

Proposal Summary

Strengthening of the Vietnam Urban Forum (VUF) and Operationalizing the National Urban Upgrading Strategy, CDS

East Asia and Pacific - Vietnam

Summary	<p>Vietnam is engaged in a remarkable process of economic reform and hence spatial transition. Compared to other Asian countries Vietnam's degree of urbanization still is relatively low, but its urban population is forecast to double to 52 million by 2025. In 2000 and 2001 the Vietnam Urban Forum (VUF) was conceptualized as a medium for policy dialogue and structured exchange on urban development issues. VUF became operational in 2003, when a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by key stakeholders in Vietnam's urban development process including ministries such as MoC, MPI, MoNRE, MoF, and MoHA, the ACVN, and the City of Hanoi's People's Committee. Multilateral donors - World Bank, ADB, UNDP – and some bilateral donors – SDC and BTC participated as well. Since 2005 other donors and associations such as UN HABITAT, AFD, JICA, GTZ, and SEAWUN have joined.</p> <p>In addition, a “National Urban Upgrading Strategy and Overall Investment Plan for Urban Upgrading to the year 2020 – (NUUP)” was prepared and finalized in 2008. During its elaboration, broad stakeholder dialogue and consultations with local authorities have led to a deeper understanding of urban upgrading issues and rationales in Vietnam.</p>
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Objectives	Activities
<p>The overarching objective of this project is to strengthen the Government of Vietnam's capability to develop effective and efficient inclusive urban development policies, thereby improving the well-being of the urban poor. As both components will be developed through parallel and complementary activities, there is ample opportunity for synergies and mutual leverage, such as using the Vietnam Urban Forum as the platform for stakeholder information, discussion and refinement of the NUUP implementation framework.</p>	<p>The proposed components in this project are focused on two key national initiatives: i) the Vietnam Urban Forum, and ii) the National Urban Upgrading Program. Maximum alignment between the levels of operation as well as between these two parallel components will remain an overriding objective.</p> <p>Component 1: Institutional Strengthening of the Vietnam Urban Forum (VUF) The component will support the re-establishment of the Vietnam Urban Forum as an effective platform for stakeholder coordination in the urban sector in Vietnam. Phase 1: Preparation and Assessment. Phase 2: Implementation and Dissemination.</p> <p>Component 2: NUUP – Develop a Detailed Implementation Strategy for the National Urban Upgrading Program The component will demonstrate the ability of city-wide pro-poor upgrading in Vietnam on a national scale, by establishing a feasible National Program Framework for urban upgrading and slum prevention considering the institutional, legal, regulatory, financing and advocacy role of the national government vis-à-vis local governments and communities. Phase 1: Stocktaking and Consultation. Phase 2: Developing the National Program – Operational Framework Component 3: Project Administration and Supervision</p>

Submission		Implementation	Budget and Time	
Submitted by: Ministry of Construction (Vietnam)	CA Sponsor: UN-HABITAT; World Bank	Implemented by: Ministry of Construction (Vietnam) CA Monitor: Andrea Zeman	Request to CA: \$ 500,000 Co-Financing: \$ 100,000 Total Budget: \$ 600,000	Duration: 24 months

Expected Impacts

VUF expected outcomes include: 1.) Vietnam Urban Forum is institutionally strengthened: Forum Secretariat and Steering Committee are sustainably established and operational; work is based on an agreed long-term Strategy and Operating Plan; the VUF is re-launched with a broad membership base; VUF is operating as a regular platform and appreciated collaborative mechanism for systematic and structured dialogue and knowledge exchange on urban issues between a wide range of stakeholders to inform urban policy formulation in Vietnam. 2.) Regularly updated information about the state of urban development, urban sector investments and activities in Vietnam is widely communicated 3.) Good practice and lessons learned are made available for replication and upscaling

NUUP expected outcomes include: Comprehensive knowledge and understanding about the state and conditions for urban upgrading in Vietnam, including key challenges, success factors and lessons learned; Enhanced awareness and support of stakeholders for the project; Operational Framework for the National Urban Upgrading Program (NUUP) is in place; Institutional set-up, operating structure and investment mechanisms/financing options for NUUP are defined and agreed upon; Action Plan, including TORs for follow-up activities, is agreed and ready for subsequent implementation and rollout (under NUUP-MDR).