

## Information on the country strategy Vietnam

For each partner country of VLIR-UOS, a country strategy has been developed. The country strategy represents the strategic niche for VLIR-UOS cooperation in a country, with specific **thematic areas** and an institutional and/or regional focus, based on the needs and national priorities of the country with regard to higher education and development. The [Vietnam Country Strategy](#) follows the Vietnamese development plans through stimulating science innovation and high technology in products; improving and enhancing the quality of education, training and human resources development. This is translated in the country strategy by means of following central themes: '**biosciences for food**', '**environment and natural resources**', '**public and rural health**', '**technology development**' and '**institutional strengthening and reform**'. The **geographical focus** put forward by the strategy, is central Vietnam. A specific **type of institution** is not put forward.

## Information for potential synergy and complementarity

Synergy and complementarity (S&C) can improve the impact of development cooperation interventions and is a top priority of the Belgian minister of Development Cooperation and encouraged by the reform of non-governmental cooperation in 2016. In order to promote S&C, all Belgian non-governmental development actors were invited to elaborate a Joint Strategic Framework (JSFs) per country in 2016. These JSFs provide information about the goals to which the actors want to contribute, and also indicate potential for synergy and complementarity. In the table below, a general overview of relevant information from the Joint Strategic Framework Vietnam is provided for each thematic area of the VLIR-UOS country strategy. The Joint Strategic Goal relevant for each theme is listed, together with the Belgian non-governmental actors which are active in Vietnam with funding of the Belgian development cooperation. By providing this list, VLIR-UOS wants to facilitate synergy and/or complementarity with programmes of other Belgian actors. Synergy and complementarity will also be integrated as an element in the selection of interventions, more in particular when discussing the (developmental) relevance of project proposals. The last updated version of the JSF Vietnam can be found [here](#).

Thematic area of the VLIR-UOS country strategy	Potential match with the Joint Strategic Goal of the Joint Strategic Framework	Belgian Non-Governmental Actors active in this area
<b>BIO-SCIENCES for FOOD – FOOD SECURITY</b>	(1) Contribute to a dynamic <b>agri-food</b> sector where different stakeholders are providing quality and safe produce in a sustainable manner both for domestic and exports markets, hence contributing to economic, social and environmental development, and ensuring consumer's right to safe food	ARES, VECO
<b>ENVIRONMENT and NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		
<b>HEALTH</b>	(2) Ensure that the <b>health system</b> in Vietnam reaches international standards, especially in regard to tropical diseases, birth defects and road/food/workplace safety.	ARES, Plan, ITG, RKVI
<b>TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT</b>	(3) Ensure an inclusive and quality <b>education and research</b> system for all and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	Plan, VVOB, ITG, ARES, VLIR-UOS
Crosscutting themes for <b>HIGHER EDUCATION, and RESEARCH</b> (institutional development, science & technology...)		

The goals for Vietnam from the Joint Strategic Framework **Decent Work** for the ASEAN-region (*Extending **social protection** and promoting **social dialogue** for all*) do not thematically match with the VLIR-UOS country strategy. However, should there be any interest for cooperation, VLIR-UOS will be happy to assist in finding potential partners.

More information about the other Belgian actors active in **Vietnam** with funding of the Belgian development cooperation can be found in the table below. Their own suggestions for possible cooperation with academics are also provided, but this should not be seen as an exhaustive list. Academics and ICOS elaborating a project proposal are invited to contact relevant organisations for more information and/or to enquire them on potential collaborations. Information on the activities of Enabel (former BTC) in Vietnam can be found on their [database](#).

NGA	Short description of the activities in Vietnam	Name of the local partner(s)	Region(s)	Suggested research topics	Contact person
Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur (ARES)	ARES will develop between 2017 and 2021 a programme of institutional support for the benefit of the Vietnamese National University of Agriculture (VNUA) centered on the improvement of sustainable agriculture. Research projects for development and one training project for the south in several Vietnamese universities will be also conducted. One of these research projects, aiming a sustainable breeding of Pangasius fish relates to target agriculture. The other four projects are more in the target health. They treat respectively of infection with Helicobacter pylori in children, chronic zoonotic trematodes of food-borne, respiratory infections and medical, eco-toxicological and socio-economic potential medicinal plant extracts. The training project is the implementation of a master "Food Technology, Safety and Quality Management" at VNUA.	VNUA, IEBR, UPNT, CTU, VNU-HUS			<a href="#">Amélie Schnock</a>
Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde (ITG)	To strengthen the control and/or elimination strategies for parasitic diseases in Vietnam, which are a major contributor to mortality and morbidity, the research capacity in Vietnam will be strengthened and laboratory tools for detection and surveillance of parasitic diseases will be enhanced. The research capacity of the National Institute of Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology (NIMPE) will be strengthened by improving the research infrastructure, in particular of quality assurance and library systems, as well as train Vietnamese scientist in multi-disciplinary	NIMPE	National	(Operational) research and innovation to guide control and elimination of infectious diseases (and malaria in particular) in Vietnam	<a href="#">Anna Rosanas Urgell</a>

	<p>approaches to support the malaria control and elimination program.</p> <p>An increase in health research capacity is required in order to expand the limited knowledge of the factors contributing to the epidemiology of these diseases in Vietnam.</p> <p>Diagnostic and surveillance tools will be developed and transferred to the laboratories of NIMPE for the detection of Food and Waterborne Parasitic Diseases (FWBPD) and malaria. In addition, a national program for control of cysticercosis, a disease caused by the cysts of the pork tapeworm, will be developed and validated within this program. The improved detection and surveillance of parasitic diseases will aid in the development of strategies leading to improved health of people in Vietnam, especially the most vulnerable groups.</p>				
<p><b>Plan International Belgium</b></p>	<p>The program has two components. Each one has a specific objective but they are strongly connected and operate as a continuum within the education sector, targeting young children in ethnic minority areas. <u>First component on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD):</u> young children (0 to 8 years old) assert their right to high-quality education and care to ensure a smooth transition to primary school. This will be achieved by gradually changing the behavior of different actors, leading to better-quality early childhood care and education and pre-primary education. Plan and its partner, Vietnam Women Union, will raise awareness among parents and communities, and set up pre-schools with a strong focus on community-based approaches working with volunteers and parents. The project will also strengthen local authorities (communes and ministry services) in synergy with the Belgian actor VVOB to improve the quality of teaching in pre-schools. Best practices developed in the intervention area will be scaled-up by means of constant advocacy and exchange with the government and the Ministry of Education. <u>Second component on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)</u></p>	<p>Vietnam Women Union (VWU) Centre of Live and Learn for Environment and Community (Live &amp; Learn)</p>	<p>Lai Chau Province, Kon Tum Province</p>	<p><b>On Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Linkage between child malnutrition and disability</li> <li>- Male engagement in ECCD, especially in the disadvantaged contexts (e.g ethnic minority, migration)</li> <li>- Early stimulation for disadvantaged children in the urban setting</li> <li>- Language development for young children</li> <li>- The interrelated effects of ECCD and economic empowerment, comparing development outcomes of children whose parents participate only in ECCD vs ECCD and economic</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Ineke Adriaens</a></p>

	<p><u>and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) through education</u>: children in primary and lower-secondary schools (from 6 to ±15 years of age) can safely study in a resilient environment increasing the awareness, the knowledge and the involvement of students and communities in environmental protection, climate change adaptation and disaster risks reduction. Plan and its partners, Vietnam Women Union and Live &amp; Learn, will empower children, raise awareness of and strengthen local authorities (schools, provincial services of the Ministry of Education) and also conduct evidence-based advocacy to show best practices in order to scale up the approach.</p>			<p>development vs only economic development [Research from other countries suggests that successful economic empowerment (increased household income) has a limited effect on the development of children unless it is supported by parenting education on the value of education, improved nutrition for children – development areas that parents can influence with increased income.]</p> <p><b>On Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) through education:</b> - Action research on the approach since it is relatively new in the context of Vietnam</p>	
Rikolto (VECO)	<p>The specific objective of VECO Vietnam's programme is to ensure that fresh fruits &amp; vegetables (FFV) and rice in Vietnam are produced in safe and sustainable ways and marketed through viable, competitive and efficient chains benefitting smallholder producers. The programme aims to bring about two results at the structural change level: 1) inclusive, sustainable &amp; safe food policies tackling safe vegetables production, consumption and marketing are implemented in Vietnam, including support for Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) by the national government; and 2) inclusive business models for</p>	<p>Vietnam Competition Authority Trac Van Organic Vegetables Collaborative Group Cat Lai Agricultural</p>	<p>North provinces &amp; Danang</p>	<p>1. Conceptualisation/contextualisation of inclusive business in rice &amp; vegetable value chains in Vietnam + needs analysis of companies &amp; producers; 2. Analysis of VN consumers' willingness to pay for domestic safe and sustainable rice + analysis of their requirements</p>	<p><a href="#">Mianne Vanderbiest</a></p>

sustainable rice are mainstreamed across the Vietnamese rice subsector. This will be done by investing in three strategies: (a) strengthening partner capacities for collective action, (b) supporting an enabling environment for safe & sustainable production and inclusive business relations, and (c) fostering innovation. Three interventions will support progress on the first result: (i) Building evidence of PGS as a tool for inclusive & sustainable value chains; (ii) fostering a more enabling environment for inclusive & safe vegetables value chains, including the adoption of PGS by various actors; and (iii) supporting Da Nang & Hanoi municipalities to transition towards food-smart cities. For the second result, interventions will focus on (i) enabling farmer organisations to access urban structured trading systems under good conditions; (ii) testing the feasibility of using PGS for rice produced according to the SRP standard; and (iii) mainstreaming innovative, inclusive & sustainable practices across the Vietnamese rice sector and internationally.

Service  
Cooperative  
Tu Xa Safe  
Vegetable  
Production,  
Processing and  
Sale  
Cooperative  
Tu Vu safe  
vegetable  
cooperative

(variety, price, quality standard)  
3. Survey of Belgian supermarkets' demand for sustainable rice from Vietnam + how this matches the current supply from VN.  
4. Drivers of agrochemical overuse by Vietnamese farmers (social & economic) + impact on farmers' health  
5. Analysis of consumers' knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) on food safety at traditional markets  
6. Stakeholder analysis of traditional markets in Hanoi & Da Nang + feasibility study to set up a safe food supply chain at traditional markets  
7. Food System mapping in Da Nang (using FAO's RUFSA tool) + potentially Hanoi pending sufficient funding  
8. - Multi-country: Research proposal between universities of Vietnam, Tanzania and Nicaragua on safe vegetables, focusing on access to technology, knowledge, best practices to ensure smallholders can produce with

				lower residues, according to GAP norms etc...	
Vlaamse Vereniging voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking en technische Bijstand (VVOB)	Referring to several policy documents of the Belgian Government on Quality Education (see also 6.4.1, Relevance) and in line with the Strategic Goal 3 of the Joint Strategic Framework of Vietnam, the programme will focus on improving the quality of learning of 3- to 5-year-old children in Early Childhood Education in poor ethnic minority districts in 3 provinces in Central Vietnam: Kon Tum, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai. One result will strengthen the competences of pre-school teachers on process-oriented child monitoring. A second result aims at enabling preschool teachers to address gender, environment and ethnic diversity barriers to learning and participation and to ensure deep level learning among all children. A third result will strengthen the needs-based/school-based in-service professionalization system for pre-school teachers. In each province, the programme will partner with the Department of Education and Training which will set up a Professional Teacher Development trajectory for the preschool leaders and teachers in their respective districts. To facilitate this the programme will build up the capacity of the Departments and Bureaus of Education and Training. Maximizing its impact and efficiency, the programme has mapped out its partnerships and collaborative/synergy efforts, both with respect to local, Belgian (such as PLAN) and international partners.	Department of Education and Training - DOET Kon Tum - DOET Quang Nam -DOET Quang Ngai Department of Teachers and Educational Administrators (DTEA-MoET) Early Childhood Education Department (ECED-MoET)	Central Vietnam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Early childhood education services in emerging industrial zones, internal migration (urban inequity)</li> <li>2. Educational approaches for emerging and early literacy and numeracy</li> <li>3. Teachers competencies, attitudes and underlying beliefs towards learning through play</li> <li>4. Effect of teacher professional development on teachers' beliefs (e.g. on learning through play, incidental learning)</li> <li>5. Teachers competencies, attitudes and underlying beliefs towards diversity in early childhood education</li> <li>6. - Barriers to early childhood education learning and participation of children with disabilities</li> </ol>	<a href="#">Arne Willems</a>
Decent Work (OXFAM)					<a href="#">Hilde Van Regenmortel</a>
CEBios (KBIN)	The CEBioS programme works on 2 fronts in Vietnam: (1) the subprogramme 'Global Taxonomy Initiative' finances research and capacity building with the Natural History Museum and the Vietnamese Science Academy in the field of insect biodiversity in biodiversity hotspots all over Vietnam and Cambodia and its role as flagship for conservation (CEBioS resource person is Dr. Marie-Lucie	Vietnamese Academy of Sciences, Natural History Museum of Vietnam, IMER	all protected areas of Vietnam, Halong Bay	Biodiversity in threatened areas and links with better conservation and policies. Maritime currents and links with policy and conservation of coastal areas and marine parcs.	<a href="#">Luc Janssens de Bisthoven</a>

	Susini Ondafe), and (2) with the institute IMER we offer capacity building in the field of marine modeling of Halong Bay (CEBioS resource person is Dr. Katrijn Baetens). CEBioS has no permanent representation in Vietnam.				
WWF					<a href="#">Jerome Laycock</a>

More information can be found on our [Vietnam page](#) of the website or by contacting the programme manager of VLIR-UOS [Christophe Goossens](#)