



YOUNG PEOPLE IN VIET NAM: SELECTED INDICATORS

From the 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census



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ABBREVIATIONS

ASFR	Age-Specific Fertility Rate
GSO	General Statistics Office
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
SMAM	Singulate Mean Age at Marriage
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

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INTRODUCTION

In all nations, young people must be prepared to make a meaningful contribution towards achieving sustainable economic and social development. Young people who enter the labour force equipped with appropriate skills can



refresh and improve the quality of their country's human capital. In other words, young people are perhaps the most critical determinant of long-term growth and development. For the purpose of this profile, the youth demographic is defined as the age group between 15-24 years¹. According to the Population and Housing Census conducted in Viet Nam in 2009, youth comprise the largest age group, accounting for 19.4 per cent of the total population of 85.79 million. They not only form the basis for demographic change but represent the future potential of the country.

This booklet is the eighth in a series published by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) during recent years. Information is drawn from the Viet Nam 2009 Population and Housing Census data and from the Major Findings², a series

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) refers to only the age group of 15-24 as youth. The revised Viet Nam Youth Law in 2005 defines youth as Vietnamese citizens aged 16-30. This profile uses the WHO's definition.
2. Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010), 'The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Major Findings'.

of census data monographs³ developed by the General Statistics Office (GSO) and the UNFPA. The Population and Housing Census, conducted every 10 years, provides a comprehensive survey that identifies crucial information on national and sub-national population structure, educational attainment, employment, migration, housing status, and living conditions. The aim of this booklet is to analyse the Census data and create a profile of indicators highlighting trends among the young population as the generation most vital to Viet Nam's future development.

UNFPA would like to thank Dr Giang Thanh Long, Vice Dean of the School of Public Policy and Management at the National Economics University, for his invaluable contributions to the information contained in this report. In publishing this booklet, UNFPA provides informed opinion, based on Census data, on certain characteristics, trends, and vulnerabilities apparent among young people. It is hoped that readers find this information useful in establishing baseline against which progress can be measured to address the special socio-economic development needs of young people in Viet Nam.

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