

<b>Programme Title:</b>	Joint Programme on Integrated Nutrition and Food Security Strategies for Children and Vulnerable Groups in Viet Nam
<b>Country:</b>	Viet Nam

## I. Joint Programme Information

### Joint Programme Information

**Programme title:**

Joint Programme on Integrated Nutrition and Food Security Strategies for Children and Vulnerable Groups in Viet Nam

**Sectorial area of intervention and policy objectives**

Food security and nutrition

Integrated approaches for alleviating child hunger and undernutrition.

Promote sustainable and resilient livelihoods for vulnerable households, esp. in the context of adaptation to climate change

Strengthen capacities to generate information through assessment, monitoring and evaluation.

**UN Lead Agency:**

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

**UN Participating Organizations:**

UN Women (UN Women)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

World Health Organization (WHO)

**Local Partners:**

- Maternal and Child Health Department, Ministry of Health
- Crop Production Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan Provincial Peoples Committees
- Provincial Departments of Planning and Investment
- Provincial Health Departments and Reproductive Health Centres
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Provincial Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
- Mass Organisations, including the Farmers' Union, Women's Union and Trade Union
- National and local media agencies
- Private Sector, including UNILEVER, local seeds supplier companies, private hospitals and clinics, local pharmaceutical companies, representatives from UNICEF's Corporate Advisory Board and UNICEF Next Generation of Young Leaders.
- Global Initiatives and Non-Governmental Organisations

Report submitted by

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Joint program coordinator

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**Reporting Period Ending:**

Sunday, November 1, 2015

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### Contact 5

## III. Financial information

### SDG-F Funds

UN Agency	Total approved funds	Total funds Transferred to date	Total funds committed to date	Total funds disbursed to date
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	664,400.00	375,000.00	375,000.00	69,822.00
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	650,000.00	325,000.00	325,000.00	160,172.00
World Health Organization (WHO)	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	22,000.00
UN Women (UN Women)	85,600.00	85,600.00	85,600.00	6,100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,500,000.00</b>	<b>885,600.00</b>	<b>885,600.00</b>	<b>258,094.00</b>

### Matching Funds

<b>Total</b>				
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## IV. Beneficiaries

### Direct Beneficiaries – Breakdown

<b>Beneficiary type - individual</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government	700	255	445	Attended training, workshop and capacity building activities of the program
Indigenous				
Children	3,340	1,653	1,687	Children under 5 years of age in 7 program communes of Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan provinces
Youth				
Women 15-49	6,846	6,846		Women 15-49 in 7 program communes of Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan provinces
Village Health Workers	90	45	45	attended capacity building activities for community based model on nutrition and food security
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,976</b>	<b>8,799</b>	<b>2,177</b>	

<b>Beneficiary type - institutional</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
SMEs		
Cooperatives		
Government/municipal organizations		
Private sector		
Community-based organizations		
NGOs		
<b>Total</b>		

### Indirect Beneficiaries – Breakdown

<b>Beneficiary type - individual</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government				
Indigenous				
Children	22,083	11,106.00	10,977.00	Children under 5 years of age in 4 districts of Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan provinces

Youth				
Women 15-49	41,670	41,670.00		Women 15-49 in 4 districts of Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan provinces
<b>Total</b>	63,753	52,776.00	10,977.00	

<b>Beneficiary type - institutional</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
SMEs		
Cooperatives		
Government/municipal organizations		
Private sector		
Community-based organizations		
NGOs		
<b>Total</b>		

## V. Joint Programme Progress

<b>Expected Results (Outcomes &amp; outputs)</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Difficulties</b>	<b>Expected deliverables</b>
JP Output 1.1:	<p>Technical discussions and consultation have been done, development of the two national operation guidelines is on-going for i) social marketing of nutrition products, and ii) technical guideline on integrated management of severe acute malnutrition (IMAM). Once finalization and approval of these two documents represents an opportunity for additional interventions on child stunting reduction (IMAM, iron folic/Multiple micro-nutrient supplement)</p> <p>Technical discussion have been done for the development of the Food Pyramid Guide for pregnant, lactating women and under-five children which will provide advice to women and child care takers in selecting appropriate daily menu for improving nutrition status of three mentioned above important groups. The Pyramid Food Guide will be the key guidelines for care takers of kindergartens to prepare food for children.</p>	N/A	N/A

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
JP Output 1.2:	<p>Consultation have been done, development of national legislation on mandatory food fortification is under finalization process. Once approved, this legislation will facilitate scaling up of the practice of using iodized salt in people daily meal, and contributed to the reduction of iron and vitamin A deficiencies among women and children.</p> <p>UN provided technical and financial assistance through a national consultation workshop to develop the national rice restructuring project which will greatly contribute to food security in Viet Nam with focus to children and disadvantaged group</p> <p>A desk review on gender issues in nutrition and food security policies and programmes in Viet Nam initiated which will identify gender gaps in nutrition and food security.</p>	Viet Nam lacks a national steering committee that coordinates multi-sector collaboration in the area of nutrition.	Advocacy will continue for the establishment of a national steering committee in nutrition with a strong linkage with SUN movement and Zero Hunger Challenge Initiative
JP Output 2.1:	<p>Community based nutrition model has been formulated /implemented in Lao Cai (2 communes), and started to be set in Ninh Thuan (Oct.2014) with a baseline assessment completed.</p> <p>Technical discussion have been done, field study is on-going to identify intervention to strengthen food security at household level including crop and livestock production as well as home gardening to ensure for nutrition and food security integration.</p>	N/A	N/A
JP Output 2.2:	Parent and care givers gained their knowledge and skill on nutrition via a routine active participation in face to face communication activities on nutrition and household food utilization including demonstration performed by women support groups at village level in Lao Cai province.	N/A	N/A
JP Output 3.1:	Nutrition profile 2014 of national and 63 individual provinces completed and uploaded on the NIN website with data disaggregated	Disaggregate of the data in nutrition profiles by rich and poor is not possible by the national nutrition surveillance system at current designed.	N/A

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
JP Output 3.2:	DPO endorsed by Government Office in August and approved by minister of MOH in September 2015. With UN support, program work plan for 2015-2016 finalized through national and provincial planning workshop. M&E frame work finalized in a participatory manner.	DPO approval took longer time than planned which resulted to delay of program implementation.	Program Work Plan 2015-2016 have been revised based on national and provincial planning workshop in considering the issues of DPO approval. All UN agencies are accelerate implementation

## Cross-cutting issues

How has the JP addressed during the reporting period (please provide concrete actions):

### 1) The **sustainability** of the JP work. (200 words)

At national level, policy and advocacy activities on nutrition and food security including Early Essential Newborn Care with strong ownership of Government which result to nation-wide application and benefit all children. In addition, stunting reduction has been incorporated in to national and provincial Social Economic Development Plan (SEDP) which is important for mobilizing local resource for implementation. At subnational level, the community based nutrition and food security model has been set up in response to the strong demand to formulate a more effective and appropriate formal national nutritional programme. During the model development and implementation, there has been a high level of participation by local health office, local authorities, and different stakeholders from different sectors. Villages and communes are also engaged. The model is not a new, but it is built on the frame work of existed government programme (PEMC) in terms of implementation network, financial and human resource at national, province, district and commune level. There are contribution, ownership and the follow up the PEMC programme at national and provincial level. The services provided under the village support group, and commune child feeding clubs were designed in a way that it could be self-sustained later on via participating and contribution of the villagers.

### 2) The promotion of **women's empowerment and gender equality**. (200 words)

Poor and ethnic minority women and girls are direct beneficiaries of the project. At the policy level, the project support the development of policies related to maternal, infant and young child nutrition. At community level, pregnant and breastfeeding women are targeted in education activities on nutrition and early breast feeding to ensure the best benefits for mothers and infants.

Women-headed households are also supported to implement homestead food production to increase nutrition in the family. Moreover, through providing women with better access to production inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, techniques and finances, it is expected that women's decision making power in family and community will be increased.

A desk review on gender issues in nutrition and food security programme and policies will be conducted to provide a better understanding of the situation, identify gaps and provide recommendations for policy



actions.

### 3) The engagement in **public-private partnerships**. (200 words)

The development and approval of a national guideline on application of social marketing approach for promotion the use of nutrition product will create a very good platform for collaboration and partnership between local health authorities and local companies who have nutritious products..

The JP also focused on development and approval of the national legislation of mandatory food fortification. Once this important legal document is approved, it will create a critical platform for the collaboration between private sector (who produce/import the food items under list of the food to be regulated by this mandatory legislation) and the government sector. This partnership will happen in all fields including the SOP (please spell out) for production of nutrition fortified food, product registration, labeling, standard, food claim and quality control system.

## Communication and Advocacy

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**Has the JP articulated an advocacy & communication actions that helps advance its policy objectives and development outcomes?:**

No

**Please describe communication activities developed as part of the JP. :**

N/A

**Please provide concrete gains on how the the JP communication and advocacy efforts have increased awareness on SDGs.:**

N/A

**JP twitter handle:**

@

Other social media channels managed by joint programme (Instagram, Google+, You Tube...):

### One UN Coordination and Delivering as One

The SDG-F is based on the principles of effective development cooperation, inclusion and participation and One UN coordination.

Actions	Description
Managerial practices (financial, procurement, etc.) implemented jointly by the UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	The JP Coordinator, who coordinates the planning and implementation of activities by the four Agencies maintains regular contacts with the focal points as well as the Government counterparts to fast track the process.
Joint analytical work (studies, publications, etc.) undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	Gender assessment to be jointly conducted by UN Women and other UN agencies to get better understanding of gender issues in connection to food security)

Actions	Description
Joint activities undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	<p>The national planning workshop and provincial planning workshops in Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan provinces organized and facilitated jointly by all UN agencies (FAO, UNICEF, WHO and UN Women).</p> <p>The M&amp;E framework has been finalized in a participatory manner with inputs and participation of all UN agencies and RCO.</p> <p>The Program Launching ceremony was successfully organized on 5 October 2015, with strong participation and contribution from all UN agencies, RCO and UN communication team</p>
Other, please specify:	N/A

### What types of coordination mechanisms and decisions have been taken to ensure joint delivery? :

The Joint program coordinator has been on board from 1st of June 2015, and working together with the focal points assigned by the concerned UN agencies on technical and management issues. The RCO including M&E team plays an important role for quality assurance for joint program as well as support to all UN agencies, and communication with high level of Government as national steering committee especially MPI and Spanish Embassy.

All UN agencies including the JPC participated in the Nutrition Working Group chaired by National Institute of Nutrition, and the technical consultations for Zero Hunger Challenge Initiative chaired by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to share technical inputs for the joint program as well as to promote the SUN movement and Zero Hunger Challenge in Viet Nam.

Program target communes have been decided jointly by all UN agencies based on comprehensive consultation with national and subnational counterparts. Program targets to 4 communes in 2 districts in Ninh Thuan provinces and 3 communes in 2 districts in Lao Cai province. Community Based Model on nutrition and food security is developing jointly in these 7 communes.

### National Ownership: Paris, Accra and Busan Commitments

The SDG-F strengthens the UN system's ability to deliver results in an integrated and multi-dimensional manner by supporting the Joint Programme modality and by bringing together United Nations Agencies and national counterparts in a collective effort to ensure ownership and sustainability of results of JPs and advance towards the SDGs.

Partners	Involvement *	Type of involvement	Examples
Government (specify national/local)	Fully involved	Policy-decision making Budget	The government has fully participated in national steering committee and national program management unit for program supervision and management. The Government is involved in all program cycle from baseline survey, planning and budgeting, implementation and monitoring and evaluation

Partners	Involvement *	Type of involvement	Examples
Private Sector	Fairly involved	Service Provision	<p>The development and approval of a national guideline on application of social marketing approach for promotion the use of nutrition product is part of UNICEF activity under the JP. Once this guideline approved, it will create a very good platform for collaboration and partnership between local health authorities and local companies who have good nutrition products</p> <p>The JP also focuses on development and approval of the national legislation of mandatory food fortification. Once this important legal document approval, it will create a huge platform for the collaboration between private sector (who produce/import the food items under list of the food to be regulated by this mandatory legislation) and the government sector. This partnership will happen in all fields including the SOP for production of nutrition fortified food, product registration, labeling, standard, food claim and quality control system.</p>
Civil Society	Fairly involved	Other	<p>The Women's Union, Farmers' Union and Committee for Ethnic Minorities Affairs (CEMA) e have actively participated in the design, planning and implementation of program interventions for community based models on nutrition and food security as well as parent education</p>
Academia	Fairly involved	Policy-decision making Service Provision Other	<p>The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) has been actively involved in JP formulation phase, as well as implementation phase through baseline data collection, food pyramid development, national data control on nutrition, development of community base nutrition model</p> <p>Agricultural academia, including the Institute for Planning and Strategies of Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD), Fruits and Vegetables Research Institute (FAVRI), Viet Nam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VAAS), Agricultural Science Institute for South Central Viet Nam (ASISOV), Northern Mountainous Agro-Forestry Institute (NOMAFSI) participate in baseline data collection and field study to define interventions for food security component.</p>

\* Implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs

**Please briefly describe the current situation of the government, private sector and civil society on regards of ownership, align:**

At national level:

Together with the UNRC, Spanish Embassy, the senior representatives of the Government have actively participated in National Steering Committee and Program Management Committee composed of the MoH, MARD and participating UN agencies to provide strategic and overall supervision to joint program implementation. The National Program Management Unit established and functioning with memberships from Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to ensure for integration and implementation of nutrition and food security components.

At subnational level:

A provincial program management unit established and functioning in each of the provinces of Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan provinces includes representatives from provincial DoH and DARDs. The Women's Union, Farmers' Union and Committee for Ethnic Minorities Affairs (CEMA) have actively participated in the design, planning and implementation of program interventions for community based models on nutrition and food security as well as parent education.

**Please briefly provide an overall assessment of the governance and managerial structures :**

As mentioned above, the National Steering Committee and Program Management Committee provide strategic and overall supervision to joint program, while the national program management unit and provincial management units are responsible for timely implementation at both national and subnational levels. The UNRC and RCO play a leadership role in coordinating the four UN agencies to ensure the "delivery as one" quality. The four UN agencies are responsible for implementing their program component and linking the national and subnational levels, as well as mobilizing the support from ministries to technical provincial departments.

## **VI. Joint Programme contribution to the SDGs**

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SDG #	JP Contribution
Goal 2	<p>Target 2.2 Reducing stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of girls pregnant and lactating women, particularly in the most vulnerable ethnic minorities communities along South Central Coast and Northern Mountainous regions of Vietnam Development of Food Pyramid guide for pregnant, lactating women and under-five children to create daily appropriate menu for those important groups ensuring balance healthy diets including sufficient micronutrients. Development of national guidelines on early essential newborn care to promote delayed cord clamping and promote initiation exclusive breastfeeding for preventing anaemia and improve nutrition for the newborns</p> <p>Target 2.3 At community level Support small scale food producers, female farmers and ethnic minority women, to implement models on homestead food production including animal sourced foods (fisheries and aquaculture), processing and preservation, and nutrition education. The JP will ensure their equal access to land, production inputs, and information for higher productivity. At national level The JP is conducting a gender analysis on nutrition and food security policies and programme to identify gender gaps including barriers to access to land and other productive resources for female small scale farmers. This is to provide recommendations for policy action to more gender response policies on food and nutrition security.</p> <p>Target 2.4 Development and implementation of Policy and advocacy on food security including rice restructuring to create enabling environment for implementation at subnational level Contributing to agriculture restructuring planning in Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan provinces, through intensive capacity building, situation analysis, solution brainstorming, and advocacy activities to MARD and DARDs. Priorities are given to resilience against drought, flooding and disasters which are common in the two provinces.</p> <p>Target 2.a Contributing to the finalization and adoption by the Government of the rice strategy for Viet Nam, in line with the strategic directions and format well informed by FAO's Regional Rice Strategy for Asia and the Pacific, which highlights the PPP investments in the rice sector for both export earnings and food security for poor communities.</p>

## VII. Additional Information

### Attachments

#### Performance Monitoring Framework \*:

 [Performance Monitoring Framework Report Nov 2015.docx](#)

#### Press releases:

 [Launching Press Release - Joint program on nutrition and food security.doc](#)