



# Vietnam Football World Cup Insight

From U20 2017 to U17 2026:  
Vietnam's Growing Footprint on  
the World Stage



## 2. Executive Summary

Vietnam's U17 men's team qualifies for FIFA U-17 World Cup 2026 - a historic first.

Only Southeast Asian team at the tournament; one of nine Asian qualifiers

Tournament held in Qatar,  
19 Nov - 13 Dec 2026 (48 teams)

Part of Vietnam's growing World Cup track record:

- 2017 - U20 men's World Cup
- 2023 - Senior women's World Cup
- 2026 - U17 men's World Cup
- Bonus: Futsal Round of 16 in both 2016 & 2021



## 2. Key Data & Trends

Team / Competition	Year	Key Achievement
Vietnam U20 Men	2017	First Vietnamese 11-a-side team to play at a FIFA World Cup. Drew 0-0 with New Zealand, then lost to France and Honduras.
Vietnam Women's National Team	2023	First senior Vietnamese national team to qualify for a FIFA World Cup. Played USA, Portugal and Netherlands in Group E.
Vietnam U17 Men	2026	First qualification for FIFA U-17 World Cup. Only Southeast Asian team to qualify for the 2026 tournament.
Vietnam Futsal Men	2016	First FIFA Futsal World Cup appearance. Beat Guatemala and reached the Round of 16.
Vietnam Futsal Men	2021	Reached the Round of 16 again after beating Panama and drawing with Czech Republic.



# 3. Player & Moment Spotlight

## Player / Moment

## Why it matters

Nguyễn Minh Trí

Vietnam's standout World Cup scorer in futsal. He scored a hat-trick against Guatemala in 2016, helping Vietnam win 4-2 and reach the Round of 16.

Nguyễn Văn Hiếu

Scored the decisive goal in Vietnam's 3-2 win over Panama at the FIFA Futsal World Cup 2021.

Trần Thị Kim Thanh

Vietnam's standout player at the 2023 Women's World Cup. She made 15 saves across three matches and saved Alex Morgan's penalty against the USA.

Nguyễn Quang Hải, Đoàn Văn Hậu,  
Nguyễn Hoàng Đức, Nguyễn Tiến Linh

Part of the U20 World Cup 2017 generation, many later became important senior national team players.

Chu Ngọc Nguyễn Lực, Nguyễn Văn  
Dương, Nguyễn Mạnh Cường

Scored in Vietnam U17's 3-2 comeback win over UAE, the result that sealed the World Cup ticket.



## 4. Key Insight

Vietnam is building a real, systematic World Cup pathway - not just chasing dreams

U17 qualification = progress at development level (most important for long-term growth)

World Cup presence now spans 3 disciplines: youth men's, senior women's, futsal

## 5. Behavioural / Performance Insights

### Insight

### Interpretation

Youth football is becoming a stronger pathway

U20 men in 2017 and U17 men in 2026 show that Vietnam's youth teams are becoming more competitive in Asia.

Women's football created the senior breakthrough

The women's national team became the first Vietnamese senior team to play at a FIFA World Cup.

Futsal remains Vietnam's strongest World Cup performer

Vietnam futsal reached the Round of 16 in both 2016 and 2021, making it the most consistent World Cup performer.

Still waiting for the first 11-a-side World Cup goal

Vietnam has played at U20 and Women's World Cup level, but has not yet scored a goal in a FIFA 11-a-side World Cup finals tournament.

Individual moments drive national memory

Kim Thanh's penalty save, Minh Tri's hat-trick and U17's comeback over UAE are the moments that make the story more emotional and memorable.

# 6. Strategic Implications for Content

## Direction

## Opportunity

Hero Story

Lead with U17 Vietnam 2026 as the newest and most emotional milestone.

Timeline Narrative

The women's national team became the first Vietnamese senior team to play at a FIFA World Cup.

Player-led Storytelling

Use Kim Thanh, Minh Trí, Văn Hiếu and the U17 goal scorers to make the report more human.

National Pride Angle

National Pride Angle  
Highlight "only Southeast Asian representative" as the strongest headline.

Future Talent Angle

Position U17 qualification as a sign of Vietnam's next generation developing towards senior football.

# 7. Example Narrative

## **2017: U20 men**

first-ever Vietnamese  
11-a-side team at a FIFA World Cup

## **2023: Senior women**

first full international  
World Cup for Vietnam

## **2026: U17 men**

only SEA representative  
at U17 World Cup

## **Memorable moments along the way:**

Nguyễn Minh Trí's hat-trick  
(Futsal World Cup)

Nguyễn Văn Hiếu's winner vs. Panama

Trần Thị Kim Thanh's penalty save  
vs. Alex Morgan

U17's comeback win over UAE



## **Bottom line:**

Vietnam isn't just  
participating - it's competing  
and leaving its mark

