

Vietnam

READ 1
Trust Fund Grant
2009–2015

READ 2
Trust Fund Grant
2017–2019

CONTEXT

Similar to its economy, Vietnam's vast education system has improved at a remarkable pace, achieving significant progress in education access and quality over the course of the last decade. Having achieved universal preschool education and having met the goal of universal primary education, the country is focusing efforts on achieving universal lower secondary education. In addition, Vietnam's government is now paying even greater attention to ensuring education quality. Vietnam's vision for its education system is one that enables the country to become a globally competitive, knowledge-based economy.

FOCUS AREAS OF READ TRUST FUND GRANT SUPPORT

Enhancing the quality of measurement of learning outcomes

Improving capacity to generate and use assessment information

Reforming high-stakes examination programs

AS A RESULT OF THE READ TRUST FUND, VIETNAM:

Established a coherent and rigorous student assessment framework

The Department of Education Testing and Accreditation worked with the Primary and Secondary Education Departments, primary and secondary schools, and assessment experts to develop new assessment frameworks aligned with the curriculum, along with first-semester, end-of-year, and high school entrance and graduation tests.

Enhanced the assessment capacity of key education stakeholders

A general competence framework for educational assessment was developed in 2012 for education practitioners. Various training programs for education stakeholders, including for over 1,000 representatives from high schools, universities, and the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), were developed and implemented to increase capacity to develop high-quality assessments and to use assessment data to inform policy reforms.

Participated in an international large-scale assessment for the first time

In 2012, Vietnam participated in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) for the first time, and officials participated in preparatory courses and trainings. Vietnam conducted analysis of the PISA 2012 results to identify areas in which curricular reforms would be necessary to ensure that students graduate from secondary school with 21st century skills. PISA 2012 results were disseminated and have been used to monitor education quality and to inform education policy reforms.

Improved the quality of national assessments in order to support evidence-based policymaking

A series of in-depth trainings in psychometrics were conducted to train technical experts in the areas of test design and data analysis to improve the quality of Vietnam's national large-scale assessment activities. An Early Development Instrument (EDI) survey

to measure the school readiness of preschool children in Vietnam was rolled out to a population of 8,400 five-year-old children in 400 preschools in 54 of the 63 provinces in Vietnam.

Is ensuring that more students attain a higher level of education via reform of high-stakes examinations

To better align high school entrance and leaving examinations with the long-term national goal of universal high school completion, test blueprints for 19 subjects in grades 5, 9, and 12 were created. In addition, Vietnam reviewed the Senior Secondary Entrance Examination (SSEE) for examination content, technical quality, alignment with curricula, and effectiveness as an assessment for entry to Senior Secondary School, and developed systematic criteria for assessment of reading progress for different proficiency levels and performance-level indicators consistent with curricular standards. By aligning the SSEE high-stakes exam to current

curriculum, it is expected that more students will complete grades 10-12, making them more likely to pursue tertiary education.

Is ensuring that all students benefit from a revised competency-based curriculum

The National Institute of Education Sciences conducted a review of the new curriculum. Findings were used to develop a bias-avoidance framework for stakeholders and curriculum developers. Building on this, the READ 2 Trust Fund grant supports Vietnam's Fundamental and Comprehensive Education Reform (FCER), passed by the National Assembly in 2014, which mandates the revision of the national curriculum to include the development of 21st century skills and to provide opportunities to apply the knowledge gained. In 2017, preliminary analysis was conducted on the new Learning Outcome Standards and a development plan for reliable indicators of student performance levels was proposed.