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Delivering as One
Annual Results Report 2013



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Delivering as One

Annual Results Report 2013

Preamble

2013 represented the second year of the 2nd generation of the United Nations' Delivering as One (DaO) initiative in Viet Nam, with a deepened approach across all six of its pillars allowing the Government of Viet Nam and the UN Country Team (UNCT) to remain at the forefront of global level UN reform. The year was marked by the achievement of a number of important DaO milestones.



In particular, the ground-breaking of the Green One UN House (GOUNH) project in Ha Noi to co-locate the majority of UN agencies under one roof and the establishment of a tripartite DaO governance structure to bring 17 UN agencies, the Government of Viet Nam and donor community together to review and ensure implementation of the DaO initiative were major steps forward.

The year also constituted the first full annual cycle of the One Plan 2012-2016. In keeping with the General Assembly Resolution 67/226 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCP), joint programming, monitoring and results reporting across the UN system in Viet Nam were reinforced through the implementation of the Results-Based Management (RBM) Strategy for Delivering as One in Viet Nam 2012-2016. This 'Delivering as One Annual Results Report 2013' is the culmination of these efforts.

Whilst Viet Nam's economy continued to stabilize in 2013, the annual rate of economic growth declined to its lowest level in over a decade on the back of five consecutive years of macroeconomic instability. This prolonged economic slow-down, together with a lack of progress on structural economic reforms and rapid demographic changes, is contributing to the emergence of new forms of multi-dimensional poverty. This is particularly visible in urban areas amongst migrants and informal workers. Moreover, poverty in ethnic minority-dominated areas is becoming entrenched with more than 50 per cent of households living below the poverty line located in these areas. While Viet Nam at the national level has made significant progress towards achieving the majority of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets by 2015, an 'unfinished agenda' remains to address inequalities behind the likely failure to attain the remaining MDGs, especially at a sub-national level. To better position and inform policy-makers to meet these challenges, the UN supported the production of the 2013 National MDG Report that examined province-level MDG progress and highlighted these sub-national disparities. The equitable achievement of health-related MDGs was a key area of UN support in 2013, which helped lead to the drafting of Prime Ministerial policy resolutions on revitalisation of the primary healthcare system and realization of health-focused MDGs. This stipulates that central and local budgets should be prioritized for the MDGs on mother and child mortality as well as on HIV/AIDS prevention.

The UN in 2013 also led the post-2015 national consultations, with 15 UN agencies working in the spirit of DaO to consult eight of the most vulnerable population groups in the country. This UN initiative resulted in representatives from groups being provided a national level platform to engage the Government and civil society organizations on the need for increased efforts to address inequalities and express a desire to more actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.

Completion of a number of important policy reforms in Viet Nam in 2013 provided the UN with an opportunity to not only fully exercise its normative role, but also demonstrate its capacities in terms of rights-based analysis as well as evidence and international experience-based policy advice. At a strategic level, UN joint efforts focussed on amendments to the 1992 Constitution, review of Socio-Economic Development Plan 2011-2015 (SEDP) and Viet Nam's preparations for the 2nd Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in February, 2014. Furthermore, in keeping with the country's lower middle-income country (LMIC) status, the Government of Viet Nam established the Viet Nam Development Partnership Forum to facilitate substantive engagement with development partners. Through these and other initiatives to implement the One Plan, the UN system in Viet Nam not only advocated for the interests of vulnerable and marginalized groups, but also ensured their voices could be heard in advocating for change.

This is the second 'Delivering as One Annual Results Report' produced by the UN in Viet Nam and great efforts have been made to respond to feedback on 2012's report, including increased granularity in the reporting of results. In the first chapter of this 2013 edition, we outline progress made in the past year on the six pillars of the DaO initiative - One Plan, One Budget, One Leader, One set of Management Practices, One Voice and One UN House. The global 'Standard Operating Procedures for Delivering as One' issued at the end of 2013 incorporated a great many practices already routinely applied in Viet Nam, highlighting the country's significant role in shaping DaO at a global level. The second chapter of this report provides an overview of the One Plan 2012-2016 with results matched against outcomes and outputs as well as explains how the One Plan's underlying principles have guided the UN's work during the year. Chapter 3 reports on the One Budget and expenditure for 2013, while Chapter 4 delivers insights into the challenges faced and key lessons learned for the continued effective implementation of the DaO initiative in Viet Nam.

Moving forward, the UN in Viet Nam is greatly energized by tangible progress made during 2013 and is looking forward to 2014 with anticipation as final preparations are made to move into the GOUNH. This will provide the UN with a cutting edge working environment in keeping with the UNCT's ambition to consolidate its role as a global leader in DaO and effectively support the Government of Viet Nam to pursue its national development agenda, including attainment of the MDGs.

In this regard, the UN values the strong leadership provided by the Government of Viet Nam as well as donor community support and looks forward to continuing fruitful collaboration with national and international partners for the future well-being of all Vietnamese people.



Pratibha Mehta
Resident Coordinator

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Abbreviations & Acronyms

(ARV)	Antiretroviral
(DaO)	Delivering as One
(DPOs)	Detailed project outlines
(ESD)	Education for sustainable development
(EU)	European Union
(FACGs)	Focus Area Coordination Groups
(FDI)	Foreign direct investment
(FUNSA)	Federation of United Nations Staff Associations
(GSO)	General Statistics Office of Viet Nam
(GOUNH)	Green One UN House
(GoV)	Government of Viet Nam
(HACT)	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
(HPPMG)	Harmonize Programme and Project Management Guidelines
(HRC)	Human Rights Council
(JPGs)	Joint Programming Groups
(LGBTI)	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex
(LMIC)	Lower middle-income country
(MARD)	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
(MDG)	Millennium Development Goal
(M&E)	Monitoring and evaluation
(MoET)	Ministry of Education and Training
(MoH)	Ministry of Health
(MoLISA)	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
(MPI)	Ministry of Planning and Investment
(MPTF Office)	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
(MSM)	Men who have sex with men
(NGOs)	Non-governmental organizations
(ODA)	Official development assistance
(OPF)	One Plan Fund
(PAPI)	Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index
(PCSA)	Parliamentary Committee for Social Affairs
(PLHIV)	People living with HIV
(QCPR)	Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review
(RBM)	Results-Based Management
(SEDP)	Socio-Economic Development Plan 2011-2015
(SEDS)	Socio-Economic Development Strategy for 2011-2020
(SOPs)	Standard Operating Procedures
(UNCT)	UN Country Team
(UNDG)	United Nations Development Group
(UPR)	Universal Periodic Review
(WASH)	Water, sanitation and hygiene



Country in Focus

Viet Nam is a new LMIC in South East Asia, bordered by Cambodia and Laos to the west and China to the north. More than 88.5 million people from 54 different ethnic groups inhabit this narrow S-shaped land, defined by more than 3,000 kilometres of coastline and a hilly, mountainous interior of which only one-third is arable land. Viet Nam has 63 provinces with Ha Noi in the north serving as the capital and Ho Chi Minh City in the south the largest urban area, with a population estimated at 7.5 million.

Over the past year macroeconomic stability continued to improve, with annual inflation declining to an average of 6.7 per cent. Restrained by ongoing global uncertainty, annual GDP growth slowed to 5.4 per cent, but appears to be stabilizing. Current growth is supported by export-oriented sectors and foreign investment, but improvements are hampered by slow-moving structural reforms, in particular to State-owned enterprises and in the financial sector. Non-performing loans in the banking sector remain a major concern (World Bank 2013).

Based on the General Statistics Office-World Bank poverty line, poverty fell from 20.7 per cent in 2010 to 17.2 per cent in 2012. However, poverty continues to be significantly higher among ethnic minorities, although their poverty rate dropped from 66 to 59 per cent between 2010 and 2012 (World Bank, 2013). While national average data shows progress in most MDGs, except the target on HIV/AIDS and some MDG 7 targets, provincial and regional disparities persist. Unless urgent

action is taken, many MDG targets will not be fully achieved by 2015 in ethnic minority areas (2013 MDG Report).

The year 2013 saw more proactive public consultation on draft laws, such as the Land Law and draft revisions to the Law on Marriage and Family. The constitutional amendment process also provided an unprecedented level of public participation, with more than 26 million opinions submitted to the Drafting Committee. Although many of the more progressive suggestions were not included in the final Constitution adopted in November, several amendments show that progress was made, including strengthening of the human rights regime. Viet Nam was elected to the UN Human Rights Council for the 2014-2016 term, demonstrating increased engagement with international human rights mechanisms. Viet Nam's candidacy was supported by its voluntary pledges. Civil society organizations were encouraged to attend the State review process as observers in the Human Rights Council.

Viet Nam is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with frequent extreme weather events and rising sea levels. In 2013, Viet Nam experienced four typhoons and six tropical storms resulting in economic losses estimated at VND28,000 billion, approximately double the amount for 2012. In 2013, the Party adopted a resolution on responses to climate change and improvements in natural resource management and environmental protection.

Progress on Millennium Development Goals

The Government of Viet Nam continues to demonstrate a strong commitment towards attainment of MDGs, proactively integrating the goals into national development programmes and policies. Local and central State organizations and agencies, with financial and technical support from international development partners, have contributed significantly to MDG results achieved so far.



MDG 1: STATUS AND PROSPECTS

HALVE THE POVERTY RATE FROM 1990'S LEVEL AND ACHIEVE FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

Over the past two decades, some 30 million people in Viet Nam have been lifted out of poverty. In recent years the country witnessed a big drop in its poverty rate, from 20.7 per cent in 2010 to 17.2 per cent in 2012¹. Living standards have continued to improve and ownership of durable goods has increased. Between 2004-2010, the percentage of households in permanent housing doubled. Food security and nutrition indicators have also improved dramatically, with Viet Nam reaching by 2010 the target to reduce the underweight rate in children aged less than five years. Urban unemployment in 2013 was 3.6 per cent and rural unemployment 1.5 per cent, although there is a very high degree of informal and vulnerable employment.

While overall poverty levels have dropped remarkably, the pace of reduction is not equal across regions and population groups. A high, often chronic poverty rate persists particularly among ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups, as well as in disadvantaged areas. Urban poverty is starting to emerge as a new challenge in Viet Nam. The risk of falling back into poverty is high, with key drivers being the impacts of the global financial crisis, domestic macroeconomic instability and more severe climate change-related natural disasters and trends. The multi-dimensional nature of poverty is becoming an increasingly complex challenge for policy-makers to address across society.

Female-headed households are over represented among the poor, but the true extent of gender differences in poverty levels is difficult to measure, because poverty is measured at a household level. Intra-household differences are therefore masked. Moreover, qualitative evidence suggests that women and children are more vulnerable to reductions in household income.

Tackling challenges in poverty reduction in the coming years will require tailored and multi-sectoral approaches, with poverty viewed as a multi-dimensional phenomenon and not just in monetary terms.

¹ Based on General Statistics Office and World Bank poverty indicators.



MDG 2: STATUS AND PROSPECTS

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO PRIMARY EDUCATION BY 2015

With net enrolment rates in primary education reaching 97.7 per cent in 2012, Viet Nam has already achieved universal primary education and is now striving to reach universal lower secondary education. During 2007-2012, the percentage of qualified teachers improved significantly, reaching 99.6 per cent in primary and upper secondary education and 99.2 per cent in lower secondary education.

However, Viet Nam still needs to improve its quality of education, particularly school facilities, teaching equipment and staff management capacity, to meet the demands of a growing economy, provide the skills needed in a rapidly changing society as well as a means to further human development. Inequality in access to education and the quality of education is a concern for different ethnic minorities, but also for other poor and vulnerable groups who have to spend a large share of their household income on formal and informal education-related expenditure.

Education reform in teaching and learning, as well as improved school facilities is strongly needed. The governance of public service delivery also needs to be improved, including in areas of accountability and spending efficiency.



MDG 3: STATUS AND PROSPECTS
PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Gender inequality in access to primary education has been eliminated and there has been major progress on gender equality in employment. In 2012, women accounted for 48.7 per cent of the national labour force and women took up 48 per cent of newly created jobs. With respect to leadership and management roles, the percentage of women in government agencies is still relatively high (24.2 per cent), despite a recent 1.6 per cent decline in the rate of women representatives in the National Assembly during the 2007-2011 term. Viet Nam is one of five countries in Asia with the highest rate of women in national parliament.

However, there is still inequality in advanced education levels and in access to decent work. Violence against women and girls remains a critical problem. In 2012, 85.1 per cent of domestic violence victims were women and girls. Sexual harassment of women in the workplace is also widespread and the majority of cases go unreported. The sex-ratio-at-birth has increased from 111.2 boys per 100 girls in 2010 to 112.3 boys per 100 girls in 2012. This phenomenon is the manifestation of serious gender inequality, which exists in families and the wider community.





MDG 4: STATUS AND PROSPECTS

REDUCE BY TWO-THIRDS, BETWEEN 1990 AND 2015, THE UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATE

Viet Nam is close to reaching the MDG targets on child health. In 2012, the under-one mortality rate was estimated at 15 per 1,000 live births, which is just 0.2 per cent higher than the 2015 target of 14.8. If the current rate of progress continues, Viet Nam can accomplish this target by 2015. The mortality rate among children under the age of five reduced to 23.2 per 1,000 live births in 2012, resulting in Viet Nam having one the lowest child mortality rates out of 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region countries.

However, disparities remain in access to healthcare services among different ethnicities and provinces. In 2011, the under-five mortality rate for ethnic minority children was three times higher than that of children from the Kinh ethnic majority group. The under-one mortality rate in rural areas was 1.6 times higher than that in urban areas. The reduction in the overall mortality rate has stagnated in recent years in part because of underlying factors such as the high rate of stunted children and poor infant and young child feeding practices, such as the lack of exclusive breastfeeding for six months from birth.

The Government has consistently provided full health insurance coverage to children under the age of six, which has helped to ensure the availability of health services for children at all levels of healthcare. For example, the proportion of children under one-year-old fully immunized against major vaccine-preventable diseases remains high at 96.5 per cent. However, the national immunization programme has faced challenges in 2013 as reported “adverse events following immunization” have affected public trust in the programme.



MDG 5: STATUS AND PROSPECTS

REDUCE BY THREE QUARTERS THE MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO AND ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Maternal mortality has decreased by more than two-thirds over the last 12 years – from 233 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 64 per 100,000 live births in 2012. By 2011, the proportion of pregnant women receiving three antenatal care appointments during their pregnancy reached 86.5 per cent, just below the 2015 target of 87 per cent. The rate of births attended by skilled health workers has risen by 10.7 per cent during the past decade, from 86 per cent to 96.7 per cent in 2011, which is only 1.3 per cent below the target for 2015. The prevalence of contraception use among women has also been on the rise, with an average increase in the annual rate of 0.9 per cent during 2001-2011.

However, progress has slowed and large disparities in maternal health indicators remain between provinces and ethnic groups. In 2011, the overall adolescent birth rate was 46 per 1,000 births, which is higher than many other countries in the region. The maternal mortality rate among ethnic minorities is four times higher than the national average. Although the rate of births attended by a skilled health worker has risen in most provinces, a few areas are witnessing a decline. For example, the proportion of such births in northern Viet Nam’s Lai Chau province decreased from 68 per cent in 2008 to 52 per cent in 2011². The unmet need for family planning among young unmarried people is still very high (34.3 per cent in 2012).

To achieve the MDG targets, it is essential that Viet Nam accelerates the implementation of more rigorous programmes to improve maternal and reproductive health, especially those targeting remote and economically disadvantaged areas.

² Health-related Millennium Development Goals Viet Nam, 2013, p. 51.





MDG 6: STATUS AND PROSPECTS

HALT AND REVERSE BY 2015 THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

MDG targets on malaria and tuberculosis were achieved by 2011. Good progress has also been made in addressing HIV/AIDS. In 2012, the number of newly identified HIV infection cases reduced by 22 percentage points compared to 2011, and by 31.5 percentage points compared to 2001. In 2013, the HIV prevalence rate is stable at 0.3 per cent of the whole population. The proportion of HIV patients receiving antiretroviral (ARV) drugs in 2011 was 22-fold higher than in 2005 and 1.5 times higher than in 2009. The rate of pregnant women who tested positive for HIV and received treatment to prevent mother-to-child transmission increased 20-fold during 2003-2011.

There are still many challenges however, especially in remote and disadvantaged areas. The rate of sexually transmitted HIV has been rising, reaching 45.3 per cent of all newly identified cases in the first six months of 2013. Injecting drug use continues to be one of the most prevalent modes of HIV transmission. Harm-reduction interventions are still limited. Methadone treatment programmes have 43 centres providing treatment for 9,572 patients, far below the target of 61 units and 15,600 patients being treated by 2015. Furthermore, while there is a reduction in newly identified infections, there is a slow but steady rise in infections among women who in 2012 accounted for 31.5 percent of people living with HIV.

There have been major achievements in the prevention and control of malaria. Between 2000-2013, confirmed cases of and deaths caused by malaria dropped by 77 and 96 per cent, respectively. However, resistance to anti-malarial drugs remains a major concern and could threaten the remarkable progress made over the past 13 years. Going forward, reduced donor funding still pose big challenges for the Government to consolidate its achievements and control HIV/AIDS as well as other infectious diseases.



MDG 7: STATUS AND PROSPECTS

ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STATUS AND PROSPECTS REDUCE BY HALF THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WITHOUT SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND BASIC SANITATION

Between 2010-2013, Viet Nam made considerable progress in the area of environment, comprehensively integrating principles of sustainable development into the Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) for 2011-2020, and in the adoption of the Biodiversity, Climate Change and Green Growth strategies as well as related national action plans.

Monitoring indicators for natural resources, the environment and biodiversity have remained stable. By 2011, the proportion of land covered by forest reached 39.7 per cent. In 2012, the protected terrestrial and marine area increased by 4.7 per cent compared to 2010. By the end of 2013, Viet Nam had eight biosphere reserves, six Ramsar wetland sites and five ASEAN Heritage Parks, recognized by international environmental organizations.

However, the quality of forests continues to decline and the trend of biodiversity loss has not been reversed. There have also been high profile cases of industrial pollution and extraction of mineral resources. In addition, the environmental legal system does not fully meet the requirements of a fast changing socio-economic context and Government investment in environmental protection is still small in comparison with required capital.

Significant improvements have been witnessed in meeting basic living requirements, such as clean water, sanitary latrines and permanent houses. By 2010, 80 per cent of the rural population had access to clean water and 77 per cent had sanitary latrines. The proportion of temporary houses decreased by 5.6 per cent in 2010³.

However, Viet Nam overall is still a long way off reaching the 2015 targets. In particular, biodiversity loss continues and numerous environmental problems have become more serious due to economic development and climate change pressures, resulting in increased environmental violations, exploited forests and depleted natural resources.

³ Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (2011) National Target Programme on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation for 2011-2015 Draft.



MDG 8: STATUS AND PROSPECTS

DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Viet Nam's reputation as an international development partner has improved through the strengthening of its relationship with a number of countries. Viet Nam has also entered into a number of free trade agreements to promote economic integration. Consequently, international trade has increased substantially. By 2011, the total import-export turnover was equivalent to 185.8 per cent of gross domestic product.

However, since Viet Nam became a LMIC in 2010 the amount of official development assistance (ODA) it receives has declined, down by 11.2 per cent in 2013 compared to 2012. Disbursed foreign direct investment (FDI) capital has remained stable, but registered FDI capital continues to fall. In 2013, registered FDI capital dropped by 11 per cent compared to 2012, equivalent to US\$1.6 billion.

International labour cooperation, measured by the number of labourers working abroad, has shown signs of recovery after a dip in 2012. It contributes US\$2 billion per annum on average, creating an important and stable source of foreign exchange. The domestic pharmaceutical market is more tightly regulated and prices remain high, making it difficult for the public to access medicine at affordable prices.

To take advantage of global partnerships for development, Viet Nam needs to manage foreign investment more effectively and improve public debt management. The Government also needs to undertake more rigorous reforms of State institutions and infrastructure to attract more support and foreign investment. In the areas of medicine and use of high tech in industry as part of a modernization process and value addition to products, there is a need for stronger cooperation with foreign companies with associated investment to make significant advances in terms of lower prices and new technology.



Chapter 1

Progress on Delivering as One

In Viet Nam, the DaO initiative is based on six pillars:

1	One Plan
2	One Budget
3	One Leader
4	One Set of Management Practices
5	One Voice
6	One UN House

In 2013, the quality and delivery of the UN's development support to Viet Nam was enhanced by a deepening of the DaO approach in country, a reflection of the UNCT and Government of Viet Nam's ambition to further consolidate the nation's role as a global leader in DaO. Initiated in 2006, further to the UN Secretary-General's recommendations on High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence, the DaO initiative grew out of the need for improved coherence, efficiency and effectiveness across UN country level operations to avoid duplication and reduce transaction costs for development partners. This approach is increasingly relevant amid a backdrop of declining ODA in LMICs, such as Viet Nam.

As one of the initial eight DaO pilot countries⁴, Viet Nam has remained at the forefront of the DaO initiative founded on six complementary and mutually reinforcing pillars established under the 1st generation of DaO: One Plan, One Budget, One Leader, One Set of Management Practices, One Voice and One UN House.

⁴ Eight pilot countries are Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay and Viet Nam.

The One Plan 2012-2016 brings 17 UN agencies⁵ together under one development cooperation framework aligned to national priorities and draws on the full range of UN expertise ensuring a fully integrated UNCT approach to delivering development results in a coherent manner. The One Budget, with its One Plan Fund (OPF), contribute to the alignment of UN operational activities with national priorities, by integrating costed UN programme activities as a basis for joint resource mobilization for the One Plan's implementation. Under One Leader, the UN Resident Coordinator guides the strategic development of the DaO process and engages high-level Government and development partners on behalf of the UN common system. Leading the UNCT in its joint formulation and monitoring of One Plan results as well as mobilization and allocation of resources through the OPF is also within the Resident Coordinator's mandate. These initiatives are complemented by One Voice, which ensures the UNCT communicates on key development and normative themes through coherent messaging and policy advocacy. The colocation of the large majority of UN agencies operating in Viet Nam in the GOUNH in Ha Noi will encourage greater synergies through joint approaches to programme development and implementation, while One Set of Management Practices minimizes transaction costs for Government and partners as well as generates cost efficiencies in UN operations.

Viet Nam's Role in Supporting DaO at a Global Level in 2013

Viet Nam is widely seen as a global role model for UN country level reform. The UN General Assembly Resolution 67/226 on the QCPR of 'UN operational activities

for development' adopted in 2012 provide policy orientations for further UN country level reform. The QCPR emphasizes the importance of building upon DaO pilot countries' experiences to enhance system-wide coherence through Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) as guidelines for UNCTs' work in DaO countries and those wishing to adopt the DaO approach.

In keeping with the QCPR recommendations, concerted efforts were made in 2013 to share Viet Nam's DaO experiences and lessons learned at global and regional levels. To illustrate this, Viet Nam's experiences from the 2nd generation of DaO in managing results-focused processes was shared at the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Asia-Pacific Regional Cluster and Resident Coordinators' meeting in Ha Noi during November 2013. As members of the UNGD Global Validation Group tasked with helping define global SOPs and guidelines, the Resident Coordinator and UNCT provided key input by sharing Viet Nam's experiences in developing and implementing the six pillars, including system-wide results monitoring and reporting processes as well as integrated common services management. The resulting SOPs, adopted by all 32 UNGD members, for the first time provided a global benchmark for all DaO pillars with flexible application across the spectrum of country contexts.

Resolution 67/226 also called for a more strategic and coherent results culture across the UN system, driven by interventions based on clear results frameworks to safeguard the future sustainability of UN support to developing countries. Viet Nam is again at the cutting edge of this DaO approach. The RBM Strategy for Delivering as One in Viet Nam 2012-2016 was approved in November 2012 and its first full year of implementation in 2013 delivered valuable lessons on system-wide monitoring and reporting, including the need for improved indicator definitions and monitoring of output level development results. More

⁵ Including two non-resident agencies, the International Trade Centre (ITC) and United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

robust monitoring and reporting of results across the six DaO pillars culminated in the publication of the first comprehensive “Delivering as One Annual Results Report” (2012) for Viet Nam, which formed the basis for the joint review of progress by the tripartite DaO coordination mechanism.

The application of a more systematic approach to measuring progress, however, has proved challenging. Recognizing the importance of monitoring DaO results, the UNCT in Viet Nam first attempted to develop a DaO monitoring framework in 2012. This resulted in an ambitious and complex end product not user friendly for regular monitoring purposes. This complexity, allied with a limited common understanding of DaO results monitoring, could have contributed to a lack of appropriation of the new monitoring tool by teams charged with defining baselines and monitoring progress. To address this, work started in 2013 on refining the DaO monitoring framework with a limited number of measurable indicators. A priority for 2014 will be to complete this exercise in accordance with UNDG guidelines on DaO results monitoring, expected at the beginning of the year, and employ this new framework for DaO results monitoring and reporting purposes with baselines for all DaO pillars.

Tripartite Governance of DaO

DaO is a tripartite commitment of the UN, the Government of Viet Nam and donors. In 2013, the Prime Minister issued a decree defining a three-levelled UN-Government coordination and governance structure to oversee the 2nd generation of DaO. This was viewed as a major breakthrough as the three partners for the first time have a mechanism to jointly review progress of UN development reforms and results. The inter-linked governance structure comprises:

Three Focus Area Coordination Groups (FACGs):

They bring line ministries, UN agencies and development partners together to review UN programmes and results in each of the One Plan’s three key focus areas.

One Plan Steering Committee:

A bipartite committee, co-chaired by the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) and UN, to review UN development cooperation results, One Budgetary Framework status and guide OPF allocation.

DaO Steering Committee:

An MPI and UN co-chaired committee comprising Government, UNCT and donor community representatives to oversee overall DaO progress.

In October, three multi-stakeholder FACG meetings were jointly held by the UNCT, MPI and line ministries to review One Plan 2012-2016 progress in the three key focus areas. Recommendations from these meetings fed into the first One Plan Steering Committee meeting in November that jointly reviewed overall One Plan results and budgetary disbursements in 2012. The DaO Steering Committee also met in November and resulted in agreement between the three parties on a number of actions to strengthen the DaO process in 2014. These initiatives included an accelerated review of the Harmonized Programme and Project Management Guidelines (HPPMG) to achieve greater programme and cost effectiveness, adoption of new resource mobilization approaches such as reprioritization of the One Plan, development of breakthrough projects and UN support to Government in delivery of programmes in areas with low ODA disbursement. The further strengthening of DaO and One Plan results monitoring and reporting, in particular the design of a DaO results matrix, and acceleration of business practice reforms were also agreed.

Development Cooperation and Budget

The One Plan 2012-2016 is the cornerstone of UN support for achievement of national development goals and provides a framework for Government to meet its inter-governmental and international commitments. (See Chapter 2 for an overview of results achieved in 2013, the first full year of One Plan 2012-2016 implementation).

Within the UN, in the spirit of the 'DaO' approach, eight inter-agency Joint Programming Groups (JPGs) convened by heads of agencies ensure One Plan implementation and monitoring is carried forward. The JPGs undertake joint planning, monitoring and reporting on One Plan results with referencing of the One Plan Database. Established in 2012, this web-based platform supports JPGs to monitor and report development results in a transparent manner. The further enhancement of this tool in 2014 will lead to its greater use at JPG level and a more comprehensive overview on progress to allow for key narrative results per output to be included and tracked.

Given the importance of a coordinated and coherent delivery of the One Plan and results monitoring, in 2013 two UNCT retreats were held to review the JPGs within the framework of the results-oriented 2nd generation DaO process. It was concluded that the JPGs' role would be further strengthened with an increased focus on joint policy analysis and advocacy for unified policy messaging and delivery of advocacy with One Voice.

The One Plan Budget is financed through three funding sources, 'regular resources' include core resources mobilized from UN agencies' headquarters, 'other resources' represent extra budgetary resources and 'resources to be mobilized' are funds UN agencies anticipate raising from the OPF

2012-2016 or other channels during One Plan 2012-2016. (See Chapter 3 for an analysis of the One Plan Budget).

Funding levels have reduced since Viet Nam's transition to LMIC status, as a result of the withdrawal of some donors and the reduction in others' budgets. This has been accompanied by a donor preference to earmark resources at agency and activity levels. However, the OPF remains an important tool to pool resources and provide incentives for agencies to be fully engaged in DaO and joint programming.

In view of Viet Nam's changing funding landscape, an analysis of One Plan Budget funding gaps was undertaken in 2013. The results were presented at DaO and One Plan Steering Committee meetings, with a recommendation that the One Plan's implementation be prioritized based on available funding. This funding gap analysis was accompanied by the mapping of existing donors and an examination of potential partnerships, including through Government cost-sharing. As a result, different approaches to resource mobilization, including flexible criteria for OPF contributions and resource allocation, are being examined with further analysis in 2014.

Advocating with One Voice

The UN's advocacy efforts in Viet Nam are founded on the principle of speaking with One Voice. By ensuring common positions are adopted by all UN agencies in Viet Nam, the UN system maximizes the impact of its key advocacy messages. This also allows the UN system to undertake its normative role, especially on human rights issues. In the context of a LMIC Viet Nam, joint advocacy for policy reforms is a key dimension of One Plan implementation.

Under the Resident Coordinator's leadership, the UNCT in Viet Nam utilizes a variety of mechanisms to articulate

common positions and undertake joint advocacy initiatives, with JPGs ensuring substantive coordination in respective thematic areas. Under JPG guidance, numerous working groups have been established on priority themes for integrated and issue-based UN advocacy.

In 2013, UN advocacy made telling contributions to a number of landmark policy and legal changes in Viet Nam. The championing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people's equal rights generated momentum in the lead up to the amendment of the Law on Marriage and Family which resulted in the removal of the prohibition on same-sex weddings, while the UN played a key support role in Viet Nam becoming one of the first countries to ratify the Convention of Persons Living with Disabilities, in November 2013. In the increasingly important area of climate change, joint UN advocacy focused on pro-poor fiscal reforms for fossil fuels, and the development of the Law on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control allowing the UN to advocate for women's representation at all decision-making levels of the national disaster management system. A UN footprint was left on the Law on Land revision process, with greater transparency and public participation in land management decisions advocated. The UNCT was also busy, with coordinated rights-based analysis and policy advocacy in the high-profile Constitution reform process and submission of an independent Viet Nam human rights review to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to accompany Viet Nam's preparations for the 2nd Cycle of the UPR, scheduled for February 2014.

The post-2015 consultations provided an unprecedented opportunity for the UN in Viet Nam to reach out directly to citizens through face-to-face discussions and use of social media to voice their challenges, hopes and aspirations. More than 40 staff from 15 UN agencies worked

together to consult 1,300 citizens from seven of the most vulnerable groups not usually engaged in national consultations. Representatives from these groups later engaged the Government and civil society organizations on the need to address inequalities and expressed a desire to more actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.

This successful public engagement resulted in Viet Nam's voices being prominently featured in the UN Secretary-General's report "A Million Voices: The World We Want", which summarized public consultations with more than 1.3 million people in all 193 UN member states to shape the post-2015 development agenda.

A further dimension of the UN's advocacy approach in Viet Nam is the pivotal role it plays in building coalitions with partners around key development themes as seen in 2013. In the critical area of health, the UN and Ministry of Health (MoH) successfully advocated for central and local budgets to be prioritized for MDGs on mother and child mortality and HIV/AIDS, formalized by Prime Ministerial policy resolutions on primary healthcare revitalization and achievement of health-related MDGs. In June 2013 a Government-UNCT mission visited ethnic minority areas, which nationwide account for 50 per cent of poor households, to explore ways to accelerate progress on MDGs.

In keeping with its LMIC status, Viet Nam in 2013 shifted from the resource mobilization-focussed Consultative Group Meeting model to the Viet Nam Development Partnership Forum, designed to facilitate substantive engagement with development partners. Chaired by the Prime Minister, the UN facilitated development partners' involvement in shaping the forum's agenda and format, and led efforts to successfully advocate for a specific programme to accelerate MDG achievement in ethnic minority communities.

During the mid-term review of the Government of Viet Nam's 2011-2015 SEDP, to which the UN's One Plan 2012-2016 is aligned, the UN together with the Asian Development Bank and World Bank provided joint analyses and recommendations that stressed the need for structural reforms and improved targeting of social policies to address inequalities.

Active support was also provided to the Government to conclude localizing the Busan recommendations on aid effectiveness and adopt the Viet Nam Partnership Document, with the UNCT substantively involved throughout the process, particularly revision of Decree 131 on ODA management and utilization. In 2013 the MPI, with UN and European Union (EU) support, commissioned the Development Finance and Aid Assessment study expected to be completed in 2014. This examines the various sources of development finance available to Viet Nam, looking at how they have developed in recent years and their likely future trajectory. It will make recommendations to the Government and development partners on options for improving the complementarity of different sources of development finance, in keeping with the focus of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and the Viet Nam Partnership Document on overall development effectiveness.

One Communications

Through a coordinated One Communications approach and team, the quality and visibility of UN-supported events and messaging has improved significantly. Joint communications is a unique approach adopted by the UNCT in Viet Nam to communicate advocacy messages, results, best practices, experiences and contributions within Viet Nam and beyond. The functionally clustered One Communications Team, comprised of agency communications staff, supports

the UN system to communicate and speak with One Voice. Evidence of its success is demonstrated by the systematic measuring of key UN policy and advocacy messages appearing in national and international media reports, with a 37 per cent increase in UN stories covered by national media witnessed in 2013. This result reflects intensive efforts to increase active media outreach and the acceleration of activities in the second year of the One Plan.

Digital media is also becoming an essential tool to give UN work greater visibility and connect with a wider spectrum of society. The innovative use of digital media saw traffic to the UN website in Viet Nam increase by 8 per cent in 2013 with 165,554 unique visitors, with 30 per cent first time arrivals. More than 30,000 people also subscribed for regular UN agency updates from social media feeds. In addition, efforts to disseminate progress on the DaO process and results were enhanced through the publication of the "Delivering as One" and "Green One UN House" quarterly newsletters, widely disseminated to the Government and partner organizations nationally and globally.

Harmonized Business Practices and Common Services

In 2013, concerted efforts were made to build on existing good practices for the harmonization and improvement of business practices and use as a basis for contributing to global pilots. The UNCT in Viet Nam's harmonization of business practices is achieved through a number of different approaches, some with external parties.

For instance the UN, EU and Government undertook a further revision of the "UN-EU Guidelines for Financing of Local Costs" to provide unified cost norms for project support reflective of market conditions. These cost norms, adopted by numerous donors in Viet Nam, contribute

to a more cost effective and transparent implementation of projects.

Revision of the HPPMG, in cooperation with the Government of Viet Nam, also gathered pace. Initially devised in 2010, HPPMG is a key element of the One Set of Management Practices that simplifies and harmonizes programme and project management procedures with those of the Government systems. The revised guidelines are designed to encourage greater use by UN agencies.

Globally, Viet Nam was one of two selected countries to pilot the harmonization of national officer recruitment processes led by the UNDG's High Level Committee on Management, and on programme cost savings by the UN's Joint Inspection Unit. The results of the first pilot will inform UNDG discussions on definitions for a global policy on the harmonization of recruitment procedures across the UN system.

In addition, 2013 saw the roll out of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) in Viet Nam to streamline the transfer of cash assistance from UN to implementing partners and reduce transaction costs. The HACT is a risk analysis-based approach that assesses whether implementing partners have systems and capacities to directly receive cash transfers from the UN or whether mitigation measures, such as capacity development, are needed. In 2013, efforts focused on the micro-assessments of 43 implementing partners in Viet Nam to determine their capacities to adopt the HACT approach.

DaO in Viet Nam reached a significant milestone in early 2013 with the ground-breaking ceremony for the new GOUNH. Despite unforeseen technical challenges, the building is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2014. The GOUNH is a key pillar of DaO and is intended to usher in a new era of operational and programme efficiency, housing 12 UN agencies (FAO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDSS, UNFPA, UN-

Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNV, UN Women and WHO). Overall, the GOUNH initiative comprises three components - building construction, new business processes and behavioural change.

As such, the GOUNH presents a unique opportunity for the UNCT to further identify opportunities for operational efficiency to enable the UN system to deliver results in a more coherent, cost-effective and environmentally friendly manner. Soon after launching GOUNH construction, the UN systematically started to prepare for colocation under one roof with agreement on a set of common services and functional clustering, amongst other initiatives. Throughout 2013, the UNCT reviewed options developed by 25 working groups under the UN Operations Management Team to further improve the harmonization, efficiency and effectiveness of an operational GOUNH.

Additionally, a global first for the UN system, an Integrated Common Services Unit, was established. It comprises one management structure to provide multiple common services to all participating GOUNH agencies through a one-stop shop approach, thereby preventing duplication of efforts and transaction costs. Taking 2013's actual expenditure by the 12 UN system entities as a baseline, the unit is projected to generate overall savings on operational expenditure of up to US\$750,000 per annum from 2015 onwards.

Furthermore, a UNCT Working Group established to work on a short-term Business Operations Plan will be completed in 2014. Subsequent to the GOUNH move, a comprehensive medium-term Business Operations Strategy will be developed in parallel with the new One Plan 2017-2021 to ensure any strategic realignment of the UN in Viet Nam is reflected in the business operations set-up. In 2014, baselines for the Business Operations Strategy 2017-2021 will be developed to measure performance on costs.



The move to the GOUNH is also likely to accelerate the harmonization of other support services. Within the GOUNH, agencies will be operating through one common ICT platform and work on procuring this started in 2013. This will allow for flexible teamwork and promote UN-wide thematic approaches, thereby contributing to improved UN coherence in delivering on the One Plan 2012-2016 and beyond.

As the GOUNH will house 12 agencies under one roof, a new code of conduct is required. To ensure staff involvement and ownership

of the changes, the UNCT's Change Management Working Group conducted staff meetings and surveys to understand staff aspirations and concerns regarding the relocation. Particular focus was given on how to design functional clustering and seating.

Figure 1: GOUNH Service Groups

Lead Entity	Service Groups
FAO	Gardening
	Cleaning, Rodents and Pest Control, Waste management
UNAIDS	Consumables/Stationery
UNDP	Building and Grounds management
	Installation of Electrical and Mechanical
	Electricity, Water
	Maintenance services
	Facilities Management Staff
	Building maintenance
	Registry and Receptionists
	Governance MOU
UNDSS	Security
UNFPA	Canteen Services
	Parking
UNICEF	Insurance
	Asset Management
	Common Services Budget
	Banking/Payment Services
	Conference facilities
	ICT
UNWOMEN	Storage Service
WHO	Protocol
	Safety-Occupational Health
FUNSA	Gym



Chapter 2

Progress towards One Plan Outcomes

This chapter constitutes the core of the report as it contains a consolidated overview of results achieved with support of the 17 UN agencies partnering in the framework of the One Plan 2012-2016. The One Plan is the basis for UN support of the Government of Viet Nam to deliver on its commitments to international conventions, including the Millennium Declaration and MDGs, while meeting its domestic development agenda contained in the SEDS 2011-2020 and SEDP 2011-2015.

Following the One Plan agreement in early 2012 and subsequent design and approval of the different detailed project outlines between line ministries and UN agencies, 2013 is the first full year of One Plan implementation and the first opportunity to show real progress towards higher level results to be delivered during the next three years.

This chapter's main strength, building on the 2012 report, is its ability to spotlight specific aspects of progress through contribution stories which bring a human face to reporting the UN's work in Viet Nam. These also constitute a tool for JPGs to highlight results they consider more relevant in terms of illustrating comparative advantages of UN work undertaken jointly or individually by JPGs. For 2014's report, stories will show higher-level results, reflecting challenges and mitigation strategies. This chapter is also notable for new features introduced this year, such as more references to original One



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Plan objectives, increased granularity in reporting and the highlighting of individual agency's contributions in the annex to illustrate unique comparative advantages.

The need to produce a highlights package of UN-supported achievements from 2013, while being as inclusive as possible towards the 17 contributing UN agencies brought a layer of complexity to compiling this chapter. For this reason, the report includes an annex outlining a detailed list of specific results achieved under each of the 43 One Plan outputs, with Chapter 2 translating this list into a narrative of progress made towards each of the 12 One Plan outcomes.

A number of steps were taken to develop this chapter. First, each of the 515 results submitted by the eight JPGs were reviewed and narrowed down to 248 results, based on the elimination of results reported at activity level and minimization of duplication. The second step was to integrate data from the monitoring of indicators and annual targets into the narrative of results. The detailed list of results in bullet points was then shared with UN agencies, with comments provided by

44 staff from 11 agencies either integrated or addressed through feedback forms. The last step was to revisit the One Plan document and build a narrative connecting outcomes, outputs and progress reported for 2013.

Important lessons learnt from challenges in developing this chapter have informed the UN's immediate monitoring and evaluation plans. Two main challenges, in particular, have proven instructive for the UN going forward. The first was difficulties in tracking year-end reported progress against results planned at the beginning of the year, largely a consequence of the formats and tools used to plan and report results. These formats and tools are being revised and the online One Plan Database is being enhanced to allow for better comparisons and tracking of results. The second challenge was static and broad indicators for annual reporting purposes not actively used for monitoring purposes. To address this issue, the UN is already exploring new means for real-time monitoring to complement the existing monitoring framework to enhance the quality of reporting annually.

Joint Programming Groups	Focus Areas and One Plan Outcomes 2012-2016
Focus Area 1: Inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth	
People-centred Economic Growth and Decent Work	Outcome 1.1: Evidence-based Development Policies in a LMIC Viet Nam Outcome 1.2: Opportunities for Decent Work
Climate Change and Environment	Outcome 1.3: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Outcome 1.4: Natural Resources and Environmental Management
Focus Area 2: Access to quality essential services and social protection	
Social Protection	Outcome 2.1: Social Protection
Health	Outcome 2.2: Health
Education	Outcome 2.3: Education and Training
HIV	Outcome 2.4: Gender Equality and HIV
Gender	Outcome 2.4: Gender Equality and HIV
Focus Area 3: Enhanced governance and participation	
Governance and Rule of Law	Outcome 3.1: Elected Bodies and the Legislative Process Outcome 3.2: Legal and Judicial Reform and Access to Justice Outcome 3.3: Public Administrative Reform Outcome 3.4: Political, Social, Professional and Mass Organizations (PSPMOs)

- The **JPG on Economic Growth and Decent Work** was convened by ILO, co-convened by FAO and harnessed support from IFAD, IOM, ITC, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO and UN Women.
- The **JPG on Climate Change and Environment** was convened by UNIDO, co-convened by UNDP with input from FAO, IFAD, IOM, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV, UN Women and WHO.
- The **JPG on Social Protection** was convened by UNICEF, co-convened by ILO and brought together support from FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNODC and UN Women.
- The **JPG on Health** was convened by WHO, co-convened by UNFPA working with FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNODC.
- The **JPG on Education** was convened by UNESCO, co-convened by UNICEF and supported by ILO and UNFPA.
- The **JPG on HIV** was convened by UNAIDS, co-convened by UNODC and supported by ILO, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNV, UN Women and WHO.
- The **JPG on Gender** was convened by UN Women, co-convened by UNFPA and encompassed ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV and WHO.
- The **JPG on Governance and Rule of Law** was convened by UNDP, co-convened by UNODC and brought together the work of ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNV and UN Women.

Focus Area 1

Inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth



Through the One Plan, the UN is committed to supporting a LMIC Viet Nam to balance economic goals with social, human and environmental development, while ensuring the most vulnerable members of society benefit from economic growth. In line with SEDP priorities, the One Plan is helping to underpin Viet Nam's efforts to stabilize the macroeconomy, maintain reasonable growth during economic restructuring and develop innovative growth models that improve efficiency and competitiveness, without neglecting equity concerns.

The UN is also a partner to address environmental degradation, scale-up green production and promote energy efficient, sustainable, green business models and economics in alignment with the SEDP goal to protect the environment. Finally, in response to Viet Nam's efforts to prevent natural disasters and effectively respond to climate change, the UN is bolstering disaster risk management and reduction with a focus on building resilience to environmental stresses and hazards.

Outcome 1.1: People-centred, green and evidence-based socio-economic development policies

In 2013, the domestic macroeconomy continued to stabilize with inflation largely under control and signs of economic growth emerging. Green growth and structural reforms continued to be at the centre of the Government's policy agenda. Important decisions on further restructuring of the economy, such as the Master Plan on Economic Restructuring approved in February 2013, were made. Viet Nam is also promoting the agricultural sector as one of the key drivers of economic growth and poverty reduction. The 2013 Law on Land specifies a number of situations in which the State may intervene to protect the rights and interests of land users. However despite these positive measures, actual socio-economic progress has been slow, undermining growth and employment generation. On the structural side, weaknesses in State-owned enterprises and the banking sector persisted.

Progress made in 2013

For key national institutions to formulate and monitor people-centred, green and evidence-based development policies, the UN has focused its support in three main areas:

Firstly, allowing for a **greater use of statistics for evidence-based socio-economic planning and decision-making** (output 1.1.1), which in 2013 was supported by improving the capacity of the General Statistics Office of Viet Nam (GSO) and data producers to implement and monitor the Viet Nam Statistical Development Strategy as well as capture data users' satisfaction through an online survey. The UN also backed the adoption of the State Statistics Information Dissemination Policy and related MPI guidance as well as preparations for the next Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (see contribution story for more details). In the area of labour and employment, the UN supported the upgrade of the labour statistics system ensuring compliance with international standards and the first Child Labour Force Survey that was used to develop the National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour 2015-2020. The UN also supported research and capacity building to improve the quality of evidence-based formulation and monitoring of national urban strategies and city policies.

Secondly, ensuring that **strategic options for people-centred development are produced and considered by policy-makers** (output 1.1.2) by building on the UN's neutrality and normative mandate. In 2013, the UN left its footprint on a number of studies and policy papers that were subsequently considered and used by national stakeholders. The joint policy response on the SEDP mid-term review (with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank) and the World Bank-led policy note on the revision of the Law on Land were particular highlights. Another



important achievement was the successful incorporation of participatory planning principles in national guidelines for the National Target Programme for Sustainable Poverty Reduction that resulted in its greater relevance at grassroots levels, particularly among ethnic minorities (see annex for more details regarding other relevant policy-oriented studies).

Thirdly, working to make sure **poverty reduction analysis and planning by the Government used a multi-dimensional approach** (output 1.1.3) so policies effectively address specific poverty issues. Such issues include remaining pockets of chronic poverty particularly among ethnic minority communities, heightened vulnerabilities among the near poor who live dangerously close to the poverty line and new forms of multi-dimensional poverty, especially in urban areas. In 2013, the UN contributed to the Government's recognition of chronic poverty among ethnic minorities as reflected in reports prepared for the Viet Nam Development Partnership Forum as well as the 2013 MDG report and subsequent MDG acceleration plan. The UN also supported initiatives for the GoV to apply the multi-dimensional poverty measurement as a tool for poverty monitoring, poverty reduction policy-making and targeting. The adoption of the multi-dimensional child poverty approach

by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA) and GSO is another result worth highlighting (see contribution story for more details).

Contribution stories

Quality data to highlight disparities in women and children's development

Looming 2015 MDG reporting deadlines demanded a comprehensive UN multi-agency and Government response in 2013 to roll out the nationwide Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey. The survey allows policy-makers to gauge local progress against global development indicators and better informs future policy decisions.

This fifth nationwide iteration of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, an international household survey programme that delivers an accurate equity-focused snapshot of women and children's development progress, was also essential to fill in data gaps for post-MDG baseline setting.

The UN achieved significant Government buy-in to Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 5, with strong backing from line ministries and the GSO co-funding the survey for the first time. At the same time,



the UNICEF-facilitated innovative training of 180 fieldworkers and a GSO-managed Facebook page for real-time monitoring of survey teams will allow for the delivery of quality data within the tight April 2014 deadline.

- UNFPA, UNICEF

Poverty viewed through a multi-dimensional lens

Viet Nam is celebrated as a development success story with a dramatic reduction in poverty after two decades of rapid economic growth, yet inequalities and disparities are emerging.

To help the poor escape from poverty and better meet the changing and multifaceted nature of human development, the UN is helping the Government redefine the way it sees poverty. Rather than one-dimensional and income-focused, poverty should be seen as a multi-dimensional phenomenon that recognizes deprivation from basic social welfare and services can lead to a vicious cycle of often intergenerational poverty. Such approaches also have measurement benefits over income poverty, and provide a richer evidence base for policy formulation.

Through research, advocacy and surveys, the UN's ability to demonstrate the value of looking at poverty from a multi-dimensional point of view resulted in two breakthroughs in 2013. The Government endorsed the development of a Multi-dimensional Poverty Master Plan and the National Assembly adopted multi-dimensional poverty into its poverty reduction oversight function.

With UN input, the Master Plan will be submitted for approval by the end of 2014. It will help to formulate more inclusive poverty reduction policies that meet all Vietnamese people's development aspirations for access to decent work, education and healthcare.

In addition, with UN support, the Ho Chi Minh City authorities have explored the use of multi-dimensional poverty methods for both poverty monitoring and targeting. The latter is especially innovative and is supported by a pilot carried out in four districts. This is in line with city's 2014-2015 poverty reduction plan and it will seek official endorsement of the targeting approach in the 2016-2020 strategy.

- UNDP, UNICEF

Outcome 1.2: New opportunities for decent work, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged

Although living standards continue to improve for the majority of Vietnamese, disparities and perceptions of inequality, particularly in voice and power, appear to be widening. National unemployment and underemployment rates remain considerably worse than in the period preceding the domestic economic downturn in 2009. The informal economy is increasingly widespread in Viet Nam. Being an informal worker often implies poor working conditions, no social protection and low wages. In addition, internal migration in Viet Nam is projected to increase as more people move from rural to urban areas in search of better living standards and higher incomes. However, the specific vulnerabilities of internal migrants tend to be overlooked and policies have not adjusted to the challenges associated with this growing trend.

Progress made in 2013

In supporting Vietnamese institutions to create opportunities for decent work amid the country's current socio-economic transformation, the UN focused on the following four areas:

First of all, making sure **sustainable enterprise development policies are established with a focus on micro and small enterprises** - which are one of the principle sources of job creation for many of the most vulnerable groups of society - **and on decent job creation** (output 1.2.1). The UN is helping to create a supportive environment for enterprises' profit-making ventures in a way that respects human dignity and ensures environmental sustainability. In 2013, the registration of 77,800 new businesses through the UN-backed, new online National Business Registration System was instrumental in promoting a more transparent and competitive business environment (see contribution story for more details). At a provincial level, the UN supported the establishment of provincial advisory boards in Nghe An and Thanh Hoa, allowing for professional organizations to participate in the formulation and implementation of local enterprise development as well as decent job creation policies in Quang Nam province through the establishment of market linkages between local producers and the tourism industry to create a sustainable community-based tourism model (see contribution story for more details).

The UN is also promoting **national vocational training policies and programmes that respond to current market demands** (output 1.2.2) to make Viet Nam's workforce more competitive. In 2013, work towards this objective was seen with the introduction of a UN-supported tourism training module in vocational training schools' curriculums to meet the demands of this increasingly important sector. In terms of methodologies, "Start

and Improve Your Business” and “Know About Your Business” were used to train trainers at central and provincial levels (see the annex for more details).

At the same time the UN, in cooperation with partners, is ensuring that **targeted micro and small businesses are more competitive and have greater market shares** (output 1.2.3) in compliance with recognized best practice business standards to improve the country’s competitiveness in world markets. In 2013, the UN backed small- and medium-sized enterprises in the adoption of corporate social responsibility practices in compliance with the UN Global Compact and helped policy-makers and local pharmaceutical manufacturers prepare for the potential impacts of trade agreements, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. In the case of the national fruit and vegetable value chain, competitiveness was enhanced by introducing methods for reducing post-harvest losses and several small- and medium-sized enterprises were supported to produce handicrafts in five value chains, increasing income and generating employment opportunities for rural poor (see more details in the annex). In Da Nang, Government staff capacity on seed trading and marketing capacity was improved to maximize farmers’ income from rice seed production (see contribution story for more details).

And finally, **supporting stronger employment policies that prevent discrimination and exploitation of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and, in particular, internal and external migrant workers** (output 1.2.4). In 2013, the UN supported the incorporation of a stronger focus on non-discrimination in key legal labour-related frameworks, such as the Law on Employment (see annex for more details). At an implementation level, it supported the issuance of recruitment agency inspection guidelines for labour exports abroad and piloted a Code of Conduct for the Vietnamese Association of

Manpower Supply monitoring mechanism (see contribution story for more details). The UN also built the capacity of trade and youth unions, commune authorities, mass organizations and provincial staff to inform and protect migrants in six provinces heading abroad prior, during and after the migration process and directly provided gender-sensitive information on safe migration.

Contribution stories

Business registration reform delivers competitive firms

An innovative and user-friendly online National Business Registration System made its full nationwide debut in April 2013 after four years of UN-supported development and phasing in. The system helps to cut red tape and reduce the costs and risks of doing business in Viet Nam.

This streamlined new system (www.businessregistration.gov.vn) is the product of the first-ever multi-ministry approach to business registration, underpinned by UN funding, technical and institutional capacity building, and legal reform support.

The business registration reforms have been welcomed by the business community as the time it takes to register a firm has dramatically reduced from 15 days in 2008 to just three and a half days in 2013. The noticeable cost savings were underlined by the International Finance Corporation’s estimate that US\$4 million was saved by newly registered firms in 2010 due to the efficient system. The system reduces business risks by making legally valid information about registered enterprises available online and offers policy-making benefits, with the Government receiving real-time market data for action.

- UNIDO



Handcrafting improved livelihoods

UN agencies have been active in central Quang Nam province, a popular tourism destination boasting the Hoi An and My Son World Heritage sites, since 2012 and have crafted pioneering programmes to create employment opportunities and reduce poverty through cultural-oriented tourism ventures.

Through courses on lanterns, pottery and woodwork crafting, a new generation of skilled artisans is able to capitalize on increasing demands for quality craft products. At the same time, hundreds of households in ethnic minority-populated areas have benefitted from the UN-supported enhancement of homestay facilities, community-based tourism services and brocade-weaving products.

To further enhance communities' tourism-related revenues, UN agencies joined hands with provincial authorities to develop branding tools to encourage visitors to buy distinctive tourism products and support local communities.

These tools, together with practical lessons learnt from the pioneering activities in Quang Nam, will be shared with other provinces in Viet Nam to promote local cultures and nurture community-led development.

- **FAO, ILO, UNESCO**

Growing agriculture-based livelihoods

UN technical expertise resulted in a landmark project taking root in 2013 to transform part of central Viet Nam into a rice seed production hub, set to benefit 4,000 households with enhanced livelihoods.

The project is empowering a commune near Da Nang to fulfil its rich agricultural potential by heightening farming and agro-processing techniques to produce higher quality rice for consumption and sale.

An exciting feature of the project is the UN-supported establishment of a laboratory in Da Nang to certify and help develop new types of seeds, which will be sold in new markets.



The UN is also opening the door to improved warehouse facilities for added resilience against natural disaster risks and food security for the province.

- FAO, UNDP

Working to better protect migrant labourers

Recruitment agencies, trusted guardians for many of the up to half a million Vietnamese migrants working overseas, are receiving UN support to uphold ethical standards and better protect vulnerable migrants from risks of exploitation.

A UN-supported Code of Conduct (CoC-VN) for recruitment agencies took a big step towards having a meaningful impact on the recruitment industry in 2013, with 20 volunteer companies responsible for sending 30 per cent of Vietnamese workers abroad completing a pilot phase in rating CoC-VN compliance.

This evaluation, which saw eight firms listed as “excellent”, will be expanded to 50 of the approximately 170 agencies that operate in Viet Nam.

In addition, the UN in 2013 supported the Government to develop recruitment agency inspection guidelines, provided input into circulars on standard migrant contracts and raised agencies’ awareness of forced labour. The UN also worked with the Government to better protect women migrant workers on a regional level, with a Da Nang-hosted workshop seeing recruitment agency national associations from eight countries pledge to uphold ethical codes of conduct to safeguard workers.

- ILO, IOM, UN Women

Outcome 1.3: Implementation of Viet Nam's commitments to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk management

Climate change continues to pose a major development challenge for Viet Nam, with the country experiencing increasing climatic stresses and disasters. Viet Nam is the sixth most at-risk country from climate extremes, according to the 2013 German Watch Global Climate Risk Index. At the same time, the country faces increasing energy demands, greenhouse gas emissions and associated pollution and costs. Adapting to climate change and reducing climate-related disaster risks are national priorities as part of Viet Nam's international commitments to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Hyogo Framework for Action on building resilience to disasters.

Progress made in 2013

The UN is providing continuous policy advice and technical assistance to national and sub-national institutions in the following four main areas:

Climate proofing of national policies, plans and programmes, particularly through further research on climate change impacts on agriculture, livestock, migration patterns, gender relations and vulnerable groups and communities **and supporting the formulation of long-term adaptation programmes to reduce climate change vulnerabilities** (output 1.3.1). In 2013, the UN and partners undertook a national public climate expenditure and institutional review to enable effective planning, budgeting and spending of climate finance. At a local level, city leaders and urban planners in Da Nang and Hoi An received technical assistance to mainstream climate change adaptation into development strategies using participatory methodologies.

Another important area of UN work has been to support **vulnerable and disadvantaged groups to better withstand disasters** (output 1.3.2). The Government requested UN assistance to strengthen national and local-level capacity to respond to medium and large-scale humanitarian disasters, coordinating and sharing information on emergency responses and recovery. In 2013 the UN, through the UN Disaster Risk Management Team, contributed to revision of the Law on Disaster Risk Management to include a clearer definition of roles and responsibilities of the State and ministries as well as the formulation of a disaster prevention and response fund (see contribution story for more details).

At a provincial level, the UN was part of capacity building for implementation of Government Decision 1002 on Community-Based Disaster Risk Management. This translated into all 63 provinces developing related action plans and 39 receiving



budget allocation approval. Support was also given to establish a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system on community-based disaster risk management within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The UN backed a number of disaster risk reduction and management initiatives with an emphasis on gender-sensitive approaches and for specific sectors such as education, nutrition, child protection and health (see annex for more details).

A third area of UN work is the **development of nationally appropriate mitigation measures** to address energy efficiency and renewable energy production, taking into account the energy needs of the poor, **as well as the establishment of an effective national platform and mechanisms to reduce emissions from deforestation and sustainably manage forests** (output 1.3.3). In 2013, the UN backed research on sectoral nationally appropriate mitigation measures and formulation of selected manufacturing sub-sectors (fertilizer and steel) for registration at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and launched the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme (see contribution story for further details). In the area of energy efficiency, the UN helped develop a roadmap for the GoV to take action and compulsory energy efficiency labeling of household appliances, supported a social marketing campaign on reduction of mercury in compact fluorescent lights and

raised awareness among 200 industrial enterprises and 66 suppliers on energy management standards (ISO 50001), with 56 enterprises adopting the standards (see contribution story for more details). In respect to sustainable forest management, with forest governance and effective law enforcement being key elements, the UN conducted broad consultations among national authorities to discuss the criminal justice system's response to the illegal timber trade and trained 40 officers from the police, customs, border guards and forestry administration on combating environmental crimes.

Finally, regarding **a long-term climate change strategy and green economy** (output 1.3.4), the UN assisted the Government in the implementation of a national climate change strategy as well as the national Green Growth Strategy approved by the Prime Minister in 2012, by helping formulate the national Green Growth Action Plan. At a local level, the UN helped the city government of Da Nang identify potential areas and green initiatives to mainstream into the city's development strategy with potential replication at a regional level. The UN also contributed to further capacity building for the Vietnamese climate change negotiation team needed for Viet Nam to reach its full potential as an active participant in international climate change negotiations.



Contribution stories

A fully inclusive community response to disaster risk management

Three years of active UN support culminated in 2013's passing of the ground-breaking Law on Disaster Risk Management, which aims to better prepare Viet Nam's response to growing natural disaster and climate change threats.

The UN left a visible footprint on this Law, which will be effective from 1 May 2014, with its advocacy efforts to mainstream gender principles into the legislation and the recognition of the Viet Nam Women's Union as an official member of the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control. On a broader response level, the UN supported the nationwide implementation of the national disaster risk management programme, which passed a significant test in November 2013 with the efficient

evacuation of more than 900,000 people away from the path of Typhoon Haiyan, earning widespread UN and international praise.

- UNDP, UN Women

Sowing the seeds for REDD+

Building on momentum as the global launch country, Viet Nam's US\$30 million UN-REDD Phase II Programme positioned itself in 2013 to deliver full REDD+ deployment from 2016.

With the programme's October 2013 inception, on the back of the National REDD+ Action Programme adopted in June 2012, the UN worked with key stakeholders to gather momentum to help Viet Nam prepare to benefit from REDD+ results-based payments.



A provincial level kick-starter event was hosted by Lam Dong province, one of six participating provinces to apply the programme with sustainable, climate-smart and locally-adapted land-use practices. Programme building blocks were further assembled in 2013 with a scoping mission of the coffee and rubber sectors in the Central Highlands, while Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were engaged to gain programme and REDD+ support.

- FAO, UNDP, UNEP

Firms go green to stay in the black

The UN is helping businesses take a more systematic approach to achieving industrial energy efficiency savings for a greener and more competitive Vietnamese economy.

During 2013, industries in Viet Nam were collectively supported to adopt energy management systems, in line with

internationally recognized ISO 50001 standards to conserve resources and tackle climate change.

Since 2011, this Government-supported energy management systems approach continued to focus on a variety of sectors with awareness raising, training and technical assistance delivering meaningful energy savings, as illustrated by Colusa Miliket Foodstuff Company. The Ho Chi Minh City processed food manufacturer has witnessed a 24 per cent improvement in energy efficiency, with reduced production costs and increased market competitiveness, since it adopted energy management systems in 2012.

- UNIDO

Outcome 1.4: More efficient use of natural resources and environmental management

Viet Nam continues to show a strong commitment to shifting to a more effective and green development pathway, through adoption of the Communist Party Resolution on Responding to Climate Change and Strengthening Natural Resources Management and Environmental Protection. In addition, the Government's Green Growth Strategy, which sets targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, has been another important step forward. Viet Nam is a signatory to numerous international environment conventions such as the Convention on Biodiversity, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. However, it is not on track to meet MDG 7 as stated in the 2013 National MDG Report.

Progress made in 2013

To help Viet Nam meet its commitments under international conventions, the UN is providing policy and technical advice as well as strengthening key stakeholders' capacities in the following four areas:

The areas of **green economic development, natural resources management and cleaner production** (output 1.4.1) are important areas of UN work and critical elements to achieve rapid economic growth in an environmentally friendly manner. In 2013, the UN helped revise or formulate several important legal frameworks, such as the draft Law on Environmental Protection, with effective advocacy for the inclusion of community participation in the monitoring and enforcement of the law as well as incorporation of climate change and green growth issues. The formulation of a new Law on Marine and Coastal Natural Resources and Environment as well as Strategy of Water Conservation and Demand Management were also aided. The UN also fostered a high-level Government commitment to green industry development (see contribution story for more details) and informed decision-makers and society on sound chemical management, in particular through a cost-benefit analysis and options paper. At a local level, the UN trained local partners on monitoring environmental services (see annex for more details). The UN also improved the quality of urban management and created economic drivers by mainstreaming green growth into the city development strategy, and provided capacity building to local partners on green integration in city planning.

Viet Nam is a signatory to a number of major multilateral environmental agreements in the area of biodiversity, including the UN Convention on Biodiversity. However, the nation's once rich biodiversity continues to be lost at



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an alarming rate. In 2013, the UN helped the Government to develop the first comprehensive National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan adopted in June 2013, a vital first step in **improved management of protected areas and biodiversity conservation** (output 1.4.2). The UN also supported the development of the third National Report on Biodiversity to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the first comprehensive National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan adopted in June 2013. In addition, the UN helped develop guidelines for various protected areas, including business management plans piloted at Bidoup-Nui Ba and Cat Ba national parks as well as bio-monitoring guidelines and a reporting system piloted at Xuan Thuy national park (see contribution story for more details). The UN also supported training of law enforcement and forest management in addressing environmental crimes, including through cross-border cooperation with neighboring countries.

Hazardous chemicals and persistent organic pollutants management (output 1.4.3) continues to be a huge

challenge in the shape of persistent organic pollutants, including dioxin left behind by the American War. In 2013, the UN helped develop the Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine detailing the role of State agencies responsible for treatment of pesticides and preventive measures, supported the management and treatment master plan for the Bien Hoa dioxin hotspot, and introduced advanced technology for treatment of medical waste to avoid release of mercury into the environment. (See contribution story on medical waste).

Another important area of UN work is **land use planning and management** (output 1.4.4), particularly critical in view of the many challenges faced by Viet Nam, especially land speculation and lack of user rights for farmers. Addressing these concerns will enable farmers, the poor and vulnerable groups to benefit more from development. In 2013, the UN engaged in the revision of the Law on Land and reviewed the land use efficiency of State-owned farms.



Focus Area 1

Contribution stories

Industries profit from eco-friendly approach

The UN co-founded Viet Nam Cleaner Production Centre is a key part of Viet Nam's green growth response to deliver sustainable economic development amid climate change, resource scarcity and environmental challenges.

In 2013 the centre, with compelling past success as a nationwide driver of this green approach, focused its energy on helping bamboo and rattan handicraft enterprises in four provinces profit from cleaner production and more efficient resource consumption. This resulted in a spectacular 300 per cent rise in productivity, a 150-200 per cent jump in incomes and a 70 per cent decrease in wasted raw materials.

On a policy level, the UN helped the

centre contribute to the draft National Action Plan for Green Growth at the 6th National Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Da Nang in September 2013. At the conference, the centre shared the major results from the innovative SPIN and GetGreen Viet Nam projects that champion increased social and environmental value of Viet Nam-made products and empower citizens to become change agents for sustainable consumption in local communities.

- UNEP, UNIDO

Biodiversity – a climate for change

Enhanced UN measures to protect Viet Nam's world renowned, yet under threat biodiversity took root in 2013.

The country's natural ecosystems and biodiversity make key contributions to poverty reduction and socio-economic





development, but have been endangered in recent years because of rapid economic development.

To counter this threat, the UN helped Viet Nam strengthen its capacity to manage protected areas for maintaining ecosystem services for socio-economic development and biodiversity conservation. More than 400 officials and experts have been trained and retrained, and 800 central, provincial and protected area managerial staff have been engaged in discussions on advancing the approach and sharing experiences on protected area management. The UN also supported the formulation of a first ever comprehensive National Strategy on Biodiversity (2013), which is a key instrument to promote the green economy model and climate change adaptation.

- UNDP

A green answer to medical waste

Cutting edge technology is being introduced by the UN to stop the disposal of medical waste, which is posing a serious environmental hazard in Viet Nam.

Non-combustion autoclave equipment was rolled out at two pilot sites, Ha Noi URENCO and Ninh Binh Hospital, by a Global Environment Facility and UNDP project, as part of a phase out of waste incinerators that release harmful persistent organic and other pollutants.

The Viet Nam Environmental Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment were also supported to create a legal framework for the nationwide adoption of autoclaves, with a draft regulation passed in December 2013.

- UNDP

Focus Area 2

Access to quality essential services and social protection



In the current context of rapid socio-economic and demographic changes, it is more important than ever that Viet Nam displays agility in addressing persistent forms of poverty and emerging vulnerability and inequality. Inefficient allocation of public resources and investment also impacts on the delivery of public services, particularly affecting the poor and vulnerable.

In social protection, the UN is supporting the Government to adopt a universal approach to replace its current complex and inefficient system of social protection programmes.

The key areas of education and health display significant disparities between urban and rural areas, between the majority Kinh and ethnic minority groups and other

disadvantaged citizens that restrict access to essential services. In particular, gains in health-related outcomes require cross-sector coordination, planning, monitoring and implementation to ensure their ongoing effectiveness. The determinants of health are rooted in socio-economic disparities and addressing them involves making strong linkages between health and socio-economic plans.

Under this focus area, the UN is also helping address key development challenges requiring multi-sector responses supporting the development and implementation of laws, policies and national programmes that promote gender equality and women's empowerment as well as create a sustainable response to HIV, reducing stigma and discrimination.

Outcome 2.1: A more effective social protection system

In 2013, a number of key developments shaped the legislative and policy agenda in the field of social protection. The Prime Minister's approval of the "Strengthening Viet Nam's Social Assistance System" project will bring a minimum standard of living closer for all citizens and contribute to sustainable poverty reduction, while the adoption of Decree 136/2013 will increase the basic level of assistance to social protection beneficiaries. Other important developments include the adoption of the Law on Employment that incorporates a number of positive changes in coverage and introduces the Public Employment Programme. The Government's decision to implement Party Resolution 15, which governs the preparation of the National Social Protection Report led by the Institute for Labour Science and Social Affairs, was also significant.

Progress made in 2013

Working in close partnership with national stakeholders, the UN in 2013 was able to draw on its cross-sectoral expertise and advocate for greater protection of ethnic minorities, informal sector workers, children and older persons in Viet Nam. The UN focused its efforts on the following four key areas:

Comprehensive social protection could potentially be an engine of growth for Viet Nam's socio-economic development as it confronts many of the risks and vulnerabilities associated with LMIC transition, such as changing patterns of poverty and vulnerability. For this reason the first area of UN support is **better data and evidence for policy-makers** (output 2.1.1). In 2013, this took the shape of a social assistance feasibility study prepared with the World Bank and adopted by the Government as well as a methodology for rapid impact assessments and a 2013 report to monitor changes in vulnerability and the need to adjust social protection policies. Regarding data collection and monitoring, the UN helped develop a set of indicators for monitoring gender-responsive social protection targets in the national action plan for implementation of Resolution 15 (see more details in the annex). At a local level, the UN engaged in the development of a study on the livelihoods of migrants and their children in Ho Chi Minh City.

The UN also provided targeted policy advice and technical help to **address issues of coherence and overlapping between different policies** (output 2.1.2) in social protection and strengthen weak linkages between social protection framework pillars. In 2013, together with other development partners, the UN facilitated consensus building among line ministries and the National Assembly that led to a Government decision to reform social assistance policies. Advice and technical support were also provided to draft the master plan to reform the social assistance sector (see



contribution story for more details). Early childhood, people with disabilities and the elderly were at the centre of UN advocacy efforts (see annex for more details).

The UN was also requested to provide **alternative legal, policy, targeting and financing options** to help progressively reform, expand and integrate social protection policies including social assistance, insurance and welfare along with protection systems (output 2.1.3). In 2013, the UN helped in the design and costing of policy options for the expansion of social assistance and welfare as well as protection services, such as Decree 136 on assistance to social protection beneficiaries. The UN supported the drafting of social insurance provisions reducing the retirement age gap between men and women and increasing coverage (see contribution story for more details). In the area of protection, amendments to the Law on Child Protection Care and Education were backed by the UN in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the adoption of decrees consistent with international child labour standards. Development of subsidiary anti-

human trafficking legislation to support the return and reintegration of human trafficking survivors, particularly children, was also a UN focus.

To deliver social protection services, **the development of necessary human resources** is critical (output 2.1.4). In 2013 the National Assembly, line ministries and selected provincial leaders discussed UN recommendations from a legal review of the Law on Social Work Profession. In terms of capacity building, MoLISA, departments of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs officers and university teachers strengthened their child protection and protection service knowledge to help victims of human trafficking, with institutional and human resource capacity improved to provide social welfare and protection services. Further to the issue of human trafficking, the UN piloted a community-based reintegration model through the establishment and regular operation of self-help groups for returned survivors of trafficking and referral networks in three provinces.



Contribution stories

Early childhood development at the centre of social assistance reforms

The UN's inclusion of early childhood development at the centre of social assistance reform gained traction in 2013, as part of the overall reform of Viet Nam's social protection system.

Crucially, children aged up to three and pregnant mothers have slipped through the net due to overlapping poverty responses. This prompted the UN to collaborate with the World Bank in 2013 to support the Government to deliver the newly designed "Strengthening Viet Nam's Social Assistance System" project for 2014-2018.

This Prime Minister-approved project is seen as highly significant by the UN, as it reconfirms the Government's commitment to social assistance reform and represents a breakthrough in bringing the education, health and nutrition needs of children into sharper focus with a comprehensive support package.

- UNICEF

A timely response to rapid ageing

Viet Nam's emergence as one of the fastest ageing countries in Asia is a triumph of development. However, this profound demographic change presents significant socio-economic and cultural challenges.

To address this, the UN in 2013 helped Viet Nam develop policy responses with an international workshop "Responding to Ageing: Workshop to Exchange International Experience", giving policy-makers a unique opportunity to learn from the employment, healthcare and social protection successes of nations with similar demographic patterns.

The workshop created momentum for urgent action to address these challenges, with the MoH reporting workshop recommendations directly to the Prime Minister and the MoLISA set to initiate social pension reforms in 2014 with UN support.

- ILO, UNFPA

Outcome 2.2: Better functioning health system and care for the vulnerable and disadvantaged

The year 2013 was of particular importance to Viet Nam's health sector as it started the countdown to the last 1,000 days to close the gap on two mutually supportive sets of goals: the MDGs and goals contained in the National Health Sector Plan (2011-2015). Although the achievements of MDGs 4 and 5 are significant, persistent disparities across geographical areas and population groups demand urgent attention.

Social health insurance coverage increased to 68 per cent by 2012, but a large proportion of the population, particularly those in the informal sector and the near poor, remain uncovered. Demands for out-of-pocket payments persist, accounting for more than half of the total health expenditure. Access to reproductive health services for a large proportion of women is still lacking.

Political and structural changes have impacted on health sector governance and service delivery in 2013. A shift towards decentralizing centrally-controlled

functions has made service delivery dependent on local level resources and prioritization, while central Government changes focus on upstream policy-making and creation of an enabling legal framework and structure.

Universal health coverage represents the single biggest step the Government has taken to close the gaps and tackle new health challenges. Under this overarching agenda, focused actions to accelerate achievement of MDGs, a strengthened national financial management system and a reformed grassroots health network are prioritized. The following decisions were adopted in 2013:

- National Strategy for the Protection, Care and Promotion of People's Health for 2011-2020, which increases public investment in health
- Roadmap towards universal health coverage for 2012-2015, which targets 80 per cent health insurance coverage by 2020
- The decision mandating a 100 per cent health subsidy for the near poor who live in the poorest districts of the country.

Progress made in 2013

To help Viet Nam build a comprehensive and equitable health system that champions health promotion and protection, the UN is providing support in five areas:

Stronger building blocks of the health system (output 2.2.1) requires the strengthening of financing, access to medicines and technologies, human resources, information and service delivery. On **financing**, the UN facilitated a high-level policy dialogue and provided technical advice to the National Assembly and MoH in the revision of the Law on

Health Insurance, including an analysis of the law from a gender equality perspective. This resulted in strengthened universal health coverage and greater capacity for equitable and sustainable health financing.

On access to medicines and technologies, the UN worked on the development of a number of important legal documents such as the revised Law on Pharmaceuticals and National Pharmaceutical Strategy to ensure the availability of quality-assured, safe, effective and affordable medicines as well as the National Action Plan for Anti-Microbial Resistance, which is unique in the region. Support was also given to the certification process for the Drug

Administration of Viet Nam to act as a national regulatory authority for vaccines and the expenditure monitoring of medicines covered by health insurance to establish an evidence-based selection process for essential medicines.

On **human resources**, the UN focused its efforts at a primary level and on remote areas by supporting an ongoing training programme for village-based ethnic minority midwives on basic management of obstetric complications and a circular on the improved use of village health workers and ethnic minority midwives. At a national level, the UN worked on the National Programme of Action to strengthen nursing and midwifery services for 2012-2020 and the national core of midwifery competencies and curriculum in line with international standards.

On **health information systems**, the development of national health indicators - covering reproductive health, gender-based violence and HIV - will enable the Government to consistently monitor health outcomes and better inform planning as well as a number of reviews and studies to guide decision and policy-making (see annex for more details).

Finally, on **quality of healthcare services** the UN contributed to the development of a circular on quality assurance of medical services in hospitals.

Accounting for 75 per cent of all deaths in Viet Nam, the **effective prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and conditions** (output 2.2.2) such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and mental health disorders is a key priority for the UN. Its advocacy efforts on injury prevention and road safety focused on major risk factors, such as drink-driving and tobacco control (see contribution story for further details). The UN also promoted a health-oriented and human rights approach to drug dependence treatment and care by showcasing a voluntary,

community-based drug treatment and care model as an alternative to compulsory drug treatment centres.

A significant area of work under this outcome is the **prevention and control of communicable diseases** (output 2.2.3) that remain an ongoing cause of morbidity and mortality. Emerging and re-emerging diseases threaten national security as well as socio-economic development and addressing them is a strategic priority for Viet Nam. In 2013, the UN has focused on increasing national capacity to meet domestic challenges and implement a regional roadmap for the detection, assessment, notification, reporting and response to public health risks and emergencies of international concern. On specific pandemics such as HIV and Tuberculosis, the UN engaged in the development of the National Tuberculosis Strategy to 2020 to provide policy advice on sustainable financing as well as pilot HIV Treatment 2.0, which consists of a new decentralized service delivery model in commune health stations (see contribution story under Outcome 2.4 for more details). The UN also strengthened laboratory capacities by supporting the National Regulations on Biosafety and training of laboratory staff and supported the development and implementation of national and regional food security regulations. Closer collaboration between animal and human health sectors was also promoted with strengthened surveillance, risk assessment, communication and responses to emerging infectious diseases (see contribution stories for more details).

The improvement of **sexual, reproductive, maternal and child health and nutrition** (output 2.2.4) is a major challenge due to significant disparities between regions, particularly among ethnic groups. This is partly due to a severe shortage of health providers, especially obstetric and paediatric specialists, as a result of remoteness, limited transport and low salary factors. In 2013, the UN produced

evidence that informed policy-making on MDGs 4 and 5, in particular on maternal and emergency obstetric care used to adjust the national maternal mortality audit guidelines and on reproductive health and contraceptive services for young migrants used to design targeted interventions (see annex for more details). The UN also ensured equitable services for women and children at provincial and national levels (see contribution story for more details). In addition, the UN promoted life-saving interventions and care for newborns through development of national guidance on skilled birth attendance (see annex for more details) and sustained immunization coverage by providing vaccines to 1.5 million children under one year of age and advocating the importance of child immunization (see contribution story for more details). Reducing malnutrition was another UN goal through support to develop national guidelines on micronutrients and revision of Decree 21 on the regulation and control of breast milk substitute marketing to international standard. High impact stunting reduction interventions in 11 provinces and strengthened nutrition surveillance in all 63 provinces, including innovative cell phone technology (“Growth Watch”) in three provinces, was also a focus.

Another UN priority area under this outcome is **sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation** (output 2.2.5) in line with MDG 7. Although Viet Nam has made significant progress to improve water and sanitation coverage, there is a high-level of disparity within ethnic groups and people residing in remote areas. In response, the UN is bolstering Government efforts to urgently improve water supply and sanitation through technical expertise promoting water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) at community level (see contribution story for more details). UN-backed study tours to Malaysia and the United Kingdom exposed MoH and provincial water authority

representatives to international evidence, with further guidance to develop training manuals and build capacity of institutions and communities to implement pro-poor water and sanitation initiatives and policies through training (see annex for more details).

Contribution stories

New ways to design policy interventions

A key issue affecting Viet Nam’s ability to meet its MDGs and national health goals is persistent disparities in accessing health services, particularly affecting the poor, ethnic minorities and those living in remote areas.

To allow the UN to better understand cultural and structural factors and to help strengthen the way health services are planned and delivered at the local level, a joint UN-Government mission was undertaken in August 2013 to one of the nation’s poorest provinces.

This high-level visit to Ninh Thuan province, with heads of UN agencies and the Deputy Minister of Health, identified the supply of health professionals, the lack of equity-focused local level planning and the absence of evidence for decision-making as key impediments to service delivery. The findings have been delivered to the MoH for high-level policy action in the province during 2014 and potentially in other provinces with significant health disparities. The mission served as a learning process for the Health JPG on local health systems and how services are delivered in remote areas. The mission served as the first step for the Health JPG to help the Government redesign its health systems to ensure health service delivery to the poor, ethnic minorities and those living in hard to reach areas.

- **FAO, ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UNAIDS, WHO**



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Under the influence of anti drink-driving campaigns

More than 30 people die on Viet Nam's roads every day, with alcohol a factor in one-third of these deaths.

To address these daily tragedies, with road traffic injuries the country's second leading cause of death, the UN in 2013 drove initiatives to reduce alcohol-related road deaths and injuries as well as those caused by other non-communicable diseases.

UN-crafted social marketing campaigns were used as a vehicle to deliver anti drink-driving messages via 401 primetime TV slots, billboards in six provinces, 220,000 leaflets and hundreds of community-level awareness raising sessions. By November 2013, the TV campaign had reached a significant amount of the country's population.

In another major non-communicable disease risk area, the UN supported public health authorities to counter the powerful tobacco lobby and won a long running

battle in 2013 to have graphic pictorial warnings on the dangers of smoking placed on all cigarette packets.

- WHO

Rapid responses to emerging communicable disease threats

The emergence of a new and deadly strain of avian influenza near high-risk border areas with China was met by a rapid multi-agency response in 2013. This demonstrated the UN's unique ability to support the Government in limiting the impact of communicable diseases on the country's human and animal populations.

UN technical expertise, and the mobilization of health system resources, fully prepared the nation for the early detection, prevention and control of influenza A (H7N9), as with earlier outbreaks of H5N1.

Key UN-driven surveillance system enhancements included the Emergency Operation Centre's establishment at



the MoH, weekly risk assessments with ministries and vigilant border security to counter illegal poultry trading. Work with the MARD in high-risk northern provinces was a particular UN focus, with more than 10,000 poultry samples from 60 live bird markets collected and analysed, which all tested negative for H7N9.

The fact that no H7N9 human or poultry cases were detected in Viet Nam during 2013, while more than 200 human cases and 50 deaths were reported across the border, is a testament to the effectiveness of the Government's UN-backed response.

- FAO, WHO

Reducing inequities in the use of maternal health services

Targeted UN advocacy efforts in 2013 enabled ethnic minority communities to better access maternal healthcare services.

After recognizing that financial barriers prevent the full use of maternal health services in remote regions, UN advocacy resulted in the MoH assembling a multi-ministry team to develop a national policy to address this. The policy will provide ethnic minority women with financial support to cover medical care and travel costs not included in the health insurance scheme.

The formalization of the policy, set to be approved in 2014 following submission to the Prime Minister in December 2013, illustrates the UN's ability to identify policy gaps and successfully advocate for effective change at an upstream policy level.

- UNFPA, UNICEF



Restoring public faith in immunization safety

UN agencies responded to an urgent Government call in 2013 to help rebuild public trust in the national immunization programme, undermined by serious incidents involving the pentavalent vaccine.

To help allay public anxiety, UN experts from headquarters, regional and country offices collaborated with national experts to investigate several “adverse events following immunization” incidents, while vaccine samples were sent to an independent laboratory in London for testing. After no obvious link was found between the vaccine and adverse events, the UN played a proactive role in presenting Viet Nam’s findings to the respected Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety, which further verified the vaccine’s safety.

The Government also reached out for UN communications expertise to counter sensationalist local media coverage of the

adverse events, with three UN-run media workshops on immunization in Da Nang, Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City. In addition, the UN scaled-up media engagement and issued a joint UN media statement and FAQ factsheet to underline the vaccine’s safety. In a key development, the UN also responded to a Government call to develop a national immunization communication strategy.

- UNICEF, WHO



Communicating the benefits of child vaccinations

The Government's expanded immunization programme protects 1.5 million infants annually against life-threatening childhood diseases. However, the programme faced serious challenges in 2013 with a number of "adverse events following immunization" reported (see story "Restoring public faith in immunization safety").

To strengthen the Government's response to these adverse events, the UN supported it to develop an effective Communication Action Plan 2014-2016 and a nationwide campaign to introduce a measles-rubella vaccination during 2014-2015. Both these

plans will contribute to sustaining public trust in the immunization programme.

An innovative feature of the plan, aside from a crisis communications strategy to help manage public responses to vaccination incidents, is its capacity to deliver culturally appropriate targeted communication interventions, while taking into account Viet Nam's unique geographic, ethnic and socio-economic diversity.

- UNICEF, WHO



Tapping into sanitation solutions for healthier communities

To drive progress towards looming 2015 MDG targets and end a vicious cycle of disease and entrenched poverty, UN agencies in 2013 helped the Government deliver equity focused interventions to meet the sanitation needs of poor communities.

The UN-supported MoH programme Community Approaches to Total Sanitation left its mark on 483 villages, with 4,500 new latrines delivered to households in seven provinces. A further 5,600 households enjoyed clean water connections in Khanh Hoa and Quang Tri provinces and 476,000

people without access to safe water in 47 communes benefited from the UN-supported implementation of household water treatment and storage.

At a policy level the UN stepped up its water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) advocacy efforts through a position paper delivered to the Prime Minister's Office, while a WASH national disaster risk management and climate change adaptation framework was drafted and provincial action is to be initiated in six provinces.

- UN-Habitat, UNICEF, WHO

Outcome 2.3: Expanding the quality and reach of education

In 2013, results from Viet Nam's landmark participation in the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment a year earlier were presented. High scores from 5,100 students in 59 provinces were posted, but large disparities between different groups and regions emerged, with Kinh majority children successes contrasting with the struggles of ethnic minority students. These results are magnified by the mismatch in teacher capacities and student needs. Likewise, the 2013 Viet Nam Development Report by the World Bank highlighted the importance of building relevant technical skills through a more connected system between employers, students, universities and vocational schools.

The implementation of the Building a Learning Society 2012-2020 framework and Education Development Strategic Plan 2011-2020 continued to guide Government and UN action in education in 2013. The Communist Party's Resolution on Fundamental and Comprehensive Education Reform approved in 2013 mapped out the direction of Viet Nam's education development to 2030. Some of its key first steps include comprehensive curriculum reform and an extensive action plan on disaster and risk preparedness education.

Progress made in 2013

The UN has been instrumental in bringing equity to the attention of education sector policy-makers, influencing the direction of national and provincial education sector plans and highlighting gaps in policy implementation. To achieve equitable and quality education in a sustainable manner, the UN is working towards three specific results:

The first result is the **use of evidence and knowledge to strengthen education laws and policies** (output 2.3.1) to realize equal access to quality education at all levels, especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, particularly girls. In 2013, this was achieved through a number of ways with the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) encouraged to conduct the first joint sector review of education together with the Education Sector Group in step with national level participatory consultations to define Viet Nam's profile as a learning society (see contribution story for more details). The production of a national report and six provincial briefs on non-school attending children was supported to present disaggregated data on disparities in education experienced by groups of disadvantaged children and key recommendations to promote greater equity. Government officers were also sensitized through events and joint policy monitoring trips towards further policy reviews to improve the quality of education for ethnic minorities and generate stronger political leadership for mother tongue-based bilingual education (see annex and contribution story for more details).

The second expected result is **more capable education institutions for improved learning outcomes** (output 2.3.2), which requires support of continued efforts to update teaching and learning methodologies, interactive classroom learning and development of students'



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life skills. This is necessary to address challenges in education quality, recognized by key policy documents such as the SEDP on mismatches between theory and practice in the curriculum, language barriers for students whose mother tongue is not Vietnamese and irrelevant curricula. In 2013, the UN helped build the capacity of 945 educators from 63 provinces to integrate methodologies of inclusive education into school curricula and around 1,400 education managers to plan and monitor learning outcomes using competency-based assessment tools and instruments. UN knowledge also helped overcome specific challenges, such as ethnic minority children's language barriers through two national guidelines and catering to disabled students by introducing specific modules in the teachers' training curriculum. Stigma and discrimination against children affected by HIV/AIDS was addressed in eight provinces through behaviour change communications. In the area of disaster risk management in education, the UN co-developed eight provincial action plans

and strengthened the capacity of 611 education officials to apply emergency needs assessment tools (see contribution story for information on education for sustainable development).

The third education-related result is ***an evidence-based management system for improved quality of teaching and learning*** (output 2.3.3). In 2013, the UN strengthened education management practices in eight provinces through support of regular and systematic monitoring of the implementation of education policies for disadvantaged children. Training on rights-based education was provided to 32 education managers from eight provinces and shared with a further 430 education officials. In addition, 79 education planners and managers enhanced their capacities to conduct education planning and joint review capacities.



Contribution stories

A new pathway to learning

The Viet Nam Escuela Nueva is a ground-breaking education model designed to better meet the learning needs of Vietnamese youth.

In 2013 the UN helped showcase the model's dramatic impact, since its rapid nationwide launching in 2011, in nurturing innovative self-learning and personal skills in schools and enabling Viet Nam to become a learning society.

A UN-supported comprehensive sector review, including three joint missions to 10 schools, revealed major improvements in children's learning, helping to build better cognitive and behavioral foundations for essential life skills and future employability.

- UNESCO, UNICEF

Bilingual education translates into active learning

The UN-backed, internationally-renowned Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education Programme entered its fifth year in 2013, articulating the strengths of bilingual education and a more equitable future for the nation's ethnic minority population.

The ability to engage in mother tongue learning before the introduction of Vietnamese in the classroom has translated into positive impacts in the three pilot provinces, with bilingual classes having outperformed non-programme ones, improved net primary school completion rates for ethnic minority children and the preservation of minority languages and local culture.

Programme learning has also been strategically complemented by high profile advocacy events, with the UN using 2013's International Mother Language Day to jointly celebrate Viet Nam's linguistic and



cultural diversity and promote the use of mother tongue languages to improve ethnic minority education. The UN and MoET are working to expose more ethnic minority communities to the programme.

- UNICEF, UNESCO

A resilient, sustainable learning society for Viet Nam

The UN joined technology giant Samsung and the MoET to roll out e-learning courses on education for sustainable development (ESD) in Viet Nam.

This broad initiative includes awareness raising at national, provincial and community levels, as well as the development of e-learning courses on climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and biodiversity conservation, allowing primary school teachers nationwide to mainstream ESD inside and outside the classroom. This first phase of the ESD initiative was

implemented in Thua Thien-Hue province in 2013, where parents and the wider community were engaged to respond to locally-identified sustainability challenges. National media and heritage site managers have also strengthened their capacities on ESD, allowing for the mainstreaming of ESD in education, communication and cultural preservation.

A curriculum framework on disaster risk reduction and climate change was also developed, specifying key competencies for all levels of education. This will serve as a foundation for the development of the detailed curriculum for national application. All training materials and tools developed by the initiative are expected to be disseminated throughout the country in collaboration with MoET, for further ESD mainstreaming locally and overseas.

- UNESCO, UNICEF

Outcome 2.4: Promoting gender equality and responding to HIV

Viet Nam has made great progress against HIV. People receiving ARV therapy increased from 59.9 per cent of people with HIV in 2012 to 67.6 per cent in 2013 and the most recent national estimates suggest that new infection rates among people who are sex workers and/or injecting drugs are stable, with approximately 14,000 new infections reported annually. However, Viet Nam is in danger of missing the MDG 6 target. HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs is still high and the rate of new infections among men who have sex with men (MSM) is high and increasing. These trends contrast with decreasing donor funding for HIV, with the Government of Viet Nam struggling to plug the gap. Recent national commitments to increase domestic spending on HIV were severely cut in November 2013 by the National Assembly. It is increasingly clear that Viet Nam will need to do more with less, by focusing investment on cost-effective and rights-based approaches targeted at key populations in high-burden areas.

Likewise, in 2013 the Government's commitment to gender equality was negatively impacted on by the country's sluggish economic recovery. This has translated into the budget for the National Programme on Gender Equality 2011-2015, adopted with an initial promise of US\$46 million over five years, cut by 20 per cent in 2013. Meanwhile, the National Committee for the Advancement of Women in Viet Nam was asked by the Prime Minister to review its working mechanism after 20 years in existence as a first step towards improving its effectiveness. In terms of legislative changes the revised Labour Code, which came into effect in May 2013, included the prohibition of sexual harassment in the workplace and extend maternity leave to six months. However, a protectionist approach also prevailed, with the code banning women from engaging in 77 occupations because of concerns over the effect on the "reproductive function and child care duties" of women. The persistence of discriminatory gender norms is also seen in the sex-ratio-at-birth imbalance that continues to widen (111 males per 100 females in 2009 and 112 males per 100 females in 2012).

Progress made in 2013

Under this outcome, the UN supports national and sub-national institutions and communities to more actively address inequalities, particularly in combating HIV-related stigma and discrimination as well as gender inequality.

In the area of HIV, the UN is assisting Government agencies to ensure **stronger legal and policy frameworks for evidence-informed HIV responses** (output 2.4.1) through closing gaps in the implementation of evidence-informed HIV-interventions that effectively combat stigma and discrimination. At a **national level**, the UN in 2013 helped develop a progress report towards UN General

Assembly commitments on HIV through a consultative process with key stakeholders. National guidelines on sexual and reproductive health and HIV linkages were co-developed, which will increase access to services and information. An assessment of condom quality in the free market towards a management and control policy was also conducted. At a **community level**, the UN heightened community and village healthcare workers' engagement in two provinces leading to improved early access to HIV diagnosis and treatment. Piloting of Treatment 2.0 demonstrated the feasibility of decentralization and integration of HIV services delivery into primary healthcare (see contribution story for more details). In terms of key populations, the UN promoted the adoption of harm reduction approaches in the provision of sexual

reproductive health and HIV services to sex workers, including a model in Hai Phong. This paved the way for the MoLISA to adopt such approaches under a five-year action plan to be implemented in 15 provinces with administrative fines for **sex work** reduced to nominal levels. The Government was also encouraged to develop national plans and legislation to scale-up voluntary community-based drug dependence treatment, improve due process for **drug users** sent to compulsory detention centres and reduce the number of drug users in compulsory detention. The UN engaged in the revision of health-related legislation within the framework of international standards and strengthened care for inmates living with HIV through peer education programmes at selected sites. Finally, the UN continued to generate **media and public awareness** on the need for rights-based responses to HIV through public statements, thematic media orientations and press field trips to generate media coverage and help the Government identify strategies to **sustain access** to quality and affordable ARVs. International good practice learning missions and policy dialogues on removing the patent barrier and the use health insurance to fund ARVs were also undertaken.

Greater participation of people living with HIV in decisions that affect their lives (output 2.4.2) is encouraged through improving multi-sector policy coordination and coherence for HIV responses. In 2013, the UN supported the participation of people living with HIV and key populations at higher risk of infection in a number of key national processes, such as the mid-term review of the Political Declaration on HIV targets, the national post-2015 development agenda consultation process and the High-Level National Policy Dialogue on drug treatment. In terms of capacity building of specific key populations, the UN increased civil society organizations' capacities to advocate for drug users' greater access to harm reduction services and organized

a dialogue between law enforcement and drug dependent communities on drug dependence as a health issue. This established the foundation for further cooperation in law enforcement and rights protection. In 2013, the UN also supported MSM and LGBTI leaders in their advocacy activities and organized dialogues on the revised Law on Marriage and Family (see annex and contribution story under outcome 3.4 for more details).

Regarding gender equality and women's empowerment, the UN is providing cross-cutting support to the Government in **legal and policy changes that strengthen action against gender discrimination and violence** (output 2.4.3). Addressing gender-based violence, the imbalanced sex-ratio-at-birth and enabling the creation of decent, secure employment for women have been identified as national priorities. In 2013, the UN achieved the following results in these areas:

Regarding **gender-based violence**, the UN provided recommendations to the National Action Programme on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control, to the amended Law on Marriage and Family and the Law on Health Insurance. The UN also prepared a policy briefing kit on gender-based violence (which included papers on the cost of domestic violence, redefining masculinity, sexual harassment in the workplace, trafficking in boys and an assessment of the situation of women in the criminal justice system). The UN also piloted a minimum intervention package on gender-based violence in selected provinces, completed a mapping of legal aid providers, including services provided for victims of gender-based violence and helped strengthen the capacity of police, legal aid officers, prosecutors, judges and court personnel dealing with domestic violence. In terms of advocacy and awareness raising, the UN assisted 135 multi-stakeholder representatives to research gender-based violence in the framework of the annual policy dialogue on International

Women's Day and launched, together with Government, the "16 days of activism" campaign to end violence against women and girls. This campaign included 18 different stakeholder events covered by 110 different media organizations (see contribution story for more details).

Regarding the **imbalanced sex-ratio-at-birth**, the UN prepared advocacy materials and events and 200 MoH trainers from national and provincial levels were trained to address this issue in an integrated fashion. In other related areas, the MoLISA was assisted to develop standard tools to help provincial staff mainstream gender in the National Strategy on Gender Equality through promotion of women's profiles in politics, employment and labour and economics. Forty national journalists and 80 enterprises were shown how to prevent and address sexual harassment in the workplace, while the UN also helped the Women's Union and Vocation Training Centre pilot a project that resulted in 320 women from poor households in Dong Thap get increased access to decent employment opportunities and credit for business development. Finally, the UN gave 24,780 international and national visitors to access an exhibition on sexuality access to rights-based sexual reproductive health and HIV education with Youth Union peer support. The exhibition focused on puberty, gender, love and relationships and safe sex (see contribution story for further details).

The UN system is also working closely with Government to improve **national and local coordination mechanisms to respond to gender discrimination and gender-based violence** (output 2.4.4). In 2013, a national network on domestic violence prevention was established under the leadership of Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, and the Gender Action Partnership coordinated by MoLISA was further strengthened to function as an information exchange and learning forum for 80 practitioners working on gender equality, dealing with

issues such as Commission on the Status of Women agreed conclusions on ending violence against women and Government plans to implement Commission on the Status of Women recommendations. The partnership also engaged in discussions on a gender equality goals for the post-2015 development agenda, UN Commission on the Status of Women agreed conclusions on ending violence against women and the Government's plan to implement the recommendations of the agreed conclusions as well as the ongoing revision of the Law on Social Insurance and its impact on gender equality. The UN also equipped 205 Government staff involved in the implementation of the National Strategy for Gender Equality with knowledge and tools to monitor and report progress in employment, health and women's participation in politics from a gender perspective.

Contribution stories

Nurturing innovation in HIV treatment

Despite a dramatic increase in antiretroviral treatment across Viet Nam, an estimated 50,000 people living with HIV entered 2013 still needing treatment.

"Treatment 2.0" was the UN and Viet Nam Authority for HIV/AIDS Control response, with Can Tho and Dien Bien provinces piloting a package of innovations where HIV testing and treatment is decentralized to commune-level health stations.

A year-end impact assessment demonstrated the effectiveness of Treatment 2.0, with a clear demand for commune-level HIV testing and a jump in successful community member HIV testing referrals in the provinces from 159 to 929. The initiative will be expanded in 2014, with greater focus on remote and mountainous areas with middle to high HIV burdens.

- UNAIDS, WHO



Sustaining access to antiretroviral medicines

While the UN-supported increase in antiretroviral treatment for people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Viet Nam is a top HIV response achievement, 95 per cent of these ARV medicines are provided by bilateral and international donors who are increasingly cutting funding.

Viet Nam's challenge to ensure future sustained access to quality and affordable ARVs could become further acute with its expected joining of the potentially legally restrictive Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement.

To counter these looming threats, the UN worked to encourage the Government to allow the State budget and national health insurance system to take over the supply of ARV for PLHIV. This goal was supported by two National Assembly-hosted dialogues and a UN-facilitated fact-finding mission to Thailand that illustrated how the ARV treatment programme could be sustained in Viet Nam.

At the end of 2013, the Prime Minister issued a decision ensuring the financial

sustainability of the national HIV response and assigning the health insurance system to cover ARV treatment for PLHIV.

- UNAIDS, WHO

Youth spark up drugs debate

Amid ongoing national reform in drug prevention, treatment and care, the UN in 2013 supported a number of awareness raising events for youth on health and drugs issues.

Questions such as how drugs control your life, whether you can enjoy life without drugs and where to seek help were the main topics of one such event, with a live TV show spotlighting the views of university students and a prominent national pop star. A story of how highly successful young men had moved to the top of the music industry without falling into a trap of fashionable use of "recreational drugs" provoked active discussion on the needs and concerns of young people.

- ILO, UNODC, WHO



Healthier lifestyles through sexuality education

Dramatic socio-economic development has changed the face of Vietnamese society with new sexual norms and behaviors emerging.

This is especially so for young people who now make up nearly 40 per cent of Viet Nam's total population. Yet one-third encounter barriers when trying to access reproductive health information and services, leading to teen pregnancy, abortion and HIV/AIDS concerns.

To meet this emerging need, innovative UN inter-agency cooperation in 2013 created a groundbreaking, six-month exhibition "As We Grow Up" at Ha Noi's Viet Nam Museum

of Ethnology to spotlight the sensitive issue of healthy sexuality for Vietnamese young people in a youth-friendly way.

The key themes of puberty, friendship/love and safe sex were brought to life through real stories and experiences shared by Vietnamese youth, with this peer-driven approach's popular bi-monthly dialogue "Windows of Love Offline" set to have a say on UN-supported Law on Youth reform in 2014.

- UNESCO, UNFPA, UNV, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women



Joining hands to end violence against women and girls

Violence against women is a serious, yet often faceless issue in Vietnamese society.

To elevate this issue, often hidden away as a family or women’s matter, onto the national stage in 2013, five UN agencies united to join Government ministries in launching a highly visible national campaign. The campaign “Join Hands to End Violence against Women and Girls” marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the “16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence” promoted men and boy’s participation in ending gender-based violence.

This multi-stakeholder national campaign, from 22 November to 10 December, saw more than 18 high-profile activities held across the nation. Aside from raising public awareness, the campaign also illustrated how a multi-agency UN approach can effectively bring a sensitive issue like violence against women and girls to the attention of policy-makers and how UN and Government coordination can mobilize community level participation, especially from men and boys.

- **UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WHO**

Focus Area 3

Enhanced governance and participation



Governance reform is urgently needed to respond and manage the complex challenges Viet Nam will face during the next five to 10 years. The SEDS 2011-2020 states the need to “enhance capacity and establish mechanisms for the people to exercise their rights” to ensure more effective, accountable and transparent governance to allow all Vietnamese people to have a voice in decisions which affect them.

Access to justice, efficient law enforcement and judicial support for all citizens, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, is a vital pillar to strengthen the rule of law. Better means of enabling people to share their opinions and feedback on decisions that affect them are still needed, as well as effective mechanisms to enhance oversight of

work by the Party and State, in particular socio-economic policies and plans. More robust regulations are needed on the accountability of State agencies to the people, as well as on providing transparency on public administration performance and the efficient use of public resources. Multi-sectoral responses are required to address factors that impede people’s access to justice and protection of rights. To meet these needs, the UN is creating opportunities for wider participation in decision-making on policy priorities and spending.

The year 2013 was important for Viet Nam as it worked towards more accountable as well as effective governance and human rights. A National Assembly resolution established a new mechanism for citizens and organizations to be consulted on the amendment of the 1992 Constitution and the Special Rapporteur on cultural rights visited Viet Nam in November 2013. Furthermore, Viet Nam was elected as a member of the Human Rights Council (HRC) for 2014-2016 and submitted its national UPR report to the HRC. The country's HRC candidacy was supported by its voluntary pledges, which included a commitment to improve legal and judicial systems, build a rule-of-law State and strengthen national human rights promotion and protection systems, whilst exploring the establishment of a national human rights institution.

Aside from Government and civil society input in the lead up to the UPR review, the UN was requested by the HRC to provide an insight into the human rights situation on the ground. As with 2008, the UNCT submitted its own UPR report to the HRC. Together with the Government report, the UN and civil society reports were part of official documentation⁶ for the review in Geneva in February 2014. This process was an excellent opportunity to create a unified and coordinated UN position on human rights in Viet Nam and identify implementation gaps on the ground.

So far, Viet Nam has ratified five out of nine core UN human rights treaties⁷. In 2012 and 2013, the UN has assisted the Government

to submit reports to four of the five relevant treaty bodies tasked to monitor Government compliance. The Government has also reaffirmed its commitment to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and signed the UN Convention against Torture in November 2013.

In addition, the UN helped the Government prepare a periodic report on the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to provide an important baseline on the status of implementation of civil and political rights in Viet Nam. This will be used to revise several important laws on civil and political rights, such as the Law on Referendum, the Law on Access to Information, the Law on Association and the Law on Demonstration. Similar UN support was delivered to the Government in preparation for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with disability organizations engaged in policy dialogues to ensure recognition of their role in the convention's implementation.

This progress reflects the Government's increased engagement with international human rights mechanisms and a desire to accept more national and international responsibilities. With Viet Nam's candidacy to the HRC, it could be expected greater international scrutiny from council members along with more effective national efforts to advance human rights issues. The UN will grab this opportunity to provide Vietnamese officials with access to know-how, networks and capacity support to position Viet Nam to fulfill its new international role and meet national and international commitments.

6 Please see OHCHR website for the compilation of UN information: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/VNSession5.aspx>

7 They are the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, Convention against all Forms of Racial Discrimination and Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Outcome 3.1: More responsive elected bodies

To ensure elected bodies are capable of preparing laws and tracking State agency actions to address the pressing concerns of women, ethnic minorities and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, the UN is supporting two areas of work: **high-quality research and data to guide legislative duties** and **increased contact with voters**.

Progress made in 2013

On the one hand, bolstering the generation of **high-quality research and data to guide legislative duties** (output 3.1.1) and subsequent access to it, in step with promoting a better understanding of international conventions and norms resulted in strengthened law-making and oversight functions. In 2013, the UN produced several research materials that fed discussions leading to the adoption of laws, ordinances and development of oversight guidelines and tools. This was illustrated by the UN's active engagement in the amendment process to the 1992 **Constitution** (see contribution story for more details). In terms of **laws**, the UN prepared briefing materials on the Convention on the Rights of the Child that informed amendments to the Law on Children in child-friendly justice, protection, participation and potential establishment of a children's ombudsman (see contribution story for more details).

UN recommendations based on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, International Conference on Population and Development as well as Universal Declaration of Human Rights informed draft laws on internal migration, sexual and reproductive health, the laws on Marriage and Family as well as Health Insurance. In terms of **oversight tools**, three new rights-based parliamentary oversight guidelines were developed for National Assembly approval on budgetary oversight, the Law on Older Persons and the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control (see contribution story for more details).

On the other hand, to achieve this outcome, the representative role of National Assembly deputies must be enhanced by **greater contact with voters** (output 3.1.2) to ensure elected bodies' decisions reflect people's needs



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and aspirations. In 2013, the UN laid the foundations for the amendment of the Law on People’s Councils and People’s Committees – renamed Law on Local Government in compliance with the 2013 Constitution – documenting committees’ capacity gaps and areas for improved performance, particularly capacity to reflect people’s aspirations. The UN also completed a capacity development plan for the National Assembly and People’s Councils on budget oversight, with guidelines for interacting and consulting with citizens on budget issues. Finally, the UN also developed and promoted the use of guidelines on minimum standards of child participation in consultations.

Contribution stories

Advocating for a transparent process to amend the Constitution

Throughout 2013, much of the National Assembly’s work focused on amending the 1992 Constitution.

The UN’s support to this process focused on providing policy advice to decision-makers and hands-on support to the

legislature, as well as sponsoring public events and discussion platforms on the proposed revisions.

For example, the UN provided the National Assembly with a series of recommendations that specified where the existing provisions of the Constitution did not reflect human rights and other international obligations agreed to by the Government and how this could be addressed.

In part as a result of UN support and advocacy, the process to amend the Constitution was far more inclusive and participatory than previously, and there was a high-level of engagement by various experts, NGOs representing vulnerable population groups and the online community.

Although the final changes were not as wide-reaching as some had advocated for, the process demonstrated the increasing role of citizens in influencing decision-making and ensuring their voices are taken into account by legislators.

- UN wide



Focus Area 3

A broker for knowledge empowerment

Viet Nam's absence of independent child rights monitoring mechanisms has allowed the UN to further enhance its reputation as a broker for knowledge empowerment.

This lack of monitoring, noted in two appearances before the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva in 2007 and 2012 and the Universal Periodic Reviews of Viet Nam in 2009 and 2013, saw the Government turn to the UN to use its comparative advantages in facilitating access to international best practice. Norway's Ombudsman for Children was identified as an ideal model for Viet Nam.

To underscore the ombudsman model's ability to protect children's rights in Viet

Nam, yet remain independent with State support, the UN facilitated a Government study tour to Norway in 2013, with a return visit by the Norwegian Child Ombudsman to solidify local political support for the office.

The Government further drew on UN expertise by formally requesting it help draft an ombudsman-focused chapter in the draft Law on Protection, Care and Education of Children, parallel to the UN helping facilitate an inclusive consensus building process in order to build a roadmap with stakeholders towards potentially opening the office by 2016.

- UNICEF



Opening eyes to improved oversight

The UN helped to deliver greater oversight of key Vietnamese legislation in 2013 thanks to a visionary approach embraced by elected officials.

In an innovative move, the Parliamentary Committee for Social Affairs engaged the UN to help craft “oversight tools” for elected officials and members of parliament to work and challenge provincial executives to ensure laws are better implemented at grassroots level. This approach is designed to close loop-holes and broaden the relevance of laws to community needs to ensure more citizen benefit.

In 2013, the UN and the parliamentary committee developed oversight tools for the Law on Older Persons and the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention, piloted in Ben Tre, Quang Ninh and Tien Giang provinces, which allowed officials to more effectively address domestic violence and elderly person issues. Post-2013, the parliamentary committee will develop oversight tools for other laws, such as the laws on Gender Equality and Population.

- UNFPA

Outcome 3.2: Legal and justice system reforms

Increasing access to justice and protection of rights is of critical importance to ensure all Vietnamese people realize their capacities and aspirations. For this purpose, the UN is working on mutually reinforcing elements, including a rights-based legal framework, stronger duty bearers (both law enforcement, and judicial institutions and personnel) and greater rights holders' awareness of their rights.

Progress made in 2013

The UN is building on its mandate to support Viet Nam's achievement of international obligations by helping develop a **stronger policy, legal and regulatory framework** (output 3.2.1). This action is vital as the Government, since inconsistencies, conflicts and overlaps in the legal system have been described by the Government in its national report to the HRC as the "main obstacle to the development of the society and the exercise of human rights". In 2013, the most relevant process to assess progress towards international commitments was the consultative **Universal Periodic Review**, with the UN promoting an inclusive and participatory approach (see contribution story for more details).

In terms of other **international conventions**, the UN conducted an implementation review of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and an impact assessment for ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The Convention on the Rights of the Child was an opportunity to inform the amendment of the draft Penal Code and draft Penal Procedure Code, to better reflect the rights of children in contact with the justice system. The UN referred to human rights conventions to engage the National Assembly's Social Affairs Committee in advocacy on sexual diversity and the need to combat stigma and discrimination towards LGBTI people. National legislation was also reviewed by the UN in preparation for Viet Nam's signature to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

In the development of access to justice and rights protection **sub-laws** and national implementation mechanisms, the UN helped draft a sub-law for implementation of the Law on Persons with Disability and co-developed sub-laws for implementation of the Law on Handling



of Administrative Violations, ensuring due process and justice for those charged with administrative offences and better reflection of the rights of drug users, sex workers and children in conflict with the law. It also supported the development a national programme and numerous sub-laws for the Law on Anti-Human Trafficking's implementation to better protect and support trafficking survivors.

Reforms within law enforcement structures and the court system (output 3.2.2) in line with Viet Nam's Judicial Reform Strategy to 2020 are also needed, to allow formal justice system responses to be more sensitive to the needs of vulnerable groups. In 2013, the UN continued supporting the implementation of the national Judicial Reform Strategy to strengthen judiciary capacity to conduct evidence-based research and analysis as well as improve key monitoring tools, such as the Justice Index Survey. In terms of access to justice for vulnerable groups, the UN backed the introduction of **child-friendly and gender-sensitive** investigation, prosecution and

adjudication procedures, in particular a national project to establish a family/ juvenile court and a project on combating child sex tourism. Regarding specific types of crimes such as human trafficking, the UN improved the investigation capacity of immigration control forces at international border gates to effectively combat such crimes.

A further need to be met is **legal education to allow law enforcement and judicial personnel to carry out their obligations** under Viet Nam's Constitution and laws, as well as international conventions (output 3.2.3). The UN supported legal education not only for law enforcement personnel and legal practitioners in 2013, but also for law students through clinical programmes on the role the **adversarial process**, now guaranteed in the 2013 Constitution, will have in the development of Viet Nam's criminal justice system (see annex for more details). A UN footprint was left on 27 new training packages on the rule of law and protection of rights, addressing issues such as anti-corruption, anti-money



laundering and anti-terrorism. On **gender equality** and in the context of revision to the Law on Marriage and Family, the UN helped train 182 legal practitioners from the Ministry of Justice and provincial-level justice departments, 179 National Assembly deputies, Provincial People's Council, Women's Union and line ministry representatives. Regarding **child-friendly criminal procedures**, the UN trained law enforcement personnel to more effectively combat child sex tourism and conduct criminal proceedings in a child-friendly and gender-sensitive manner (see contribution story for more details). The strengthening of the Labour Inspectorate to enforce the amended **Labour Code** and promote collaboration with workers' and employers' organizations was also undertaken by the UN.

Lastly, a key element of legal and justice system reform is empowerment of claim holders, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, through **awareness-raising, legal assistance and other support services** (output 3.2.4). The most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups continued to receive UN assistance in 2013, through awareness raising initiatives for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking as well as the general public on issues such as gender-

sensitive justice (see contribution story for more details). In the area of HIV and anti-discrimination, 343 PLHIV and members of key populations were educated about their rights under Vietnamese and locally-adopted international law and legal support was provided as a follow up.

Contribution stories

An inclusive and participatory review of human rights

The UPR is a unique process, which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN member states. In 2013, Viet Nam was part of the second cycle of countries to be reviewed.

Throughout the year, the UN worked to ensure that civil society organizations in the country were engaged in the entire UPR process and were able to review the draft national report.

For example, the UN organized a consultation on the civil society UPR stakeholder report. The UN also supported a face-to-face consultation between Government agencies and civil society on the draft national report.

Once the national report was finalized,



the UN supported the translation of it into Vietnamese, and helped to make sure that it was published online and distributed to Government agencies and civil society organizations.

- UN wide

Building a justice system that meets children's needs

Up to 17,000 children come into contact with Viet Nam's justice system each year. Yet the system lacks the specialist capacity to respond to the often sensitive and complex nature of cases involving children.

Recognizing this need, the UN in 2013 took action to strengthen the police's ability to respond to children's needs through tutoring 20 hand-picked master trainers in child-friendly investigation techniques. In addition, child justice training courses for 110 frontline investigators and prosecutors in Lao Cai, Dien Bien, Gia Lai and Kon Tum were held and a new child-friendly investigation room introduced in Gia Lai province.

To address potentially increasing, yet undetected incidents of child sex tourism in Viet Nam, specialist technical capacity building through a regional police training programme was conducted, with a follow-

up training of trainers event in Vung Tau for 40 police officers from eight provinces. At the same time, evolving challenges in internet crimes against children saw the UN deliver training for 28 regional prosecutors and judges in Ho Chi Minh City.

- UNICEF, UNODC

Supporting women's access to justice

Viet Nam has made tremendous strides in developing its legal system in recent decades, yet women still encounter barriers as survivors or perpetrators of crime or as criminal justice system employees.

To bear witness to this inequity, the UN drew on the knowledge of multiple agencies in 2013 to release the first-ever "Assessment of the situation of women in the criminal justice system in Viet Nam".

To help the Government meet women's needs, the assessment made a number of important recommendations. During 2014, the UN will use this new evidence to mobilize stakeholders from across society to strengthen justice for women.

- UNODC, UN Women

Outcome 3.3: Better performing public sector institutions

As part of the doi moi renovation process⁸, Viet Nam has engaged in the modernization of its policy-making processes and public sector institutions to reduce disparities in access to services and enhance public service delivery accountability and transparency.

Progress made in 2013

The development of **participatory, evidence-based and cross-sectoral public service delivery** (output 3.3.1) is taking shape through UN work to ensure efficient coordination between Government agencies as well as capacity building for effective functioning public service institutions, especially at a decentralized level. In 2013, the UN set the basis for several demonstrative models of integrated basic services through establishment of working groups for cross-sectoral planning of provincial SEDPs in four provinces, namely a local economic development policy platform in two provinces and completion of poverty and development programme mapping in three provinces. With regards multi-sectoral urban planning and management, coordination mechanisms were established in five provinces and leaders of Ha Noi districts and local government departments were trained in cross-sectoral programming approaches, with a focus on the development of effective urban assets such as public spaces, infrastructure and housing.

As Viet Nam moves towards a higher level of human development, it is imperative to **enhance human resource management systems**, a customer-oriented approach to interfacing with the public and strengthened mechanisms for accountability and transparency (output 3.3.2). In 2013, the UN focused its efforts on building capacities to apply results-based and participatory approaches. For instance, it built capacity in two provinces to apply social accountability tools and in three other provinces to implement Citizen Report Cards to assess commune and district health services (see annex for more details). The UN also trained 22 top Vietnamese leaders on evidence-based policies through the Viet Nam Executive Leadership Programme, while provincial and district level-officials of three provinces improved their capacity to plan, monitor

⁸ Doi Moi is the name given to the economic reforms initiated in Viet Nam in 1986 with the goal of creating a “socialist-oriented market economy”.



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and evaluate within the framework of the SEDP. As a more permanent capacity building resource, the UN backed the establishment of the Centre for Women in Politics and Public Administration⁹. In terms of mechanisms for accountability, a staff performance appraisal system was piloted in Da Nang city and staff assessment tools have been reviewed by the Ministry of Home Affairs for amendment of relevant legal documents at national level.

Capacity building for national institutions to implement and monitor national policies on anti-corruption and the UN Convention against Corruption, ratified by Viet Nam in 2009, is also necessary to achieve the expected result (output 3.3.3). Fighting corruption is a significant development issue in Viet Nam and has been recognized as such in the highest levels of policy-making processes. In 2013, the UN conducted trainings for customs and banking officers on detection and prevention of money laundering and

⁹ Created in June 2013, the centre will serve as a research and training facility as well as offering advice on policies, programmes and initiatives to promote gender equality in the public sector.

for judges at the Judicial Academy on the UN Convention against Corruption. The UN also developed and shared key recommendations for sound anti-corruption strategies and allowed seven high-level law enforcement and justice officers to learn from international good practices in police oversight and accountability through a study visit to Hong Kong. In addition, the UN strengthened regional and international knowledge sharing through mechanisms such as the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering.

Finally, a key element is the need to strengthen local level **participatory monitoring and feedback mechanisms from citizens on the quality of public services** as well as the impact of these services on citizens' development needs (output 3.3.4). In 2013, the UN continued to support the citizen-centred Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI), which collected voices from 13,892 citizens randomly selected from across Viet Nam's 63 provinces (see contribution story for more details).

Contribution stories

Delivering more accountable public service

The UN continued to capture people's voices to provide evidence for governance, public administration and public service reform discussions in 2013, with the third nationwide PAPI survey (www.papi.vn) capturing 13,892 citizens' experiences and delivering data for central policy intervention and provincial policy action.

This pioneering UN initiative, now the largest time-series governance and public administration performance monitoring tool in Viet Nam, allows public sector institutions to employ evidence-based approaches that enhance accountability, transparency and the fight against corruption.

The past year alone saw nine provincial governments, including two of the poorest performing provinces, issue specific proposals and undertake initiatives to better understand citizens' experiences and address PAPI-identified weaknesses in governance and public administration.

Combined, these policies aim to improve governance and public administration for more than 23 million Vietnamese citizens and demonstrate PAPI's direct influence on some of the poorest and most vulnerable members of society.

PAPI's reach has recently been extended as it is now embedded in the Ho Chi Minh Academy of Politics and Public Administration's leadership programme to influence future Communist Party and provincial leaders.

- UNDP

Increasing women's leadership in the public sector

In order to help build a more democratic and just society, the UN continues to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other national institutions to increase women's representation and participation at legislative and administrative levels.

Following a UN supported policy visit to the US and Canada in 2012, the Center for Women in Politics and Public Administration was successfully launched in 2013. It now offers core programmes on women's leadership to senior Government and Party officials and has gender mainstreamed public administration courses for civil servants.

The UN has also worked with the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs to help advance ethnic minority women in the civil service. Through a combination of evidence-based advocacy and leadership and management training, the number of women at the Director General level has increased from one to three, and at Deputy Director level from five to seven at Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs in the past year.

One of the main barriers to women's advancement is the unequal retirement age which currently forces women to retire at 55, five years earlier than men. The UN has long advocated for equalising the retirement age and a new decree is under consideration that will make it possible for 539 women at Director-General and Provincial Department Director level to hold their positions for a further five years. This will be a step towards equalizing the retirement age for all.

As the UN continues to raise awareness of Viet Nam's progress against the targets for women's representation in leadership positions, it is also encouraging that two women are now included in the Politburo's increased membership of 16.

- UNDP, UN Women, ILO

Outcome 3.4: More effective and sustained participation by civil society

According to numerous national and UN reports, the institutional framework and dialogue mechanisms available for political, social, professional and mass-organizations in Viet Nam to participate in policy discussion and decision-making processes require improvement. Moreover, there is a need to strengthen their human resources and organizational capacities.

Progress made in 2013

The UN worked on training and building the advocacy capacity of key political, social, professional and mass-organizations in 2013 to allow them to provide significant contributions to development of relevant policies. Coordination and collaboration between three local NGO networks to promote women's rights and gender equality were improved and national dialogues on legal and social challenges facing the LGBTI community were organized (see contribution story for more details). In addition, the UN used its neutrality and convening power to assist citizens to participate in policy dialogues with the Government and decision-making processes, such as revision to the Law on Land, amendment to the Constitution as well as consultations on the UPR report, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the post-2015 development agenda (see contribution story for more details).



Contribution stories

A life free of discrimination

To help PLHIV understand and claim their rights, the UN rolled out another successful package of training of trainers in 2013 on its “Learn About Your Rights” HIV and law-training manual.

The 13 training sessions heightened the awareness of 343 PLHIVs nationwide on their rights to education, healthcare, work and a life free from stigma and discrimination, as well as how to seek redress when rights are violated.

The training also identified specific cases of rights violations, with 10 out of 12 cases involving trainees’ rights to education, social protection benefits and work reaching a positive resolution following referral to a local NGO offering legal aid services.

- UNAIDS

Coming out in support of LGBTI people

Discrimination against Viet Nam’s LGBTI community is widespread, with this inequity compounded by a lack of legal protection that prevents access to human rights.

The UN, as a vocal advocate for LGBTI people’s rights and visibility, made positive change in 2013 by co-convening the first-ever national dialogues in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City on legal and social challenges facing the LGBTI community. The UN also supported the second Viet Pride event in Ha Noi to further publicly speak out on the previously taboo subject of LGBTI rights, and consistently highlighted equal rights for LGBTI people in its recommendations to government on the revision of the Law on Marriage and Family.

Productive consultations between the UN, Government and civil society in 2013 laid the groundwork for National Assembly voting on the Law on Marriage and Family

WORKSHOP ON THE POST-2015 CONSULTATIONS IN VIET NAM HỘI THẢO HOẠT ĐỘNG THAM VẤN VỀ KHUNG PHÁT TRIỂN SAU NĂM 2015

Ha Noi, 20/03/2013



in 2014, which led to the removal of same-sex marriage from prohibited forms of marriage.

- **UNDP, UN Women, UNAIDS**

Supporting the national conversation on the “World We Want”

During 2013, Viet Nam was one of more than 80 countries worldwide to actively take part in a global conversation to shape the “World We Want” and help define a new development framework for post-2015 when the MDGs expire.

The UN facilitated a unique consultation process that asked Vietnamese men, women and children what kind of future they would like to see in 2015 and beyond.

Over the course of three months, more

than 1,300 people from across the country had the opportunity to talk about the challenges they face in their daily lives and to express their hopes and aspirations for the future. Many of these people came from vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and people living with HIV. Overall, more than half of those who took part in the discussions were women.

The post-2015 consultation process clearly demonstrates how the UN in Viet Nam is focusing its work on inclusive participation and ensuring that the voices of marginalized and disadvantaged people are included in the policy debate.

- **UN wide**

Consolidated Results



Inclusive development is the founding principle of the Government of Viet Nam's national development policy and is translated through the aspiration for a just, democratic and equitable society for all. This is also reflected in the guiding principles of the UN system's One Plan 2012-2016, in addressing inequality, inequity and the respect of human rights for all. The preceding section of this chapter presented the detailed results achieved by the UN in 2013 against the One Plan 2012-2016's outcomes and outputs. This section looks at the aggregate results and illustrates how the UN brought its inclusive development agenda to the fore. In this regard, it demonstrates concerted efforts in 2013 to bring a greater focus to interventions to support the Government and citizen's efforts to engender inclusiveness within the LMIC context that is present day Viet

Nam. Furthermore, it highlights UN efforts to ensure the interests of vulnerable and marginalized groups are fully taken into account during formulation of key development policies.

Inequality, inequity and human rights-based approach

Although Viet Nam's economic stabilization continued in 2013, the annual rate of economic growth declined to 5.4 per cent, its lowest level in over a decade. The prolonged post-crisis slow-down together with a lack of progress on structural reforms, especially in the State-owned enterprise sector, have resulted in an overall lack of economic dynamism, undermining longer term improvements in livelihoods and denting the pace of poverty reduction. Equally, both

structural and rapid demographic change have contributed to the emergence of new forms of multi-dimensional poverty. This has been exacerbated by increasing living costs and inequality in the distribution of assets, income and access to services. This is particularly evident in urban areas with migrants and informal workers. Moreover, poverty in ethnic minority areas is becoming more entrenched with more than 50 per cent of poor households nationwide located in such groups. Furthermore, there is a heightened vulnerability among the near poor living close to the poverty line, with a significant proportion of the population at risk of falling back into poverty, a factor heightened by the constant threat of natural disasters.

While living standards have still improved for the majority of Vietnamese people, disparities and perceptions of inequality - particularly in terms of voice and power - appear to be widening. It is clear that these disparities stand in the way of Viet Nam progressing towards higher levels of human development. While the country has made significant progress towards achieving most MDG targets by 2015, an 'unfinished development agenda' remains in addressing persistent and structural inequalities, especially at a sub-national level. This requires concerted action on the part of all development actors.

Poverty in Viet Nam is less defined by low and irregular incomes and more as a set of interlocking multi-dimensional characteristics. The lack of access to basic social welfare and services can result in a vicious cycle of often inter-generational poverty, further exasperated by the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, that needs to be taken into account by policy-makers.

This is why concerted UN efforts in 2013 encouraged the greater use of statistics for evidence-based socio-economic planning, to produce and position people-

centred development strategic options for policy-makers. This included capacity development support to key Government institutions charged with generating and analyzing socio-economic data and statistics. It also comprised technical and advisory support for key surveys and studies, such as the Child Labour Survey, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey and the Inter-censal Population and Housing Survey. Other efforts focussed on building people-centred development strategic options on key themes, such as macroeconomic policy, sustainable enterprise development, industrial investment, employment and pro-poor policies with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. This was complemented through policy advocacy efforts, which resulted in the National Assembly formally adopting a multi-dimensional approach to poverty reduction policy-making. Further efforts addressed disadvantaged groups' vulnerabilities in relation to environmental degradation, climatic stresses and natural disasters.

While Viet Nam's macroeconomy displayed greater stability in 2013, the implementation of State sector structural reforms has not kept pace with wider changes in society. This is visible in the provision of public services where disparities in access to quality social services, including education and health, and between urban and rural areas risk accentuating vulnerabilities associated with LMIC transition, including changing patterns of poverty and inequality. These disparities are particularly acute in ethnic minority areas. Moreover, inequitable access to quality services affects other vulnerable groups, including migrants and informal sector workers.

In 2013, the UN in Viet Nam assisted the Government to adopt a universal approach to equitable social protection and provision of social services as a means of addressing duplication and fragmentation in the current delivery system.

In social protection, the UN contributed towards the development of a number of policy and legislative instruments, including Decree 136 on assistance to social protection beneficiaries, an amendment to the Law on Child Protection Care and Education as well as subsidiary legislation on anti-human trafficking. The UN also backed the provision of improved data and evidence for policy-making, complemented by targeted policy and technical advice with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. In partnership with other development partners, the UN facilitated consensus building among line ministries and National Assembly that culminated in the Government's decision to reform social assistance policies (Decree 136). These efforts were complemented through a range of human resource capacity development initiatives in human protection, encompassing child protection, social work and anti-human trafficking.

In the area of health, the UN drew upon substantive local and international expertise to help the Government of Viet Nam strengthen key health system pillars. This included the development, revision and adoption of key policy and legislative instruments, including the laws on Health Insurance and Pharmaceuticals, the policy on maternal and child health and the Viet Nam Health Partnership Document.

In addition to national level assistance, the decentralized health system in ethnic minority areas was a particular focus where access to quality healthcare, particularly for women and children, is limited. In terms of HIV, efforts continued on guaranteeing universal access to treatment and ensuring stronger legal and policy frameworks for HIV responses, including combating discrimination.

In education, the UN built on advances made in previous years to support the first joint review on education, focussed on primary education, with the MoET. The strengthening of teaching and learning methodologies, as well as on reinforcing

provincial-level education management systems, were also areas of UN work.

The Government recognizes that responding and managing complex future challenges requires the need for enhanced capacities and mechanisms for people to effectively exercise their rights. This is seen as a means of ensuring that governance is carried out in a more effective and transparent manner, so the most vulnerable and disadvantaged are able to participate in decisions that affect their lives. This includes improved and more equitable access to justice and law enforcement for all citizens, more effective oversight of socio-economic policies and plans as well as improved information on public administration and use of public resources.

The UN in Viet Nam's One Plan 2012-2016 is defined from a rights-based perspective and recognizes that multi-sectoral responses are needed to address factors that impede people's access to justice and protection of rights. Given its neutrality and normative role, especially on human rights, the UN is uniquely placed to contribute towards legal and policy formulation and advocate for the interests and participation of vulnerable groups.

From a human rights perspective, 2013 was an important year for Viet Nam, with a landmark National Assembly resolution establishing a new mechanism for citizens and organizations to be consulted on amendments to the 1992 Constitution. In terms of the implementation of international conventions, the election of Viet Nam to the Human Rights Council and submission of a national UPR report as well as signing the UN Convention against Torture constituted major developments. Further advocacy efforts focused on addressing discrimination and violence, with joint UN advocacy on the equal rights of LGBTI people, which informed the draft amendment of the Law on Marriage and Family and on addressing gender discrimination and gender-based violence.



Consolidated Results

Annual Results Report 2013: Delivering as One





Chapter 3

One Plan Budget and One Plan Fund

Financial Status of the One Plan Budget 2012-2016

The implementation of the One Plan 2012-2016 is supported by three funding sources. 'Regular resources' are core resources provided to UN agencies at a country level from respective headquarters. 'Other resources' are non-core/extra budgetary resources confirmed at the time of signing the One Plan in March, 2012. 'Resources to be mobilized' are funds that UN agencies anticipate will be raised during the One Plan period, either through or in addition to the OPF.

At the time of signing the One Plan 2012-2016, the estimated financial resources required to achieve its outcomes and outputs amounted to US\$480 million.

In view of the changing donor landscape in Viet Nam following its accession to LMIC status, the UNCT at the end of 2013 conducted a comprehensive assessment of the One Plan Budget's financial status at an outcome level. This took stock of how much funding the agencies had received, or expected to receive, over the remainder of the One Plan period.

Figure 2: One Plan 2012-2016 Resource Requirements Status as of 31 December 2013 (US\$)

One Plan Outcomes and Focus Areas									
Outcome	Regular Resources		Other Resources		One Plan Fund		Total		% OP Budget
	OP Budget	Status in Dec 2013	OP Budget	Status in Dec 2013	OP Budget	Status in Dec 2013	OP Budget	Status in Dec 2013	
1.1	18,055,000	17,665,361	19,570,935	15,743,734	20,504,105	3,421,705	58,130,040	36,830,800	63.4
1.2	1,892,500	1,762,691	26,893,500	26,781,499	8,970,000	1,410,561	37,756,000	29,954,751	79.3
1.3	5,897,500	5,714,354	37,633,095	41,006,952	13,234,405	3,895,540	56,765,000	50,616,846	89.2
1.4	3,766,000	2,478,000	32,624,441	23,050,202	8,975,559	133,250	45,366,000	25,661,452	56.6
Focus Area 1	29,611,000	27,620,406	116,721,971	106,582,386	51,684,069	8,861,056	198,017,040	143,063,848	72.2
2.1	7,962,500	9,693,028	17,549,646	14,751,013	11,152,854	2,917,980	36,665,000	27,362,021	74.6
2.2	22,621,000	22,579,198	52,710,200	43,024,615	29,760,500	5,728,702	105,091,700	71,332,515	67.9
2.3	3,400,000	3,410,522	9,360,480	8,429,127	5,761,520	1,133,772	18,522,000	12,973,420	70.0
2.4	9,780,000	9,521,861	7,290,900	5,703,734	9,521,100	4,787,271	26,592,000	20,012,866	75.3
Focus Area 2	43,763,500	45,204,609	86,911,226	71,908,489	56,195,974	14,567,724	186,870,700	131,680,822	70.5
3.1	3,480,000	3,844,230	2,814,574	5,653,854	2,410,426	1,723,806	8,705,000	11,221,890	128.9
3.2	12,445,000	12,665,195	16,269,478	13,326,995	11,770,522	2,086,658	40,485,000	28,078,848	69.4
3.3	17,680,000	18,128,988	8,999,381	9,233,765	9,035,649	5,527,516	35,715,030	32,890,268	92.1
3.4	570,000	2,314,109	5,579,339	3,591,129	4,290,661	429,000	10,440,000	6,334,239	60.7
Focus Area 3	34,175,000	36,952,522	33,662,772	31,805,743	27,507,258	9,766,980	95,345,030	78,525,245	82.4
Total One Plan	107,549,500	109,777,537	237,295,969	210,296,619	135,387,301	33,195,759	480,232,770	353,269,915	73.6
Difference		2,228,037		-26,999,350		-102,191,542		-126,962,855	



The analysis highlighted in Figure 2 concluded that, as of 31 December 2013, more than 70 per cent of resource requirements for all three focus areas as defined in the One Plan Budget 2012-2016 had either already been secured or were expected to be secured over the remainder of the One Plan period. However, significant disparities existed at outcome level. On a percentage basis, the outcomes facing the greatest resource challenges include:

- Outcome 1.4: Natural Resources and Environmental Management (43 per cent shortfall)
- Outcome 3.4: Political, Social, Professional and Mass Organizations (39.3 per cent shortfall)
- Outcome 1.1: Evidence-based Development Policies in a LMIC Viet Nam (36.6 per cent shortfall)
- Outcome 2.2: Health (32.1 per cent shortfall).

In financial terms, the outcomes facing the highest shortfalls include:

- Outcome 2.2: Health (a US\$33.8 million shortfall)
- Outcome 1.1: Evidence-based Development Policies in a LMIC Viet Nam (a US\$21.3 million shortfall)
- Outcome 1.4: Natural Resources and Environmental Management (a US\$19.7 million shortfall)
- Outcome 3.2: Legal and Judicial Reform and Access to Justice (a US\$12.4 million shortfall).

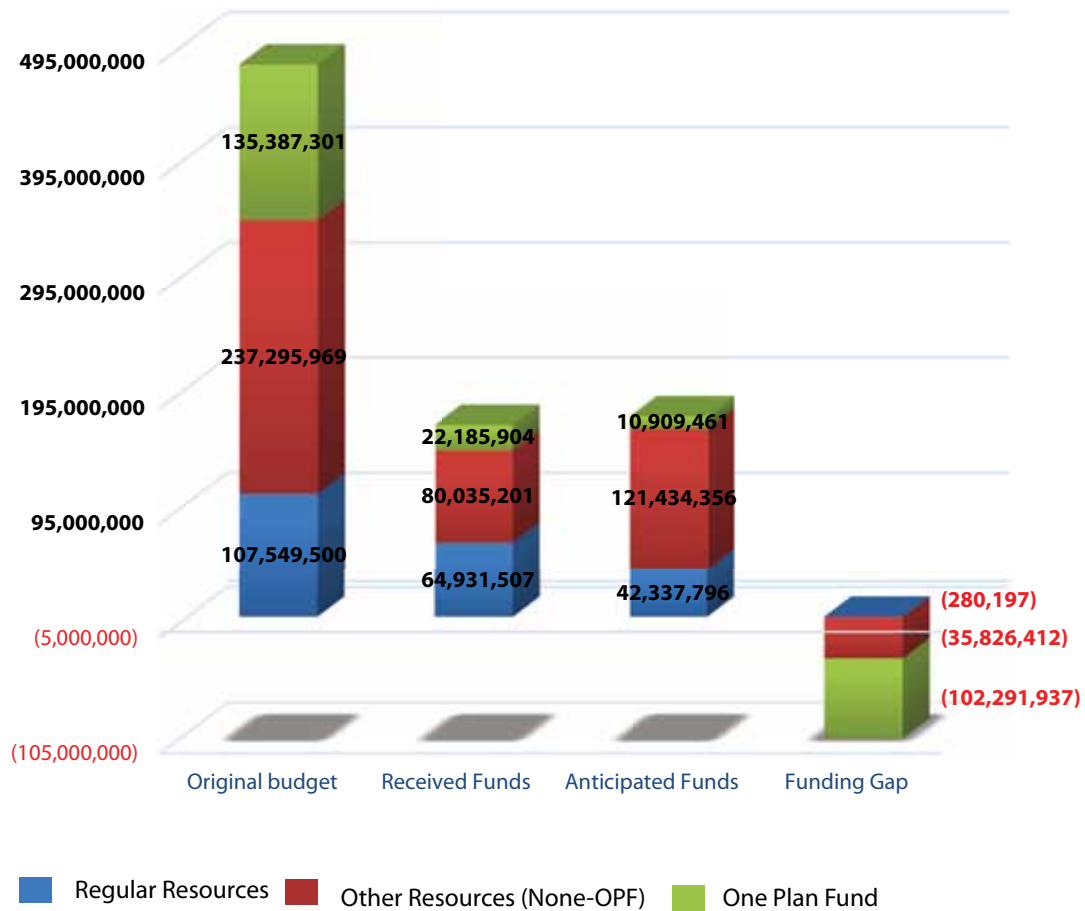
In contrast, the volume of funding already secured or expected to be secured for Outcome 3.1: Elected Bodies and the Legislative Process surpasses the budget indicated in the One Plan by 28.9 per cent, the equivalent of US\$2.5 million.

To fully understand the potential impact of funding patterns on the implementation of the One Plan 2012-2016, it is necessary to carry out the same exercise at output level. This will identify the outputs with significant funding challenges and determine which dimensions of the One Plan will not be implemented if further resources are not allocated. This exercise is scheduled to take place in 2014.

Analysis of the One Plan Budget Projected Funding Gap 2014-2016

A further exercise conducted in 2013 examined the indicative funding gap by source of funding for the remainder of the One Plan period, 2014 to 2016. This looked at the volume of funds agencies had actually received and the funds they anticipated receiving from different funding sources. The results of this exercise are indicated in Figure 3.

Figure 3: One Plan Budget Projected Funding Gap 2014-2016 (US\$)



This exercise concluded that as a result of UNCT resource mobilization efforts and the support of a range of donors, the indicative funding gap in the One Plan Budget had been reduced from US\$300 million at the time of One Plan signing to approximately US\$137 million at the end of 2013. During the remainder of the One Plan period, the level of funding from regular resources is expected to be close to the original indicative budget of US\$107 million, while the funding gap in other resources is approximately 15 per cent of the original budget of US\$237 million, the equivalent of US\$35.8 million. The greatest funding gap is forecast in funding expected to be raised through the OPF, where only US\$35 million of the originally budgeted US\$135 million has been raised or is expected to be raised, the equivalent of 26 per cent of the original funding target.

2013 One Plan Expenditure

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate 2013 One Plan expenditure at One Plan outcome and agency levels from the three funding sources listed. The discrepancy in expenditure found in the two tables is a result of leftover expenditure related to outcomes under the previous One Plan being utilized in 2012. To ensure full alignment with figures provided through the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) Gateway, these expenditures have not been taken into account in the agency expenditure table (Figure 5).

Figure 4: 2013 Expenditure by One Plan 2012-2016 Outcome (US\$)

Outcomes	Expenditure from Regular Resources (Core) in 2013	Expenditure from Other Resources in 2013	Expenditure from OPF Resources in 2013	Total Expenditure in 2013
Focus Area 1: Inclusive, Equitable and Sustainable Growth				
Outcome 1.1 - Evidence-based Development Policies in a LMIC Viet Nam	3,902,007	2,824,644	571,517	7,298,168
Outcome 1.2 - Opportunities for Decent Work	899,476	5,269,499	96,224	6,265,199
Outcome 1.3 - Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management	1,417,951	3,371,602	593,569	5,383,122
Outcome 1.4 - Natural Resources and Environmental Management	653,459	4,612,091	5,089	5,270,639
Total Focus Area 1	6,872,892	16,077,836	1,266,400	24,217,127
Focus Area 2: Access to Quality Essential Social Services and Social Protection				
Outcome 2.1 - Social Protection	866,122	2,587,347	799,687	4,253,156
Outcome 2.2 - Health	5,607,996	11,667,243	1,248,902	18,524,140
Outcome 2.3 - Education and Training	882,999	2,812,836	233,662	3,929,497
Outcome 2.4 - Gender Equality and HIV	2,072,814	2,325,570	789,438	5,187,822
Total Focus Area 2	9,429,932	19,392,995	3,071,689	31,894,616
Focus Area 3: Enhanced Governance and Participation				
Outcome 3.1 - Elected Bodies and the Legislative Process	1,591,349	435,936	373,156	2,400,441
Outcome 3.2 - Legal and Judicial Reform and Access to Justice	1,344,661	2,373,984	614,542	4,333,187
Outcome 3.3 - Public Administrative Reform	3,648,526	1,689,144	1,358,226	6,695,896
Outcome 3.4 - Political, Social, Professional and Mass Organizations	537,263	604,678	-2,472	1,139,470
Total Focus Area 3	7,121,799	5,103,742	2,343,452	14,568,993
TOTAL	23,424,622	40,574,573	6,681,542	70,680,736

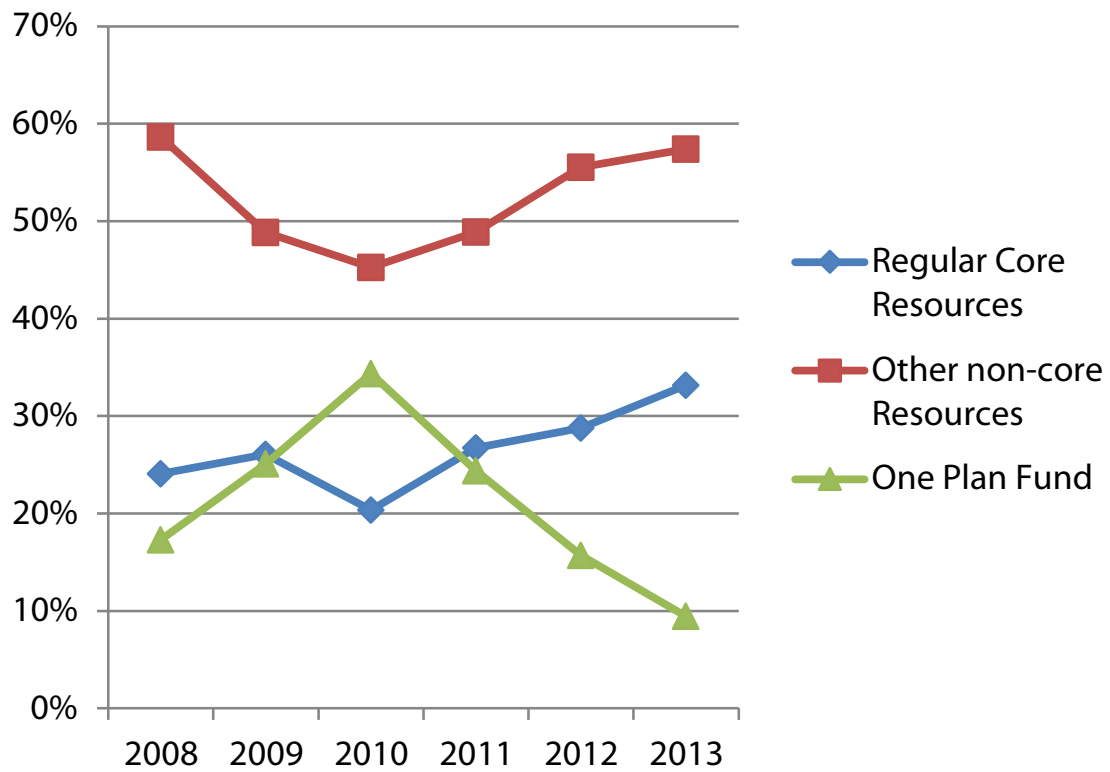
Figure 5: 2013 Expenditure by UN Agency and Funding Source (US\$)

UN Agency	Expenditure from Regular Resources (Core) in 2013	Expenditure from Other Resources in 2013 (non-OPF)	Expenditure from OPF Resources in 2013	Total Expenditure in 2013
FAO	607,150	5,109,186	172,713	5,889,049
IFAD	0	280,000	0	280,000
ILO	157,370	4,600,871	233,103	4,991,344
IOM	218,552	573,695	59,439	851,686
ITC	0	0	0	0
UNAIDS	119,729	1,068,209	78,257	1,266,195
UNDP	9,471,455	8,901,483	2,416,427	20,789,365
UNEP	40,000	444,000	0	484,000
UNESCO	414,114	682,454	155,634	1,252,203
UNFPA	4,422,329	0	695,449	5,117,778
UN-Habitat	286,927	0	129,141	416,068
UNICEF	4,364,043	8,686,604	1,401,585	14,452,232
UNIDO	12,328	2,318,260	107,536	2,438,124
UNODC	94,845	1,013,392	287,335	1,395,572
UNV	0	632,717	13,325	646,042
UN Women	731,726	591,510	263,176	1,586,412
WHO	2,484,054	5,672,191	524,132	8,680,377
TOTAL	23,424,622	40,574,573	6,537,252	70,536,447

Total One Plan expenditure in 2013 of US\$70.5 million stood at approximately the same level as 2008 and was up more than US\$5 million compared to 2012. This increase is the result of a higher number of detailed project outlines (DPOs) approved by the Government in 2012, the implementation of which started in late 2012 or in 2013. However, overall expenditure compared to 2010 decreased by almost 26 per cent and is a reflection of less country level donor funding made available to the UN.

A closer analysis of the expenditure by funding sources indicates that expenditure from core resources has increased as a percentage of overall expenditure from 25 per cent in 2008 to 33 per cent in 2013. At the same time, the percentage of overall expenditure from other resources has remained stable, whereas expenditure from OPF as a percentage of overall expenditure decreased sharply from 34 per cent in 2010 to just 9 per cent in 2013 (see Figure 6).

Figure 6: One Plan Expenditure by Funding Source: 2008-2013



This fall in expenditure from the OPF reflects the decreasing relative importance of the OPF as a funding source for UN agencies. This is presenting a challenge for the implementation of the DaO initiative, as the OPF has served as a valuable incentive for promoting joint programming between UN agencies in Viet Nam. Without adequate funding channelled through the OPF, the UN's ability to allocate funding to programmatic areas expected to have the greatest strategic impact will be limited. Diminishing levels of resources are also likely to lead to renewed competition between UN agencies for scarce donor resources.

One Plan Fund

Designed to promote pooled funding, reduce transaction costs and attract non-earmarked funding, the OPF 2012-2016 remains a critical component in driving forward the 2nd generation DaO process in Viet Nam, acting as an incentive for joint implementation of the One Plan.

At the outset of the One Plan period in 2012, funds expected to be mobilized through the OPF amounted to approximately 30 per cent, or US\$135 million, of the total budget required to implement the One Plan 2012-2016. However, it is now anticipated that only US\$35 million will be raised for the OPF during 2012-2016. This figure corresponds to approximately one-third of the US\$95.4 million allocated by donors to the previous OPF for 2007-2011.

Figure 7 summarizes donors' contributions to the OPF during 2012 and 2013. The number of donors decreased from 15 to nine during this period and has been accompanied by a decrease in contribution levels, from US\$95.4 million for 2007-2011 to US\$25.3 million for 2012-2013 (with an additional US\$9 million pledged for the remainder of the One Plan period). It is also observed that where previous OPF contributions averaged US\$6.8 million per

donor, contributions to the current OPF have averaged US\$1.8 million.

The Government of Belgium is the only new donor contributing to the current OPF from the previous OPF.

Over time, there has been a gradual move by donors towards an increase in soft earmarking of funds at the One Plan 2012-2016 outcome level. Where almost all funding allocated to the previous OPF was un-earmarked, more than 50 per cent of funds provided now are soft earmarked contributions. Some donors are also moving away from using the OPF as the only mechanism for providing financial support to the UN in Viet Nam and are providing direct funding to individual agencies. The increased earmarking of funds results in a reduction of the UN's ability to make strategic decisions as to where resources held in the OPF should be allocated to have the greatest development impact.

2013 One Plan Fund Allocations

The OPF is considered an incentive fund for the promotion of DaO principles in Viet Nam, including improved programmatic efficiency through joint programming. Allocation of donor contributions from the OPF is done on a competitive basis subject to the quality of proposals submitted by UN agencies.

The quality of proposals submitted by UN agencies is assessed by an Independent Review Panel¹⁰, whose ratings guide the final allocation of resources from the OPF. The panel reviews proposals against an agreed set of criteria which seek to promote UN joint programming and prioritize activities which can generate immediate and sustained impacts. In 2013, the criteria were revised to sharpen focus towards joint programming. In addition to this joint

¹⁰ Made up of three independent consultants, two internationals and one national.

Figure 7: Donor Contributions to One Plan Fund II (2012-2016) 31 December 2013 (US\$)

No	Donors	One Plan Fund II (2012-2016) 2012	One Plan Fund II (2012-2016) 2013	Total
1	UK Department for International Development	1,588,878	2,295,684	3,884,562
2	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	2,003,309	1,200,000	3,203,309
3	Irish Aid	1,492,490	1,305,100	2,797,590
4	Expanded DaO Funding Window	2,225,000		2,225,000
5	Government of Norway	3,619,313	273,304	3,892,617
6	Australian Agency for International Development	-	2,411,180	2,411,180
7	Government of Finland	-	2,656,500	2,656,500
8	Government of Luxembourg	810,197	750,000	1,560,197
9	Government of Belgium	1,289,000	1,316,900	2,605,900
	Accumulated interest from previous OPF donations	22,701		
	Total	13,050,886	12,208,668	25,259,554

programming emphasis, the proposals are assessed against three main criteria in the shape of programme priority, cross-cutting issues and past performance. A number of sub-criteria, including alignment to national development priorities, contribution to national policy dialogues and policy development as well as contribution to national capacity development, are also taken into consideration. The five cross-cutting issues in the One Plan - environmental sustainability, gender equality, a rights-based approach, culturally appropriate programming and HIV - are assessed separately as with agencies' past performances in previous OPF allocations.

Since 2007, the OPF allocation process has been managed by the UNCT. With the

aim of further strengthening the process and ensuring greater national ownership, it was decided at the One Plan Steering Committee meeting in November 2013 that all future OPF allocations will be carried out in close consultation with the Government of Viet Nam. It was also confirmed that the Government and UN will jointly provide overall guidance for the process, as well as review and approve the allocation criteria. The composition of the One Plan Fund Independent Review Panel and the final OPF allocation will also be jointly decided. It was further agreed that the panel's ratings of proposals submitted by UN agencies will not be subject to appeal by either the Government or UN agencies, and will continue to guide the allocation of funds from the OPF.

In 2013, the total amount of funding transferred from donors to the OPF was US\$12,208,668, bringing total contributions to date to US\$25,259,554. Figure 8 shows the allocation of funds per One Plan outcome for 2012 and 2013, while Figure 9 shows the allocation of funds per participating UN agency. The OPF is administered by the MPTF Office on behalf of the UN system and administrative charges are applied to

the Trust Fund Office and implementing UN agencies receiving the funds. This explains the difference between donor contributions and actual allocations. In 2012, a small amount of funding from the previous OPF was allocated to agencies in line with outcomes in the One Plan 2006-2011. These amounts are not reflected in Figure 8 as it contains information on the One Plan 2012-2016 outcomes only.

Figure 8: 2012 and 2013 One Plan Fund Allocations by One Plan 2012-2016 Outcomes (US\$)

Outcomes	2012	2013	Total Allocation
Outcome 1.1 - Evidence-based Development Policies in a LMIC Viet Nam	355,175	1,983,462	2,338,637
Outcome 1.2 - Opportunities for Decent Work	123,930	704,710	828,640
Outcome 1.3 - Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management	756,360	1,870,000	2,626,360
Outcome 1.4 - Natural Resources and Environmental Management	62,500	40,500	103,000
Total Focus Area 1	1,297,965	4,598,672	5,896,637
Outcome 2.1 - Social Protection	691,514	1,269,077	1,960,591
Outcome 2.2 - Health	928,650	2,123,170	3,051,820
Outcome 2.3 - Education and Training	90,660	670,792	761,452
Outcome 2.4 - Gender Equality and HIV	901,437	2,303,366	3,204,803
Total Focus Area 2	2,612,261	6,366,405	8,978,666
Outcome 3.1 - Elected Bodies and the Legislative Process	0.00	1,209,898	1,209,898
Outcome 3.2 - Legal and Judicial Reform and Access to Justice	590,160	805,635	1,395,795
Outcome 3.3 - Public Administrative Reform	446,836	3,226,131	3,672,967
Outcome 3.4 - Political, Social, Professional and Mass Organizations	286,000	0.00	286,000
Total Focus Area 3	1,322,996	5,241,664	6,564,660
TOTAL	5,233,222	16,206,741	21,439,963

Figure 9: 2012 and 2013 One Plan Fund Allocations to Participating UN Agencies (US\$)

UN Agency	2012	2013	Total Allocation
FAO	358,616	520,067	878,683
ILO	679,937	1,099,163	1,779,100
IOM	47,430	217,575	265,005
UNAIDS	251,218	394,605	645,823
UNDP	1,810,694	5,238,823	7,049,517
UNEP	20,000	64,500	84,500
UNESCO	163,357	405,722	569,079
UNFPA	114,000	1,399,680	1,513,680
UN-Habitat	237,795	331,690	569,485
UNICEF	1,123,616	3,216,620	4,340,236
UNIDO	227,500	617,230	844,730
UNODC	344,665	850,183	1,194,848
UNV	59,500	100,452	159,952
UN Women	345,000	520,914	865,914
WHO	760,212	1,229,517	1,989,729
TOTAL	6,543,540	16,206,741	22,750,281

One Plan Fund Expenditure

Data concerning all final expenditure of OPF resources for the 2012 and 2013 financial years was submitted to the MPTF Office by the headquarters of each participating organization. As illustrated in Figure 10, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$22,750,281. The cumulative expenditure reported by the participating organizations amount to US\$16,770,776. This equates to an overall fund expenditure delivery rate of close to 74 per cent over the two-year period.

The One Plan Fund Mobilization and Allocation Committee agreed a 24-month implementation period from the time of allocation of funds and UN agencies are committed to prioritizing the disbursement of OPF funds.

The reason why some agencies have a higher delivery rate than the net funded amount is adjustments made in OPF expenditure to correct previous years' allocations to outcomes contained in the One Plan Fund 2008-2011. These adjustments were only reflected in 2012.

Figure 10: One Plan Fund Net Funded Amount, Reported Expenditure and Financial Delivery by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2013 (US\$)

Participating Organization	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate (%)
		Prior Years	Current Year	Cumulative	
		As of 31 Dec 2012	Jan-Dec 2013		
FAO	878,683	1,105,351	172,713	1,278,064	145.45%
ILO	1,779,100	1,269,884	233,103	1,502,987	84.48%
IOM	265,005	1,770	59,439	61,209	23.10%
UNAIDS	645,823	354,111	78,257	432,368	66.95%
UNDP	7,049,517	1,837,753	2,416,427	4,254,180	60.35%
UNDP (UNV)	159,952		13,325	13,325	8.33%
UNEP	84,500			0	0.00%
UNESCO	569,079	376,029	155,634	531,663	93.43%
UNFPA	1,513,680	1,871	695,449	697,320	46.07%
UN-Habitat	569,485	351,470	129,141	480,611	84.39%
UNICEF	4,340,236	1,600,467	1,401,585	3,002,052	69.17%
UNIDO	844,730	597,568	107,536	705,104	83.47%
UNODC	1,194,848	793,115	287,335	1,080,450	90.43%
UN Women	865,914	283,769	263,176	546,945	63.16%
WHO	1,989,729	1,660,366	524,132	2,184,498	109.79%
Grand Total	22,750,281	10,233,524	6,537,252	16,770,776	73.72%

Administrative Agent Functions

The OPF II is administered by the MPTF Office in New York. Established in 2006, the MPTF Office is the fund administrator for the UN system when UNDP is selected to administer donor funds intended for multi-agency operations established in the context of humanitarian, transition, reconstruction and development programmes.

The pass-through, fund-management mechanism used to transfer funds enhances UN transparency and accountability, and is a direct application of DaO and the aid effectiveness agenda. It is also consistent with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action, including national ownership and alignment with national priorities, harmonization and coordination, effective and inclusive

partnerships and achieving development results and accounting for them.

The MPTF Office uses this arrangement to enable partnerships between donors, Governments and UN organizations. As per the memorandum of understanding concluded between participating UN organizations and the administrative agent, as well as the standard administrative arrangement concluded between donors and the administrative agent, the responsibilities of the administrative agent include the receipt, administration and management of contributions from donors, disbursement of such funds to participating UN organizations, in accordance with the approved programmatic documents and provision of consolidated reports, based on the reports submitted by participating UN organizations.

Transparency and Accountability

To effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (<http://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The gateway provides financial information, including contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditure reported by participating organizations, interest income and expenses. In addition, the gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

Resource Mobilization in Support of One Plan 2012-2016 Implementation

In 2013, analysis of the One Plan Budget funding gap in Viet Nam was accompanied by a mapping of existing donors and a review of potential partnerships, including through Government cost-sharing. The updated financial status of the One Plan 2012-2016, as well as fresh ideas for resource mobilization, were presented and discussed at the DaO Steering Committee meeting in November 2013.

The committee members agreed that further resource mobilization efforts were required to ensure sufficient funding was available to support the One Plan's full implementation. The following measures were proposed and will be undertaken in 2014:

- While the One Plan's priorities remain relevant, it should be reprioritized and outputs expected to be implemented with currently available funding identified. In addition One Plan results the UN will be unable to deliver, unless additional funding is made available, should be clearly communicated to the DaO Steering Committee.
- An analysis of ODA disbursement rates by sector should be conducted to assess whether any of these areas can be correlated with the One Plan thematic and priority areas. The possibility of the UN supporting the Government in the delivery of programmes in areas where levels of ODA disbursement are relatively low should be explored.
- The possibility of the Government providing cost-sharing support to UN projects and programmes should be explored, with a particular emphasis on integrating efforts with current national target programmes.
- The UNCT should develop a set of breakthrough proposals, which could be used for immediate resource mobilization purposes.

In close cooperation and consultation with DaO partners, the UNCT has taken concrete actions to address these resource mobilization challenges and will be reporting on outcomes at the next DaO Steering Committee meeting, tentatively scheduled for mid 2014.



Chapter 4

Lessons Learned and the Way Forward

Lessons Learned

1. Rights-based approach, partnerships and participation

Given its neutrality and normative roles, especially in the area of human rights, the UN is uniquely placed to contribute towards legal and policy formulation as well as advocate for the interests and participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups, work that cuts across the One Plan 2012-2016. In this regard, in 2013 a number of important political and law-making processes allowed the UN in Viet Nam to fully demonstrate its capacity.

Close partnerships with the Government, line ministries and National Assembly provided the UN with the necessary space to deliver policy advocacy and advice linking international norms with national policy and sub-national programmes to champion the rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Furthermore, as a trusted and impartial partner, the UN was able to act as a bridge between the Government and other entities, including civil society organizations, in sensitive areas of dialogue such as the UPR and Constitutional amendment processes. Through the organization of various consultative forums, the UN was not only able to offer access to international best practices, but also create the space for unprecedented dialogue between the Government and civil society.

A key lesson learned during the course of 2013 is that in pursuing a human rights-based approach to development, creating space for effective dialogue is an important first step within broader and longer term advocacy processes, which with time can lead to significant evolutions in policy. Furthermore, as Viet Nam further integrates into the global system, its need for international best practice mentoring and capacity building will increase. Given its unique position, it is essential the UN in Viet Nam continues to support human rights-based approaches to development with a particular accent on the provision of upstream policy advice.

2. Joint programming and advocacy

Multi-sectoral collaboration as a means of delivering development results is at the core of the UN's work in Viet Nam and this entails not only joint programming, but also joint policy analysis and advocacy. One lesson learned in terms of the success of such joint initiatives in 2013, is that appropriate incentives are needed for agencies to take advantage of potential synergies, whilst also reducing duplication of efforts. Such incentives include providing the space for UN agencies to participate according to their comparative advantages and this needs to be complemented by senior management support, guidance and leadership. Multi-partner funding mechanisms have also served to encourage joint programming and programme implementation.

3. Results monitoring

The 2012 RBM Strategy marked a clear shift in terms of the UNCT's commitment to adopting a more comprehensive approach to the way the UN plans, monitors, reports and evaluates its contribution to Viet Nam's development.

However, implementation of the strategy has proved to be challenging because of a lack of capacity. RBM is a new concept and stakeholder expectations are diverse and sometimes contradictory, factors that are compounded by methodological limitations in monitoring results at a policy level.

A key lesson learned in 2013 has been the need to continue to invest in staff capacity development for performance monitoring and reporting, whilst also drawing on individual agencies' expertise and experience in M&E. This encompasses innovative and real-time monitoring, and developing dynamic approaches to monitoring and reporting to maximize the full potential of comprehensive tools such as the One Plan Database.

4. DAO governance

DaO is a joint commitment and shared responsibility of the UN, Government of Viet Nam and donors. In 2013, a new DaO governance structure was approved by the Prime Minister to allow for the joint review of results in One Plan focus areas, the overall One Plan and DaO processes. The first One Plan and DaO Steering Committee meetings held in November 2013 served as important platforms to take stock of results achieved in the first year of implementing the 2nd generation of DaO and jointly agree upon the way forward.

Prior to the steering committee meetings, multi-stakeholder FACG meetings reviewed progress made in the delivery of results in each of the One Plan 2012-2016's three focus areas. Feedback from the FACG meetings highlighted difficulties



in structuring discussions around a few key issues given the broad range of programmatic areas covered by the focus areas. This was particularly the case in Focus Area 2, with a wide range of line ministries and UN agencies engaged. It was proposed that the monitoring and evaluation of how results are achieved could be undertaken at a more sectoral and thematic level, such as in education, gender and health. This feedback will be taken into careful consideration when designing the strategic dialogue process on the results achieved in 2014.

5. Timely approval of project outlines

One of the major challenges UN agencies in Viet Nam had faced was the time required to complete the approval process for DPOs, which in turn impacted on UN agencies' project implementation and financial delivery rates. As a reflection of the joint commitment to DaO and for agencies to respond in an agile manner to the rapidly evolving situation in Viet Nam, UN agencies and the Government of Viet Nam in 2013 agreed to fast-track the DPO approval process, meaning that projects which had secured a minimum of 20 per cent of overall funding could be formally approved. In addition, agreement was reached on the harmonization of the DPO approval processes between UN agencies and line-ministries, under MPI coordination. Adopting a more flexible and harmonized approach led to 71 DPOs approved in 2013, a significant increase over previous years. This resulted in UN agencies accelerating project implementation and improving expenditure and delivery rates, which has allowed for increased tangible development results and more time for dedicated joint results monitoring and advocacy.

6. Funding

In financial terms, DaO requires predictable and sustainable funding. The global decline in ODA combined with Viet Nam obtaining LMIC status in 2010 has resulted in reduced

resources to support the One Plan's implementation, leading to a significant funding gap. In response to pressures from donor's respective governments, donors in Viet Nam are increasingly earmarking contributions to the UN, which will fragment UN support and dilute the DaO process. Within the LMIC context of Viet Nam, the UN will need to operate differently to stay relevant and remain fit for purpose. Learning from other LMICs where the UN and Government have moved from a donor-recipient to a partnership relationship, in 2013 the UN in Viet Nam launched a number of strategic analyses. These included an assessment of which One Plan results will be most affected by the funding gap, as well as a study of ODA trends and the feasibility of the Government providing cost-sharing support to UN agencies. These initiatives have triggered new thinking around redefining the future partnership between the UN and the Government, so it becomes more aligned to the context of Viet Nam as a LMIC.

7. Change management

Staff engagement and ownership continues to be a critical factor for the successful implementation of UN reform. Implementation of DaO has implications for the way staff work and deliver results together across the UN in Viet Nam. Staff embracing the DaO concept and new practices is as important as securing the full engagement and commitment of senior management. This will be even more critical with relocation to the GOUNH in 2014, which will result in the introduction of new joint operational procedures and functional clustering requiring staff to sit according to function and not agency affiliation. In 2014, the UN will invest even more time and resources to ensure staff participation by intensifying communication on change management-related matters.

8. Global leadership on Delivering as One

From a global perspective, a key area of success was the extent to which the UN in Viet Nam's experiences in implementing DaO influenced and shaped the UNDG Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines for UNCTs in DaO countries. Experience in Viet Nam is also providing insights into the way the UN needs to transform itself to meet the needs of new and emerging LMIC countries, amid a backdrop of declining donor funding.

In the coming year it will be especially important for the UN to continue to analyze, document and build on its experiences in areas where it is at the cutting edge of DaO, including the GOUNH project, introduction of functional clustering within the GOUNH, establishment of the common services platform and continued harmonization of approaches to programme delivery and business operations. This will ensure the lessons learned can help other countries' strategic decision-making as they move forward in the implementation of the DaO initiative.

Moving Forward

As Viet Nam's aid environment evolves and available resources decline, it is even more critical for the UN to focus on its strengths and comparative advantages. This will be particularly relevant for the formulation of the next One Plan for 2017-2021.

In 2013, the UN in Viet Nam continued to implement the human rights-based One Plan 2012-2016. In this regard, the completion of a number of important political processes in Viet Nam during the year allowed the UN to fully exercise not only its normative role in supporting the Government of Viet Nam to fulfill its international commitments, but also demonstrate its capacities in terms of rights-based analysis and policy advice. These developments in the area of human

rights, including Viet Nam's election to the Human Rights Council and the UPR process, opened up significant space for dialogue around human rights issues. In 2014, the UN in Viet Nam will build on progress from 2013 to continue playing a key role in supporting the Government to adopt a human rights-based approach to development across all programmatic areas and support efforts to fulfill international commitments.

As bilateral donors accelerate their withdrawal from the country, the UN will be placed in an even stronger position to work with the Government of Viet Nam in addressing an unfinished development agenda. In the context of a LMIC Viet Nam where promoting equity in governance and social policy while addressing inequalities are priorities, the UN's mandate and special relationship with the Government, as well as its ability to work with the National Assembly and civil society, give it a significant comparative advantage. This will allow the UN in 2014 to grasp further opportunities to strengthen the State and citizens' compact, including increased private sector engagement as a key component of civil society.

For the UN to further build upon its comparative advantages, it is important as a 2nd generation DaO country that efforts continue to be invested across all components of the DaO initiative in Viet Nam, given that all pillars are mutually reinforcing. The experiences of 2013 have shown that a more mature DaO architecture needs to evolve within the simplification of processes and structures that effectively and efficiently allow the UN to deliver its substantive agenda.



Chapter 4

Annual Results Report 2013: Delivering as One





Annex

Detailed 2013 Results

The following section provides an overview of all results achieved in 2013 per output. Each of the results feature the specific agency or agencies that made key contributions to its achievement. This information complements the progress towards annual targets contained in the One Plan Database.

The One Plan Database:

For more information, please go to:
<http://www.dimonitoring.org/v3/vietnam>

[User ID: **OPDuser** / Password: **OPD2012**]

Focus Area 1: Inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth

Outcome 1.1: People-centred, green and evidence-based development policies

Output 1.1.1: Greater use of statistics for evidence-based socio-economic planning and decision-making

Improved capacity of the GSO and data producers to implement and monitor the Viet Nam Statistical Development Strategy using an M&E framework. Also improved GSO capacity to disseminate data through an online survey that captures data users' satisfaction and that complements the offline survey conducted every two years. Dissemination of information also improved following the adoption of the State Statistics Information Dissemination Policy and related MPI guidance. **(UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UN-Habitat)**

As one of the higher quality sources of data on labour and employment in Viet Nam, data from the upgraded labour statistics system is often used in official reports and documents. The system was supported with labour force survey questionnaires, the survey methodology was updated in line with international standards and monthly surveys were conducted. **(ILO)**

The first Child Labour Force Survey was completed and findings used to develop the National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour 2015-2020. **(ILO)**

Design and data collection for key surveys conducted in 2013/2014, such as the fifth Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey and the Inter-censal Population and Housing Survey. **(UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP)**

Output 1.1.2: Strategic options for people-centred development are produced and considered by policy-makers

Several studies and policy papers on people-centred development were considered and used by national stakeholders. Worth highlighting is the joint policy response to the Government on the SEDP mid-term review, developed in cooperation with the World Bank and ADB, and the World Bank-led policy note on the revision of the Land Law. **(UNDP)**

Policy recommendations regarding the need for balanced economic, human and environmental city development (green growth) piloted in Da Nang. **(UN-Habitat)**

National dialogues carried out to identify the focus for pro-poor policies, with special focus on food security and sustained livelihoods in the context of climate change. **(FAO, IFAD)**

Policy studies and debate around key topics such as macro-economic issues and fossil fuels, and ethnic minority poverty reduction. **(UNDP)**

Participatory planning principles successfully promoted in the national guidelines for the National Target Programme for Sustainable Poverty Reduction. This resulted in greater relevance of the target programme at grassroots levels, particularly among ethnic minorities. The innovative models for job creation and livelihood improvements, which will be scaled up to the national level, directly benefited 2,067 women and 3,347 men in eight pilot provinces. **(UNDP)**

Two policy-oriented studies conducted on macro-economic policies for full and productive employment and the impacts of regional integration, specifically the ASEAN Economic Community 2015, on the labour market. **(ILO)**

The Viet Nam Investment Monitoring and Management Platform operationalized and the Viet Nam Industrial Investment Report launched. **(UNIDO)**

Output 1.1.3: Poverty reduction analysis and planning by the Government used a multi-dimensional approach

A roadmap for applying multi-dimensional poverty measurement as a tool for poverty monitoring, and poverty reduction policy-making and targeting. This included a research paper in preparation for the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Master Plan, which will provide directions on new poverty reduction policies. **(UNDP, UNICEF)**

The multi-dimensional child poverty approach was adopted by MoLISA and the GSO. **(UNICEF)**

Multi-dimensional poverty issues were identified and monitored in Ho Chi Minh City, with the objective to inform poverty reduction policies, including identifying target groups. **(UNDP)**

National Assembly adoption of a multi-dimensional poverty approach in its oversight of poverty reduction. **(UNDP, UNICEF)**

Government recognition of the issue of chronic poverty among ethnic minorities as reflected in reports prepared for the Viet Nam Development Partnership Forum as well as the 2013 MDG report and subsequent MDG acceleration plan. **(UNDP, UNICEF)**

Outcome 1.2: New opportunities for decent work, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged

Output 1.2.1: Sustainable enterprise development policies are established with a focus on micro and small enterprises and decent job creation

The National Business Registration System adopted new online registration functions. The registration office's capacity to provide services to the public was strengthened, resulting in 77,800 new businesses registered through the system and all legally valid information and financial statements of shareholding companies for the last three years made available through web-enabled services. **(UNIDO)**

Support provided to Vietnamese companies to enable them to reach higher export standards. **(UNIDO)**

Business matching and technology transfer between Vietnamese and Italian small- and medium-sized enterprises in the furniture, textile and leather sectors promoted. **(UNIDO)**

Economically, socially and environmentally sustainable enterprise-level practices applied through the establishment of market linkages between local producers and the tourism industry in Quang Nam province, creating a community-based tourism model with the potential to be replicated in other provinces. **(UNESCO, ILO, FAO)**

Provincial advisory board in Nghe An and Thanh Hoa provinces established, allowing for professional organizations to participate in the formulation and implementation of local enterprise development and decent job creation policies. **(ILO, UNIDO, FAO, ICT, IFAD)**

Output 1.2.2: National vocational training policies and programmes that respond to current market demands

A core of 16 master trainers from Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Da Nang and Can Tho completed a training of trainers cycle as part of the initiative "Start and Improve Your Business". **(ILO)**

'Know About Your Business', a skills development module, was implemented

through workshops at central and provincial levels (reaching 560 management staff and teachers of 63 provinces), in addition to training of 50 potential facilitators from the northern provinces. **(ILO)**

Collaboration between vocational training service providers and businesses in the tourism sector set up. A training module on tourism introduced in the training materials and curriculum of provincial vocational schools, meeting the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups such as those in the informal economy. **(ILO)**

Improved seed trading and marketing capacity of 25 Government staff in Da Nang, in order to maximize farmers' income from rice seed production. **(FAO)**

Output 1.2.3: Targeted micro and small businesses are more competitive and have greater market shares

Small- and medium-sized enterprises were supported to produce handicraft in five value chains (seagrass, handmade paper, sericulture, bamboo/rattan and lacquer ware), thereby improving their competitiveness, increasing income and generating employment opportunities for the rural poor. **(ILO, UNIDO, FAO, ICT, IFAD)**

Public-private partnership promoted in the tourism sector in Quang Nam, helping to create strong market linkages for the products of informal producers. **(ILO)**

A pilot model for regular business training through community dialogue was developed and tested. This allowed for better links between local small- and medium-sized enterprises and the labour market and labour supply sources. **(ILO)**

UN Global Compact promoted and greater capacity of small- and medium-sized enterprises to adopt corporate social responsibility practices generated. **(UNIDO)**

Policy-makers and local pharmaceutical manufacturers' capacity to respond to the impact of bilateral trade agreements (such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement) strengthened. **(UNIDO, WHO)**

Methods for reducing post-harvest losses for the fruit and vegetable value chain developed. **(UNIDO, FAO)**

Output 1.2.4: Migrant workers benefit from stronger employment policies that prevent discrimination and exploitation

Policy-makers were supported to develop and amend key legal documents to ensure a stronger focus on anti-discrimination against disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. These documents include the Employment Law, the Circular on Standard Labour Supply Contracts and Standard Guest Worker Contracts, and the Circular on the Ceiling of the Deposit Fund for Recruitment Agencies and Migrant Workers. **(IOM, ILO, UN Women)**

Guidance on how to inspect recruitment agencies developed, followed by the piloting of a monitoring mechanism for the Code of Conduct for the Vietnamese Association of Manpower Supply. **(IOM, ILO, UN Women)**

Strengthened the capacity of key stakeholders (such as the trade and youth unions, commune authorities, mass organizations and provincial staff) to ensure the protection of migrants and their rights, with a gender perspective, prior to, during and after the migration process through a number of training sessions. **(IOM, ILO, UN Women)**

Gender-sensitive information on safe migration provided to migrants and other stakeholders in an accessible and clear manner through policy dialogues in six provinces, leaflets and booklets, pre-departure orientation curriculum for use by recruitment agencies and training of trainers. **(IOM, ILO, UN Women)**

Outcome 1.3: Implementation of Viet Nam's commitments to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk management and a more effective environmental management

Output 1.3.1: Climate proofing of national policies, plans and programmes

Methodology for and undertaking of a national public climate expenditure and institutional review that will enable effective planning, budgeting and spending of climate finance, as well as improve the institutional capacity to respond to climate change and promote green growth for inclusive and sustainable development. **(UNDP)**

City leaders and urban planners in Da Nang and Hoi An receive technical assistance, which allows them to mainstream climate change adaptation into city development strategies using participatory methodologies. **(UN-Habitat, UNDP)**

Output 1.3.2: Vulnerable and disadvantaged groups can better withstand disasters

The revised Disaster Risk Management Law was approved, including clearer definition of roles and responsibilities of the State and ministries, and the formulation of a disaster prevention and response fund and guidance for its implementation was developed. **(UNDP)**

Recognition of the Viet Nam Women's Union as an official member of the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control as a result of advocacy highlighting women's contribution in preparedness and responding activities before and after disasters. **(UNDP, UN Women)**

38 women leaders at provincial and district level in Binh Dinh province trained as trainers on gender and disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management. About 160 local authority leaders and

women are now able to develop gender sensitive community action plans on disaster risk reduction for their commune as a result of training received by these trainers. **(UN Women)**

Capacity development needs of the Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control assessed, serving as a baseline for monitoring implementation of the Disaster Risk Management Law, as well as to inform restructuring processes in the sector. **(UNDP)**

Capacity building for the implementation of the Government's Decision 1002 on community based disaster risk management. All 63 provinces have now developed action plans on community based disaster risk reduction, 39 have received approval of budget allocation, and support was provided to an M&E system within MARD. **(UNDP)**

1,016 trainers (of which 205 are women) now have the capacity to provide technical support on implementation of community-based disaster risk management in communes. **(UNDP)**

32 education officials with capacity to apply emergency needs assessment tools trained 507 officials in seven provinces, and provincial action plans for disaster risk management in education were developed in seven provinces and a curriculum framework developed. **(UNICEF)**

Emergency interventions were included into the National Plan of Action for Nutrition and a training package on emergency nutrition was integrated into the regular training course of the National Nutrition Programme. **(UNICEF)**

Draft guidelines on preparedness and response to child protection in emergencies were discussed at the national and provincial levels and inter-agency training on response and recovery techniques for children affected by emergencies

conducted for 40 welfare, Red Cross, Women's Union and Youth Union officers. **(UNICEF)**

National Action Plan on disaster management of the health sector, hospitals able to manage disaster risk using assessment tools and reporting forms to be used in emergencies and disasters to manage information from health systems. **(FAO)**

Output 1.3.3: Development of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Measures and effective national platform and mechanisms to reduce emissions from deforestation and sustainably manage forests

Research on sectoral Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Measures and formulation of selected manufacturing sub-sectors (steel and fertilizer) for registration at UNFCCC and initial assessment. **(UNDP, UNIDO)**

Technologies for reducing mercury in compact fluorescent lights identified, and a social marketing campaign and demonstration project for rural and residential consumers implemented. **(UNEP)**

200 industrial enterprises and 66 consultants/suppliers aware of energy management standards and 56 industrial enterprises adopted energy management standards and system optimization projects. **(UNIDO)**

Scenarios for future food security, environment and livelihoods in Southeast Asia identified, with participation of regional and national experts, and data analysis on behavioural change around climate smart practices completed. **(FAO)**

Broad consultations among national authorities (Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Justice, MARD, Supreme People's Court and Supreme People's Procuracy) to discuss the criminal justice response to illegal timber trade. **(UNODC, UNEP, FAO, UNDP)**

Increased knowledge of 40 officers from the police, customs, border guards and forestry

administration on environmental crime. **(UNODC)**

Launch of a US\$30 million UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II programme in July 2013. The first country to enter Phase II, this will support the implementation of the National REDD+ Action Programme adopted in June 2012 and aims to build the capacity of Viet Nam to participate in REDD+ under the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC. **(UNDP, UNEP, FAO)**

Revised roadmap for compulsory energy efficiency labeling of household appliances and industrial equipment developed and awareness raising programme conducted. **(UNDP)**

Output 1.3.4: National climate change strategy

Further capacity building of the Vietnamese climate change negotiation team. **(UNDP)**

Formulation of the national Green Growth Action Plan and an outline of Ministry of Industry and Trade's Green Growth Action Plan. **(UNDP, UNV)**

Outcome 1.4: More efficient use of natural resources and environmental management

Output 1.4.1: Policies and tools for green economic development and natural resources management

The revision of the draft Law on Environmental Protection to improve community participation in the monitoring and enforcement of the Law, and inclusion of climate change and green growth issues. **(UNDP)**

Formulation of the Party Resolution on Responding to Climate Change and Strengthening Natural Resources and Environmental Protection through a consultative process, as well as formulation of a new Law on Marine and Coastal Natural Resources and Environment. **(UNDP)**

Green industry development fostered through high-level Government commitment at the third green industry conference in China, sharing of good practices and networking. **(UNIDO)**

First draft of the Forest Stewardship Council's International Generic Indicators and questionnaires prepared in Vietnamese. **(UNEP)**

A business case with a cost-benefit analysis and options on sound chemical management used to inform decision makers and society, and a national action plan on sound management of chemicals drafted. **(UNDP)**

A green growth development strategy for Da Nang city and Quang Nam province formulated by city leaders, urban planners, the private sector and local communities. **(UN-Habitat)**

The capacity of local officials in Da Nang, Hoi An and other cities in Quang Nam province improved on multi-sectoral investment frameworks, green growth and partnerships for river-based eco-tourism development, and creative designs for handicraft products provided to local communities to promote intangible cultural heritage conservation, income generation and tourism development. **(UN-Habitat, UNESCO)**

The strategy on water conservation and demand management (WCDM) and policies on water and sanitation (in Quang Tri, Khanh Hoa) to poor formulated by provincial leadership. **(UN-Habitat)**

Workshop on methods of awareness raising, impact monitoring and site planning in environmental services-based forest certification in cities in Ha Tinh and Quang Tri, and training workshop on monitoring environmental services. **(UNEP)**

Output 1.4.2: Improved management of protected areas and biodiversity conservation

Third National Report on Biodiversity to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and first comprehensive National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan adopted in June. This includes a concrete action-based plan aimed at maintaining protection areas on land, seas and islands. **(UNDP)**

Guidelines on business management plans developed for protected areas and piloted in Bidoup-Nui Ba and Cat Ba national parks. **(UNDP)**

Bio-monitoring and a reporting system developed for Xuan Thuy national park and guidelines for reporting developed for protected areas. **(UNDP)**

Output 1.4.3: Sound management of hazardous chemicals and persistent organic pollutants

Development of the Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine detailing the role of stage agencies responsible for treatment of pesticides and describing preventive measures. **(FAO)**

A new national implementation plan to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants drafted, which will include the management of new Persistent Organic Pollutants. **(UNDP)**

The master plan for the management and treatment of the Bien Hoa dioxin hotspot approved. **(UNDP)**

Output 1.4.4: Land use planning and management

Land use efficiency of State-owned farms reviewed, linked to the livelihoods of ethnic minorities. **(FAO)**

Land Law revision approved by the National Assembly. **(FAO, UNDP)**

Focus Area 2: Access to quality essential services and social protection

Outcome 2.1: A more effective social protection system

Output 2.1.1: Data and evidence for policy-makers

The development of three major studies and research reports on several social protection priorities. This includes a feasibility study on social assistance (prepared in collaboration with the World Bank and adopted by the Government), a methodology for rapid impact assessments and a 2013 rapid impact assessment report to monitor changes in vulnerability and the need to adjust social protection policies and a study on the livelihoods of migrants and their children in Ho Chi Minh City. **(UNICEF, UNDP)**

The completion of three studies initiated in 2012 on the actuarial valuation of the public pension system, multi-dimensional poverty among ethnic minority children, and an assessment of the working conditions and occupational health and safety of children and adolescents engaged in three economic sectors. **(ILO, UNICEF)**

Support provided to develop data collection and monitoring tools, such as a set of indicators for monitoring the gender-responsive social protection targets of the national action plan for the implementation of Resolution 15, and to draft a database system on social assistance beneficiaries. **(UN Women, UNICEF)**

Output 2.1.2: Address issues of coherence and overlapping between different policies

Guidance on disability measurement and on the implementation of the national project to support people with disabilities. **(UNICEF)**

The implementation of a model on care and promotion of the roles of the elderly in two provinces (Ben Tre and Hai Duong) under the National Programme of Action on Older Persons 2012-2020. **(UNFPA)**

Policy advice and technical support provided to draft the master plan on reform of the social assistance sector. **(UNDP, UNICEF, ILO)**

Together with other development partners, the UN facilitated consensus building among line ministries and the National Assembly that led to the Government decision to reform social assistance policies. **(UNICEF, UNDP, ILO)**

Output 2.1.3: Alternative legal, policy, targeting and financing options

Design and costing of policy options for the expansion of social assistance and social welfare and protection services, such as the new Decree 136 on social assistance to social protection beneficiaries that expands the target of child beneficiaries and increases the level of minimum support for social protection beneficiaries to VND270,000. **(UNICEF)**

Strengthening of the legal framework on the protection of children in the framework of the amendment of the Law on Child Protection Care and Education in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the adoption of decrees consistent with international child labour standards (ILO Conventions 182 and 138). **(ILO, UNICEF, UNODC)**

Subsidiary anti-human trafficking legislation on improved support for the return and reintegration of survivors of human trafficking, including children. **(IOM, UNICEF)**

Decree 09 on the establishment, licensing and operation of victim support centres and related guidance approved. **(UNICEF, IOM)**

The current social insurance draft reflects a higher retirement age for women and reduces the retirement age gap between men and women, and increases coverage by including short-term contracts and possibly household businesses, as well as potentially covering foreigners. **(ILO, UN Women)**

Output 2.1.4: Stronger human resource capacities to deliver social protection services

Recommendations from a legal review of the development of the Law on Social Work Profession discussed with the National Assembly, line ministries and selected provincial leaders. **(UNICEF)**

Improved the capacity of the MoLISA and Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs officers and university teachers on child protection through a training of trainers session. **(UNICEF)**

Institutional and human resource capacity developed to provide social welfare and protection services to victims of human trafficking with a focus on reception, identification and protection of survivors, including children. **(IOM, UNICEF)**

A community-based reintegration model strengthened and consolidated through the establishment and regular operation of self-help groups for returned victims of trafficking and referral networks in the three provinces of Bac Giang, Tay Ninh and Thua Thien-Hue. **(IOM, UNICEF)**

Outcome 2.2: Better functioning health system and care for the vulnerable and disadvantaged

Output 2.2.1: Stronger building blocks of the health system

Strengthened universal health coverage and greater capacity for equitable and sustainable health financing by facilitating a high-level policy dialogue and providing technical advice to the National Assembly

and the MoH in the revision of the Health Insurance Law, including an analysis of the law from a gender equality perspective.

(WHO, UN Women)

Improved access to essential medicines and health technologies by supporting:

The revised Pharmaceutical Law and the finalization of the National Pharmaceutical Strategy, along with the development of other regulations to ensure the availability of quality-assured, safe, effective and affordable medicines. **(WHO)**

The certification process for the Drug Administration of Viet Nam as a stringent national regulatory authority for vaccines. **(WHO)**

A reduction of the proportion of medicine expenditure covered by the health insurance from 70 per cent in 2009-2011 to about 60 per cent in 2012-2013, through expenditure monitoring, targeted action, review of the reimbursement list and establishment of an evidence-based selection process for essential medicines. **(WHO)**

The National Action Plan for Anti-Microbial Resistance, which is unique in the region. **(WHO)**

Strengthened health information system by supporting:

Development of the national health indicators (including those for reproductive health, gender-based violence and HIV) to enable the Government to consistently monitor health outcomes and to better inform planning. **(UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO)**

A number of reviews and studies to guide decision- and policy-making. This includes tools for conducting a maternal mortality audit, a baseline survey on unmet needs for family planning and maternal health in Quang Binh province, a baseline study on ethnic minority midwives in four provinces

and a review of human resources at commune health centres. **(UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO)**

Strengthened human resources to deliver health services at the primary level and hard to reach areas by supporting:

The circular on the improved use of village health workers and ethnic minority midwives. **(UNFPA)**

An ongoing training programme for village-based ethnic minority midwives on basic management of obstetric complications. **(UNFPA)**

A national core of midwifery competencies, in line with International Confederation of Midwives and WHO standards, and a midwifery curriculum at the bachelor level developed. **(UNFPA)**

The National Programme of Action to strengthen nursing and midwifery services for 2012-2020. **(UNFPA)**

Strengthened quality of health care services:

Circular on quality assurance of medical services in hospitals approved. **(UNFPA)**

Output 2.2.2: Effective prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and conditions

The implementation of pictorial health warnings on cigarette packages following the passage of the Tobacco Control Law in 2012. **(WHO)**

A health-oriented and human rights approach to drug dependence treatment and care that encourages the voluntary, community-based drug treatment and care model as an alternative model to compulsory drug treatment centres. **(UNODC, WHO)**

Securing commitment to pilot a methadone maintenance treatment programme in

prisons to prevent HIV transmission among prisoners as well as in the wider community. **(UNODC, WHO)**

Advocacy for injury prevention and road safety through a behavioral change campaign together with the National Traffic Safety Committee on key risk factors, particularly drink driving, which reached around 60 per cent of the population through television, billboards, leaflets and awareness raising sessions. **(WHO)**

Output 2.2.3: Prevention and control of communicable diseases

Increased capacity to meet the requirements of the 2007 International Health Regulations regarding detection, assessment, notification, reporting and response to public health risks and emergencies of international concern and to implement the roadmap set out by the 2010 Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases. **(WHO)**

Prevention and control of tuberculosis by supporting the development of the National Tuberculosis Strategy to 2020 with a vision to 2030, in line with the global Stop Tuberculosis strategy and providing policy advice on sustainable financing. **(WHO)**

Health sector response to HIV through:

An implementation study to introduce HIV testing and counselling for couples and early antiretroviral therapy among serodiscordant couples, with preliminary results supporting the feasibility and effectiveness of the intervention. **(WHO, UNAIDS)**

Piloting of Treatment 2.0 which consists of a new decentralized service delivery model in commune health stations in Can Tho and Dien Bien provinces, facilitates the expansion of HIV testing and earlier treatment initiation, especially in remote areas, and which has informed the potential integration of HIV services into the primary health care system. **(UNAIDS, WHO)**

Strengthened surveillance, risk assessment, communication and response through:

On influenza A (H7N9): A functional emergency operation centre at the MoH, active collection and analysis of poultry samples in select markets and a weekly risk assessment undertaken with the MoH and MARD. **(FAO, WHO)**

On other emerging infectious diseases (H5N1, rabies and Streptococcus suis): Support to a web-based reporting system and practical, scenario-based sessions to improve health emergency communication and planning among the MoH and MARD officials. **(FAO, WHO)**

Border security was enhanced through an assessment and by improving the capacities at the point of entry. **(FAO, WHO)**

A national risk communication action plan for the prevention of new emerging diseases (2013-2016) approved by the Minister of Health and disseminated at the provincial level. **(WHO)**

Strengthened laboratory capacity including:

Draft Action Plan for the National External Quality Assistance Programme on microbiology, the standardization and synchronization of dengue diagnostic methods for surveillance, the National Regulations on Biosafety and training of laboratory staff on biosafety and the external quality assessment scheme. **(WHO)**

Closer collaboration between animal and human health sectors through:

A joint ministerial circular on collaboration on zoonotic diseases and a joint cross-border exercise between Viet Nam and Cambodia, as well as a joint risk communication exercise. **(FAO, WHO)**

Food safety regulations implemented through:

Improved data collection, strengthened technical capacities in food safety monitoring and support to the country in the ASEAN harmonization process for food safety. **(FAO, WHO)**

Draft version of the Prime Minister's decision on restructuring the public health system. **(WHO)**

Output 2.2.4: Sexual, reproductive, maternal and child health and nutrition

Evidence informing policy-making on MDG 4 and 5 produced including:

Findings from a baseline assessment for maternal/emergency obstetric care interventions in Kon Tum and Ninh Thuan provinces used to adjust interventions on maternal health. **(UNFPA)**

Findings from a baseline on the provision of reproductive health and contraceptive services for young migrants in three industrialized zones in Long An, Nghe An and Nam Dinh provinces used to design interventions on provision of sexual and reproductive health services and information. **(UNFPA)**

Findings from an in-depth analysis of the quality of obstetric/newborn care and emergency practices in health facilities used to adjust the national maternal mortality audit guidelines. **(WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF)**

International experiences regarding adaptation to rapid population aging made available to national stakeholders. **(UNFPA)**

National Assembly members and key Government partners provided with further knowledge on adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health and youth participation in policy dialogues, in preparation for the Youth Law. **(UNFPA, UNICEF)**

Ensuring equitable services for women and children:

Integrated package of services for women and children's health piloted in Cao Bang, Dien Bien, Kon Tum, Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan provinces. **(UNICEF, UNFPA)**

New policy adopted by the Maternal and Child Health Department ensuring that poor women living in remote areas will receive free health care and will be reimbursed for the cost of their transportation and meals at the time the health services are sought. **(UNICEF, UNFPA)**

Promoting life-saving interventions and care for the newborn, including:

The development of national guidance on skilled birth attendance in line with ASEAN guidelines, training materials for kangaroo mother care and for essential newborn care, national guidelines for four interventions around birth (active management of the third stage of labour, delayed cord clamping, skin to skin contact at birth, and immediate breast feeding) and a bottleneck analysis on newborn care and establishment of two neonatal model units in Cao Bang. **(UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO)**

Reducing malnutrition through:

A revision of Decree 21 covering the regulation and control on the marketing of breast milk substitutes in line with the Law on Advertisement, the International Milk Code and other World Health Assembly resolutions. **(WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS)**

The integration of the baby friendly hospital initiative and clinical nutrition services into the revised national decision on quality criteria for hospitals.

High impact stunting reduction interventions scaled up from three to 11 provinces.

National guidelines on micronutrients issued by the National Institute of Nutrition. Nutrition surveillance undertaken by 63

provincial Preventive Medicines Centres, including the introduction of an innovative cell phone technology known as Growth Watch in three provinces.

Sustaining immunization coverage by: providing vaccines to 1.5 million children under one year of age to protect them from at least eight life-threatening infectious diseases, as well as advocacy and communication for development activities on the importance of child immunization. **(WHO, UNICEF)**

Output 2.2.5: Sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (UNICEF, WHO and UN-Habitat)

WASH in the community promoted:

The Community Approaches to Total Sanitation programme in 483 villages and 150 poor households in Cam Lo district in Quang Tri province supported, providing approximately 4,500 new latrines to households.

Investments provided to establish clean water connections in the peri-urban areas of Cam Ranh in Khanh Hoa province and Lam Lo in Quang Tri province, benefiting approximately 5,600 households.

Household water treatment and storage implemented in 47 new communes, benefiting a total of approximately 476,000 people.

Country capacity to ensure WASH practices strengthened:

Improved capacity to apply the Community Approaches to Total Sanitation through 20 training sessions at the district and commune level.

130 provincial water and sanitation units now have greater capacity to apply and train others on household water treatment and storage.

Implementation of water safety plans in urban areas scaled up, and training conducted in Binh Dinh, Da Nang and Thai Nguyen.

Advocacy on water and sanitation scaled up:

Water safety plan manuals for rural and urban implementation developed, and a circular focused on poor rural areas drafted. Improved knowledge of key officials from the MoH and provincial water authorities after participating in study tours to the Malaysia and United Kingdom.

Community led sanitation tools disseminated, and verification guidelines for further trial and sanitation marketed, as well as training manuals prepared for field-testing and finalization.

Outcome 2.3: Expanding the quality and reach of education

Output 2.3.1: Use of evidence and knowledge to strengthen education laws and policies (UNESCO and UNICEF)

The first joint sector review on education, with a focus on primary education, conducted by the MoET with the support of the Education Sector Group and the UN. This is being used to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of the sector's performance.

Recommendations on innovative pedagogical approaches with a focus on non-cognitive and cognitive skills produced through a country case study.

A national report and six provincial briefs on out of school children finalized under the leadership of the MoET. These present disaggregated data related to disparities in education experienced by various groups of disadvantaged children (such as ethnic minority children, children with disabilities, migrant children and those affected by disasters and climate change) and key

recommendations to further promote equity in education.

350 Government officers from line and central ministries as well as from the National Assembly and Communist Party provided with increased understanding on barriers to education, in particular for ethnic minority children, through events like the Global Action Week on Education for All and the National Seminar on Manpower Training in the Course of Economic Development and International Integration.

Joint policy monitoring trips conducted at the sub-national level in An Giang, Dien Bien and Lao Cai provinces with the National Assembly and Committee for Ethnic Minority members have set the direction for further policy review to improve the quality of education for ethnic minorities.

Advocacy resulting in stronger political leadership for mother tongue-based bilingual education, evidenced by the fact that the MoET celebrated International Mother Language Day and advocated for the right to quality education of ethnic minority children.

Awareness raising and participatory consultations at the national level to define Viet Nam's profile as a learning society, and enhanced capacities of the National Steering Committee on Building a Learning Society and its Secretariat to lead policy dialogue.

Output 2.3.2: More capable education institutions for improved learning outcomes (UNESCO, UNICEF and ILO)

945 teachers, cultural heritage and education managers from 63 provinces and cities improved their capacity to implement tools to integrate methodologies of inclusive education, mainly cultural diversity and environmental sustainability, in school curricula.

Two national guidelines addressing language challenges for ethnic minority students, as well as several modules on inclusive education for children with disabilities at primary education level, were developed and institutionalized into existing pre-service teacher training curriculum in selected provinces.

Application of Communication for Development plans for behaviour change contributed in eight provinces to existing efforts to address stigma and discrimination against children affected by HIV/AIDS, children with disabilities and ethnic minority children and support their rights to education.

Training and awareness raising sessions implemented on disaster risk reduction and climate change response, as well as on the use of satellite data and imagery in this area, with the view to develop training courses on sustainable development for education managers and primary school teachers.

An action plan on disaster risk management in education implemented, strengthened capacity of 611 education officials from eight provinces to apply emergency needs assessment tools as well as eight provincial action plans developed.

Around 1,400 education managers are now able to plan and monitor educational activities with a focus on learning outcomes using competency-based assessment tools and instruments.

Output 2.3.3: Evidence-based management system for improved quality of teaching and learning (UNESCO and UNICEF)

32 education managers from eight provinces were trained on rights-based education planning and have reached 430 education officials in their provinces. Planning for the 2015 Review of National Education for All that will assess progress made and develop a vision for education

development in Viet Nam after 2015. 79 education planners and managers have enhanced capacities in education sector planning and joint education sector review through a distance training course by the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning and a national training and planning workshop on joint education sector review.

Outcome 2.4: Promoting gender equality and responding to HIV

Output 2.4.1: Stronger legal and policy frameworks for HIV responses

One progress report towards the UN General Assembly commitments on HIV developed through a consultative process with key stakeholders, including Political, Social, Professional, and Mass Organizations.

Reduction of administrative fines for sex work to nominal levels and enhanced commitment to adopt sex work harm reduction approaches by Members of Parliament, the Ministry of Public Security and other relevant Government officials. **(UNAIDS, UNFPA)**

Harm reduction approach on provision of sexual and reproductive health and HIV services under the five-year national action plan on sex work implemented by MoLISA in 15 provinces using the Government fund. **(UNFPA, UNAIDS)**

Model intervention on provision of sexual and reproductive health and HIV services for sex workers implemented (including peer education activities among sex workers) in Hai Phong. **(UNFPA)**

National plans and legislation to scale up voluntary, community-based drug dependence treatment, improve due process for drug users sent to compulsory detention and reduce the number of drug users in compulsory detention. **(WHO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNODC)**



Revision of health-related legislation in prison settings under the framework of international standards. **(UNODC, WHO, UNAIDS)**

Capacity of the prison system (staff and inmates) on a continuum of care for PLHIV has been strengthened through various means, including a peer education programme in selected sites. **(UNODC, WHO, UNAIDS)**

National guideline on sexual and reproductive health and the HIV linkage developed to increase access to services and information. **(UNFPA, UNAIDS)**

Assessment of condom quality in the free market as input to the policy on management and control of the quality of condoms. **(UNFPA)**

Increased community and village health care worker engagement in Can Tho and Dien Bien, nominated to be HIV free by 2015, resulting in improved early access to HIV diagnosis and treatment for key populations. **(WHO, UNAIDS)**

Earlier diagnosis, earlier treatment initiation and greater community engagement achieved in the Treatment 2.0 pilot. Lessons learned documented and used to inform the initiative's expansion, demonstrating the feasibility of decentralization and integration of HIV services delivery into primary health care and increased access to HIV diagnosis, care and treatment for key populations, which maximize preventive benefits of antiretroviral treatment. **(WHO, UNAIDS)**

Strategies to sustain access to quality and affordable ARVs identified through international good practice learning missions and policy dialogues on removing the patent barrier and using health insurance. **(WHO, UNAIDS)**

Greater media and public awareness of and support for rights-based and evidence-

informed responses to HIV through public statements, thematic media orientations and press trips to generate media coverage. **(WHO, UNAIDS, UNODC)**

Output 2.4.2: Greater participation of people living with HIV in decisions affecting their lives

Greater involvement in the HIV response by Political, Social, Professional, and Mass Organizations, especially people living with HIV and key populations at higher risk of infection, including in the development of the midterm review of the political declaration on AIDS targets, and in a session at the National Scientific Conference on AIDS and several policy dialogues. **(WHO, UNAIDS)**

The participation of people who use drugs/ PLHIV in the high-level national policy dialogue on drug treatment and in the national consultation process on the post-2015 development agenda. **(WHO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNODC)**

Increased capacity of civil society organizations to advocate for greater access to harm reduction services for drug users. **(WHO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNODC)**

Greater engagement of PLHIV and key populations in improving the uptake of HIV testing, enrolment in care and initiation of ARV treatment within the Treatment 2.0 pilot. **(WHO, UNAIDS)**

Strengthened leadership and advocacy by MSM/LGBTI leaders on the health and reproductive rights of same-sex couples through capacity building, establishment of the national MSM and TG (transgender) network, support to International Day Against Homophobia advocacy events, dialogues on the revised Law on Family and Marriage, and a study of same-sex couples' co-habitation. **(UNDP, UN Women, UNAIDS)**

Ground for cooperation established through a dialogue between law enforcement and drug dependent communities on drug dependence as a health issue, the needs and concerns of drug dependent people, their experience in dealing with police and expectations on the role of law enforcement in protecting their legitimate rights. **(UNODC)**

Output 2.4.3: Legal and policy changes that strengthen action against gender discrimination and violence

Five policy papers prepared, including: Recommendations on the National Action Programme on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control and a policy briefing kit on gender-based violence, including papers on the cost of domestic violence, redefining masculinity, sexual harassment in the workplace, trafficking in boys, and an assessment of the situation of women in the criminal justice system. In addition, one assessment of the situation of women in the criminal justice system prepared, as well as a policy paper on gender and the amended Law on Marriage and Family, and recommendations on gender and the Health Insurance Law. **(UNFPA, UN Women, UNODC, ILO, IOM)**

The MoLISA committed to develop a new Government programme on gender-based violence prevention for 2016-2020, as a follow up to the agreed conclusions of the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. **(UN Women, UNFPA)**

135 multi-stakeholder representatives accessed recent research on gender-based violence in the framework of the annual policy dialogue on International Women’s Day, and a Government delegation attended the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. **(UN Women)**

Joint UN-Government “16 days of Activism” campaign to end violence against women and girls, including 18 different stakeholder events covered by 110 different media

channels. **(ILO, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, UNICEF)**

Minimum intervention package on gender-based violence piloted in selected provinces. **(UNFPA, UNODC)**

Standard tools to assist provincial staff to mainstream gender in three selected target areas of the National Strategy on Gender Equality (promotion of women’s representatives in politics, employment and labour and economics) were adopted by the MoLISA for rollout to all provinces. **(UN Women)**

Advocacy materials and events developed on the imbalanced sex-ratio-at-birth and 200 MoH trainers at national and provincial levels provided with enhanced skills to address these issues in an integrated fashion. **(UNFPA)**

Greater awareness and capacities of 40 national journalists and 80 enterprises to prevent and address sexual harassment in the workplace and provisions incorporated in the draft decrees on domestic workers and labour contracts. **(ILO)**

Rights-based sexual reproductive health and HIV education and Youth Union peer support was accessed by 24,780 international and national visitors to an exhibition on sexuality, with a focus on puberty, gender, love and relationships and safe sex. **(UNESCO, UNFPA, UNV, UNAIDS, UNODC, UN Women, UNICEF)**

Implementation of the Plan of Action for Gender Equality in the health sector developed by the MoH. **(WHO)**

Capacity strengthening for police, legal aid officers, prosecutors, judges and court personnel dealing with domestic violence. Mapping of the network of legal aid providers, including services provided for victims of gender-based violence. **(UNODC)**

320 women from poor households in Dong Thap have greater access to decent



employment opportunities and credit for business development through an integrated livelihood support project piloted by Dong Thap Women's Union and the Vocation Training Centre. **(IOM)**

Output 2.4.4: National and local coordination mechanisms to respond to gender discrimination and gender-based violence

National network on domestic violence prevention established, which operated as an entry point to establish a national coordination mechanism. **(UNFPA, UNODC, IOM, ILO, UN Women)**

The Gender Action Partnership, as an information exchange and learning forum for around 80 actors working on gender equality, discussed the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women agreed conclusions on ending violence against women and the Government's plan to implement the its recommendations. The partnership also engaged in the global discussions on a stand-alone gender equality goal for the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the on-going revision of the Law on Social Insurance and its impact on gender equality. **(UN Women)**

205 Government staff involved in the implementation of the National Strategy for Gender Equality were equipped with the knowledge and tools for monitoring and reporting progress in the areas of employment, health and women's participation in politics from a gender perspective. **(UN Women)**

Focus Area 3: Enhancing governance and participation

Outcome 3.1: More responsive elected bodies

Output 3.1.1: High quality research and data to guide legislative duties

Relevant research materials with concrete findings and recommendations discussed and considered by elected bodies in adoption of laws, ordinances and the development of oversight guidelines and tools, such as:

Research on independent constitutional institutions and legislative initiatives in support of the constitutional amendment process. **(UNDP)**

Gap analyses on budgeting, social equity and children's rights informed the amendment of the Constitution, the amendment of current legislation and the development of a new draft Law on Local Government. **(UNICEF, UNDP)**

A Convention on the Rights of the Child briefing informed amendments to the Children's Law in the areas of child friendly justice, protection, participation and the establishment of a children's ombudsman **(UNICEF)**, and a bi-annual parliamentary forum with the donor community on children and youth was established **(UNICEF and UNFPA)**

UN recommendations based on Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Conference Population and Development informed draft laws on internal migration, sexual and reproductive health, the Marriage and Family Law, and the Health Insurance Law **(UN Women, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF)**

Three new rights-based parliamentary oversight guidelines and tools developed for approval by the National Assembly,

including: Capacity strengthening plan and guidelines on the content and process of budgetary oversight and gender-sensitive training manual for People's Provincial Councils. **(UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women)**

Oversight tools for the Law on Older Persons and Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control developed for the Parliamentary Committee for Social Affairs to pilot in three provinces (UNFPA). Official guidance reflecting the greater commitment of the Communist Party at provincial level to address domestic violence, population ageing and reproductive health challenges issued in three provinces **(UNFPA, UN Women)**

Output 3.1.2: Greater contact with voters

Capacity gaps and areas for improvement for Provincial People's Committee performance documented and shared in order to inform the upcoming amendment of the Law on People's Councils and People's Committees – renamed Law on Local Government after amendment in compliance with the 2013 Constitution. **(UNDP, UNICEF)**

Detailed capacity development plan for budget oversight process for National Assembly and People's Councils – including developing guidelines for interacting and consulting with citizens on budget issues – completed. **(UNDP)**

Use of UN-supported guidelines on minimum standards of child participation. **(UNICEF)**

Outcome 3.2: Legal and justice system reforms

Output 3.2.1: Stronger policy, legal and regulatory framework

Technical assistance for ratification, reporting and follow-up actions of international treaties provided, and transposition into domestic legal legislation and policies supported, in particular:

Draft Penal Code amendment developed, better reflecting the rights of children in conflict with the law and child victims of abuse, violence and exploitation. **(UNICEF)**
Draft Penal Procedure Code amendment supported to better reflect the rights of children in contact with the justice system. **(UNICEF)**

Draft sub-law for implementation of the Law on Persons with Disabilities developed and implemented and an impact assessment for ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities developed and made available. **(UNICEF, ILO, UNDP)**

A consultative UPR reporting process supported to ensure inclusive and participatory reporting **(UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, ILO)** and an International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights implementation review conducted. **(UNDP, UNICEF, UNODC)**

Advocacy with the National Assembly's Social Affairs Committee on sexual diversity and stigma and discrimination towards LGBT. **(UNDP, UNAIDS, UNV, UN Women, UNODC)**

182 legal practitioners from the Ministry of Justice and provincial level Department of Justice and 179 National Assembly deputies, Provincial People's Council, Women's Union and line ministry representatives increased their awareness of women's human rights and gender equality principles and standards, particularly in the context of the Marriage and Family Law revision. **(UN Women)**

The development of monitoring frameworks and mechanisms for implementation of national strategies and programmes related to protection of rights and access to justice supported, such as:

The National Programme on Preventing and Combating Trafficking Crime developed and support to the implementation of the Law on Anti-Human Trafficking by helping develop a number of sub-laws for better



protection of and support for victims of trafficking. **(IOM, UNODC)**

Bilateral agreements revised to strengthen cross-border cooperation to combat human trafficking. **(UNODC, IOM)**

Sub-laws for implementation of the Law on Handling of Administrative Violations developed, ensuring due process and justice for administrative offences, and better reflection of the rights of children in conflict with the law, drug users and sex workers. **(UNICEF, UNDP, UNODC, UNAIDS)**

National legislation reviewed in preparation for Viet Nam's signature to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. **(UNODC)**

Output 3.2.2: Reforms of the law enforcement structures and court system

Strategic planning, implementation and M&E of national judicial reform programmes, including capacities for research, data collection and analysis in support of evidence-based policy-making by improving the methodology of the Justice Index Survey, the results of which were used by the Government and National Assembly for monitoring purposes. **(UNDP)**

Child friendly and gender sensitive investigation, prosecution and adjudication procedures, as well as investigation procedures of criminal activities against children (child sex tourism) developed and implemented in compliance with Viet Nam's international commitments **(UNICEF, UNODC)**. It is worth highlighting the support to the court system reform, in particular the national project on the establishment of a family/juvenile court.

Law enforcement structures were provided with knowledge and skills to deal more effectively with specific crime types like financing of terrorism and money laundering **(UNODC)** and corruption **(UNDP, UNODC)**

Investigation capacity of the immigration control forces at international border gates at airports, sea ports and on land improved to address smuggling of migrants and human trafficking. **(UNODC)**

Output 3.2.3: Legal education so that law enforcement and judicial personnel can carry out their obligations

Clinical legal education programmes supported to educate students about the role that the adversarial process, now guaranteed in the 2013 Constitution, will have in the development of Viet Nam's criminal justice system. Start-up discussions and initial workshops with the law faculty to obtain consensus in the academic community on the best way to teach students about adversarial legal principles. **(UNDP)**

The capacity of legal, law enforcement and justice agencies for improved crime prevention and response was strengthened as a result of the 27 new training packages on rule of law and protection of rights developed with UN support. The training packages addressed various topics, including gender equality and gender-related crimes, child friendly criminal procedures, anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism, and identification, investigation and coordination related to the prevention of migrant smuggling. **(UNODC, IOM)**

Law enforcement personnel have enhanced skills to combat child sex tourism and to conduct criminal proceedings in a child friendly and gender sensitive manner. Guidelines for establishment and operation of child friendly interview rooms submitted for endorsement and child friendly court procedures piloted. **(UNICEF, UNODC)**

Enhanced capacity of labour inspectors to enforce the new Labour Code and to promote collaboration with the workers' and employers' organizations. Implementation of Viet Nam's first master

plan on strengthening the capacity of the labour inspectorate supported. **(ILO)**

Output 3.2.4: Awareness-raising, legal assistance and other support services

Awareness of most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups raised on protection of rights and access to justice on a number of topics such as disability, gender equality, gender justice, domestic violence and the rights of domestic violence victims, corruption and human trafficking. **(UNODC, UNV, IOM, UNDP, UN Women)**

343 PLHIV and members of key populations were educated about their rights under Vietnamese and international law and 10 legal cases involving rights violations of PLHIV and key populations resolved. **(UNAIDS)**

Outcome 3.3: Better performing public sector institutions

Output 3.3.1: Participatory, evidence-based and cross-sectoral public service delivery

Mapping of poverty and development programmes in three provinces leading to the development of integrated and multi-sectoral basic public services and policies. **(UNICEF)**

Working groups for cross-sectoral planning of provincial SEDP established in four provinces (An Giang, Dien Bien, Kon Tum and Ninh Thuan) and a policy platform on local economic development set up in Bien Hoa and Dong Nai. **(UNICEF, UNDP, UN-Habitat)**

Coordination and discussion on multi-sectoral urban planning and urban management, green growth and regional linkages among different stakeholders strengthened in Bien Hoa, Da Nang, Hoi An, Mekong River Delta and Quang Nam. **(UNDP, UN-Habitat)**

Leaders of Ha Noi districts and local government departments have an increased awareness and ownership of evidence-based and cross-sectoral programming approaches, with a focus on the development of adequate urban assets such as public spaces, infrastructure and adequate housing. **(UNDP, UN-Habitat)**

Output 3.3.2: Enhanced human resource management systems

Capacities to apply social accountability tools improved in two provinces (Dien Bien and Ho Chi Minh City), where the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey was completed and lessons learned were documented. **(UNICEF, UNDP)**

Three provinces (An Giang, Dien Bien and Dong Thap) implemented Citizen Report Cards to assess commune and district health services after nearly 500 key leaders and officials were trained on the report cards. **(UNICEF)**

Around 180 officials at provincial and district levels of three provinces (An Giang, Dien Bien and Ninh Thuan) involved in planning, monitoring and evaluation of SEDP were trained on results-based and participatory approaches. **(UNICEF)**

A staff performance appraisal system finalized and used in Da Nang city, and an assessment report on staff management and staff structure and a training needs assessment report for civil servants developed in Bac Giang, Can Tho and Ha Tinh. **(UNDP, UN-Habitat)**

Capacity of 22 top Vietnamese leaders to formulate and implement evidence-based policies enhanced through their participation in the Viet Nam Executive Leadership Programme. **(UNDP)**

The Center for Women in Politics and Public Administration established, with core programmes in leadership training, gender mainstreaming in curriculum, research and advocacy. **(UNDP)**

Output 3.3.3: Capacity building for national institutions to implement and monitor national policies and the UN Convention against Corruption

Better capacity of customs and banking officers to detect and prevent money laundering. **(UNODC)**

Key recommendations for good anti-corruption strategies were developed and shared with relevant institutions. **(UNDP, UNODC)**

Law enforcement and justice authorities were exposed to international good practices in police oversight and accountability through a study visit by seven high-level officials to Hong Kong. **(UNODC)**

100 judges at the Judicial Academy strengthened their knowledge of the UN Convention against Corruption. **(UNODC)**

Strengthened regional/international communication and knowledge sharing mechanisms for law enforcement officials and judicial personnel based on existing networks, such as the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering. **(UNODC)**

Output 3.3.4: Feedback mechanism for citizens on the quality of public services

While ensuring use of data and information for planning and evaluation of public investment programmes and projects, there is a need to strengthen feedback mechanisms from citizens on the quality of public services and the impact of these services on citizens' development needs. This will help to ensure effective implementation of Government decisions and improve service delivery. In 2013, the UN supported the participatory monitoring of the performance of Government institutions and public service delivery units at the local levels through the citizen-centred PAPI. The index collected voices from 13,892 citizens randomly selected from across Viet Nam's 63 provinces. **(UNDP)**

Outcome 3.4: More effective and sustained participation by civil society

Civil society organizations and citizens supported to participate in policy discussion and decision-making processes through providing recommendations on the Land Law and amendment of the Constitution. **(UNDP)**

Consultations conducted with civil society organizations and the Government on the UPR report and on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. **(UNDP, UNICEF, ILO)**

Disability equality training organized, targeting organizations of persons with disabilities. **(UNICEF, ILO, UNDP)**

Stronger PLHIV and key population advocacy on stigma and discrimination, access to affordable treatment and other priority issues for these groups. **(UNAIDS)**

Improved coordination and collaboration among three local NGO networks working to promote women's rights and gender equality through establishment of a cooperation mechanism for joint activities. **(UN Women)**

THE UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



UNITED NATIONS VIET NAM

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The Mission of the United Nations in Viet Nam

The United Nations, in partnership with the Government and people of Viet Nam, works to ensure that all Vietnamese people enjoy an increasingly healthy and prosperous life with greater human dignity and expanded choices. Collectively and through its individual agencies, the United Nations cares and creates opportunities for the poor and most vulnerable, and for youth, to whom the future belongs.

In accordance with the United Nations Charter and Millennium Declaration, the United Nations advances the principles of equality and social justice, while providing impartial advice, technical expertise, access to global knowledge and local experience to meet Viet Nam's development challenges.

The UN Country Team in Viet Nam

