Progress Report for Grants from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

Scaling Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (SMSP) for Circular and Sustainable Waste Management (Phase 3)

2025 Project Annual Report

Project Agreement Number: 01004617

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1. PROJECT INFORMATION

- Name of the grant scheme: Scaling Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (SMSP) for Circular and Sustainable Waste Management (Phase 3)
- Responsible unit for the grant: Norad
- Agreement number: 01004617
- Total grant from MFA (NOK): 15,000,000
- Reporting Period: 01 May 2025 – 31 December 2025

About the grant recipient

- Name and abbreviation: United Nations Development Programme Viet Nam
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ABOUT THE PROJECT COOPERATING PARTNERS

Output 1:

Line Agency: People's Committee of Quang Ninh Province

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Project Owner: Department of Agriculture and Environment (DAE)

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Output 2:

Line Agency: An Giang People's Committee (PC)

- Address: 6 Nguyen Cong Tru, Rach Gia Ward, An Giang Province
- Contact Person: TBC
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Project Owner: People's Committee of Phu Quoc Special Zone

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An Giang Department of Agriculture and Environment (DAE)

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Grant recipients and cooperating partner's respective roles in the Project

The Project continues to be implemented by UNDP Viet Nam under a Direct Implementation Modality (DIM). The objective of Phase 3 is to deploy and test a range of sustainable DSW interventions in targeted locations in order to generate key learnings from which to scale-up, refine and replicate successful interventions across Viet Nam.

2. THE PROJECT'S PROGRESS AND RESULTS ACHIEVEMENT– 2025

Table 1 below indicates the progress made by the Project for each output as of December 2025.

3.1 Updated Result Framework

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework: **UNSDCF Outcome 2:** By 2026, people in Viet Nam, especially those at risk of being left behind, benefit from and contribute to a safer and cleaner environment resulting from Viet Nam's effective mitigation and adaptation to climate change; disaster risk reduction and resilience building; promotion of circular economy; provision of clean and renewable energy; and sustainable management of natural resources. **UNDP CPD Output 2.2:** Policies and solutions designed and implemented for transformation to low-carbon development, circular economy and environmental protection.
Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets: **Indicator 2.2.2:** Number of UNDP-assisted businesses that demonstrate green production and reduction of environmental pollution. *[Baseline: 0 | Target: 50]*
Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: **Output 2.2:** Policies and solutions designed and implemented for transformation to low-carbon development, circular economy and environmental protection.
Project title and Quantum Project Number: Transforming Waste to Resources through Strengthening National Capacity for Circular Economy and Inclusive Waste Solutions (# TBD)

Table 1. Updated Result Framework by December 2025

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[1]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		PROGRESS	TARGETS		
			Value	Year	Dec 2025	Y1	Y2	Y3[2]
Output 1.1: At-source sorting policy, infrastructure, awareness, enforcement, and monitoring capacities in Quang Ninh and Cam Pha City strengthened.	***1.1.1:*** *# of provincial/municipal technical guidelines developed for the enhanced sorting at source.*	Baseline data, project monitoring and reporting.	0	2025	0	0	1	1
	1.1.2: *# of individuals at the local authority level (disaggregated by sex and age) trained/capacitated on new operational procedures and guidelines.*		0	2025	0	0	30	50
	1.1.3: *# of wards/communes reached through targeted awareness/communication campaigns for improved compliance with at-source sorting.*		0	2025	0	3	7	10
	1.1.4: *# of households (disaggregated by ward/commune) trained/capacitated for enhanced at-source sorting, enforcement and monitoring.*		0	2025	0	3,000	7,000	10,000
Output 1.2: Short-term investment achieved, and a sorting centre established to receive and recover waste from at-source sorting programme in Quang Ninh and Cam Pha City.	***1.2.1:*** *# of PPPs established to improve domestic solid waste management.*		0	2025	0	0	1	2
	1.2.2: *# of guidelines developed to support the operationalisation of the sorting centre.*		0	2025	0	0	1	2
	1.2.3: *# tonnes of recyclable and recoverable material (disaggregated by waste stream) diverted from landfill.*		0	2025	0	TBD	TBD	TBD
Output 1.3: Long-term strategic investment for a waste treatment facility (Material Recovery Facility - MRF) achieved and waste management strategy developed for Quang Ninh/Cam Pha City.	***1.3.1:*** *# of integrated waste management models developed for the enhanced management of domestic solid waste*		0	2025	0	0	0	1
	1.3.2: *# of provincial/municipal waste management strategy/policy developed for the enhanced management of domestic solid waste.*		0	2025	0	0	0	1
Output 2.1: DRS operational framework designed, and Public-Private Partnership established for its implementation in Phu Quoc Island.	***2.1.1:*** *# of agreements/partnerships (including PPPs) secured from local authorities to support the pilot DRS.*	Baseline data, project monitoring and reporting.	0	2025	0	1	1	1
	2.1.2: *# of stakeholders (disaggregated by role in the waste management system) consulted during identification process.*		0	2025	2	2	3	5
Output 2.2: Local authority operational framework established to support DRS design trial.	***2.2.1:*** *# operational procedures or guidelines developed for the enhanced management of recyclable waste under a DRS.*		0	2025	0	0	1	3

[1] It is recommended that projects use output indicators from the Strategic Plan IRRF, as relevant, in addition to project-specific results indicators. Indicators should be disaggregated by sex or for other targeted groups where relevant.

[2] Year 3 (Y3) also serves as the **final** target for each indicator.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[1]	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		PROGRESS	TARGETS		
			Value	Year	Dec 2025	Y1	Y2	Y3[2]
Output 2.3: DRS implemented and evaluated to inform national scaling and replication.	***2.3.1:*** *# tonnes of recyclable waste (disaggregated by waste type) diverted to recycling facilities and away from landfill or leakage into the environment.*		0	2025	0	TBD	TBD	TBD
Output 3.1: National and provincial policy and regulatory environment to enable the transition towards a circular economy enhanced.	***3.1.1:*** *# of national policies and regulations on DSW management and circular economy strengthened or enhanced.*	Baseline data, project monitoring and reporting.	0	2025	0	0	1	2
	3.1.2: *# of individuals (disaggregated by sex, age, role in the DSW management sector) trained/capacitated at the national and provincial level.*		0	2025	0	50	200	400
	3.1.3: *# of targeted communication materials and awareness campaigns disseminated via national knowledge management mechanisms.*		0	2025	0	2	5	10

3.2 Narrative Results of the Project's Outputs

OUTCOME 1: EFFECTIVE DOMESTIC SOLID WASTE (DSW) MANAGEMENT MODEL THAT ENABLES THE RECOVERY OF LOW-VALUE PLASTIC (LVP) FOR CO-PROCESSING IN CEMENT PLANTS IN 01 PROVINCE/LOCATION.

***Output 1.1:* At-source sorting policy, infrastructure, awareness, enforcement, and monitoring capacities in Quang Ninh and Cam Pha City strengthened.**

a) Site selection for implementation of waste sorting at source program

Due to the rapid change in the provincial priority on MSW management, Cam Pha City is no longer potential site for the project. Instead, three wards—Uong Bi, Yen Tu, and Hiep Hoa—were selected as pilot sites for the waste sorting at source program based on population size, municipal solid waste generation levels, and representativeness of different urban contexts in Quảng Ninh province, see detail in the Table below.

Table 2. Data on population size, MSW generation in tentative wards

No.	Ward	Square (km^2)	Population (people)	MSW generation (tpd)
1	Yen Tu	113,23	38.932	25
2	Uong Bi	49,81	59.866	45
3	Hiep Hoa	35,83	33.381	16
	Total		**132.179**	**86**

These sites generate approximately 86 tons of MSW per day, providing a sufficient scale to test and refine technical, institutional, and behavioral aspects of not only the waste sorting at source implementation but also the development of pilot model on treatment of MSW by co-processing in cement kilns.

Site selection was informed by province-wide assessments of MSW generation, collection, transport, and treatment, as well as waste composition analyses at ward level, and was undertaken in close coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Environment of Quang Ninh province and local authorities of the wards, to ensure technical feasibility, institutional ownership, and potential for replication.

In terms of technical aspect, Technical guidelines for the implementation of waste sorting at source will be developed for Uong Bi, Yen Tu and Hiep Hoa wards in Quang Ninh province to ensure that all necessary conditions are in place in accordance with Article 75 of the Law on Environmental Protection, the Technical Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment[3], and Decision No. 68/2025/QĐ-UBND dated 26 August 2025[4]. A key new feature of the Guidelines is the proposal to adjust collection and transportation

[3] Official Dispatch No. 9368/BTNMT-KSONMT dated 2 November 2021 on technical guidance for municipal solid waste classification

[4] Decision No. 68/2025/QĐ-UBND dated 26 August 2025 on regulations on solid waste management in Quang Ninh province

routes, frequencies, and methods, as well as transfer stations and infrastructure, to ensure that different waste streams are collected separately in an efficient, cost-effective manner while minimizing environmental impacts.

As mentioned above, the title of the Output is recommended to revise as "*At-source sorting policy, infrastructure, awareness, enforcement, and monitoring capacities in Uong Bi, Yen Tu and Hiep Hoa Wards, strengthened".*

b) New activities have been proposed to support the province to develop a roadmap on reducing single-used plastic and strengthening sound management of MSW

These activities focus on the generation of robust, evidence-based data through province-wide surveys and assessments of MSW generation, composition, collection, transportation, and treatment, serving as a scientific basis for the development of the provincial MSW management plan for the 2026–2030 period, tailored to the characteristics of different localities.

In addition, targeted assessments of the generation, collection, and recycling of single-use plastics across the province will be undertaken to support the formulation of a phased roadmap for reduction, restriction, and eventual bans on selected single-use plastic products, thereby promoting circular economy practices and advancing green and sustainable urban development in Quang Ninh.

Expected output of the new activities are provincial databases supporting policy formulation, including:

- Volume, composition, and projected generation of municipal solid waste (MSW) across the province
- Current status of the generation, collection, recycling, and treatment of single-use plastic waste across the province

<u>Output 1.2:</u> Short-term investment achieved and a sorting centre established to receive and recover waste from at-source sorting programme in Quang Ninh and Cam Pha City.

Based on discussion with Quang Ninh DAE and their practice on procurement to select waste service providers annually, the project delivered two key outputs to strengthen integrated municipal solid waste (MSW) management and promote co-processing MSW and circular economy solutions in the province, including:

- First, technical and regulatory support was provided to develop ward-level solid waste management plans for Uong Bi, Yen Tu and Hiep Hoa wards, together with the establishment of techno-economic norms and cost benchmarks for MSW treatment through co-processing in cement kilns. These outputs form the basis for local authorities to prepare transparent bidding packages, enabling public–private partnerships and private sector participation in MSW treatment by co-processing in cement-kilns.
- Second, a pilot model of a MSW Sorting center integrates waste sorting at source with downstream recovery and treatment, which facilitating the diversion of low-value plastics and other non-recyclable fractions to be treated in cement factories.
- Third, a technical design for a co-processing line for non-recyclable waste in cement kilns, with a capacity of 100 tons per day, and the operating procedures for the co-

processing line treating non-recyclable waste in cement kilns, shall be developed, in closed collaboration with QNC.

Since Cam Pha City is not included in the project' site, the title of this Output is recommended to revise as "*Short-term investment achieved and a sorting centre established to receive and recover waste from at-source sorting programme in Quang Ninh".*

<u>Output 1.3:</u> Long-term strategic investment for a waste treatment facility (Material Recovery Facility - MRF) achieved and waste management strategy developed for Quang Ninh/Cam Pha City.

Under this Output, based on technical discussion with Quang Ninh DAE, a new indicator was introduced to support the development of a provincial roadmap for reducing single-use plastics (SUPs), reinforcing the long-term sustainability of MSW management in the province. As original design, the project shall support the review and integration of policy, technical, and institutional frameworks into the draft Provincial Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan for 2026–2030, while simultaneously generating evidence and policy analysis to inform a phased roadmap for SUP reduction.

Key results of this Output include a draft provincial regulation on SUP reduction, supported by assessments of SUP generation, collection, recycling, and treatment, recommendation for SUP alternatives, as well as policy impact analyses to ensure feasibility and effectiveness. Together, these outputs establish a measurable milestone toward the adoption and implementation of a SUP reduction roadmap aligned with the province' SWM plan, circular economy objectives, climate action, and sustainable urban development priorities.

To reflect the change of project site and to specify targets of this output, therefore, the title of this Output is also recommended to revise as "*The Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan for Quang Ninh province for the 2026–2030 period developed, including the establishment of municipal solid waste sorting centers, material recovery facilities (MRFs), and the promotion of municipal solid waste co-processing in cement kilns".*

OUTCOME 2: A SCALABLE AND CONTEXTUALISED DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME (DRS) THAT SUPPORTS EFFECTIVE WASTE-TO-RESOURCE TRANSFORMATIONS.

<u>Output 2.1:</u> DRS operational framework designed, and Public-Private Partnership established for its implementation in Phu Quoc Island

Under this output, initial progress has been achieved in preparation for the design of the DRS operational framework and establishing the foundations for a Public–Private Partnership (PPP) to support its implementation on Phu Quoc Island. During the reporting period, the project has focused on the project approval process and securing institutional alignment, generating technical inputs, and engaging potential private sector partners to ensure the feasibility and sustainability of the DRS trial.

A key milestone has been the advancement of the project approval process through close coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Environment of An Giang Province, the Phu Quoc Special Zone People's Committee, and other relevant provincial departments.

UNDP has worked collaboratively with these authorities to prepare and refine the required document package, ensuring alignment with provincial priorities, administrative procedures, and national waste management policies.

To formally introduce the project and build shared understanding, UNDP and Norwegian Embassy convened an official coordination meeting on 1 Oct 2025 with relevant departments of An Giang Province and the Phu Quoc Special Zone. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Norwegian Embassy, Innovation Norway, TOMRA, and relevant local agencies to present project objectives, discuss implementation arrangements, and reaffirm stakeholder commitment to the DRS pilot.



Technical groundwork for system design has also progressed through targeted engagement with TOMRA. Meetings were held to discuss potential system configurations, followed by the organization of a field survey in Phu Quoc in September 2025 for TOMRA's technical experts. The field visit generated initial contextual insights on local waste flows, collection infrastructure, and logistical conditions, which are informing the adaptation of the DRS model to local realities.



In parallel, the project has actively engaged a range of stakeholders across the value chain including producers, retailers, waste management entities, and recyclers to identify and explore opportunities for private sector collaboration. These engagements have helped clarify roles, assess investment interest, and lay the groundwork for a PPP that can operationalise and sustain the DRS trial in Phu Quoc.

Output 2.2: ***Local authority operational framework established to support DRS design trial.***
Under this output, the UNDP project team conducted initial consultations with the An Giang Department of Agriculture and Environment (DAE), An Giang Department of Finance, Phu Quoc Special Zone, and the Division of Economic Development of the An Giang People's Committee to present the proposed project activities and implementation workplan.

In close collaboration with An Giang DAE, UNDP co-developed the Vietnamese project document and consulted with the Phu Quoc Special Zone and other relevant provincial departments to finalize the project approval dossier for submission to the An Giang People's Committee. The submitted dossier fully complies with Decree No. 242/2025/NĐ-CP on the management and use of official development assistance (ODA) and concessional loans.

Output 2.3: ***DRS implemented and evaluated to inform national scaling and replication.***
NA

3. PROJECT DISBURSEMENT IN 2025 (*)

Commented [DN1]: To be updated by PA @Huyen Nguyen Thu

4. PROJECT'S WORK PLAN FOR 2026

Table 2: Updated Workplan from January to December 2026

No	Activities	Sub Activities	Expected results	Timeline in 2026			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
OUTCOME 1: EFFECTIVE DOMESTIC SOLID WASTE (DSW) MANAGEMENT MODEL, INCLUSIVE OF A MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY, THAT ENABLES AND ENHANCES THE RECOVERY OF WASTE IN 01 PROVINCE/LOCATION.							
Output 1.1: At-source sorting policy, infrastructure, awareness, enforcement, and monitoring capacities in Uong Bi, Yen Tu and Hiep Hoa Wards, strengthened	1.1.1. Research and assessment of the sources, volume and composition of domestic solid waste in the province		Results of surveys, surveys and databases on: 1. Volume, composition and forecast of solid waste arising in the province 2. Current status of generation, collection, recycling and treatment of single-use plastic waste in the province 3. Results of inventory of solid waste volumes and components, including non-recyclable plastics in Uong Bi, Yen Tu and Hiep Hoa wards				
	1.1.2. Inventory of domestic solid waste components in the selected wards						
	1.1.3. Investigation, survey and assessment of the current situation of generation, collection and recycling of single-use plastics in Quang Ninh province						
	1.1.4. Develop technical guidelines for the implementation of plastic waste segaration and the above-mentioned technical guidelines		1. Plastic waste segaration technical guidance documents for Uong Bi, Yen Tu and Hiep Hoa wards, approved 2. Detailed plastic waste segaration implementation				

	1.1.5 Raise awareness and capacity of environmental protection through training courses and communication campaigns, for local authorities, households, waste source owners, and businesses		plan, including training plans, awareness raising, camera surveillance mechanisms and IT applications, communication plans, etc. approved and implemented 3. Evaluate and monitor the results of plastic waste segaration implementation in wards and recommend replication throughout the province 4. Support for infrastructure and equipment to support the proposed and implemented plastic waste segaration work				
	1.1.6. Evaluation and Monitoring of plastic waste segaration Implementation						
	1.1.7. Supporting infrastructure and equipment to support plastic waste segaration work						
Output 1.2: Short-term investment achieved and a sorting centre established to receive and recover waste from at-source sorting programme in Quang Ninh	1.2.1. Formulation of technical norms and unit prices of solid waste treatment by the method of co-treatment in cement kilns		1. Norms of audit and unit price of hazardous waste treatment by co-treatment method in cement kilns				
	1.2.2. Supporting the formulation of bidding documents of local authorities for bidding packages for solid waste treatment by co-treatment in cement kilns		1. Bidding dossiers of the People's Committees of the pilot wards for the bidding package for solid waste treatment by co-treatment method in cement kilns				

	1.2.3. Establish a public-private cooperation mechanism between local authorities and the private sector to build and operate solid waste sorting stations and models for treating non-recyclable waste by co-treatment in cement kilns		1. Cooperation agreement between the People's Committee of the province or ward and the selected cement enterprise for the construction and operation of the solid waste sorting station and the model of treatment of non-recyclable waste by the method of co-treatment in the cement kiln				
	1.2.4. Technical support for solid waste sorting stations for recycling waste recovery		1. Technical blueprint for solid waste sorting station, including separation technology and equipment system for recovery of recyclable waste 2. Operation process of solid waste classification station for recovery of recycled waste				
	1.2.5. Technical support for the model of treatment of non-recyclable waste by co-treatment method in cement kilns in accordance with QCVN 41:2025/MAE		1. Technical blueprint for non-recyclable waste co-treatment line in cement kiln, capacity 100 tons/day 2. Operating procedure for co-treatment line of non-recyclable wastes in cement kilns				
Output 1.3: Long-term strategic	1.3.1. Review and evaluate local management regulations and strategies		1. Draft Plan on overall solid waste management in Quang Ninh province in the period of				

investment for a waste treatment facility (Material Recovery Facility - MRF) achieved and waste management strategy developed for Quang Ninh.	1.3.2. Supporting the development of an overall waste management plan in Quang Ninh, towards the circular economy goal through the construction of sorting stations, material recovery facilities (MRFs) and solutions for co-treatment of non-recycled waste after sorting in cement kilns		2026-2030, associated with the development of circular economy through the construction of sorting stations, material recovery facilities (MRFs) and solutions for co-treatment of non-recycled waste after sorting in cement kilns				
	1.3.3. Research and synthesize information in order to develop dossiers for promulgation of policies on roadmaps for reduction and non-use of single-use plastic waste in accordance with provincial conditions and current regulations		1. Draft regulations of Quang Ninh Provincial People's Committee on roadmap to reduce single-use plastic products 2. Report on assessment of the current state of generation, collection, recycling and treatment of single-use plastic waste, propose alternatives to single-use plastic products and assess the impact of the policy				

	1.3.4. Organize training and capacity building for key local stakeholders (e.g. local governments, the private sector, informal workers in the waste sector)		1. Stakeholder training and capacity building plan 2. Managers are enhanced in their capacity to supervise and appraise proposals of enterprises/localities on arising volumes, estimate collection funds, and treatment technology 3. Enterprises, recyclers and stakeholders are trained in the efficient construction and operation of sorting stations, MRFs and solid waste co-treatment models				
OUTCOME 2: A SCALABLE AND CONTEXTUALISED DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME (DRS) THAT SUPPORTS EFFECTIVE WASTE-TO-RESOURCE TRANSFORMATIONS.							
Output 2.1: DRS operational framework designed, and Public-Private Partnership established for its implementation in Phu Quoc island	2.1.1. Conduct an inclusive scoping analysis to prepare the DRS design trial, engaging key stakeholders across the value chain to align the system to local context and needs.	1. Map, engage, and consult stakeholders across the full DRS value chain to identify roles, incentives, risks, and inclusion needs 2. Assess existing waste generation and collection of packaging in Phu Quoc including regulatory frameworks, market conditions, and consumer behavior to inform DRS design options 3. Introduce and support potential DRS system operator to do field survey in Phu Quoc special zone	1. Shared understanding among producers, retailers, waste collectors (formal and informal), recyclers, authorities, and consumers, ensuring the DRS trial is locally appropriate and socially inclusive. 2. Report on waste generation and packaging collection system in Phu Quoc including regulatory requirements, and capacity gaps relevant for a pilot phase. 3. Field survey report by the				

Commented [DN2]: I put sub activities for each activity, equivalent with expected results. Plz check if they are necessary, if not plz delete @Hoang Thanh Vinh

			potential DRS system operator/committed private company for DRS trial infrastructure				
	2.1.2. Establish a Public-Private Partnership(s) to confirm investment, roles and responsibilities in the DRS design trial.	1. Assess and confirm DRS system operator and related public and private partners to participate in the DRS trial investment and operations 2. Prepare and negotiate PPP roles, project governance structure, and financial commitments for the DRS design trial 3. Formalize PPP arrangements through MOU/agreement(s) and implementation plans to enable DRS design and trial operation	1. Shortlist of committed public and private stakeholders with a clear understanding of potential roles, incentives, and risk-sharing arrangements for the DRS trial. 2. Agreed PPP framework outlining responsibilities, decision-making mechanisms, cost-sharing, and performance expectations among partners. 3. MOU to be signed by the local authority and the DRS system operator and other committed partners				

	2.1.3. Design the scalable operational model of the DRS trial with Pro Bono support from private sector and present to local authorities.	1. Co-design, validate, and agree on the DRS trial model, including operational arrangements, incentive mechanisms, safeguards, and monitoring requirements	1. Stakeholder-endorsed DRS trial design with clearly defined parameters and an implementation roadmap ready for piloting.				
	2.1.4. Support local authority to prepare and issue a regulation to implement the DRS pilot in compliance with EPR policy and current legal framework	1. Develop socio economic and environmental impact assessment of impact of a regulation to apply DRS for all beverage packaging in Phu Quoc 2. Facilitate consultation, review, and endorsement of the DRS regulation issued by Phu Quoc Special Zone's People's Committee	1. Impact assessment of a regulation to apply DRS for all beverage packaging in Phu Quoc 2. Officially issued local regulation applying the DRS pilot for all beverage packaging distributed and sold in Phu Quoc				
Output 2.2: Local authority operational framework established to support DRS design trial	2.2.1. Introduce locally issued regulation and implement gender-sensitive behaviour-change and awareness-raising campaigns to educate communities and businesses on DRS.	1. Disseminate and operationalize the locally issued regulation on DRS implementation to relevant stakeholders 2. Implement targeted awareness-raising and behavior-change communication campaigns on sustainable consumption and DRS participation	1. Local authorities, businesses, and service providers are informed of and prepared to comply with the new DRS regulation. 2. Increased public awareness and positive behavior change among consumers and businesses, leading to higher participation and compliance in the DRS pilot.				

Commented [DN3]: This is a new activity proposed in the Vietnamese prodoc

Commented [DN4]: Act 2.1.1 in the original English prodoc was removed in Vietnamese prodoc

	2.2.2. Identify, engage and build the capacity of local private sector actors (manufacturers, importers, retailers), formal and informal waste stakeholders to participate in the pilot DRS.	1. Identify and engage local private sector and waste stakeholders for participation in the DRS pilot 2. Organize trainings to build technical and operational capacity of participating stakeholders to implement DRS requirements	1. Committed manufacturers, importers, retailers, and formal and informal waste actors with clearly defined roles in the DRS pilot. 2. Local stakeholders equipped with the knowledge and skills to comply with DRS operational, reporting, and recovery requirements, enabling effective pilot implementation.				
	2.2.3. Prepare infrastructure, information systems, and equipment for the implementation of the DRS pilot.	1. Assess, procure, and install required infrastructure, equipment, and digital systems to support DRS pilot operations 2. Get provincial authority's approval for local infrastructure to support the DRS pilot 3. Test, calibrate, and operationalize DRS systems in coordination with local stakeholders	1. DRS pilot infrastructure and information systems (e.g. collection points, tracking and reporting tools) are operational and ready for use. 2. Provincial People's Committee to approval the request for land use for DRS pilot 3. Functional and tested DRS operational setup enabling effective collection, data tracking, and performance monitoring during the pilot phase.				
	2.2.4. Build enforcement, monitoring and evaluation capacities of local authorities.	NA	NA				

Commented [DN5]: This is added activity in Vietnamese prodoc

OUTCOME 3: STRENGHTENED PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL POLICY, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION FOR A TRANSITION TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SUSTAINBLE DSW MANAGEMENT.							
Output 3.1: National and provincial policy and regulatory environment to enable the transition towards a circular economy enhanced.	Contribute to the development, implementation and enforcement of key national and global policy (i.e., Extended Producer Responsibility, Global Treaties, DRS).	1. UNDP in collaboration with MAE to organize consultation workshop for revision of Law on Environment Protection 2020 covering Article 54, 55 on Extended Producer Responsibility	1. Consolidated technical inputs and stakeholder feedback to inform the revision of Articles 54 and 55 on Extended Producer Responsibility under the Law on Environmental Protection 2020.				
	Document and disseminate best practices and lessons learned to support knowledge sharing and informed decision-making at the national and provincial levels.	NA	NA				
	Conduct knowledge-sharing from the Quy Nhon waste management model to improve waste management and accelerate circular economy initiatives in other localities.	NA	NA				

5. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

6.1 Gender

The gender marker rating of this project is GEN-2.

Implementation		
1	Whether this project directly, or indirectly resulted / would result in the promotion of gender equality, such as promoting women's advancement, strengthening women's decision-making role, assisting women with caring responsibilities in taking care of her families etc.?	N/A
2	Whether part of the resources has been allocated in a manner that intentionally, or unintentionally addressed/ would address the identified needs of women and men?	N/A in 2025 but the project resources are **intentionally allocated** to address the differentiated roles and needs of women and men in the informal waste sector. Specific budget supports gender-sensitive trainings, awareness campaigns, and capacity building, particularly targeting women in informal waste work, community-level waste sorting, and DRS participation
3	Have women and men been equally involved in programme/project activities? Please indicate the representation rate of women in each activity of the programme /projects; and also briefly explain if the project is taking measures to increase women participation.	N/A in 2025 but the project design ensures **equal opportunity and proactive inclusion** of women and men across activities.
Human Resources		
4	Has gender expertise/knowledge been included in TORs for projects' consultancies, reviews, procurements, consultancy teams, etc.?	N/A at this reporting period
5	Have all project staff (incl. project manager) responsible for the different stages of work (design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) been briefed or given training on gender issues?	Yes. Project staff responsible for design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation are guided by UNDP gender mainstreaming requirements and the project's GEN2 classification. Gender considerations are integrated into project governance, reviews, and M&E processes rather than treated as stand-alone activities

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Monitoring & Evaluation		
6	Have gender-disaggregated data and indicators (qualitative or quantitative) been collected or compiled to monitor the process and outcome of this project?	Yes, by design, N/A at this reporting period
7	Have relevant gender issues been raised at project meetings, ensuring discussion of the impact of the project on gender equality in the country?	Yes, gender issues were raised in our 1st meeting with Department of Agriculture and Environment of An Giang and other relevant departments of the province
Communication		
8	Are both women and men represented and visible in the communication products? Are gender stereotypes avoided (avoid portraying childbearing as the sole responsibilities of mother), and women's needs are reflected, and voice supported?	Yes, by project design. Women's voices, needs, and roles, particularly in informal waste work and community recycling will be explicitly reflected and supported in outreach and communication campaigns

6.2 Climate, human right and digital solutions

The project supports climate change mitigation by reducing plastic leakage and landfill disposal through circular economy solutions, including at-source sorting, Material Recovery Facilities (MRF), and a scalable Deposit Return System (DRS). Human rights and social inclusion are integrated by improving working conditions, livelihoods, and participation of informal waste workers, women, and other vulnerable groups, in line with labour and human rights standards. Digital solutions such as the system design for DRS with real-time monitoring are applied to strengthen data-driven planning, monitoring, behaviour-change communication, and knowledge sharing, enhancing transparency, efficiency, and scalability of project interventions.

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6.3 Risk management update

RISK	ASSUMPTION	MITIGATION	RISK MANAGEMENT IN 2025
Policy and Regulatory			
Inconsistent enforcement of waste management policies, including sorting-at-source regulations, and low-value plastic (LVP) waste management frameworks.	The government remains committed to implementing and enforcing waste management regulations.	i) engage key national and provincial authorities (MAE, DOAEs, local People's Committees) early and continuously to align project activities with their priorities; ii) provide technical assistance and policy guidance to help authorities develop clear regulations, guidelines, and enforcement mechanisms; and iii) facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues to align industry actors, waste collectors, and recyclers with government policies.	In 2025, UNDP kept engaging early with MAE, new provincial DOAEs after the nationwide administrative merging process to align and update project activities with new local authorities and with current regulatory priorities. We tried to identify the local authorities' priorities e.g. APEC 2027 preparation in Phu Quoc to align and adjust project design and implementation plan. At the same time, we keep multi-stakeholder engagement and consultations to help align potential government, private sector, and waste actors the project's components
Institutional Capacity			
Institutional changes due to ongoing restructuring of Government Ministries and Agencies at the national and local level.	The national and local level Government restructuring will increase efficiencies at the institutional level and facilitate project implementation.	i) proactively engage and build the capacity of new decision-makers; ii) strengthen alignment with national policies, such as the EPR framework and Circular Economy Roadmap, to ensure project activities remain relevant regardless of administrative changes; and iii) develop structured knowledge management tools, including policy briefs, training sessions, and multi-stakeholder workshops to help retain technical expertise and ensure a smooth transition for new government counterparts.	The project adapted to institutional changes by re-engaging newly assigned focal points, reaffirming alignment with national frameworks (EPR, Circular Economy Roadmap), new decision on management of ODA and using consultations to ensure continuity of technical understanding.
Limited capacity of local authorities to implement and monitor waste management interventions effectively.	Local governments are willing to build capacity and integrate project recommendations into existing waste management plans.	i) conduct targeted training programs and technical workshops for government agencies, municipal waste management units, and enforcement bodies; ii) develop user-friendly implementation guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to support authorities in enforcing policies; and iii) establish a M&E system with clear indicators to track progress and address capacity gaps.	In 2025, we tried to identify capacity gaps of local authority – potential project owner, especially in terms of human resources for project implementation and oversight. We promoted early-stage coordination with provincial and local agencies, laying the foundation for effective implementation and monitoring in subsequent period.
Financial and Investment			
Insufficient private sector investment in waste recovery and recycling due to perceived financial risks and low profitability.	A sustainable business model can be developed for investment in the proposed MRF and DRS.	i) develop an investment-ready business model for the MRF and DRS, demonstrating financial feasibility and potential returns for investors; ii) establish PPPs to de-risk investments through cost-sharing mechanisms and regulatory incentives; and iii) engage private sector stakeholders, financial institutions, development banks,	During 2025, we kept local authority informed of the PPP model with private sector investment and have initial identification and engagement with mapped relevant provide stakeholders to secure the potential investment for the project's infrastructure.

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		and/or impact investors to provide funding opportunities for waste recovery infrastructure.	
Social and Behavioural			
Low public awareness and resistance to sorting waste at-source, limiting participation in recycling initiatives.	Behaviour change campaigns can successfully increase participation in waste sorting and recycling programs.	i) implement awareness-raising and communication activities in collaboration with local governments and civil society stakeholders; ii) develop the necessary schemes for households and businesses that comply with waste sorting and deposit return interventions; and iii) conduct pilot programs in selected areas to demonstrate the benefits of sorting at-source and DRS before scaling up.	In 2025, we do preparation by project design/adjustment for minimizing the risk
Environmental and Social			
Potential adverse environmental impacts from the construction and operation of waste management facilities, including improper waste handling and emissions.	Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and safeguards will be implemented effectively.	i) conduct an EIA and ensure compliance with national environmental standards for all project-supported infrastructure; ii) introduce best practices in waste treatment, pollution control, and occupational health and safety; and iii) engage local communities in decision-making processes to ensure transparency and address concerns related to environmental and social impacts.	Environmental and social risks were managed through early integration of safeguard requirements into project planning, and engagement with local stakeholders to anticipate and address potential concerns.

6.4 Monitoring and supervision

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In 2025, UNDP ensured close monitoring and supervision of project implementation through regular coordination with national and provincial counterparts, structured progress tracking against the approved results framework under prodoc, and continuous technical backstopping to implementing partners. The project team conducted periodic reviews of workplans and deliverables to ensure alignment with agreed outputs, safeguards, and risk mitigation measures, while proactively addressing implementation bottlenecks arising from institutional transitions caused by the nationwide administrative merging process. Monitoring efforts emphasized results-based management, gender and social inclusion, and compliance with environmental and fiduciary standards, enabling adaptive management and timely reporting to stakeholders and donors.