

# LIVABLE CITIES PROGRAM 2020-2021

## SUMMARY REPORT



The project period from Jul 2020 to Jun 2021 was another challenging period for the Vietnam Livable Cities team as the country was struggling against the COVID-19 pandemic. Local lockdowns every few months negatively affected the project's ongoing activities. However, we adapted to this fluctuating situation and were able to achieve the following outstanding results:

### Parks, Playgrounds, and Plazas

Public spaces such as parks, playgrounds, and plazas are vital for community health as they are places for people to exercise, play, and connect with their neighbours. We increased the number of safe and inclusive public spaces in Hanoi:

- A neighborhood public space in the Phuong Mai ward was improved. The improvement benefited about 800 local residents who are living within walking distance to the public space, which includes 295 women and 205 children.



Little girl on swing in Phuong Mai ward public space

- Five new mobile/pop-up playgrounds were created using funds from UNHabitat and the Block by Block Foundation and the LC Vietnam project. The project benefited 500 children, helping them to recover from the social isolation experienced during the COVID-19 lockdowns.



Children playing with blocks in the pop-up playground in Hanoi



Children playing with see-saw in the pop-up playground in Hanoi

## Transportation

How people travel within cities plays an important role in determining people's health, the health of the environment, and ultimately people's quality of life. We are working to promote healthy transportation options by increasing the understanding of the importance of cycling infrastructure and cycling safety in Vietnamese cities among the Government officials, NGOs and other stakeholders. In 2020-2021 we specifically:

- Increased the understanding of cycling safety conditions in the inner city of Hoi An through a cycling safety inspection. We then developed recommendations to improve cycling safety and a tool to evaluate the cycling safety conditions in the city, which the city has begun to implement.
- Increased the understanding of staff in the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Transportation, as well as relevant stakeholders, about current situation of bicycle infrastructure and policies through a situational analysis research. This project was partially supported with funding from WRI.

In addition, we have increased the number of technical documents, in collaboration with WRI and GIZ, supporting cycling through our support to Ministry of Construction. These documents have been used to develop the national guidelines on cycling infrastructure. The Technical Guideline for Cycling Infrastructure Design is the first of its kind in Vietnam and builds upon lessons learned from recent cycling infrastructure and street safety projects throughout Vietnam as well as insights gained from international case studies. The guidance and strategies outlined in this document will make riding a bicycle in Vietnam a safe, convenient, attractive and normal travel option for people of all ages and abilities for a wide variety of trip purposes, especially shorter trips. The guidelines are expected to be approved and published by Dec 2021.



Bicycling in Hoi An



First Consultation Workshop for National Cycling Guidelines

## Markets:

Local public markets are at the heart of economic and social life in Vietnam. We work to protect, preserve, and develop markets so residents can easily access healthy, fresh, food. In 2020-2021 we conducted several research projects to increase our understanding of the existing situation of public market management in Vietnamese cities:

- Increased the understanding of staff at the Ministry of Industry and Trade about the existing problems in managing and developing public markets in Vietnamese cities. We collaborated with the Ministry to evaluate the implementation of Decree 02, which is the decree that provides direction for public markets. The research findings suggested that there is a need to develop a new Decree on market management that includes solutions to some of the modern-day challenges markets face.
- Increased our understanding about current situation of markets in Hoi An through a situational analysis. This included field observations and interviews with vendors, residents, and government officials.

In addition, with funding from UN-Habitat and the Block-by-Block Foundation the project team worked with local authorities, the community, vendors and partners to improve a street market in Tan Mai ward (Hanoi). By doing this activity, we improved the local authorities' commitment to the preservation of street markets and increased local people's support for the market. This project will be completed in January 2022.



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