

JICA Infrastructure and Water Programming Reference — Vietnam (seed)

Purpose

Sector and country reference for JICA proposal drafting. Country focus: Vietnam. Not an official document.

JICA programming context — Vietnam

Vietnam is one of JICA's largest ODA recipients with decades of cooperation history.

JICA's Vietnam portfolio focuses on:

- Infrastructure (roads, bridges, metro systems, ports).
- Water supply, sanitation, and wastewater treatment.
- Public financial management and governance.
- Environmental management and climate change adaptation.
- Human resource development and health.

Japan's ODA rationale — Vietnam

- Japan-Vietnam diplomatic relations are long-established and strong.
- Japan's Country Assistance Policy for Vietnam emphasises sustainable economic growth and governance.
- Japan has strong comparative advantage in infrastructure engineering and quality management.
- Historical JICA-funded projects (Hanoi Metro Line 2, Nhat Tan Bridge, ODA-financed power plants) demonstrate track record.
- Kaizen methodology has been successfully transferred to Vietnamese public hospitals and factories.

Water and sanitation programming

Vietnam's water challenges:

- Urban water supply coverage is high in major cities but variable in secondary towns.
- Wastewater treatment is limited: most urban wastewater discharged untreated to rivers.
- Rural water supply in mountainous provinces relies on gravity-fed schemes of variable quality.
- Climate change increases flood risk to water infrastructure (especially Mekong Delta).

JICA-aligned water sector approaches:

- Non-revenue water (NRW) reduction through pipe replacement and district metering.

- Wastewater treatment plant construction with O&M; knowledge transfer.
- Water utility management capacity development (financial management, asset management).
- Climate-resilient design standards for new infrastructure.

Technology transfer — water sector

JICA transfers Japanese expertise in:

- High-quality pipe installation standards and quality control.
- Automated meter reading and leak detection systems.
- Sludge treatment and biogas recovery from wastewater.
- GIS-based asset management systems for water utilities.

Counterpart training typically includes study tours to Japanese water utilities.

Counterpart capacity considerations

- Vietnam Water Supply and Sewerage Association (VWSA) is key sector body.
- Provincial urban construction departments manage local water infrastructure.
- Capacity development must address both technical and financial management skills.
- O&M; staff training is a mandatory output in infrastructure projects.

PDM examples — water sector

Overall Goal: Living standards and environmental quality improved in target province.

Project Purpose: Water supply services in target towns improved sustainably.

Output 1: New/rehabilitated water supply systems constructed to JICA quality standards.

Output 2: O&M; capacity of provincial water utility strengthened.

Output 3: Water quality monitoring system established and operational.

Assumption (Output 2 → Purpose): Provincial government maintains O&M; budget allocation.

Assumption (Purpose → Overall Goal): Economic conditions enable household connection uptake.