



**Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, Southern region  
'Waste sorting for better sustainable development'**

This project aims to establish a waste sorting policy with two bins of different colors for organic and inorganic waste, encouraging people to sort their rubbish to promote sustainable development.



**Location of the project**

Vietnam is the second most populated country in south-east Asia (after Indonesia). Its population is estimated at about 83.5 million inhabitants. The density of the population is 248 people per square kilometer, one of the highest in the world. Ho Chi Minh (HCMC), whose population in 2010 was 8 million inhabitants, has a density of 3400 people per square kilometer. Its economy generates 20% of Vietnam's GDP.

**Analysis of the current situation**

Ho Chi Minh, the largest city in Vietnam, produces 7,000 tons of waste per day: 6,000 tons from the municipality and construction, and 1,000 tons of industrial waste. In addition to this, water infiltrating landfills produces 250,000 m<sup>3</sup> of untreated residues. The waste treatment techniques being used are obsolete. The city has 5 landfills in operation, mostly open pit dumps.

## Beneficiaries

- The people of Ho Chi Minh City
- Women: Studies in Ho Chi Minh have shown that women are more involved in the sorting of household waste than men, because they can resell the recyclable materials and thus make a small profit for their families.
- Garbage collectors

## Aims of the action

- Put in place measures to make the city cleaner and have healthier living conditions.
- Establish a society that recycles wastes.
- The main and most important task is to raise public awareness about the project (especially the young generation of the Vincentian Family).
- Give people the means and methods to sort waste easily.

## Actions taken

Waste can be sorted into two categories: organic and inorganic.

The idea is to encourage people to use a dual-compartment waste bin or two separate waste bins. The Domestic Waste Separation Program was launched in 2016 at national level to encourage more Vietnamese people to sort their waste for recycling.

Features of the dual-compartment waste bins:

- Each compartment is a different color. For instance, blue is for the treatment of organic waste and red is for the treatment of inorganic waste. If several symbols appear on each compartment, classification will be easier.
- The specific colors and designs for each type of waste must be identical in all the regions, it is essential for the garbage collectors to avoid making mistakes.
- Specific colors and drawings: give each person a poster containing a list of inorganic and organic waste items. Posters should be placed near dustbins.

## Future prospects and/or assessment of impact on sustainable development

Effective management of waste treatment is best applied at the domestic level. If everyone is involved and concerned, we can achieve good environmental results.

Frequently young people want to do well and make the right decisions, but they think they are alone and think that their action will make no difference: FALSE! There are millions of young people who are seeing the extent of the waste problem and doing the right thing to help. But we can do more and encourage those who do not act properly to do better.

### Reduce waste generation:

The next time you change the garbage bag, take a look at it. Is there something that should not be there? Probably. Try to reduce by half the waste you produce at home. For example:

- Use cloth towels and porcelain plates instead of paper towels or paper plates.
- For your shopping, use your own bag rather than plastic shopping bags.
- Recycle old boxes to send a package by post, rather than buying new ones.

Recycle instead of throwing things away:

Some items can be re-used many times: cardboard boxes, wrapping paper, clothes, furniture or even toys. If the clothes have become too big (or too small), you can give them to someone who needs them. Do not throw away them too fast.

Waste is currently a social and environmental problem. Correct sorting at the source will reduce costs and create a nicer environment, as well as facilitating treatment, recycling and waste reduction.

But most people still have not realized the importance of sorting waste at the source. There are many projects, good communication, education and awareness programs, but perhaps these projects are too small, too irregular, too theoretical, and maybe they do not always offer an 'easy sorting' method which makes it convenient for people to get involved.