Gender-biased sex selection:

Viet Nam

Fertility Decline

Government policies and local fertility preferences in many parts of Viet Nam favour a small-size family with two children. As the number of children declines, and many couples want to have at least one son, they may practice sex selection in favour of boys from the first birth.

Challenges/Opportunities

The balance between ensuring law enforcement that bans the practice of gender-biased sex selection and protecting women’s reproductive rights.

In 2006

The Viet Nam National Assembly passed the Gender Equality Law and one year later passed the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control.

Policies/Framework/Government Response

In 1982

Viet Nam ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

In 2013

Viet Nam emphasizes that women and men must be treated equally, banning laws, customs, and traditions that deny women the same opportunities as men.

Sex Ratio at birth

Since 2004

The sex ratio at birth in Viet Nam has increased rapidly to 111.5 boys for every 100 girls born in 2019.

2018

The sex ratio at birth in Viet Nam is already high at the first birth (110.2) and reaches 120.2 boys per 100 girls at the third birth, according to the 2019 Census.