

# IN VIETNAM, SOUND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES YIELD POSITIVE BENEFITS

## VIETNAM'S POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT TRAJECTORY OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES

Prudent economic policies, combined with the enabling conditions created by a high endowment of water, have transformed Vietnam from a low income to a middle-income country within two decades.



With annual growth in gross domestic product (GDP) averaging about 6.4 percent over this period, Vietnam has experienced among the fastest—and most equitable—trajectories of development in the world.

# 6.4% of GDP



Rapid economic expansion has been accompanied by:

strong export growth



improved access to health and education services



provision of life-sustaining piped water to cities



large inflows of investment

From the early 1990s, when over half the population lived on less than US\$1.90 a day, the rate of extreme poverty has fallen to 3 percent—among the fastest declines in poverty ever recorded.

# 3% declines in poverty



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## VIETNAM'S ABUNDANT WATER ENDOWMENT HAS SHAPED ITS DEVELOPMENT FORTUNES

The country is rich in water resources

**3,500 rivers** of more than 10 kilometers (km) in length



Spread across **16 major river basins**

With plentiful **rainfall 2,000 millimeters** (mm) a year



Rivers have determined the locations of settlements and cities, and the power the country's industries.

**10,200 cubic meters (m<sup>3</sup>) of renewable freshwater** per capita: Vietnam's water availability -- high by regional and global standards.



Coverage of water supply and sanitation (WSS) services has improved sharply nationwide in Vietnam.



**91%**

of the population have access to basic drinking water

and



**78%**

have access to basic sanitation

With over **7,500 dams and reservoirs** and **4 million hectares (ha)** of irrigated area, irrigation brings livelihoods to about

**1/2**

the workforce and their families



contributing nearly 1/5 of the nation's income

**Vietnam is the world's 2nd-largest exporter** of rice; the largest producer of pepper, the second-largest producer of coffee, and the third-largest producer of aquaculture products.

