

IOE



Investing in rural people

Independent Office of Evaluation



Country Strategy and Programme Evaluation in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Presentation of the Evaluation Report

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132nd
Evaluation
Committee

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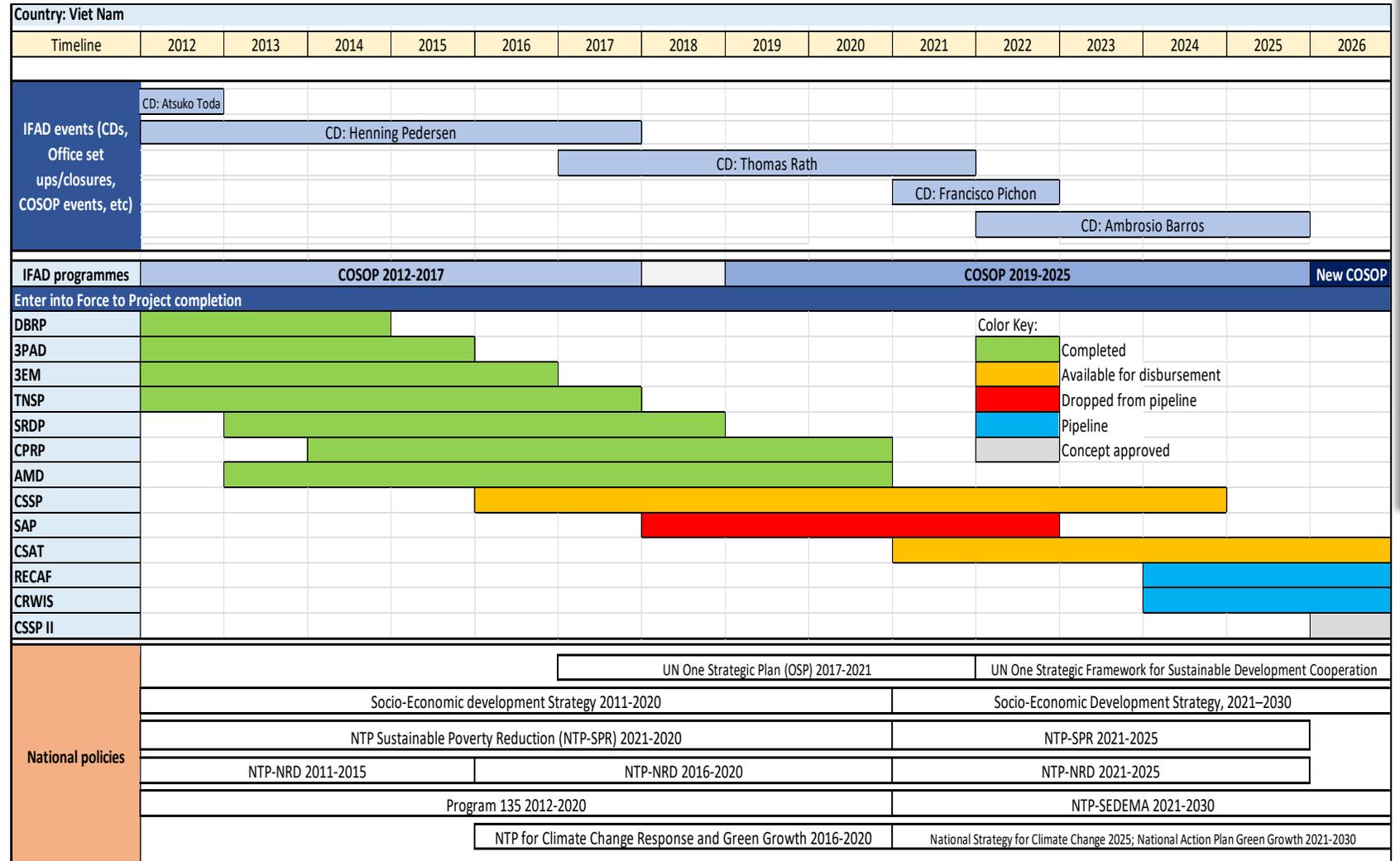
3rd country-level evaluation in Viet Nam, covering the period 2012–2024.

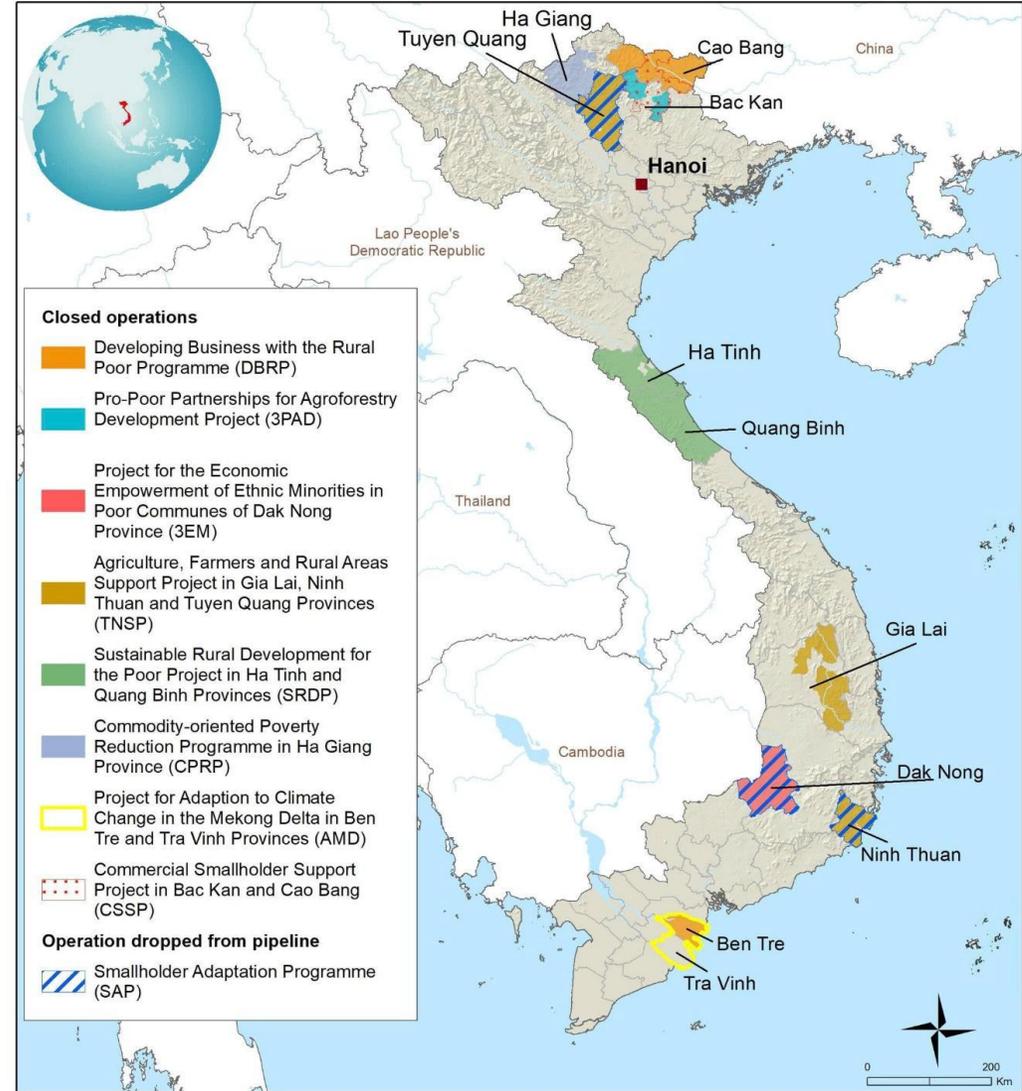
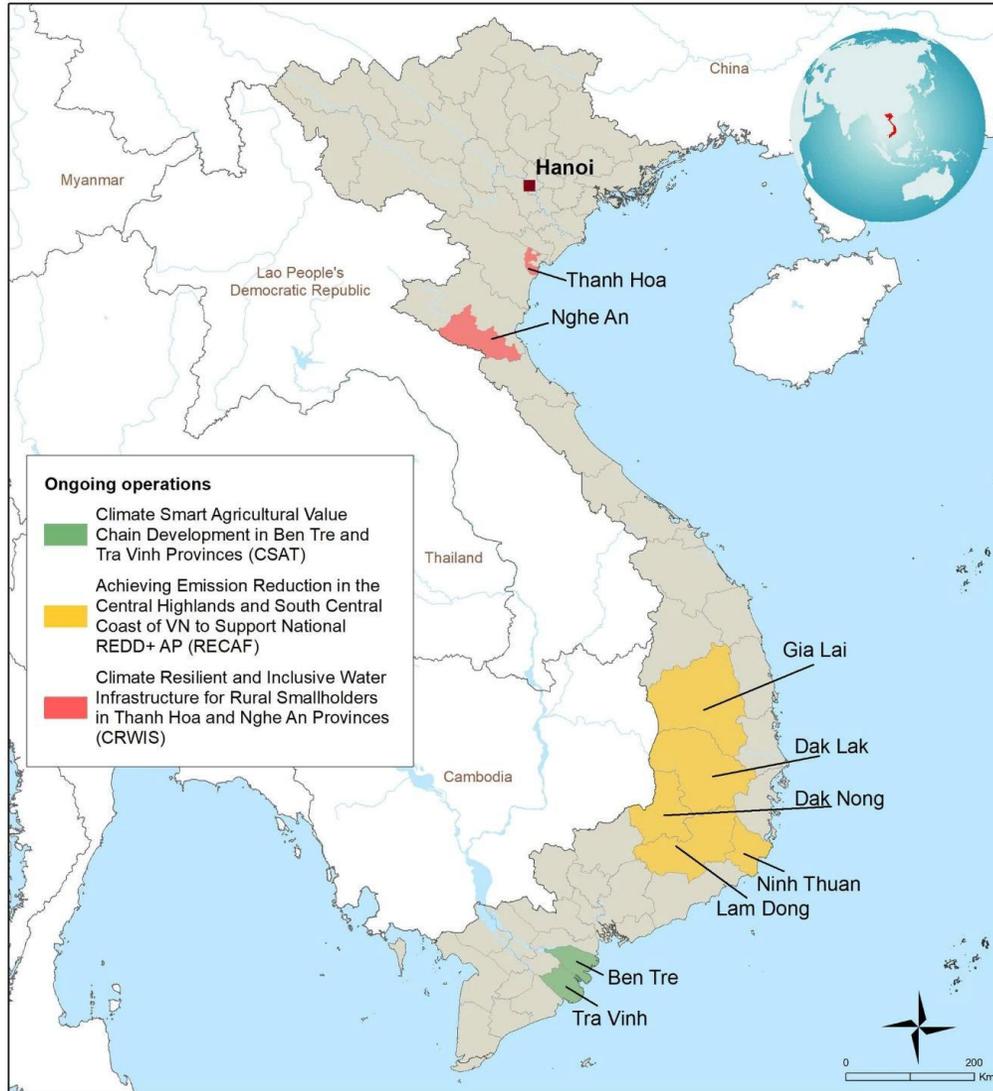
Objectives:

- (i) assess results and performance of IFAD strategy and programme in Viet Nam; and
- (ii) generate findings and recommendations for future partnership between IFAD and the Government of Viet Nam.

Scope:

- (i) two COSOPs (2012 and 2019);
- (ii) 11 projects amounting to approx. US\$ 696 million, of which US\$ 362 million financed by IFAD;
- (iii) non-lending activities: knowledge management, partnership building, policy engagement, grants.

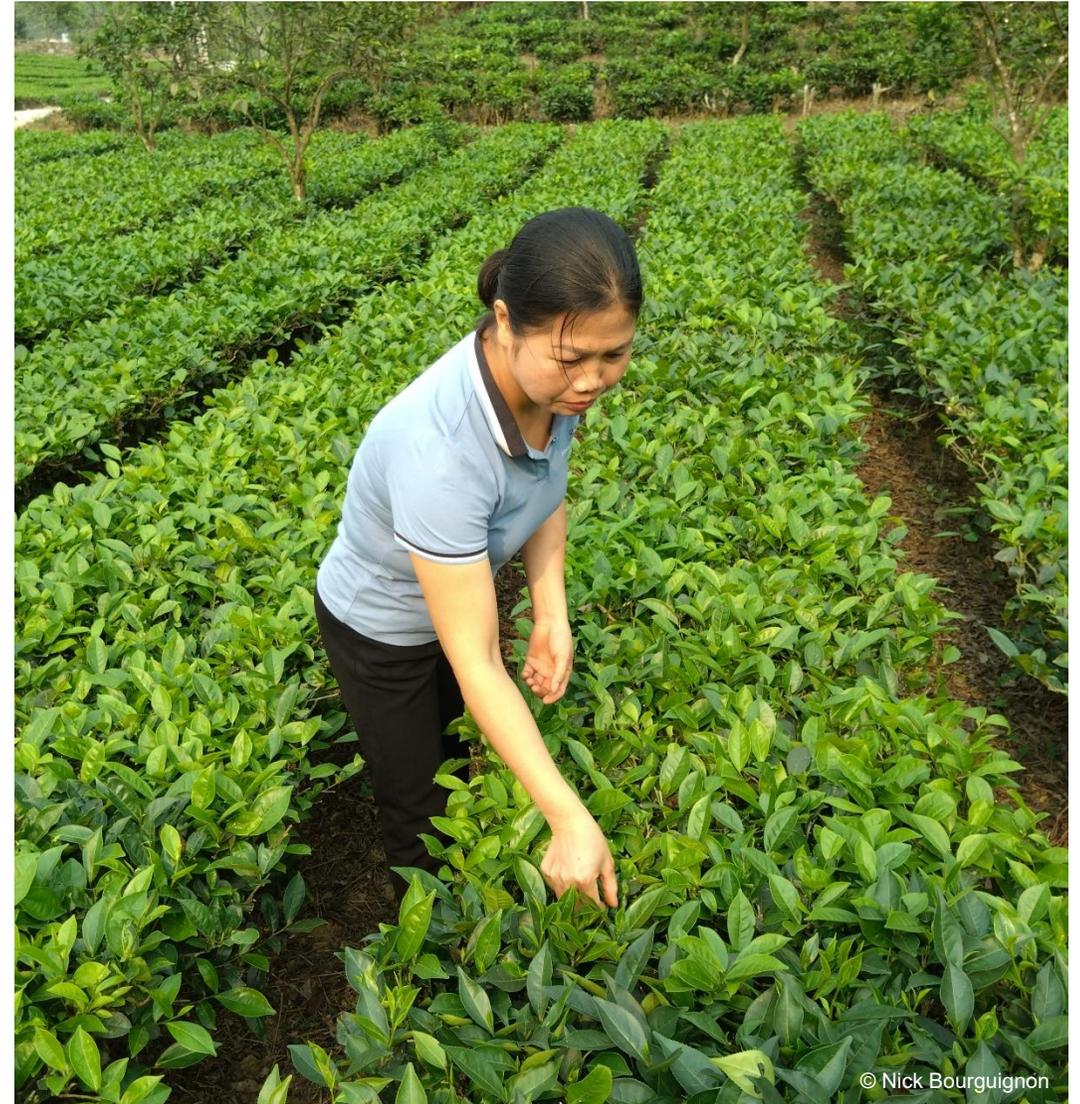




- **Strategies and projects were found to be in line with national policies and IFAD strategic objectives** (notably rural poverty reduction, market development and climate resilience), adapting well to changing contexts and financing conditions, while targeting vulnerable groups through participatory approaches.
- **Private sector engagement** expanded via PPPs/4Ps and matching grants, though recent policy shifts have constrained these mechanisms.
- **Mainstreaming of youth, nutrition and disability** remained limited, and fiscal constraints concentrated investments in more prosperous provinces.
- **Internal coherence** was strong and thematic synergies were tempered by coordination challenges and tighter ODA regulations affecting implementation.
- **Non-lending activities** complemented loans and reinforced their approach. Knowledge management was supported through SSTC and regional grants but lacked a national strategy; Government collaboration was strong, while partnerships with UN agencies remained weak. Policy implementation was effective at local levels but had limited influence on major policy shifts.



- **Scale and reach:** about 400,000 households reached across 15 provinces. Evidence of targets met, despite weak M&E systems.
- **Delivery and inclusion:** strong community-based and value chain results improved access to finance, infrastructure and markets, with effective outreach to ethnic minorities, rural poor and remote areas, despite private sector reluctance to invest in higher-risk locations.
- **Innovations:** several innovations (e.g. MOP-SEDP, F2F/E2F training) were piloted and partially scaled up, with more limited scaling during the 2019 COSOP period.
- **Gender equality:** solid gender-sensitive performance strengthened women's economic participation through savings/credit groups and women's development funds. Ethnic minority women continue to face barriers.
- Projects have not yet reached a **gender-transformative** approach.



Income and assets: incomes and assets of participating households have increased via improved access to rural finance and jobs, improved production and value chain participation.

Human and social capital: the programme has made a strong contribution to social and human capital and to institutions' strengthening for rural poor and ethnic minorities.

Food security and nutrition: Project activities are very likely to have contributed to food security and nutrition, though monitoring data in some cases is not strong enough to provide undisputable evidence.

Rural institutions and policies: close coordination with provincial governments and National Targeted Programmes enabled participatory, market-oriented planning and policy learning.



- **Sustainability:** strong institutional, social and infrastructural foundations, supported by capacity building (MOP-SEDPs), continuity of interventions and effective exit strategies.
- **Community ownership:** credit and saving groups, cooperatives and community institutions have been sustained or evolved, aligned with and supported by government policies.
- **ENRM and CCA:** climate-smart practices, protective infrastructure and DRM action plans delivered positive adaptation results, but impacts remain largely project-based with limited integration into national systems.
- **Scaling up:** provincial-level expansion of climate-informed planning, CSA practices and community infrastructure have been successful, but cross-provincial replication remains limited due to institutional, market, capacity and ODA constraints.



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- **Efficiency:** IFAD resources were used efficiently, with timely start-ups and solid economic performance.
- **Disbursement:** disbursement rates were generally high, though several projects experienced early-phase delays.
- **Costs:** management costs remained within IFAD standards throughout the period.
- **Policy impact:** recent changes in Viet Nam's policy and ODA framework slowed implementation and led to one project cancellation.
- **Performance of IFAD:** IFAD had a strong in-country presence that enabled effective engagement with Government and navigation of regulatory changes. It was effective in reaching ethnic minorities and remote smallholders and managed to identify alternative funding solutions to respond to tighter ODA regulations.
- **Performance of Government:** government ownership was highly positive, with effective provincial loans management and implementation.
- **M&E data:** M&E and fiduciary performance weakened over time, due to regulatory constraints and reduced funding for soft activities

1

IFAD's programme demonstrates sustained results and institutional strengthening achieved through right-sized investments and human expertise

2

IFAD and national authorities have successfully built IFAD's in-country niche through strong collaboration and skilled country team

3

IFAD's programme performed strongly in the early CSPE period, with clear value added through the institutionalization of key approaches

4

Future direction of IFAD's lending uncertain, as MIC graduation leads to higher loan costs and national norms limit their use

5

Government has demonstrated strong ownership and leadership of processes introduced by the IFAD portfolio

1

Strengthen IFAD work in resource mobilization, attracting grant funds and increasing counterpart's funding

2

Maintain IFAD's focus on local development, prioritizing poor and vulnerable smallholders and ethnic minorities

3

Reassess IFAD's role in Viet Nam's evolving economic context, with greater emphasis on non-lending activities and policy engagement

4

Reposition and redefine IFAD's niche and unique value proposition in Viet Nam

5

IFAD's collaboration with Government to strengthen local M&E capabilities

Extensive media coverage on National Roundtable in Hanoi (15th October 2025):

- [IOE.IFAD.org](https://ioe.ifad.org)
- [Official GOV news](#)
- [People newspaper](#)
- [People's Public Security newspaper](#)
- [Financial Times](#)
- [Rural and Development magazine](#)
- [International newspaper](#)
- [VNANET](#)
- [Youth newspaper](#)
- [VTC News](#)
- [Latest News](#)
- [Viet Nam plus](#)
- [Labour newspaper](#)
- [Vinh Long newspaper](#)



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