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Title: Monitoring SDG Implementation in Viet Nam through the Viet Nam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI)—a Citizen-Centric Measuring Tool

The Viet Nam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) is Viet Nam’s largest annual time-series, citizen-centric, nationwide policy monitoring tool. Over the nine years of its operation, PAPI has collected the views of 103,059 randomly selected citizens about the country’s performance in governance and public administration, based on their direct interactions with local governments at different levels. PAPI generates information about the actual performance of local authorities in meeting citizen needs. By doing so, it has created constructive competition and promoted learning among local authorities, while enabling citizens to benchmark their local government’s performance and advocate for improvements.

Ultimately, it helps Viet Nam to identify areas that need greater attention as the country rolls out its national agenda for sustainable development towards 2030. In the same spirit as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that Viet Nam has committed to, PAPI puts citizens at the heart of Viet Nam’s development. As ‘end users’ of public administration and public services, citizens are fully capable of assessing the performance of the central and local authorities and of supporting the country in building a State “of the people, by the people and for the people.”

This article presents a snapshot of key findings from the 2017 Viet Nam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) research. The 2017 PAPI Report provides data and analysis about the country’s performance in governance and public administration, as drawn from citizens’ direct interactions and experiences with local governments at different levels in 2017. It captures experiences and perceptions related to the performance of local governments in governance and public administration based on a survey of 14,097 citizens with different demographic characteristics, randomly selected from all 63 provinces. It also indicates opportunities and challenges in monitoring and assessment of Viet Nam’s progress in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.