of persons with disabilities receiving appropriate vocational training is limited and career counselling for persons with disabilities is also insufficient. The large employment gap between persons with and without disabilities is attributed to disability-based discrimination in recruitment, hiring, job placement, retention,

[108] The Viet Nam Federation on Disability (VFD) (2020) *Independent report on the implementation of the un convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in Viet Nam.*
[109] *Ibid.*
[110] *Ibid.*

and promotion, as well as inappropriate working conditions and occupational safety. The lower educational attainment of persons with disabilities also narrows their employment options.

The parallel report from the Khmer Kampuchea-Krom Federation[111] noted that the Law on Persons with Disabilities lacks provisions prohibiting disability-based discrimination in employment.

5-4. Barriers to and Needs regarding Transportation

VFD's parallel report[112] identified various barriers for persons with disabilities in using public transportation, including: some provinces [113] have not yet directed transport enterprises to implement fare exemption and discount policies for persons with disabilities; narrow train doors and high steps make railways difficult for wheelchair users; most trains lack electronic information displays and only have voice guidance systems, making it difficult for people with hearing impairments to recognize their destination.; no airport has tactile paving or high-contrast surface marking lines to support persons with visual impairments.

The Khmer Kampuchea-Krom Federation's parallel report noted that the Law on Persons with Disabilities lacks provisions prohibiting disability-based discrimination in public transportation[114].

5-5. Barriers to and Needs regarding Information Access

VFD's parallel report, citing the organization's 2016 community survey on persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities (28% of respondents had never heard of information on the rights of persons with disabilities in their community[115]) and the National Statistics Office's 2016 National Disability Survey (persons with disabilities have lower access rates to television, computers, and the internet than others), highlighted that persons with disabilities have limited access to social information including information about their own rights due to lack of means and devices for communication[116].

The Khmer Kampuchea-Krom Federation's parallel report[117] noted that the Law on Persons with Disabilities has not been promulgated in local languages, particularly in Khmer, to protect the rights of Khmer persons with disabilities and that many indigenous persons with

[111] KKF (2022)
[112] VFD (2020)
[113] Cao Bang Province, Bac Kan Province, Quang Nam Province, Thua Thien Hue Province, etc.
[114] KKF (2022)
[115] 40% of respondents said they sometimes see or hear about it.
[116] VFD (2020)
[117] KKF (2022)

disabilities live in poverty and lack the means to access government websites, and their free and equal internet access is hindered by the Cybersecurity Law.

5-6. Barriers to and Needs regarding Gender

VFD's parallel report[118] identified three main barriers for women with disabilities: gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, and rights protection in marriage and family.

Regarding gender-based violence, VFD identified six barriers: (1) absence of a definition; (2) inadequate response and insufficient sanctions; (3) absence of specific regulations on prevention and suppression; (4) insufficient appropriate communication means for preventing violence against women with disabilities; (5) absence of timely support from local authorities; and (6) limited local availability of support models for women, including women with disabilities, who are victims of gender-based violence[119].

Regarding reproductive healthcare, the report points out that information is insufficient and difficult to access. VFD's 2016 survey found that only 19% of women with disabilities had access to knowledge on sexual and reproductive health, with most being under 30 years of age. Research by Vietnamese institutions found that 78% of persons with disabilities had never received sexual health examinations or counselling, and 76% had never received reproductive health examinations or counselling. Reasons cited include physical and information access barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from using medical facilities.

Additionally, regarding the protection of rights in the areas of marriage and family, the report points out that women with disabilities face three difficulties compared to men when it comes to marriage and childbirth: difficulties during childbirth, intergenerational inheritance of disabilities, and a lack of economic resources for family and child-rearing. Regarding childbirth, VFD's survey found that 13.4% of women with disabilities were discouraged from having children, 7.5% were criticized for wanting children, and 6% were prohibited from having children. Approximately 20% of disability group discussion participants reported that effective health consultation and protection of the right to have children existed in their communities, though these activities were not held regularly.

[118] VFD (2020)

[119] According to VFD, it is only available in a very limited number of major cities.

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