

# HealthBridge Vietnam Livable Cities Program 2021-2022 Summary Report

HealthBridge Vietnam focuses on making urban neighbourhoods more livable and works with governments and communities to improve public spaces such as parks, markets and streets. In 2021-2022 we achieved many important results:

## Streets

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 walking and cycling infrastructure and cycling safety in Vietnamese cities among government officials at both local and national levels, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. In 2021-2022 we specifically:

- Made significant technical contributions to the development and improvement of national transportation documents such as the National Guidelines on Cycling Infrastructure Design and the National Technical Regulation on Transportation Infrastructure. These documents have provided guidance to all cities in Vietnam so they can create a safe and favourable cycling environment in Vietnamese cities.
- Provided technical support to the Governments of Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Hoi An to promote a safer and more convenient cycling and walking environment. As a result, pedestrians and cyclists now have sidewalks and proper crossing bicycle lanes that improve the cycling safety in the cities.



Hội An



Hội An



Hồ Chí Minh City

## 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 2021-2022 we provided support to the Department of Domestic Market (Ministry of Industry and Trade) to develop a new Decree on Market Management. Although the Decree is still being finalized, the current draft states that markets are important to Vietnamese cities and will give permission to local authorities to use State budget funds for market upgrades in cities. This is an incredibly important policy as cities will now be able to recognize the important role that markets play in the lives of residents and invest and improve their markets.





In addition, HealthBridge worked with local authorities, the community, local vendors and partners to design and improve an informal street market in Tan Mai ward, Hoang Mai district. The newly improved street market directly benefits 1650 inhabitants buying and selling fresh food at this market, most of whom are women, and indirectly benefits more than 6000 residents.





## Parks, Playgrounds and Plazas

Public spaces such as parks, playgrounds, and plazas are vital for community health as they are the places for people to exercise, play, and connect with their neighbours. In 2021-2022 we:

- Worked with the city of Hoi An to evaluate their Public Space Development Strategy for 2015 to 2020. The COVID pandemic delayed the evaluation of the plan, which was supposed to begin in 2020. However, we were able to evaluate the Strategy in 2021-2022 and found that the Hoi An government has built and improved many public spaces since the announcements of the strategy in 2015. Between 2015 and 2021 Hoi An city has invested over 220 billion VND (\$1.7 million CAD) to renovate and upgrade 60 public spaces and build 50 new public spaces. This increased the total number of public space in the whole city from 120 public spaces to 170 public spaces. This resulted in an increase from 2.8 m<sup>2</sup> of public space per person in 2015 to 5.0 m<sup>2</sup> of public space per person in 2021. Based on these results, Hoi An has committed to continue to develop public spaces in the city in the upcoming years, which will improve the lives of local residents throughout the city.
- Formalized and strengthened collaboration with the Ministry of Construction's Administration of Technical Infrastructure (ATI) by signing an MoU to develop green urban infrastructure. We provided support to strengthening policies on urban tree management and development by reviewing current policies, identifying gaps and making recommendations to increase trees in parks, around water surface areas, and along streets in cities. This is an important contribution to Vietnam's climate resilience plans as trees are critical for helping manage flooding and reducing the heat island effect in cities.

