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ANNUAL REPORT 2011



Common Goals, Collective Action

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FOREWORD

Dear Partners and Colleagues,

I am very pleased to share with you the 2011 Annual Report for the United Nations in Viet Nam. This report provides an overview of key development results achieved in 2011 and outlines substantive areas where the UN is contributing to a better life for the people of Viet Nam.

2010 was the year in which Viet Nam officially attained middle-income country status, and 2011 saw sustained growth despite the continued economic and financial instability worldwide. Viet Nam is still one of the fastest growing economies in Asia. The Government has shown a strong commitment to address high inflation rates and other macro-economic challenges by spearheading a new growth model including structural reforms in several key areas. It will, however, be important to continue to monitor the social impact of economic reform, including on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups; and to address those MDGs where more action is needed. With support from the UN and other development partners, Viet Nam is also moving ahead to achieve its broader aspirations, such as creating new jobs, improving the quality of the education and health systems, addressing new forms of poverty and inequalities, and responding effectively to climate change and disasters. The 2011-2020 Socio-Economic Development Strategy and the 2011-2015 Socio-Economic Development Plan, both approved in 2011, set out Viet Nam's ambitions for the future.

Based on key national priorities and the UN's comparative advantages, we developed in 2011 our UN 'One Plan' for 2012-2016 in close consultation with our national and international development partners. The new One Plan is more strategic, coherent and results-oriented than the previous plan, and focuses on providing high-quality policy advice and further developing national capacities in priority areas. During 2012-2016 the UN

will work with all our partners in supporting Viet Nam to achieve inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth, access to quality essential services and social protection, and strengthened governance and participation.

Five years since the start, the 'Delivering as One' (DaO) initiative in Viet Nam has made great progress in ensuring more coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of UN development support. At the Fourth High-Level Intergovernmental Conference on Delivering as One, held in Montevideo in November 2011, all participants acknowledged the positive results of the initiative, emphasizing that there is no going back to doing business in the same way as prior to the DaO initiative. The strong tripartite relationship between the UN, Government and donors is the foundation and one of the key success factors of DaO in Viet Nam. At the same time, there are still several challenges to UN reform and coherence that will require attention in the next few years.

We very much value the strong leadership provided by the Government and the support from donors, which is even more necessary at this critical time when the country has transitioned to middle-income status, but remains 128 out of 187 countries in the 2011 Human Development Index. The UN System in Viet Nam looks forward to continued collaboration with all our national and international partners to build an inclusive, sustainable and equitable future for all Vietnamese people.



Pratibha Mehta
Resident Coordinator
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CHAPTER 1



INTRODUCTION

The 2011 Annual Report provides a summary of key development results achieved in 2011 with UN support. The report highlights how the UN is contributing to a better life for the people of Viet Nam by helping to address issues such as inequality and inequity, creating decent jobs, enhancing social protection, improving the quality of education and health services, and effectively responding to climate change and natural disasters. The UN is supporting Viet Nam in several ways, from providing global expertise and policy advice to technical assistance and capacity development in key priority areas.

All UN support is coordinated under the One Plan 2006-2011, a single planning framework that combines and synthesizes the work of the 14 participating UN organizations in Viet Nam. Through the One Plan for 2006-2011, the UN has been supporting Viet Nam in achieving the national priorities identified in the country's Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) and the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP). The UN, together with other key stakeholders, supported the design of the SEDS and SEDP, which are geared towards realizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals. During 2011 the UN Country Team in Viet Nam developed the One Plan for 2012-2016 in close consultation with all key national and international partners. The new One Plan is more strategic, focused on providing high-quality policy advice and capacity development support, ensuring measurable development results, building on the UN's

comparative advantages, while strengthening the 'Delivering as One' approach.

The various sections of this Annual Report highlight the UN's work to support Viet Nam across a range of areas, and also demonstrate how the UN has been changing to work more effectively and efficiently. The report also highlights some of the important normative work undertaken by the UN to assist Viet Nam in implementing its international obligations, especially the various conventions and treaties signed as well as agreements related to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Furthermore, examples are provided of the UN's convening role in bringing national and international partners together and coordinating efforts to resolve critical development challenges.

This is the fifth UN Annual Report since 2007 that covers all UN support under the One Plan in Viet Nam. Rather than producing multiple reports for different Agencies, it was agreed from 2007 onwards to share the key results of UN support through one single annual report as part of a more harmonized approach. The 2011 UN Annual Report is based on the annual reports of the eight Programme Coordination Groups (PCGs) through which the UN works together with key partners in specific thematic areas. Since early 2010 the PCGs have been co-chaired by the UN and Government, while also engaging with a wide range of stakeholders. Mid-Year Reviews and Annual Reviews were held to assess progress towards the achievements under the five 'Outcomes' of the 2006-2011 One Plan, identifying key results as well as

any challenges and priorities for the following year. Enhancing coordination and reducing transaction costs, the reviews by these joint coordination mechanisms have replaced the Agency-specific annual reviews conducted

previously. More detailed information on specific programmes can be found in the PCG 2011 Results Matrices which are available on the enclosed CD-ROM and the UN Viet Nam website.

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We have seen greater coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of the UN at country level... Delivering as One is the future for the UN's development operations. ”

H.E. Mr. Lê Lương Minh, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, High-Level Intergovernmental Conference on Delivering as One, Montevideo, November 2011



VIET NAM IN 2011: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR SUSTAINED PROGRESS

Since attaining middle-income country status in 2010 Viet Nam has continued to sustain impressive growth rates, even during recurrent macro-economic instability in 2011 and against a backdrop of global economic uncertainty. The annual GDP growth rate was 5.9 percent for 2011, lower than the 6.8 percent in 2010, but still robust. According to the new official poverty lines for 2011-2015, the household poverty rate was estimated at 14.2 percent in 2010, based on the Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey (VHLSS). However, the multi-dimensional poverty rate has consistently been reported as higher than income poverty, reflecting significant disparities.

Viet Nam has made impressive progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and is on track to achieve all but two of the MDGs by 2015. The goals related to HIV as well as water and sanitation are still considered 'difficult to achieve'. One of the major remaining challenges is to ensure that inequities are reduced, both across geographical regions and between socio-economic groups. The latest MDG Report published by the Government points out that the progress in poverty reduction might be offset by the negative effects of climate change and the global financial crisis.

During 2011, Viet Nam continued to experience high inflation, due to rising food and fuel prices among other factors, thereby contributing to macro-economic instability, along with an increasing current account deficit and public debt burden. The Government has identified stabilizing the economy as a major

priority and is committed to developing a new economic growth model and economic restructuring, including reform in the area of public investment, banking and State-owned enterprise sectors.

The 2011-2020 Socio-Economic Development Strategy was approved in January 2011 and the 2011-2015 Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) in November 2011, setting out Viet Nam's ambition to be a modern industrialized economy by 2020. The UN participated actively in the consultations in the lead-up to the final approval of the SEDP, emphasizing the importance of continued investment in the social sectors to achieve those MDGs where Viet Nam is still lagging behind, and to ensure access to the benefits of economic growth for all Vietnamese people.

Along with all these major achievements, Viet Nam is also experiencing new challenges such as rapid urbanization and migration, and demographic change with a current 'demographic bonus', with a high proportion of young people of working age. This will be followed by rapid population ageing by 2017. The 2011 National Human Development Report (NHDR) found that economic growth has been the major driver of the overall progress in human development, while Viet Nam is not yet tapping its full potential as there is room for improvement in education and health. Progress made at the national level also masks disparities at the sub-national level. Inequalities and disparities have been increasing and are accompanied by new forms of poverty and vulnerability that will require greater attention in the coming years.

There is also the need to address issues such as persistent gender inequality, the quality of education and health care, as well as ensuring decent jobs in key sectors.

At the same time, Viet Nam is increasingly affected by climate change and natural disasters. In this context, the country's efforts to develop a comprehensive green growth strategy and commitments to move towards low carbon growth are much needed to help Viet Nam access clean technology, develop new and more productive jobs and address environmental concerns. Overall, as the SEDP emphasizes the need to ensure a better balance between economic, social and environmental goals, it will be critical to continue strengthening the oversight and monitoring role of key national institutions, encouraging inclusive policy-making, greater transparency and accountability.

During 2011, a number of policy frameworks were developed or approved for the period 2011-2020, such as the National Employment Strategy, the National Strategy for People's Health Care, the National Population and Reproductive Health Strategy, the National Strategy on Gender Equality, the National Food Safety Strategy, the National Nutrition Strategy, the National Climate Change Strategy, the Public Administration Reform Master Plan, the Education Development Strategic Plan and the Viet Nam Statistical Development Strategy. These were complemented by several five-year sector plans, for example in the areas of education, health, child protection, gender equality, human trafficking and climate change.



WORKING TOGETHER IN 2011 FOR VIET NAM'S DEVELOPMENT

This chapter provides an overview of the major development challenges addressed by the UN through the One Plan for 2006-2011, a single planning framework that combines the work of the 14 participating UN organizations. Through the One Plan, the UN is supporting Viet Nam to achieve its national goals as outlined in the SEDP and to attain the MDGs as well as implement the Millennium Declaration. Key results achieved under the five 'One Plan Outcomes' are highlighted, with several examples illustrating how the UN is providing global expertise, policy advice and technical assistance for capacity development in key priority areas.

One Plan 2006-2011 Outcomes:

Outcome 1: Equitable and Inclusive Social and Economic Policies, Plans and Laws

Outcome 2: Quality Social and Protection Services

Outcome 3: Environmental Protection and Rational Management of Natural and Cultural Resources

Outcome 4: Accountable, Transparent and Participatory Governance

Outcome 5: Reduced Vulnerability to Natural Disasters, Communicable Diseases and Other Emergencies

“*The UN welcomes the Government's decision to establish a new model for economic growth and strongly advocates for inclusive, green, pro-poor growth ... All Vietnamese people across the country should have the opportunity to realize a better quality of life.*”

***UN Resident Coordinator Pratibha Mehta,
Consultative Group Meeting,
Ha Noi, December 2011***



ONE PLAN OUTCOME 1:

EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES, PLANS AND LAWS

PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF DEVELOPMENT

With the National Assembly's approval of the 2011-2015 SEDP in November 2011, directions are now set for the next five years. The SEDP highlights the need for a new growth model as the Government endeavours to address recurrent periods of macro-economic instability, and generate sufficient jobs to absorb new labour market entrants and maintain poverty reduction targets. In response to requests from Government and other partners, the UN is providing tailor-made advice and expertise in supporting national authorities to develop laws and implement their provisions, as well as to design, monitor and evaluate policies that are in line with international norms and standards.

The third Rapid Impact Monitoring assessment, conducted by the Viet Nam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) with UN support in August 2011, showed the social impact of macro-economic shocks, in particular the high inflation experienced in Viet Nam during 2011. The assessment provided real-time information to members of the National Assembly, Party officials, and senior policy-makers about the impact of inflation on vulnerable groups, workers and farmers, and selected economic sectors, as well as on the effectiveness of policy measures implemented under Resolution 11. The survey findings show that although rice producers have benefited from rising prices and a good harvest, price increases were largely offset by rising costs of inputs, fuel and food. Furthermore, the gains of higher prices are unequally distributed between producers and retailers. Rising prices have impacted negatively on wage earners, informal sector workers, the urban poor and people dependent on State allowances. Reduced purchasing power, together with higher food, fuel and housing costs, has depressed savings and remittances and

reduced consumption. During 2011 the UN provided specific technical advice for possible reforms in the area of public investment, the banking sector and State-owned enterprises.

Enhancing Evidence-based Monitoring and Decision-making

During 2011 the UN provided comprehensive support to data and knowledge generation to further enhance evidence-based socio-economic development monitoring. One example was the launch in November of the 2011 Viet Nam National Human Development Report (NHDR), which explored the relationship between human development and social service delivery, drawing on research by VASS. For the first time, the NHDR included a Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI), covering the general population in Viet Nam. The report highlights that governance and public administration are driving forces that enhance human development. Evidence from the Viet Nam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) suggests that there is a strong correlation between elements of good governance and higher levels of human development at provincial level. The results of the fourth Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) were presented in December 2011, providing an update of the situation of children and women in Viet Nam.

The UN also continued to support capacity development in the area of statistics and data management under the 2011-2020 Viet Nam Statistical Development Strategy (VSIDS), which was approved in October 2011. The General Statistics Office (GSO) developed the VSIDS in close collaboration with all key data producers and users. With support from the Joint Programme on Gender Equality, GSO

developed the first ever National Statistical Indicators on Gender Development, which were approved by the Prime Minister in October 2011. This set of indicators will help in monitoring the implementation of the Gender Equality Law, the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control and the National Strategy on Gender Equality. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) frameworks for these laws were finalized. In addition, the UN-supported an in-depth analysis of population issues from the 2009 Census data and launched a series of census monographs on the following key topics: mortality and fertility; population structure; sex ratio at birth; population projections; migration and urbanization; education; ethnic minorities; and disabilities. In-depth research on ethnic minority child poverty and multi-dimensional urban poverty is still being conducted.

Strengthening Policies for Poverty Reduction and Social Protection

In the area of social policy, the UN contributed to a more coherent and less fragmented poverty reduction policy framework. Detailed technical advice was provided for the development of Resolution 80 on sustainable poverty reduction for the period 2011-2020 as well as the accompanying five-year National Target Programme on Sustainable Poverty Reduction.

Throughout 2011 the UN actively participated in the policy dialogue regarding the social protection policy framework and the development of several insurance and assistance schemes. This included an overall analysis and costing of the social protection system using the concept of the 'Social Protection Floor' as a benchmark. With regard to social assistance, the UN supported a review of current social assistance policies as well as the design of a cash transfer programme for poor families with children, which is expected to be initially piloted in about ten provinces with high poverty rates and concentrations of ethnic minority populations. UN technical and financial assistance was also provided for an assessment of the new unemployment insurance scheme; this generated critical information for the revision of the unemployment insurance law. The UN also supported the development of the

2011-2020 National Plan of Action for the Elderly, which aims to improve the quality of life and promote the role of the elderly in community development.

Boosting Enterprise Development and Employment

The UN supported the development of employment policies, programmes and implementation of good business practices. In particular, technical assistance was provided to the development of the 2011-2020 National Employment Strategy and the Labour Market Development Master Plan for the same period. These documents embody the principles of the main international employment conventions and include inputs from Government agencies, the National Assembly and social partners. The quality and management of labour market information was further improved with the establishment of labour market information and analysis systems at both central and provincial level, as well as through the annual survey on employment trends.

Box 1: Better Work Programme

In 2011, 'Better Work Viet Nam', part of a global programme, has been working with 150 factories and successfully delivered assessment services to 110 factories employing 154,657 workers. A total of 33 registered buyers are making use of Better Work services. Significant improvements were made in the participating factories, notably a decrease in issues of non-compliance and improved social dialogue through the establishment of Labour Management Committees and timely guidance of a tripartite advisory committee consisting of senior officials from MOLISA, VGCL (Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour) and VCCI (Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry). The fourth Compliance Synthesis Report confirmed the importance of enhancing advisory services and standards compliance in the garment sector in general, and in those participating factories in particular.

For further information:
www.betterwork.org/sites/VietNam

A coherent and conducive regulatory framework for private sector development is of

critical importance. As a result of UN support to business registration reform, 65 Business Registration Offices in the whole country are now using simplified registration procedures and standardized National Business Registration System (NBRS) software. This has led to a substantial reduction in time and costs for entrepreneurs. Through its support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), the UN facilitated the transfer of international best practices in product design and development to 70 pilot enterprises in the garment, footwear, and furniture sector. Related to this, a proposal was developed with the Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) for a national policy framework for the development of competitive industry clusters to enhance efficiency and cooperation.

In 2011, the UN-supported Joint Programme on Green Production and Trade for handicraft value chains helped improve employment and income generation for households in specific areas through training in business management skills, occupational health and safety, and on agricultural techniques. The Joint Programme also supported the organisation of trade fairs and assisted companies to better understand Asian, US and European markets and position handicraft businesses with a more competitive and attractive product range (see Box 2).

In terms of employment for youth, in 2011 the UN supported Quang Nam province in increasing pro-poor employment through creating an improved business environment and strategic value chain interventions. The province's vocational training curricula were adapted to meet the needs of the private sector, while value chain interventions were implemented through public-private partnerships, enhancing competitiveness and labour standards. A provincial Labour Market Development Strategy was developed and approved by the People's Committee, and the capacity of local business associations strengthened to participate in policy planning. Good practices were documented and a replication strategy developed.

The UN also provided support to the Government's programme to train 1 million rural workers each year up to 2020, specifically vocational training in rural entrepreneurship skills. During 2011, 120 new trainers were

trained to deliver 'Start Your Business' training for people in rural areas. In Quang Nam, Hoa Binh, Phu Tho, Nghe An and Thanh Hoa provinces, capacities of specific institutions were strengthened to provide market-oriented

Box 2: Green Trade Fairs

In April 2011, 'Lifestyle Vietnam', one of the promising upcoming home décor and gift fairs in South-East Asia, attracted more than 1,700 visitors, including over 1,300 buyers from Europe, the United States, Japan, China, Australia and elsewhere – up from 300 visitors in 2010 when it was first organized. The UN Joint Programme on Green Production and Trade actively supported the Viet Nam Handicraft Exporters Association VIETCRAFT in promoting 'Lifestyle Vietnam'. Since 2010 the Joint Programme has been assisting craft companies to upgrade their product design, quality and finishing techniques for lacquer ware, handmade paper, and products made of bamboo/rattan, silk and sea grass. Companies have also been made aware of current market trends and consumer preferences so that they can reach the higher end of the market. The focus is on developing new 'sustainable' product lines, which requires a holistic view on a product's life cycle, from designing for energy efficient production and transport to creating recyclable quality products with long durability.

Before and during the 'Lifestyle Vietnam' fair, the UN Joint Programme provided companies with technical assistance in how best to display their products, how to deal with customers, and how to ensure proper follow-up to turn promising leads into actual business. Many companies established new contacts with visiting buyers and received orders during and following the fair. The following example (one of many) illustrates the development impact of a well-established fair: a Japanese buyer, who participated at Lifestyle Vietnam 2011 as a result of promotional activities, placed a US\$100,000 order with a programme beneficiary company in Thanh Hoa province. The impact of this order was full-time employment for 300 craft-producing households for 60 days, in addition to the income generated for farmers who cultivate the raw material needed to produce the required 18,000 sea grass items, such as baskets.

business development services to small enterprises.

Viet Nam's capacity in the area of standards, testing and conformity infrastructure was also further strengthened with UN technical assistance, ensuring the effective implementation of World Trade Organization membership obligations such as Technical Barriers to Trade as well as Sanitary and Phytosanitary commitments. Strengthening demand-based Standards, Metrology, Testing and Quality capacities will enable Viet Nam's export products to adhere to the ever-tightening international regulations and contribute to a reduction of export rejection cases of Vietnamese exports, as well as international accreditation of testing laboratories.

Strengthening Population and Reproductive Health Policies

In May 2011, the Government of Viet Nam officially endorsed the UN Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health. In November 2011, the National Population and Reproductive Health Strategy and the National Strategy for Nutrition for 2011-2020 were officially approved. In addition to supporting the development of these national strategies, the UN also provided technical assistance for the design of a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the National Population and Reproductive Health Strategy and a series of National Action Plans, including the 2011-2015 National Plan for Reproductive Health with a focus on safe motherhood and newborn care. The utilization of the latest Census data for policy planning and programming at national and sub-national levels was further promoted through a well-attended dissemination workshop on Census publications, including various in-depth analyses, reports, factsheets and booklets.

During 2011 the UN conducted a series of policy advocacy initiatives regarding emerging population, reproductive and gender issues, such as ageing, migration and urbanization, population bonus, and sex ratio at birth (SRB). This was done through media sessions, workshops and dialogues with key policy-makers including National Assembly members and senior Party officials. In October 2011, the Ministry of Health and

the UN organized an international workshop on 'Skewed sex ratios at birth: Addressing the issue and the way forward'. The workshop offered an important platform to discuss emerging trends and realities of the imbalanced SRB, its geographical scope, the causes and possible implications. Delegates agreed on specific recommendations and increased collaboration between countries regarding research, advocacy, policy and programming.

Although Viet Nam is not the first country to face a sex ratio at birth imbalance, the challenge posed is significant and the ratio is increasing rapidly. The SRB rose from 106.2 boys per 100 girls in 2000 to 111.9 boys per 100 girls in 2011. The imbalanced SRB will affect Viet Nam's population structure in the future, resulting in an excess of males in society. The consequences are potentially serious: a scarcity of women would increase pressure for them to marry at a younger age and perhaps drop out of school to do so. There may be a rising demand for sex work; and trafficking networks may also expand in response to this imbalance. Examples of gender-based violence and human trafficking have already been observed in Viet Nam and point to some of the risks faced by vulnerable girls and women. The Government of Viet Nam is paying special attention to this emerging imbalance. The 2011-2020 National Action Plan to address the imbalance in the SRB was developed and submitted to the Prime Minister for approval. In addition, the Government is also implementing a pilot programme to reverse imbalances in 20 provinces with high SRB values.

Concerted Action to Reduce HIV Stigma and Discrimination

In 2011, national HIV estimates and projections for 2011-2015 were updated based on UN-supported collection and analysis of data on the epidemic, particularly focused on key populations at higher risk of infection. This included strengthening of sentinel surveillance of people who inject drugs (PWID), sex workers and men who have sex with men (MSM), as well as the collection of data at methadone clinics. The national framework for routine HIV programme reporting (Decision 28) was also reviewed. In addition, the UN supported Viet Nam's first

National AIDS Spending Assessment, which identified a number of low-cost, high-impact interventions for HIV care and treatment, prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) and other major programmes.

HIV epidemic estimates, programme performance and spending data were used by the Government to develop the new National Strategy on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control. UN technical and financial support to the planning process resulted in more active participation of a wide range of relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs), key populations, people living with HIV (PLHIV), as well as additional focus in the strategy on key populations, gender and social protection.

In addition, as a result of continued UN advocacy and technical assistance, HIV was incorporated into various plans and programmes, such as the new 2011-2020 National Strategy on Gender Equality and the 2011-2015 Plan of Action on Gender Equality in Health. MOLISA renewed the National Plan of Action for Children affected by HIV and AIDS for 2011-15, and HIV was also specifically included in the new Education Strategic Development Plan 2011-2020. Furthermore, a new National Comprehensive Condom Programme was developed for the period 2011-2020, and UN technical assistance was provided to an evaluation of the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPV) Directive 54 on HIV, leading to Party notice 27-TB/TW, which renewed the CPV's commitment to continued leadership on HIV prevention and control.

Efforts to develop a more enabling environment for the uptake of HIV services included intensified UN advocacy and technical assistance to end administrative detention of sex workers and people who inject drugs. As the Government and National Assembly developed and debated a new Law on Administrative Sanctions, UN support focused on raising awareness of Viet Nam's commitments under UN Conventions, providing international evidence on effective drug dependence treatment and sex work policies, while also promoting independent experts' and affected populations' views through special consultations with civil society.

The UN worked with various strategic partners to raise awareness of HIV-related rights among duty bearers and rights holders and reduce stigma and discrimination. This included for example stigma reduction education for 500,000 parents through schools in all 63 provinces, training of community learning centre (CLC) facilitators, training of 470 PLHIV, law students and local stakeholders on HIV rights under Vietnamese and international law, HIV media training for editors-in-chief and journalists, as well as HIV and workplace training at small and medium enterprises. PLHIV self-help groups' capacities to participate in service delivery, to develop project proposals and to establish sustainable livelihoods were strengthened. PLHIV were also actively engaged in efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination through UN-supported projects in Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh and Ho Chi Minh City. In addition, data was collected in five provinces for a Stigma Index survey conducted by the Viet Nam Network of People Living with HIV (VNP+).

Supporting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

In 2011, the UN provided tailor-made support to MOLISA to strengthen the Ministry's capacity to implement the 2011-2020 National Strategy on Gender Equality (NSGE) and formulate the National Programme on Gender Equality. In addition to a series of training workshops, two policy dialogues were organised to promote the implementation of the NSGE. As one of the results of this multi-stakeholder dialogue, the Viet Nam General Federation of Labour (VGFL) decided to develop concrete proposals to mainstream gender into the draft Law on Trade Unions. The VGFL also incorporated key issues emanating from the policy dialogue in its Plan of Action on Gender Equality.

Support to the National Assembly (NA) focused particularly on technical assistance to the Committee for Social Affairs to ensure the mainstreaming of gender issues into new draft laws submitted to the NA during 2011, such as the Law on University Education, Law on Water Resources, and Law on Advertising Activities. In addition, the Committee on

Social Affairs was supported in reviewing the implementation by various ministries of gender mainstreaming articles in the Gender Equality Law and the Law on Laws, so as to draw key lessons and ensure further improvements for the next term of the National Assembly.

Empowering Vietnamese women migrant workers was another major focus in 2011. With UN support, Government officials were trained in how to better address concerns in international labour migration and improve specific services, as well as the development

of new policies. To enhance the existing knowledge base, a review was conducted of Vietnamese laws, policies and regulations governing international female labour migration from Viet Nam. A comprehensive migration database was developed with UN technical assistance, enabling the Department of Overseas Labour to analyze data related to the occupation and destination of women migrant workers, and therefore to better address key priorities for Vietnamese migrant workers.

Box 3: Joint Programme on Gender Equality

The Joint Programme on Gender Equality (JPGE), bringing together 12 UN Agencies, made a significant contribution to improving national policy frameworks for implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the Gender Equality Law (GEL) and the Domestic Violence Law (DVL). The 2011-2015 National Programme on Gender Equality, the Plans of Action on Gender Equality and the National Statistical Indicator System on Gender Development were developed with extensive support of the JPGE and adopted by the Government.

A total of 2,893 officials from the Communist Party of Viet Nam, State Management Agencies for the GEL and DVL, People's Councils as well as experts from the justice, law enforcement and education sectors at central and provincial level improved their knowledge on gender equality and domestic violence through various training workshops and policy dialogues implemented by the Government and UN Agencies, as well as community-based activities implemented by NGO partners.

The Joint Programme forged strong cooperation among key stakeholders working on gender equality and gender-based violence through regular meetings and major events. During the JPGE Sustainability Plan Workshop, held in October 2011, the key achievements of the Joint Programme were presented, including an improved policy environment, strengthened capacity and partnerships, better availability of gender-related data and resource materials, and increased awareness on gender equality and domestic violence. These achievements will constitute the basis for further improvements in all these areas. The JPGE Sustainability Plan includes specific follow-up actions that have already been integrated into concrete action plans of Government ministries, UN Agencies and other key partners.



ONE PLAN OUTCOME 2:

QUALITY SOCIAL AND PROTECTION SERVICES

ENSURING ACCESS TO QUALITY SOCIAL AND PROTECTION SERVICES

Viet Nam continues to make impressive strides towards ensuring access to, and quality of, social services. In the areas of health, education, social protection, HIV and promotion of gender equality, new policies have strengthened the country's legal framework for the provision of services while harmonizing the Government's agenda in line with international standards. While notable progress has been made, it has not been the same for everyone and in all geographic regions. As in previous years, UN support focused on strengthening capacities of national and local authorities as well as service providers through policy advice, training and other piloted interventions to ensure access to services for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Promoting a Healthier and Safer Viet Nam

With UN support, a number of policies, strategies, action plans and technical guidelines in maternal, child and neonatal health and nutrition were developed and approved by the Ministry of Health (MOH) in 2011. Six months paid maternity leave was endorsed by the National Assembly Standing Committee and a provision was included in the National Labour Code Amendment. Nutrition profile cards for all 63 provinces were developed to guide national and provincial planning to promote better nutrition. New training materials were developed in different areas including newborn care, infant and young child feeding, the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, management of acute malnutrition, and administration of birth dose hepatitis B vaccines, as well as basic care and treatment for children with HIV. Guidelines on the

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) programming, supervision and monitoring were approved by MOH.

Health systems strengthening in 2011 focused on supporting the development of plans, health sector integration and performance assessments of the health sector. The National Health Plan for 2011-2015 was officially approved. Other key policy documents, such as the 2011-2020 National Strategy for People's Health Care, the 2011-2020 National Action Plan for Nursing and Midwifery, the National Action Plan for Quality Assurance for Medical Services and the National Action Plan for Health Response to Disasters were finalized for subsequent approval. The UN provided technical assistance to ensure the updating and release of new health financing data in the National Health Accounts, which now cover the period up to 2009 with estimates up to 2010. The capacity of MOH and VSS (Viet Nam Social Security) staff was further strengthened to enable them to conduct more in-depth assessments of health financing system performance. In addition, new initiatives such as the case-based and the diagnosis-related groups system of payment were piloted in selected provinces.

The development of the new National Medicines Policy and the Essential Medicines List constituted an important step forward in improving access to essential medicines and health technology. With UN technical support a pharmaceutical industry scan and related policy analysis was conducted to further promote the local production of pharmaceuticals. At the same time, support was also provided to the Government to develop a national strategy for combating

Box 4: Access to Clean Water and Improved Sanitation

Access to clean water and good sanitation are essential for a healthy life. With direct support from several UN Agencies, a total of 14,660 new household latrines and 16 school WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) facilities were built in 2011 and about 9,000 poor households were connected to clean water supplies. Altogether, approximately 65,980 more people are now using newly constructed latrines and practicing healthy WASH behaviour, such as hand washing after toilet use. Approximately 40,300 additional people are using clean water supplies.

During 2011 the UN also provided support to Government agencies and national institutes in developing new standards for air quality and conducting research on air pollution and health impacts. Training manuals were standardized and implementation guidelines developed for nationwide application. The UN also contributed to the development and approval of Phase 3 of the National Target Programme on Rural Water and Sanitation.

antimicrobial resistance. In order to ensure universal access to reproductive health services, the National Framework for Contraceptive Commodity Security has been approved.

To ensure dedicated enforcement of the new Food Safety Law, which came into effect on 1 July 2011, capacities were strengthened for food inspection services. The legal framework was harmonized with international standards through the development of the 2011-2020 National Food Safety Strategy and a National Target Programme for Food Safety.

In the area of injury prevention, UN support in 2011 focused on policy development, capacity building and awareness-raising. Decision 548 on 'Promulgation of criteria for Safe Home for prevention of accidents and injuries in children' was approved by MOLISA in May 2011 and disseminated for nationwide implementation. The 2011-2015 National Programme on Child Injury Prevention was submitted for approval by the Prime Minister. The second Viet Nam Injury Survey was completed with final results now being compiled for dissemination. The

findings of this nationally representative survey will inform key programmes and evaluations on injury prevention in the coming years. Key staff of the Farmers, Youth and Women's Unions in selected provinces increased their knowledge and skills for planning, implementation and communication on injury prevention and safe community development.

With regard to road safety, throughout 2011 support focused on prevention of drunk driving, improving the quality of motorcycle helmets and increasing helmet-wearing rates for passengers and children. Capacities for enhanced enforcement were strengthened and a mass media social marketing campaign organized to raise awareness of the dangers of road traffic injuries and how best to prevent them. The UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 was launched in Viet Nam in May 2011 by Deputy Prime Minister Hoàng Trung Hải, together with a wide range of key stakeholders. The Minister of Transport has since declared 2012 to be the 'Year of Road Safety in Viet Nam' and details are being finalized for the National Action Plan for Road Safety to be implemented throughout the decade.

Improving Reproductive, Maternal, Child and Neonatal Health and Nutrition

In 2011 several policies for sexual and reproductive health care were developed. The 2011-2020 Strategy for Population and Reproductive Health was approved in November 2011 and a number of national and provincial action plans for the implementation of different thematic areas of the strategy were also approved or being finalized. With UN support, MOH started the nationwide implementation of the maternal mortality audit (MMA) and approved the national training materials on newborn care. This has contributed to greater capacity at provincial level and increased coverage of health and nutrition services for women and children.

A number of UN-supported studies on reproductive health issues were utilized to strengthen the development of policies and plans, including the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 4, a review of Health Management Information System (HMIS)

indicators related to the MDGs, an assessment of the national maternal and child health network, a review of research and studies on reproductive health during 2006 to 2010, and a rapid assessment of youth health-related policies and programmes.

Two joint Government-UN monitoring missions were undertaken to Phu Tho and Dien Bien provinces to review and identify ways of strengthening health responses to gender-based violence and maternal and child health. These missions identified a number of concrete recommendations to improve coordination and to strengthen health information and its utilization and ensure sustainability of interventions. Experiences in the utilization of ethnic minority midwives in mountainous provinces provided important evidence for MOH in working with other line ministries to develop alternative human resource options for ethnic minority regions to address current gaps in human resources and apply a culturally sensitive approach to safe motherhood programmes for ethnic minority people.

During 2011 the availability and quality of services for safe motherhood, child health care and nutrition were further improved with UN technical and financial assistance, particularly emergency and obstetric and newborn care, skilled birth attendance, immunization, pneumonia and diarrhea case management in selected provinces and districts, harmonization of newborn care packages, community-based referral systems and community-based communication activities. Lessons learned from these interventions have been reflected in national action plans and guidelines to support sub-national level planning and implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategy for Population and Reproductive Health and the National Plan of Action for Accelerated Child Survival. A model for strengthening the linkages between HIV services and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services was piloted in Tien Giang, Quang Ninh, Ninh Thuan and Ho Chi Minh City with UN technical support. Lessons learned from this model are currently being applied by MOH in the development of a national guideline for SRH/HIV linkages.

The 2011-2020 National Nutrition Strategy, with a focus on reducing stunting, was officially

approved by the Prime Minister in November 2011. This was one of the highlights of UN support to MOH through the Joint Programme on Nutrition and Food Security. The 2011-2015 National Nutrition Action Plan is currently being finalized.

A More Comprehensive Response to HIV Services

In recent years, significant achievements have been made in scaling up universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services. The 2010 MDG Progress Report nevertheless showed that Viet Nam is unlikely to reach MDG Goal 6 (halt and reverse the spread of HIV by 2015) unless access to prevention services, particularly for key populations at higher risk, is significantly scaled up.

In 2011, models for a harm-reduction approach to sex work were developed with UN support and adopted in several provinces with a high prevalence of sex work and HIV. In addition, the Viet Nam Administration for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control (VAAC) continued to expand its 100% Condom Use Programme and other harm-reduction activities for sex workers in 49 provinces, including preparation for expanded targeted social marketing of 'VIP Plus' condoms.

Following a mission by a UN inter-agency Task Team on PMTCT, recommendations were incorporated into national strategic documents and national PMTCT programme guidelines, clearly targeting the elimination of pediatric HIV infection. A UN-supported pilot project on male involvement in PMTCT successfully increased the number of men coming to antenatal clinics with their pregnant wives for Maternal and Child Health and PMTCT services. The approach followed in the pilot project was subsequently incorporated in the National HIV Strategy.

Prison and law enforcement personnel were engaged to establish a more enabling environment for HIV service delivery in closed settings. Police officers in 33 provinces were trained in HIV prevention and harm reduction among people who inject drugs (PWID), and 78 health care officers working at prisons and pre-trial detention centres were supported to provide antiretroviral treatment to inmates.

Training sessions for condom distribution and methadone maintenance therapy in prisons were conducted in preparation for the piloting of these services in closed settings, including the development of a peer education training manual and associated information, education and communication materials.

A pilot drug referral scheme to improve drug addiction treatment and HIV treatment and care for detainees was developed with UN support. Police officers from selected districts of Ha Noi were introduced to the pilot, which will be rolled out in 2012. Civil society groups of PWID were strengthened through targeted UN support, including the Southern Network of People Who Use Drugs. At a UN-supported workshop, the network formulated a clear vision and action plan to improve the lives of drug users and reduce stigma and discrimination against drug users.

Following the announcement of the 'Treatment 2.0' initiative at the May 2011 World Health Assembly, the Government of Viet Nam committed itself to be one of the pilot countries for implementation. VAAC conducted a UN-supported assessment in selected pilot provinces to review existing HIV programmes and health system infrastructure, leading to a better understanding of the barriers to uptake of HIV services. The assessment was an important input to a series of planning meetings with participation of health care personnel, PLHIV and key populations at higher risk of HIV infection.

Towards Quality Lifelong Learning for All

In the education sector, improving the quality of learning has become the main policy focus in Viet Nam. In July 2011 the Prime Minister called for radical and comprehensive renovation of the country's education system, including quality improvement of education at all levels. The new SEDP and the 2011-2020 Education Development Strategic Plan (EDSP) highlight the need for education reform and rapid development of human resources with increased skills and competencies.

In 2011, the UN coordinated the Global Partnership for Education process in Viet Nam by conducting a review and update of the country's National Education For All

Box 5: Lifelong Learning Week

In October 2011, the first national Lifelong Learning Celebration Week was held in Cong Vi Ward Community Learning Centre in Ha Noi. This included a forum on 'How to Play with Young Children' and a media campaign. This unique event brought together a large group of children under the age of six, caregivers, local community members and MOET and DOET (Department of Education and Training) delegates. Participants learned how to better promote and deliver lifelong learning programmes. During the special forum, parents and caregivers were exposed to hands-on activities on how to make home-made, safe, low- or no-cost, earth friendly toys, and how to play with young children. Participants also increased their general understanding of lifelong learning through activities such as a parent education forum, arts and heritage education in museums, reading for children and adults in libraries, and classes on sexuality education and health care. The Government will hold similar celebrations at the provincial level in the coming years, reaffirming its use of lifelong learning as both a goal and solution to raise the quality of human resources and people's lives

Action Plan 2003-2015. Directors and Deputy Directors of departments in the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) enhanced their management capacities through participatory training delivered by the National Institute of Education Management. To provide better data for planning and policy making, a joint education data review was conducted, providing concrete recommendations to improve MOET's existing data and information systems.

A comprehensive review of the pre-service teacher training curriculum identified specific gaps in pedagogical skills and teacher competencies. Following pilot training in five provinces, translated and contextualized modules on 'Teaching and Learning for a Sustainable Future' were adopted by MOET as an official teacher training resource. As a result of UN-supported training, 380 education officials and specialists are now better able to identify gender bias in school textbooks and have an increased understanding of gender issues and exposure to innovative curriculum and teacher training practices.

During 2011 assessment tools based on Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) were developed and applied. As a result, young children are now better prepared when entering primary school. In addition, 70,000 students now enjoy a more 'student-friendly' school environment where they can realize their full potential, as a result of the sustained Adolescent Friendly Lower Secondary School (AFS) initiative in 50 schools in eight provinces. Considering the positive results of this pilot, MOET included indicators on students' continuous learning in the national secondary school standards. Three years of action research in three provinces showed that children of ethnic minority groups learning in their mother tongue outperformed their peers. Subsequently, guidelines were developed for provinces to help ethnic minority children to overcome their Vietnamese language barriers.

For children with disabilities, two inter-ministerial circulars on the establishment of resource centres and teacher benefits were developed with MOLISA, Ministry of Finance and education managers at all levels. This will facilitate the provision of inclusive education for children with disabilities, thereby operationalizing the Law and Decree on Persons with Disabilities. UN-supported analysis of existing education data is being used to strengthen the education information system to ensure evidence-based planning and more targeted interventions.

The General Department of Education Testing and Accreditation under MOET initiated improving the higher education quality assurance system with the development of a proposal for a Quality Assurance and Accreditation (QAA) Framework and the strengthening of the National QAA Task Force's capacities through a series of training workshops and international consultation meetings. Community learning centres (CLC) were further strengthened through targeted training for over 2,000 CLC facilitators from ten provinces. The development of learning materials and guidelines further equipped these centres with practical tools on issues such as HIV/AIDS preventive education,

parent education and responding to climate change.

Strengthening Social Protection Services

Since 2010, the UN has been advocating for a 'basic floor' of social protection for all Vietnamese people. The UN also continued supporting the strengthening of the social welfare workforce, through the development of professional standards for community social workers as well as training on social work administration for social welfare managers and social work education. Social work service centres are currently being piloted to provide support to specific vulnerable groups.

In 2011, for the first time, the National Assembly Committee for Culture, Education, Youth and Children (CEYC) in partnership with MOLISA co-organized and co-chaired the 2011 National Children's Forum, which contributed to strengthening the participation of children in the work of elected officials. The UN supported the NA Committee in exercising its parliamentary oversight function through the following: support to the Committee's assessment of state agencies' performance in preventing and controlling child abuse and violence against children; development of a toolkit for overseeing the right to play, recreational and cultural activities; and dissemination of key information on the situation of children in Viet Nam to new elected officials at both national and sub-national level, through a comprehensive situation analysis of children conducted in three provinces.

Technical support provided by the UN to the development of the child protection system culminated in the approval by Government of the first ever National Programme on Child Protection for 2011-2015 and the National Programme of Action for Children 2011-2020. The UN further continued to support the reform of the child adoption system and in July 2011 the Government ratified the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, an important step in harmonizing the national legal framework with international standards. In the area of justice, an inter-agency circular

was developed to guide the implementation of the Penal Procedure Code's provisions related to juveniles in criminal proceedings.

The UN also provided technical support to the law drafting committee, advising on how to better protect child victims of human trafficking and define clearer roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies. The new Law on Prevention and Combating Human Trafficking was adopted by the National Assembly in March 2011, along with a National Programme of Action against Human Trafficking. The Government confirmed its strong commitment to address this issue by ratifying the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and Protocol on Human Trafficking.

Ending Gender-Based Violence

Living a life free of violence is a basic right. In this respect, the 2007 Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control has generally been considered a significant milestone, providing protection for women and their families. During 2011 the UN continued to support Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Domestic Violence Prevention programmes at national and sub-national level. In two GBV community-based pilots in Phu Tho and Ben Tre, tailor-made training was provided to police officers and health staff to effectively respond to cases of gender-based violence. To raise awareness among the general public, an advocacy video entitled New hope for GBV victims and one documentary on GBV law enforcement were launched.

Throughout 2011 the UN worked with the Ho Chi Minh Youth Union to engage men and boys to end violence against women and girls. Ten after-school clubs were set up in five schools in Da Nang, with around 150 boys participating in discussions on gender concepts, gender-based violence, masculinity, healthy relationships and anger management. Communication activities were also organized at these schools to raise awareness of surrounding influences on boys such as peers, teachers and parents. During the 16 Days of Activism, a special event was organized for all club members to share what they learned.

Box 6: Eliminating Violence Against Women

On the occasion of the International Day on Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November and the 16 Days of Activism, a joint communication campaign with the theme 'Strong Hands Against Gender-Based Violence' was organized with ten key events, 'live' and online, to advocate and raise awareness on GBV. These events included for example a High-Level Policy Dialogue on Strengthening Responses to Violence Against Women in Viet Nam, a Policy Advocacy Workshop with parliamentarians to advocate for GBV intervention packages, and one coordinated national response to GBV, a Joint UN-Government Conference on Response to Domestic Violence and Law Enforcement, a 'White Bag Lunch' with the theme What Would You Do If You Witnessed Domestic Violence?, a social media photo competition, a circle painting event and a national drawing competition for children. These events were all held as a part of the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE to end Violence Against Women Campaign, and this was the first time Viet Nam officially engaged in this campaign, which brought together many UN Agencies, Government partners and national NGOs.



ONE PLAN OUTCOME 3:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

To ensure a sustainable and balanced development path, Viet Nam will have to address a range of critical challenges, from increasing industrialization and urbanization to the effects of climate change. In 2011, the UN continued supporting the development and implementation of several legal frameworks, policies and strategies for managing the country's rich natural and cultural resources. Strong Government commitment and support from the UN and other development partners enabled the implementation of a wide array of initiatives, strengthening national capacities and promoting environmentally sustainable growth while minimizing harmful effects on the environment and society.

Dealing Effectively with Climate Change

At the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2011, Viet Nam reaffirmed its commitment to address the negative impact of climate change. In preparation for the conference and throughout the year, the UN provided training and hands-on policy and technical advice to the Government of Viet Nam delegation participating in the international climate negotiations.

The UN provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) in developing a number of key policies to deal with climate change, especially the 2011-2020 National Climate Change Strategy and the National Green Growth Strategy. For the formulation of these strategies and programmes, the UN brought

in high-quality international expertise during national and international consultations. The new policies focus in particular on promoting low-carbon development, green production, restoration of natural assets and stimulation of 'green' lifestyles. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) adopted a new programme aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent in the agricultural sector by 2020.

The UN-REDD Programme (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) is one of the major global initiatives to address climate change and Viet Nam was selected as one of the initial pilot countries in 2009. Throughout 2011, UN support to the Government facilitated effective implementation of UN-REDD Phase 1 and formulating the Phase 2 Programme proposal, as well as the National REDD+ Programme (NRP), both to be approved in 2012. Under the UN-REDD initiative, the UN has provided multi-disciplinary support in piloting 'benefit-sharing' activities (carbon finance benefiting low-income forest managers) through the application of the principle of 'Free, Prior and Informed Consent'. Piloting took place in predominantly ethnic minority populated areas in accordance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and resulted in the creation of a National REDD Network bringing together Government agencies, donors and NGOs.

Improving Energy Efficiency

Over the last few years the UN has actively supported Viet Nam in the formulation and adoption of a clear legal framework and policies on energy efficiency. In January 2011

the National Assembly approved the new Law on Energy Efficiency and Conservation. Subsequently the Government published a Decision on Energy Efficiency Standards and Labelling, which defined groups of devices and equipment subject to energy labelling and application of minimum energy efficiency standards.

The UN is among key donors supporting Viet Nam to improve energy efficiency in small and medium enterprises in five industrial sectors and in public lighting. The results of this support contributed to an overall reduction of 5 percent in total energy consumption, achieving the goals set in the National Target Programme on Energy Efficiency and Saving Phase I (2006-2010).

A Cleaner Environment

To ensure a cleaner environment, the UN has been assisting Viet Nam in undertaking a comprehensive inventory of stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and contaminated sites, preparing an action plan for remediation, and testing new technologies. In October 2011, a National Action Plan for Treatment and Prevention of Environmental Pollution was approved. Furthermore, with UN support, the Government implemented key strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of pollutants, including overuse of agricultural chemicals.

The UN has been instrumental in depoliticizing the dioxin issue since 2006, mainly through collecting and making available reliable information on dioxin contamination and by facilitating a number of dialogues on this topic. This contributed to the country's ability to mobilize substantial financial resources from a number of donors for environmental remediation of dioxin-contaminated soil and sediment. With UN technical assistance, the National Action Plan for Overcoming the Consequences of Dioxin was developed. This initiative constitutes a radical policy advancement towards an adoption of nationally permitted levels of dioxin concentration in all types of land, air, water and food, and dioxin remediation at three dioxin hotspots.

Ensuring Better Natural and Cultural Resources Management

In 2011, the UN supported further capacity strengthening of national and local Government officers to assess, monitor and update policies for sustainable development. As one example, Quang Nam province, with UN support, effectively monitored the implementation of ten high priority actions proposed in its newly developed culture-tourism strategy. It includes policy reviews and adjustment of development targets in the existing master tourism plan, assessment of climate change impacts on tourism and tourist visitation data collection.

Box 7: Dioxin – Minimizing Health Risks and Environmental Effects

Viet Nam faces unprecedented negative consequences of dioxin that originates from herbicides used during the armed conflict over the period 1961 to 1971. After 40 years, dioxin concentration in the soil at three contaminated hotspots (Bien Hoa, Phu Cat and Da Nang airbases) is still as high as 365,000 parts per trillion of international toxicity equivalents. This is hundreds of times the required clean-up level by national and international standards.

The contaminated soils remaining in these three hotspots have been posing major environmental effects and health risks to local people, including disabilities. A UN project started in 2010 aimed at supporting Viet Nam to minimize the disruption to ecosystems and health risks for people living near these hotspots. In 2011, a remarkable milestone was the containment of 5,400 cubic meters of contaminated soil in a well-designed landfill in Phu Cat. This landfill is fully compliant with national regulations and meets international standards for proper containment. Regular monitoring will ensure elimination of the current risks of dioxin outflow.

In 2012, the project will demonstrate a fully environmentally sound destruction of contaminated soil at Bien Hoa airbase by testing mechano-chemical destruction (MCD). Successful demonstration of the MCD technology will offer more options and potential for full remediation of dioxin-contaminated soils in the main hotspots. This technology can also be used for destruction of soils contaminated with other persistent organic pollutants, such as obsolete pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls.

The UN also enhanced key stakeholders' ability for sustainable development planning and management of cultural and natural resources, both at national and sub-national level. Local Government officials and local stakeholders were able to propose policy updates taking into account results and lessons learned from pilot activities, such as the institutional framework for community tourism groups in Hoi An and Cham Island.

Safeguarding and integrating customary practices into conservation objectives is a critical component in achieving sustainable development. In 2011, the UN continued strengthening the capacity of the management boards of biosphere reserves to conduct participatory research and develop practical solutions to integrate conservation goals with cultural development needs by working with local communities. This research highlighted the importance of local knowledge and practices of the community in stabilizing livelihoods and contributing to better resource management, as well as the necessity of a continuing dialogue between local communities and management boards of Biosphere Reserves and World Natural Heritage Sites in Viet Nam.

Box 8: Community Participation – Key to Conservation

Viet Nam has eight biosphere reserves that play a crucial role in preserving critical bio-geographical components and natural habitats. They also provide important economic opportunities to local communities and a wide range of ecosystem services that benefit both internal and external users. In 2011, Thai and Cho Ro communities in Dong Nai and Western Nghe An Biosphere Reserve were empowered to conduct an inventory of intangible cultural heritage with technical support from the UN and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. This inventory serves as a basis for local communities to safeguard their indigenous knowledge and identify measures for the promotion of traditional intangible cultural heritage for future generations.

Enhancing Sustainable Rural and Urban Development

The 2010-2020 National Target Programme on New Rural Development (NTP-NRD) or 'Tam Nong' represents significant policy improvements. An integrated and centralized programme, it cuts across many sectors and administrative levels in terms of organization, institutions and policy. Throughout 2011, the UN supported the NTP-NRD by providing policy advice to MARD and coordinating assistance from several UN Agencies. An international policy advisory forum and four regional workshops were organized to share lessons learned and provide practical advice to ensure efficient implementation. 'Tam Nong' aims to modernize rural areas through coordinating integrated development interventions and master planning at the commune level, thereby decentralizing public funding and improving the overall living standards of rural communities. At the same time, communities are supported in adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change. By the end of 2011, about 50 percent of the 9,121 selected communes had completed commune development master plans, with 100 percent expected to be completed by June 2012.

Rapid and accelerating urbanization is another major challenge. The compilation of the Viet Nam Profile of Cities, developed with UN support, provides an overview of urbanization trends, urban challenges and opportunities in more than 70 cities that are members of the Association of Cities of Viet Nam (ACVN). This initiative is expected to inform future sustainable urban development policies and attract investments in urban areas. The UN-supported 'Hoi An Eco-City' initiative is a good example of how socio-cultural and eco-friendly development can be combined to boost the quality of urbanization according to Hoi An's vision until 2030.



ONE PLAN OUTCOME 4:

ACCOUNTABLE, TRANSPARENT AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

STRENGTHENING MODERN INSTITUTIONS AND PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES

Enhancing accountability, transparency, participation in decision-making and strengthening the capacity of public institutions are key priorities for Viet Nam. The 2011 Party Congress reaffirmed this and also adopted a new definition of rule of law based on the concept of ‘control’ of State powers. The Congress resolved to amend the Constitution and establish a constitutional review mechanism.

During 2011, the UN supported Viet Nam in several areas by providing policy advice, technical assistance and capacity development. A number of policy dialogues for institutional reform took place, including the Legal Partnership Forum with the Ministry of Justice, the Public Administration Partnership Forum with the Ministry of Home Affairs, a high-level dialogue with the Ministry of Public Security on gender justice, and the Anti-Corruption Dialogue with active and substantive UN involvement. These dialogues provided important platforms to discuss critical issues for reform among the Government, UN, donors and civil society organizations.

Strengthening the Rule of Law and Access to Justice

As a result of close collaboration and UN support to the Ministry of Justice and the drafting board, the new Law on the Handling of Administrative Sanctions, discussed by the National Assembly in November 2011, better takes into account Viet Nam’s obligations under core human rights treaties, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention of the Rights of the Child. In particular, the draft law includes the introduction of procedural safeguards for those subject to administrative detention,

the removal of administrative detention as a sanction for sex workers and the introduction of three diversion measures as alternatives to administrative liability of juveniles.

The UN also helped strengthen child-friendly justice procedures through technical support for the development of an Inter-agency Circular guiding the implementation of the Penal Procedure Code’s provisions related to juveniles in criminal proceedings. With UN support, more than 200 police officers, prosecutors and judges were trained in applying more child-friendly methods when dealing with children who have come in contact with the law.

Furthermore, the UN supported specific research on the justice sector’s response to domestic violence. The main report, published in 2011 and discussed at two high-level conferences with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Security, provides tools for the development of criminal justice services and baseline data for future assessments of the quality of criminal justice services in dealing with domestic violence. At a Joint Conference, co-organized by the Ministry of Public Security and the UN, key stakeholders identified policy gaps in addressing the issue of violence against women in the public security sector. Training materials on how to handle domestic violence cases were used to train a broad range of law enforcement actors.

During 2011 the Government approved a National Strategy on Drug Control to 2020 and developed the National Target Programme on Drug Control and Crime Prevention. Through UN-supported training on criminal investigation techniques and the production of a handbook on anti-money laundering,

Box 9: Examples of UN-supported Research on Governance Issues in 2011

- A comparative study on the policy climate and legal framework for state-civil society relations in China, Russia, the Philippines and India
- Research on law enforcement and legal responses to domestic violence in Viet Nam
- An anti-corruption survey by the Government Inspectorate on risks for corruption arising from weaknesses in Viet Nam's laws and regulations on extractive industries
- Guide to Vietnamese labour law for the garment industry
- Discussion Paper on provisions of industrial relations in the revisions of the Labour Code and Trade Union Law
- Discussion Paper on issues of employment relationships
- Research study on labour sub-leasing
- Research on incentives and salaries in the public sector
- National self-assessment report on implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption
- Viet Nam Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI)
- A gender disaggregated analysis of governance and public administration
- A comprehensive analysis of the situation of children in Dien Bien province

law enforcement and judiciary officers significantly strengthened their capacities in these areas. Overall, the UN continued supporting national law enforcement capacity building through providing various training courses and technical assistance to hundreds of Government officers from the Police, Customs, Border Army, Justice Department, Supreme People's Prosecution Office, Supreme People's Court, State Bank, Police Academy, Police University, Judicial Academy, as well as police officers from Lao PDR.

In the fight against human trafficking, the UN provided specific technical support to the law drafting committee, providing detailed advice on how to better protect child victims of human trafficking and ensure clearer roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies. The new Law on the Prevention and Combating of Human Trafficking was adopted by the National Assembly in March 2011, followed by the approval of the National Programme of Action against Human Trafficking, for 2011-2015.

As part of Viet Nam's follow up to the Universal Periodic Review in 2009, the UN facilitated the missions of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, Mr. Anand Grover, and the Independent Expert on the Effects of Foreign Debt, Mr. Cephass Lumina. The reports of both experts will be presented to the Human Rights Council in 2012. The Government

also submitted the periodic report on the Convention against Racial Discrimination, which was drafted with UN support, and produced a manual on the ratification of international human rights treaties that is now used across all ministries. Furthermore, a study on how to set up a National Human Rights Institution was commissioned by the UN at the request of the Government.

The draft Labour Code and the Trade Union Law that were developed with UN technical advice have been submitted to the National Assembly in 2011, with the overall aim to strengthen compliance with international labour standards. The capacity of both the Government and social partners in developing these draft laws, as well as that of the National Assembly in appraising these laws, was improved through a number of studies and knowledge-sharing activities. With UN support, recent wage reform schemes proposed by the Government in collaboration with the workers' and employers' organizations initiated a new effort for reforming the minimum wage system as part of the overall wage policy system.

Supporting Implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption

During 2011 the UN continued supporting the implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), ratified by the Government of Viet Nam in 2009. To comply

with its obligations as a member of the Conference of State Parties to UNCAC, the Government conducted a self-assessment to review the implementation of the Convention in the area of criminalization and law enforcement. The self-assessment found that Viet Nam is compliant with 77 percent of the two areas under review, and helped identify the non-compliant areas, such as illicit enrichment, bribery in the private sector, translation of legislation regarding money laundering, liability of legal persons, extradition provisions and joint investigations. Technical and legal guidance to effectively implement UNCAC in these areas was compiled, discussed and distributed among ministries, to close remaining gaps in legislation.

Through the UNCAC self-assessment, institutional capacities in monitoring and evaluating corruption and anti-corruption efforts were substantially strengthened. A set of national indicators for analysis and assessment of corruption was developed, as well as clearer reporting mechanisms and criteria. Viet Nam now has a coordination mechanism among relevant agencies and ministries in collecting and sharing such data.

Furthermore, the UN supported strengthening public participation in monitoring corruption. Several surveys were conducted throughout 2011, including a survey on risks for corruption arising from weaknesses in Viet Nam's laws and regulations on extractive industries, a survey and performance review of anti-corruption dialogues, a survey of citizen's access to information on corruption and anti-corruption, and a survey on corruption risks in land allocations to real estate property businesses. The surveys provided key inputs to the 9th and 10th Anti-Corruption Dialogues and introduced a new approach to policy-making in Viet Nam.

On 9 December 2011 the Government, in cooperation with the UN, launched a large promotional campaign, including media outreach, on the occasion of the International Day Against Corruption. As part of the new anti-corruption communication strategy developed in 2011, specific education events were conducted, targeting a wide range of people, including Government officials and civil society organizations.

Enhancing Accountability and Public Administration

The Public Administration Reform Master Plan for 2011-2020 identifies three main priorities: institutional reform, human resource development and improving the quality of public services. The newly adopted Master Plan sets clear objectives and expected results while clarifying the roles and responsibilities of different State agencies. It also includes a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework, developed with UN support, to enhance the accountability of State agencies and ensure a results-based management approach to the reform process.

In 2011, the Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) was extended from 30 to 63 provinces. Conducted in partnership with the Viet Nam Fatherland Front through the Centre for Community Support and Development Studies (CECODES), PAPI systematically measures and monitors the performance of provincial public administration systems to allow comparison and dissemination of good practices between provinces. In response to this 'demand-side' tool, provincial authorities are now starting to develop action plans to improve their performance. At the same time, policy-makers at central level also started to take into consideration public sector performance assessments based on users' expectations. Provincial leaders from Kon Tum and Dac Lac partnered with the UN to disseminate PAPI and Social Audit findings, resulting in strong political commitment to improve PAPI scores, with particular attention to 'low-score areas' such as increasing citizens' participation in local decision-making, transparency and addressing corruption.

Strengthening Parliament and Public Participation in Decision-making

In 2011, the UN continued to support the National Assembly (NA), its specialized Committees and the Provincial People's Councils. Several public consultations and hearings were conducted as part of the NA's oversight role. The Committee for Social Affairs conducted a public consultation on the Labour Code, the Ethnic Council held two public consultations on housing and

credit policies for ethnic minorities, whereas the Committee for Culture, Education, Youth and Children held a broad consultation on the draft Law on Advertising.

In November 2011, the Office of the National Assembly and the UN organized a Parliamentary Partnership Forum during which ambassadors were briefed by MPs on the outcomes of the second NA session. Furthermore, a high-level international conference on fiscal reform in transition countries was co-organized with the NA Committee for Financial and Budgetary Affairs. The UN also supported the Institute for Legislative Studies in launching a website that makes its research products available to all NA deputies and Government agencies.

Following the national and local elections, newly elected deputies to the National Assembly and Provincial People's Councils participated in induction programmes provided by the NA Training Centre and thus enhanced their knowledge on issues such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The UN also provided technical assistance to the National Assembly to strengthen gender mainstreaming in law drafting, including the Trade Union Law, the Law on Higher Education and the Law on Advertisement, while also reviewing gender mainstreaming in other legal documents.

Throughout 2011, and following the trend started during the previous year, the UN helped to strengthen the role of civil society in policy dialogue with the Government in several areas. For the first time since the Public Administration Reform Master Plan for 2011-2020 was drafted, representatives from civil society, united in the Cooperation Group for Governance and Public Administration Reform, a Vietnamese NGO network, were able to present a list of recommendations to the Ministry of Home Affairs on how to improve civil society participation in Public Administration Reform.

Furthermore, the UN facilitated a dialogue on civil society issues by hosting a meeting to present the preliminary findings of a comparative study, commissioned by the UN and the Viet Nam Union of Science

Box 10: PAPI – A Collective Action Process to Engage Citizens in Public Administration

As Viet Nam achieves higher levels of development, citizens' expectations about public services are also increasing. In 2011, the UN continued its support to put people at the centre of development and contributed to the development of the largest nationwide citizens' survey on governance and public administration performance. The Viet Nam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) measures the standards of governance and public administration drawn from citizens' experiences in their interactions with government authorities. In an environment reliant on performance 'self-assessments' of government stakeholders, PAPI helps provide a bottom-up perspective by studying people-centred experiences.

PAPI captures 13,642 individual citizens' experiences in an innovative effort to support a more evidence-based policy-making process. PAPI is a composite index including 6 dimensions, 22 sub-dimensions and 92 different indicators. With numerous graphs and maps, PAPI provides an extensive analysis of aggregate national level governance and public administration performance. It also offers a comprehensive overview of the current state of affairs regarding citizens' experiences in 63 provinces.

PAPI is an incipient and ongoing joint collaboration and collective action process between the Centre for Community Support and Development Studies (CECODES), under the Central Committee for the Viet Nam Fatherland Front (VFF), and the UN. The scientific nature and orientation towards beneficiaries, as well as the validity of PAPI, are ensured thanks to the effective coordination between national and international partners, and between the VFF Central Committee and the Committees at provincial and grass-roots level.

For further information: www.papi.vn

and Technology Associations (VUSTA), on governance systems and their impact on civil society-government relations in China, the Philippines, India and Russia. The study was subsequently published to make it accessible to a wider range of stakeholders. In 2011 the UN also convened Donor-CSO coordination meetings during which the regulatory framework for CSOs in Viet Nam as well as an overview of ongoing donor grants schemes were presented.

Supporting Local Authorities

During 2011 the UN supported the development of several provincial SEDPs and sector plans including comprehensive planning, monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Lessons learned were disseminated among provincial leaders and a manual on SEDP planning and monitoring was developed, also providing guidance on the integration of child rights. The new provincial SEDPs pay special attention to addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. With UN support, public expenditure tracking surveys were implemented in Ho Chi Minh City and Dien Bien to assess resource flow

issues related to cash transfers in support of poor ethnic minority children and vulnerable children. In addition, through tailor-made training, national and sub-national officials, researchers and civil society representatives enhanced their capacity to use social audit tools.

Cross-sectoral coordination and linkages among public delivery agencies in six provinces were further strengthened during the year. Through joint planning and joint monitoring and evaluation, Dien Bien, Ninh Thuan, Dong Thap, An Giang, Kon Tum and HCMC provinces improved the delivery of multi-sectoral and integrated social services. As a result, 100,000 pre-school, primary and lower-secondary school children benefited from child-friendly and child-safe schools. In addition, 50,000 people gained access to safe water; 3,000 households received hygiene education; 5,000 children from hard-to-reach villages were immunized; 44,000 pregnant women benefited from quality antenatal care services and 3,000 children in need of special protection benefited from community-based protection systems.



ONE PLAN OUTCOME 5:

REDUCED VULNERABILITY TO NATURAL DISASTERS, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

HELPING VIET NAM DEAL WITH DISASTERS AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

In 2011, the Asia-Pacific region was affected by 89 natural disasters, including the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, unusual urban floods in Thailand and tropical storm Washi in the Philippines. Viet Nam saw prolonged flooding in the Mekong Delta as well as floods and landslides in the Northern and Central provinces, drought and a number of tropical storms in the second half of the year. These natural disasters resulted in numerous casualties, severely damaged infrastructure and affected the livelihoods of many people.

In November 2011, the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) launched its long-awaited 'Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation', providing an important source of scientifically reliable projections on the future of disasters in the context of a changing climate. The 2011-2015 SEDP also highlights the increased complexity of disasters and the increased vulnerability to natural hazards and economic losses from disasters, climate change and pandemics.

Establishing Laws and Action Plans for Disaster Risk Management

A comprehensive legislative framework is essential to effectively address all aspects related to disaster risk management (DRM). During 2011, the joint GoV-UN Programme Coordination Group on Natural Disasters and Emergencies (PCG NDE) provided substantive expert advice and peer review to the inter-ministerial DRM Drafting and Editing Committee in developing the third and final draft of the Disaster Risk Management Law. As

a result of specific UN recommendations, the latest draft law duly adheres to international and regional legal agreements. In addition, the rights and responsibilities of individuals, Government bodies and other organizations, as well as mechanisms to protect and enforce those rights, are clearly stated in the current draft law. In cooperation with the NGO-based Joint Advocacy Network Initiative, public consultations were undertaken in four provinces, as well as other consultations with practitioners from various sectors. The latest draft DRM Law will be submitted shortly to the National Assembly for verification.

Extensive UN support was provided specifically to MOH and MOET in the finalization of their ministerial DRM Action Plans, in line with the National Strategy on Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020 and the Climate Change Action Plans. MOET is undertaking a final review of the 'Minimum Standards for Education: Preparedness, Response and Recovery for Viet Nam'. With UN technical assistance these were developed based on the translation and contextualization of the internationally recognized Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Minimum Standards. Once finalized, these standards will be the reference standards for all schools in Viet Nam in terms of what to do to prepare, respond and recover from emergencies.

Strengthening National Capacity to Respond to Disasters

In times of emergencies, the PCG NDE has continued providing stakeholders with up-to-date information through the dissemination of regular disaster situation

Box 11: Gender Mainstreaming in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

Ensuring that both women's and men's vulnerabilities and risks are addressed is critical for an effective response to disasters. Therefore, the PCG NDE together with Oxfam GB organized a National Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in December 2011. The good practices shared during this workshop were subsequently discussed with senior Government officials and members of the National Assembly Science, Technology and Environment Committee during a high-level policy dialogue. Lessons learned from these two events have been captured in a Policy Brief on Gender Equality in DRR and CCA. Based on a detailed analysis of national and international expertise, the Policy Brief outlines a number of key recommendations on how to ensure gender mainstreaming in existing and new legal documents, policies and practices.

reports ('SitReps'). Along with technical support to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) this has led to a more coordinated and effective response to disasters. Specific support was provided to the DMC in organizing an innovative and comprehensive training programme on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) for Government staff at national and sub-national level. In addition, a historical disaster damage database was developed using software that will enable better informed and more comprehensive policy analysis of disaster trends.

The UN contributed to the joint rapid assessment carried out in response to the Mekong Delta floods in the latter part of the year. The enhanced local capacity in An Giang and Dong Thap was important in assessing the situation caused by the flooding, which claimed 85 lives, of which 72 were children, and affected over 700,000 people in the Mekong Delta. The assessment provided the necessary information for a better coordinated response operation. The results

were critical for identifying specific needs and supplies required regarding health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, child protection, household kits and life vests to help the affected population in the provinces.

Further support was provided to improve the operation and effectiveness of the MOH Disaster Management Unit as the main agency for coordination of health preparedness and response before, during and after emergencies. An extensive UN-supported capacity development programme for health sector managers and health providers at both national and provincial level was completed in 2011. Furthermore, technical assistance was provided to assess the safety of hospitals and health facilities during emergencies and develop a national list of essential drugs and medical instruments for use during disasters.

In 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development accelerated the implementation of the nationwide Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) programme supported by the UN. During 2011, an estimated VND 5 billion was invested, with a projected VND 8 billion to be allocated in 2012. March 2011 saw the establishment of a CBDRM Technical Working Group, co-chaired by MARD and the UN. Bringing together technical experts from the Government, UN, Red Cross, international NGOs and the academic sector, this group developed a number of components for the CBDRM programme, including a five-year action plan, guidelines on implementation, monitoring and evaluation, a training package and made progress towards a national risk assessment.

Continued UN support was provided to strengthen the institutional systems, technical expertise and coordination mechanisms in the agricultural sector. Vulnerable communities in the northern mountainous regions are now more aware of and resilient to disasters and climate change. In another initiative in Phu Yen and Binh Dinh provinces, the UN and the Viet Nam Women's Union joined forces to document and disseminate evidence of functional models of women's participation and decision-making in the context of disasters.

Responding Effectively to Avian Influenza and Other Communicable Diseases

In 2011, the UN further strengthened MARD's capacity in the area of animal health laboratories, outbreak response, epidemiological investigations of animal diseases, risk analysis and mitigation measures at the production and health interface. In view of the emergence of a new strain of the H5N1 virus among poultry in Viet Nam, the Government decided to halt mass vaccination of poultry against highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), because poultry infection with a particular variant virus within this new clade could not be prevented with the available commercial vaccines. With UN technical assistance a scenario-planning workshop was organized to visualize different scenarios that may emerge due to the shift in vaccination policy. Various risk scenarios were identified and measures proposed to mitigate risks. A regional approach to HPAI control was initiated through the development of a control plan, specifically for one region comprising ten provinces in the South and another with six provinces in the Central Region.

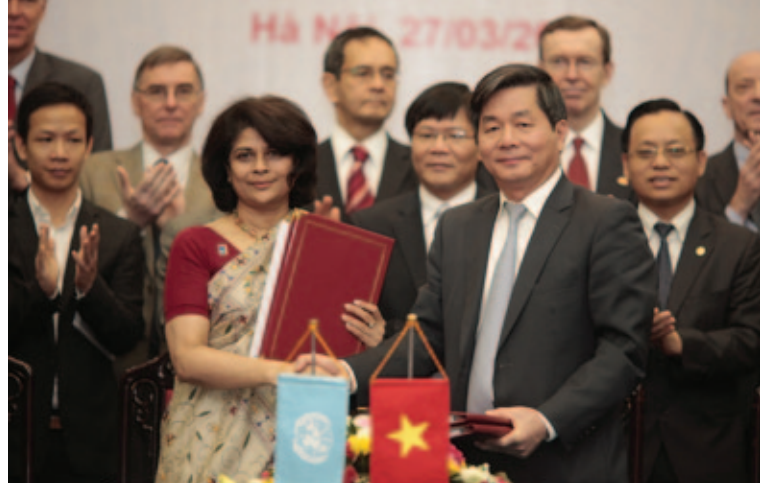
2011 was the final year of the joint Government-UN Joint Programme to Fight Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (2007-2011). With technical assistance from the UN, a number of relevant policies at both

national and provincial level were developed and adopted, including a new Integrated National Operational Programme on Avian Influenza, Pandemic Preparedness and Emerging Infectious Diseases (2011-2015). This new programme provides the framework for an integrated, multi-sectoral response and coordination of resources. This is in line with the objectives of the 'Ha Noi Declaration' adopted at the International Ministerial Meeting on Animal and Pandemic Influenza (IMCAPI) hosted by Viet Nam in 2010.

National capacity in the area of epidemiology was enhanced as the first students graduated from the UN-supported Viet Nam Field Epidemiology Training Programme in August 2011 after two years of training. Influenza surveillance and response capacity was further strengthened through training of staff from the two National Influenza Centres in antiviral resistance testing. Standard operating procedures were developed in the area of biosafety, quality assurance and quality management regarding nine priority diseases in order to obtain baseline information and identify existing gaps and needs. Based on the 'One Health' principle, a zoonotic diseases prioritization workshop was held in Ha Noi in August 2011. The UN also provided support to MOH for malaria prevention and control, while assisting the Government in responding to the hand, foot and mouth disease outbreak during 2011.



CHAPTER 4



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP FOR BETTER DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

Planning ahead for the coming years, 2011 saw the finalization and approval of the 2011-2015 Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP), based on the 2011-2020 Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS). The UN provided key support in coordinating the inputs for the SEDP from various development partners. As part of this process, the UN, World Bank and the Like-Minded Donor Group (LMDG) held a series of consultation meetings with the SEDP drafting team in the Ministry of Planning and Investment. One of the UN contributions included a detailed analysis and recommendations on how best to mainstream gender into the new SEDP.

During 2011 the Aid Effectiveness Forum (AEF) continued to further enhance the effectiveness of development assistance and donor coordination through several initiatives. The AEF includes senior representatives from central and line ministries, the National Assembly, civil society organizations and development partners. As co-chair of the AEF Executive Committee, the UN actively supported the Government of Viet Nam in preparing for the HLF-4 in Busan in November 2011. The UN also engaged with Government and development partners in the Paris Declaration Survey and the revision of the ODA Strategic Framework for Viet Nam and the Decree on ODA Management. In 2012, together with national and international partners, the UN will continue to actively move forward the Aid Effectiveness agenda by implementing the Busan Outcome document at country level.

The special donor coordination group on climate change, co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the German Ambassador, continued to act as a forum for convening high-level policy dialogues. This also enabled various national and international consultations for the formulation of important strategies, such as the Climate Change Strategy and the Green Growth Strategy. As in previous years, the UN coordinated the formulation of joint positions by development partners on climate change issues for the mid-term and annual Consultative Group meetings.

During 2011 the Gender Action Partnership continued to act as a forum for coordination and information sharing among Government, the UN, Donors and civil society organizations working on gender equality. One of the key events was the Policy Dialogue on Gender Equality, which was organized by the Gender PCG in March 2011 on the occasion of International Women's Day. This provided an opportunity to discuss and agree on further steps to bridge the gender gap and promote behaviour change in line with the proposed actions in the 2011-2020 National Strategy on Gender Equality.

In 2011, the Ambassadors/UN Heads of Agencies Informal Coordination Group on HIV, co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, played a key role in advocating for a more inclusive, rights-based and sustainable national response to HIV with new leaders of the National Committee for AIDS, Drugs and Prostitution Prevention and Control. The

group particularly made efforts to advocate for harm-reduction approaches that focus on key populations at higher risk of HIV infection. A visit to Can Tho was organized at the invitation of the Chair of the National Committee, alongside other Committee leaders, to gain a better understanding of the HIV epidemic in the province, and to understand efforts to respond to the epidemic, especially harm reduction for sex workers and people who inject drugs, and prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

The UN and other development partners continued to support the Health Partnership Group (HPG), gradually strengthening it as a mechanism for integration and collaboration, thereby enhancing aid effectiveness.

HPG technical working groups on health information, human resources, and health financing and planning were established to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration in these specific areas and enable discussions at a more technical level. The UN supported various assessments of health sector performance, including the Joint Annual Health Review, which specifically reviewed the health financing and health systems governance aspects, an evaluation of the 10-year implementation of the national health benchmarks, an assessment of the health insurance system, a national assessment of the country's pharmaceutical situation, and various surveys on medicine pricing, availability and rational use.



CHAPTER 5



DELIVERING AS ONE UN IN 2011

Five years since the start, the ‘Delivering as One’ (DaO) initiative in Viet Nam has made great strides in ensuring greater coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of UN development interventions. At the Fourth High-Level Intergovernmental DaO Conference in Montevideo (8-10 November 2011), all participating governments, donors and UN organizations fully recognized that the impact of implementing the DaO initiative in the field has been positive. The participants also reaffirmed the principles of previous conferences held in Maputo (2008), Kigali (2009) and Ha Noi (2010) that “there is no going back to doing business in the manner prior to the DaO initiative.”

According to the key findings in the draft report of the ‘Independent Evaluation of Lessons Learned from Delivering as One’, commissioned by the UN General Assembly, the strong tripartite relationship between the UN, Government and Donors is the foundation and key success factor of DaO in Viet Nam. Government leadership and ownership has been critical, and stakeholders consider the UN to be more relevant and coherent than before DaO. The UN is also seen as responding strategically to Viet Nam’s transition to middle-income country status. At the same time, there are still several challenges to address in the next few years, especially by UN organizations’ governing bodies and headquarters, in order to further enhance coherence and more clearly demonstrate development results as well as cost efficiencies.

In 2011, the joint Government-UN Programme Coordination Groups (PCGs) continued to

facilitate the delivery of One Plan results in key thematic areas in a coordinated and effective manner. As in previous years, the PCGs held joint mid-year and annual review meetings together with their Government, donor and civil society counterparts to assess progress and identify areas for further improvement. The UN inter-agency Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (MEWG) provided essential technical advice and assistance to the UNCT, PCGs and UN Agencies to further enhance results-based management. During 2011, the MEWG provided critical support in developing a solid M&E framework for the 2012-2016 One Plan, while also producing a customized One Plan Database to monitor progress.

In 2011, UN efforts towards coherent messaging delivered by ‘One Voice’ continued. The One UN Communications Team continued to support UN-wide advocacy efforts, including on issues such as climate change, gender equality and socio-economic disparities. This included support to developing advocacy communication materials, facilitating media outreach and organizing a series of joint UN events to launch policy papers and raise awareness of key advocacy issues. Where appropriate, the team has managed to make a shift from agency-based to issue-based communication. Bringing together communication professionals from four different agencies, as well as externally funded staff, the team works from a common work plan, sits together in one office and works under one single manager. According to the 2011 Independent DaO Evaluation, the Communications Team provides a reliable, quality service to all Agencies, and the Government appreciates the UN ‘speaking

with One Voice', providing coherent policy advice through common positions and messages.

In terms of cost savings and harmonization of UN business practices, further progress was made during 2011 through joint procurement of specific common services by way of Long-Term Agreements (LTAs) in banking, event management, translation/interpretation services, security, transportation and travel services. Additional LTAs are being developed for other common services such as procurement of paper, in-house printing services and external messenger services. Further significant savings are expected to materialize when Agencies move to the eco-friendly 'Green One UN House'. Current estimates indicate that for the first ten years the expected operational cost savings will amount to about US\$1 million per annum. UN staff will be co-located in inter-agency teams according to programmatic and operational clusters, enhancing synergies and efficiency. The Green One UN House is considered one of the important catalysts for further strengthening DaO, and this unique initiative is the result of close tripartite collaboration with critical support provided by several donor partners and the Government of Viet Nam.

In order to prepare staff for the transition to the Green One UN House, the UN in Viet Nam initiated a 'Green UN Campaign' to reduce the environmental impact of its activities and promote green behaviour among all UN staff. Halfway into the campaign the results are encouraging, with some targets already achieved or exceeded. Electricity consumption, for example, was reduced by 14 percent in 2011 compared to the previous year. Based on the results achieved thus far, the UN was officially certified by the 'Green Office Programme' of the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) in February 2012.

As illustrated in the Financial Overview (Chapter 6), the One Plan Fund (OPF) remains an important component for funding the UN's development interventions in Viet Nam. The share of the One Plan funded through the OPF increased from 17 percent in 2008 to 25 percent in 2009, 34 percent in 2010 and down to 24 percent in 2011. An independent panel

reviewed all OPF funding requests for 2011, based on a revised allocation model with greater emphasis on performance indicators for programmatic results delivery and financial delivery.

During 2011, the UN One Plan for 2012-2016 was developed through a broad tripartite consultative process with active involvement from Government, Donors and PSPMOs (political, social, professional and mass organizations). The new One Plan is a strategic and prioritized programmatic framework in support of national priorities and based on the comparative advantages of the 17 participating UN Agencies, while also involving Non-Resident Agencies.

The One Plan 2012-2016 represents a significant departure from the previous One Plan, as it is more strategic, focused on measurable development results and strengthening the DaO approach. Programming documents of all participating UN Agencies have been developed based on the One Plan. Importantly, it represents a continuing shift towards policy advice and advocacy to support the Government and people of Viet Nam. The new One Plan also focuses on the provision of high-quality technical assistance, capacity development at national and sub-national level, and the UN's role in convening different stakeholders and expanding partnerships. During 2012 to 2016 the UN will work with national and international partners to ensure a balance between economic, human and sustainable development objectives, supporting Viet Nam to achieve inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth, access to quality essential services and social protection, and enhanced governance and participation.

Moving forward, 2012 will be critical as it marks the start of the implementation of the new strategic One Plan, including several new initiatives in support of key national priorities. The tripartite One Plan Steering Committee will provide overall guidance and oversight of the implementation, while the PCGs will ensure a coordinated approach between UN Agencies, national and international development partners. Regarding Delivering as One, the Independent Evaluation will inform

the UN General Assembly's Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) on Operational Activities for Development, to be held in the second half of 2012. This will be

a significant milestone in assessing the value added of the DaO approach and drawing lessons and recommendations for further reform of the UN system as a whole.

“The impact of implementing the DaO initiative in the field has been positive. It has reasserted government leadership, led to better alignment of national priorities and UN efforts and globally enhanced the effectiveness of UN support. The DaO experience has helped in improving coherence, harmonization and efficient implementation generating better development results.”

***Statement in the Outcome Document of the High-Level
Intergovernmental Conference on Delivering as One,
Montevideo, November 2011***





CHAPTER 6



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

One Plan Expenditure in 2011

This section includes key financial data on One Plan expenditure in 2011 with a breakdown by Outcome, Funding Source and UN Agency. The figures are based on the financial reports by Participating UN Organizations' Country Offices in Viet Nam. Due to rounding, totals in the tables may not always add up.

Financial data related to the One Plan Fund (OPF) I and II has been consolidated by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), the Administrative Agent of the

OPFs, on the basis of reports submitted by Participating UN Organizations' Headquarters through the MPTF Office's UNEX Financial Reporting Portal. In some cases there may be some differences between the OPF data submitted by Headquarters and Country Offices, which will be corrected in the 2012 financial reporting. All financial information related to the OPF is also available in various tables on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

Table 1: One Plan Expenditure by Outcome in 2011 (USD)

One Plan Outcome	Expenditure from Regular Resources (Core) in 2011	Expenditure from Other Resources in 2011	Expenditure from One Plan Fund in 2011	Total Expenditure in 2011
Outcome 1: Equitable and Inclusive Social and Economic Policies, Plans and Laws	6,665,915	16,017,626	4,980,352	27,663,893
Outcome 2: Quality Social and Protection Services	8,890,423	11,139,653	8,039,368	28,069,444
Outcome 3: Environmental Protection and the Rational Management of Natural Resources	1,034,962	6,233,483	1,030,061	8,298,506
Outcome 4: Accountable, Transparent and Participatory Governance	4,944,276	3,249,304	3,988,290	12,181,870
Outcome 5: Reduced Vulnerability to Natural Disasters, Communicable Diseases and Other Emergencies	1,511,518	5,470,806	2,958,248	9,940,572
Total	23,047,094	42,110,872	20,996,320	86,154,285

Source: One Plan Participating UN Organizations at country level in Viet Nam

Table 2: One Plan Expenditure by Funding Source 2008-2011

One Plan Expenditure by Funding Source (USD)	2008	2009	2010	2011
Regular Resources	17,229,489	20,412,511	19,354,464	23,047,094
Other Resources	41,917,953	38,266,561	43,017,956	42,110,872
One Plan Fund	12,360,608	19,651,628	32,639,557	20,996,320
Total	71,508,050	78,330,700	95,011,977	86,154,285

Source: One Plan Participating UN Organizations at country level in Viet Nam

Table 3: One Plan Expenditure by UN Agency and Funding Source in 2011 (USD)

UN Agency	Expenditure from Regular Resources (Core) in 2011	Expenditure from Other Resources in 2011	Expenditure from One Plan Fund in 2011	Total Expenditure in 2011
FAO	490,341	5,763,922	762,061	7,016,324
ILO	577,209	7,782,906	1,705,662	10,065,777
UNAIDS	117,225	924,848	244,378	1,286,451
UNDP	8,975,510	5,339,224	4,893,451	19,208,185
UNESCO	489,763	486,770	530,485	1,507,018
UNFPA	4,319,087	1,126,989	1,762,972	7,209,048
UN-HABITAT	709,662	15,000	261,741	986,403
UNICEF	4,169,946	5,818,503	6,635,501	16,623,950
UNIDO	28,806	5,988,467	1,209,748	7,227,021
UNODC	84,342	1,254,401	1,125,082	2,463,825
UNV	200,858	-	88,203	289,061
UN Women	463,725	368,535	525,033	1,357,293
WHO	2,420,620	7,241,306	1,252,002	10,913,927
Total	23,047,094	42,110,872	20,996,320	86,154,285

Source: One Plan Participating UN Organizations at country level in Viet Nam

More detailed information on One Plan expenditure by Output in 2011 can be found in Annex 1 which is available on the enclosed CD-ROM and the UN Viet Nam website.

One Plan Fund in 2011

Following the signing of the One Plan 1 in 2007, the One Plan Fund (OPF) I was established to mobilize and allocate financial resources in a more strategic manner. Upon signing of the One Plan 2 by the Government of Viet Nam and the 14 Participating UN Organizations in June 2008, the OPF II was set up for the mobilization of un-earmarked donor contributions to the One Plan 2.

Table 4 and 5 below display the breakdown of the donor contributions (deposits) received. In 2011, the last year of the One Plan 2, a total of USD 15,253,903 was received from various donors. All contributions in 2011 were made to OPF II. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2011, donor contributions to the OPF I and II amounted to USD 95,388,702.

Following agreement by the One Plan Fund Mobilization and Allocation Committee (OPFMAC) and official endorsement by all OPF donors, the MPTF Office transferred the remaining balance in the OPF I account to OPF II in August 2011. The transferred amount of USD 403,101, consisting of donor contributions to OPF I plus accrued interest, was credited by donor in relation to their cumulative contributions to the OPF I.

All financial information related to the OPF is also available in various tables on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

Table 4: Donor Contributions to One Plan Fund I as of 31 December 2011 (USD)

Donor	Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2010	Jan-Dec 2011	Total
Canada	2,023,882	-	2,023,882
France	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Ireland	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Luxembourg	5,176,500	-	5,176,500
Netherlands	2,500,000	-	2,500,000
New Zealand	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
Norway	6,407,909	-	6,407,909
Spain	4,000,000	-	4,000,000
Switzerland	1,680,000	-	1,680,000
United Kingdom	5,125,500	-	5,125,500
Total	30,913,791	-	30,913,791

Source: MPTF Office, UNDP (<http://mptf.undp.org>)

Table 5: Donor Contributions to One Plan Fund II as of 31 December 2011 (USD)

Donor	Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2010	Jan-Dec 2011	Total
Australia	1,667,000	2,012,000	3,679,000
Canada *	-	1,577,394	1,577,394
Expanded DaO Funding Window	15,099,000	3,030,000	18,129,000
Finland	3,662,095	1,513,490	5,175,585
France *	-	13,040	13,040
Ireland *	3,950,950	1,707,560	5,658,510
Luxembourg *	500,000	567,499	1,067,499
Netherlands *	4,083,600	32,599	4,116,199
New Zealand *	2,000,000	1,095,019	3,095,019
Norway *	3,809,013	1,481,405	5,290,419
Spain *	8,000,000	52,158	8,052,158
Sweden	1,269,500	-	1,269,500
Switzerland *	560,000	21,906	581,906
United Kingdom *	4,619,850	2,149,834	6,769,684
Total	49,221,008	15,253,903	64,474,911

Source: MPTF Office, UNDP (<http://mptf.undp.org>)

* For the donors marked with an asterisk * the contributions recorded under the OPF II in 2011 include an amount (balance of OPF I contributions plus accrued interest) which was transferred from OPF I to OPF II by the MPTF Office on 22 August 2011 following agreement by the One Plan Fund Mobilization and Allocation Committee (OPFMAC) and official endorsement by all OPF donors.

Table 6 and 7 below provide a financial overview of the One Plan Fund I and II respectively, as of 31 December 2011, highlighting the key figures as well as the balance available. Apart from donor contributions, the OPF also receives funds from the interest earned. The two sources of interest income are: (1) Interest earned by the MPTF Office on the balance of funds with

the Administrative Agent's (Fund) account; and (2) Interest Income from the Participating Organizations, which is the amount earned by the Participating Organizations on the undisbursed balance of the OPF. The Administrative Agent fee is charged at an approved rate of 1 percent on deposits to the OPF.

**Table 6: OPF I Financial Report on Sources and Uses of Funds
as of 31 December 2011 (USD)**

	Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2010	Jan-Dec 2011	Total
Sources of Funds			
Gross Donor Contributions	30,913,791	-	30,913,791
Fund Earned Interest Income	899,312	2,019	901,331
Interest Income Received from Participating Organizations	169,037	58,889	227,926
Refunds by Administrative Agent (Interest/Other)	-	(403,101)	(403,101)
Other Revenue	-	-	-
Total - Sources of Funds	31,982,140	(342,193)	31,639,947
Uses of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	31,107,401	-	31,107,401
Refunds Received from Participating Organizations	-	-	-
Net Funded Amount to Participating Organizations	31,107,401	-	31,107,401
Administrative Agent Fees	309,138	-	309,138
Direct Costs (Steering Committees etc.)	162,500	-	162,500
Bank Charges	-	14	14
Other Expenditures	-	-	-
Total - Uses of Funds	31,579,039	14	31,579,053
Balance of Funds Available with Administrative Agent	403,101	(342,206)	60,895

Source: MPTF Office, UNDP (<http://mpmf.undp.org>)

**Table 7: OPF II Financial Report on Sources and Uses of Funds
as of 31 December 2011 (USD)**

	Prior Years as of 31 Dec 2010	Jan-Dec 2011	Total
Sources of Funds			
Gross Donor Contributions	49,221,008	15,253,903	64,474,911
Fund Earned Interest Income	322,754	18,417	341,170
Interest Income Received from Participating Organizations	6,013	21,622	27,635
Refunds by Administrative Agent (Interest/Other)	-	-	-
Other Revenue	-	-	-
Total - Sources of Funds	49,549,774	15,293,942	64,843,716
Uses of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	41,800,304	20,689,120	62,489,424
Refunds Received from Participating Organizations	-	-	-
Net Funded Amount to Participating Organizations	41,800,304	20,689,120	62,489,424
Administrative Agent Fees	492,210	152,539	644,749
Direct Costs (Steering Committees etc.)	137,500	-	137,500
Bank Charges	132	125	257
Other Expenditures	-	-	-
Total - Uses of Funds	42,430,146	20,841,784	63,271,930
Balance of Funds Available with Administrative Agent	7,119,629	(5,547,842)	1,571,786

Source: MPTF Office, UNDP (<http://mptf.undp.org>)

Administrative Agent Functions

The One Plan Fund (OPF) I and II are administered by the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (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 for transfer of funds enhances UN transparency and accountability, a direct application of the Aid Effectiveness Agenda and UN Reform initiative “Delivering as One”, and is 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 (AA), as well as the Standard Administrative Arrangement concluded between donors and the AA, the responsibilities of the AA include the receipt, administration and management of contributions from the donors, disbursement of such funds to Participating UN Organizations in accordance with the approved programmatic documents, and provisions of consolidated reports, based on the reports submitted by Participating UN Organizations.

Transparency and Accountability

A major vehicle for public transparency of operations under the OPF I and II during the reporting period was the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

The MPTF Office GATEWAY was launched in 2010 and is a knowledge platform providing real-time data from the MPTF Office accounting system (Atlas) on financial information on donor contributions, programme budgets and transfers to Participating Organizations (POs). Currently, POs’ annual expenditure figures are also posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, and the MPTF Office is working with POs to enable periodic posting (quarterly or bi-annually) It is designed to provide transparent, accountable fund-management services to the United Nations system to enhance its coherence, effectiveness and efficiency.

Each Multi-Partner Trust Fund and Joint Programme (JP) administered by the MPTF Office has its own website on the MPTF Office GATEWAY with extensive narrative and financial information on the MPTF/JP, including on its strategic framework, governance arrangements, eligibility and allocation criteria. Annual financial and narrative progress reports and quarterly/semi-annual updates on the results being achieved are also available. In addition, each programme has a Factsheet with specific facts, figures and updates on that programme.

The MPTF Office GATEWAY provides easy access to more than 5,000 reports and documents on MPTFs/JPs and individual programmes, with tools and tables displaying related financial data. By enabling users in the field with easy access to upload progress reports and related documents, it also facilitates knowledge-sharing and management among UN agencies. The MPTF Office GATEWAY is already being recognized as a ‘standard setter’ by peers and partners.



UN Viet Nam website:

- PCG Results Matrices 2011
- Annex 1: One Plan Expenditure by Output in 2011





UNITED NATIONS VIET NAM

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