

VIETNAM

Vietnam has implemented market reforms and achieved significant economic growth and poverty reduction over the past decade. Nevertheless, as Vietnam remains a one-party state, corruption and excessive regulations and state controls continue to constrain development.

Canada has ongoing concerns regarding rights to freedom of expression and association. Significant pockets of poverty remain, concentrated mainly in the northern border areas and central Vietnam. It is also one of the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Since Vietnam became eligible for Canadian development assistance in 1990, Canada has contributed over \$1.3 billion toward projects. In 2015-2016, total Canadian funding to Vietnam was \$73.77 million.

Canada's development program responds to the Government of Vietnam's demand for specialized technical assistance, and focuses primarily on programming in support of inclusive green growth. All projects also address gender equality. Current projects aim to:

- strengthen economic foundations;
 - this will foster an environment in which the private sector can grow and thrive
- improve the technical and vocational educational system;
 - this will ensure that the private sector can hire the work force they need as Vietnam integrates into and competes in the global economy; and
- help grow businesses through improved access to business development services and credit.

