

Joint SDG Fund  
PORTOFLIO ON INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LNOB

**Joint Programme 2020 Annual Progress Report**

**Cover page**

**Country: Viet Nam**

**Joint Programme title: Accelerating Viet Nam's Transition Toward Inclusive and Integrated Social protection**

**Short title: PSP 2019 VIE**

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**Budget** (Joint SDG Fund contribution): **USD 2,000,000**

**Overall budget** (with co-funding): **USD 2,800,803**

**Annual Financial Delivery Rate** (= Total JP expenditures / transferred funds x 100%): **62.7%**

**Rate of Committed Funding** (= Total JP commitments / transferred funds x 100%): **81%**

**Short description of the Joint Programme** (max 1 paragraph):

The Joint Programme (JP) will support Viet Nam in accelerating its transition towards an inclusive and integrated social protection (SP) system by demonstrating the potential of an (i) integrated multi-tiered social protection system (MTS) using the life-cycle approach; (ii) extended social care services system; and (iii) innovative e-service delivery system. It will accelerate the achievement of the targets established under the Government of Viet Nam (GOVN) SP related Master Plans on social insurance, social assistance and digitalizing SP service delivery and M&E system. The focus

is therefore on expanding the coverage, and improving efficiency of delivery, of social insurance (SI) and social assistance (SA) services to groups insufficiently covered or at risk of being left behind.

The outcomes are:

- An integrated gender-sensitive multi-tiered expansion strategy for accelerating SDG progress towards universal social protection coverage
- Inclusive social care system for the most vulnerable for accelerating SDG progress
- Integrated e-system for delivering SP services and real-time M&E for accelerating SDG progress.

The long-term impact of the UNJP's integrated approach could include, by 2030, having 100 per cent of the 20 million children in Vietnam benefiting from social protection. This would also represent an expansion from 30 per cent to 45 per cent of the workforce participating in social insurance. Likewise, 100 per cent of women giving birth would be protected, as opposed to the 26 per cent who currently have access to paid maternity leave. The new multi-tiered social protection system would also increase old-age protection to 60 per cent of the elderly, as per the Government's targets, up from around 30 per cent today. Finally, while the current social assistance benefit for persons living with disability (PLWD) reaches around one million people, the project will promote an expansion to an additional one million people plus an additional 200,000 caregivers. The long-term impact of the intervention could expand care services to 100 per cent of the elderly by 2030, which would be an additional 2 million PLWD.

## Executive summary

In 2020, UNJP has supported the Government towards an integrated and inclusive social protection system. The COVID-19 has also allowed the Government to integrate new approaches in order to support vulnerable groups in Viet Nam. The Government formulated and implemented social assistance “package” to support the vulnerable people affected by COVID-19 in timely fashion and embarked on long-term social assistance reform towards a more inclusive, transparent and shock-responsive system. To this end, the UNJP has supported the government in **designing, extending and refining** the Government’s COVID-19 package (short term), that provided 14 million vulnerable people with cash/support to supplement their lost income caused by COVID-19 and sustain their livelihood and business, and thus preventing them from falling into poverty.

The UNJP has also advocated for the expansion of social protection coverage by introducing international standards and global practices by providing concrete evidence for an integrated and inclusive approach, and revision of social protection policies covering vulnerable groups such as women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and informal workers.

The Government **firmly embarked on digital transformation of the entire social assistance system**, including through the revision of Decree 136 on Social Assistance thanks to the experimentations introduced by the UNJP for the distribution of Government’s social assistance package.

Building on the above results, the UNJP in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) are providing further support for transforming national social assistance toward a more inclusive, shock-responsive, effective and transparent system.

## A. Annual Progress

### A.1 The overall approach

#### *Broader context and JP changes*

The onset of COVID-19 and the physical distancing measures put in place from March 2020 surfaced key vulnerabilities in the Vietnamese economy and precipitated a declining fiscal and current balance, a weakening currency, and a contraction of the manufacturing sector which is significantly dependent on foreign inputs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected implementation of project activities in Viet Nam. The Government’s attention has been redirected to responding to COVID-19 developments and away from the day-to-day business of implementing the Master Plans – it adopted a fiscal package on 8 April to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, including direct cash transfers to vulnerable households and informal sector workers, reaching approximately 26 million people, as well as social insurance deferrals. The pandemic revealed both important gaps and opportunities in the system. The disbursement of cash transfers was done mainly by topping up existing programs, but the outmoded administrative systems made the roll-out much slower than desirable. The Government also faced a challenge reaching out to the informal economy.

When providing support for the Government’s policy response to COVID-19, the UNJP team has identified a number of remaining issues with regards to the design and implementation of the Social Protection(SP) schemes: (i) the coverage is not sufficient to meet the needs of those most

in need due to the limited coverage size provided by the existing SP schemes, in particular the missing middle and the 'new poor' (i.e. households that have recently become poor or near poor as a result of COVID-19, but could not be identified in a timely manner so they are thus excluded from the SP package; (ii) the duration of support provision is too short for many groups in relation to the longer-lasting impacts of the crisis; (iii) local governments face difficulties in identifying and reaching out to some target groups, particularly informal workers; (iv) local governments of poorer provinces face budget shortages to implement the government's social assistance policy; (v) interrupted social services.

These challenges are rooted in fundamental limitations of the existing social protection system that are exacerbated by the pandemic: (i) the fragmentation, limited coverage and funding adequacy of the SP schemes - as also noted in the UNJP - that lead to the limited ability of the SP system to act as an automatic stabilizer in case of shocks; (ii) the missing middle, who are in need of immediate support due to increased deprivation during the crisis, are not covered by any existing SP mechanisms; (iii) current emergency support mechanisms are not prepared to respond to large scale variant shocks and are neither linked to the regular social assistance schemes nor to social insurance benefits, thereby failing to serve as an automatic stabilizer in a shock-responsive, shock-resilient SP system.

These changes in the current context of Viet Nam led to a strong re-purposing of UNJP towards addressing the fundamental issues that make Vietnamese people extremely vulnerable to falling into poverty and exclusion in large-scale crises, such as the one caused by COVID-19.

### *Ensuring that JP remains strategic and catalytic*

UNJP has contributed to the preparation of new UNSDCF 2022-2026 by:

- Identifying challenges that are rooted in fundamental limitations of the existing social protection system that need further collaboration with the Government in the new CF, to ensure achievement of the SDGs, realization of "leaving no one behind" (LNOB) principle.
- Provide framing of the approach towards building a long-term integrated, inclusive and shock-responsive social protection system
- Providing an approach of using social protection as the effective instrument to respond to large scale variant shocks and to serve as an automatic stabilizer in a shock-resilient SP system.

The reprogramming of the UNJP in Viet Nam in 2020 focused on supporting the Government to develop a shock-responsive social protection system that protects affected people in the COVID-19 and future crises. The repurposed activities aimed at supporting the Government in accelerating its transformation towards a more shock-responsive SP system by explicitly incorporating shock considerations in its design and implementation.

These adaptations have been progressed through:

- Development of the evidence-based knowledge to (1) outline the importance of social protection as a key pillar of crisis response and recovery; (2) present international countries' experiences to respond to the COVID-19 crisis; and (3) map the responses that took place in the region and later looking forward to the policies required beyond the emergency response.
- Conducted COVID-19 impact assessments (in multiple iterations) on people's livelihoods, identifying the most vulnerable population groups, including assessing the changes in their coping strategies and identifying needs for recovery support.

- Providing capacity building on shock-responsive SP system design and implementation, and for improving care services and workforce for COVID-19 and other emergency contexts, including training on case management in COVID-19 for frontline workers, social workers and welfare officers; provision of supplies and equipment for remote case management.
- Support for the formulation and extension of the Government of Viet Nam's US\$2.6 billion social protection program providing cash transfers to 14,000,000 most vulnerable people and workers affected by COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on constrained public resource mobilization have contributed to Viet Nam's overall limited state investment in social protection. This has hindered expansion of cash assistance and limited the scope of new social protection policies, the scope of coverage extension for income security for children, older persons and PWD. Some additional re-alignments have been implemented to conduct additional costing of new expansion policies to show the possibility of social protection extension/expansion without stressing public finance. The UNJP also improved its collaboration with the Ministry of Finance to better understand the Government's concerns from the State budget perspectives.

The UNJP is fully aligned with The Government's Ten-Year Socio-Economic Development Strategy, 2011-2021 (SEDS) and the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) for 2016-2020 which highlighted the need for social equity.

The UNJP also recognizes the importance of methodologies and systems to collect disaggregated data on the social impacts of COVID-19 through assessments, rapid and real-time data collection and evaluation as well as documentation of lessons learnt to inform policy responses and systematically monitor and assess impacts on vulnerable people now and in the long-term.

## **A.2 Update on priority issues**

### *SDG acceleration*

The UNJP in 2020 has directly contributed to and helped accelerate the implementation of three SDGs, namely:

- to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable (SDG 1.3);
- to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value (SDG 8.5); and
- to adopt policies especially fiscal, wage, and social protection policies and progressively achieve greater equality (SDG 10.4)

In a broader sense, the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exacerbated multi-faceted risks, in the domains of health, poverty, economic stability, social cohesion, and gender equality, among others, inevitably affected Viet Nam's efforts toward SDG achievement. The UNJP contributed to closely examine all these risk factors through various impact assessments.

### *Vulnerable groups*

The UNJP has contributed to the following results which directly benefit vulnerable groups:

- The Government's adoption of a New Decree on Social Assistance, which has led to increased social assistance benefits for most vulnerable groups, including older persons, PWD and children.

- The SP package in response to COVID-19 has provided topped-up cash benefits for 1.75 million elderly; over 1,098 million people with disabilities; 217,000 children and millions of workers suffering from the pandemic.

### *Gender marker*

Gender equality have also been directly promoted by ex-ante gender impact assessments of the SP reform options. The expansion of SP program coverage, as drafted in the new Decree on Social Assistance to support mothers/children, PLWD and social care services will significantly contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment. As such, new social assistance programs are expected to benefit women who have the main share in care-giving work.

Gender analysis has been carried out in all steps of policy design (feasibility studies, impact analysis, etc.) to inform the selection and adoption of the most feasible options. A comprehensive **Gender Impact Assessment of Social Insurance in Viet Nam was completed** by the UNJP in partnership with the Viet Nam Women's Union. This report provides an overview of the gender gaps in social protection outcomes, particularly pensions, arising from labour market inequalities and suboptimal social insurance regulations. The assessment makes key recommendations for increasing adequacy and narrowing down gender gaps in coverage and benefits

### *Human rights*

The UNJP in Viet Nam has been mainstreaming the following human rights instruments:

- The 1966 **UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)** in 1982; Viet Nam is therefore bound by the provisions of that instrument related to the right to social security (Articles 9 the Covenant)
- **UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, in 1981 – this Convention contains important provisions in relation to maternity protection
- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**, in 1990 – according to Article 26, "Every child has the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance, and the state should take the necessary measures to achieve the full realisation of this right in accordance with national law", making it clear that "The benefits should, where appropriate, be granted, taking into account the resources and the circumstances of the child and persons having responsibility for the maintenance of the child, as well as any other consideration relevant to an application for benefits made by or on behalf of the child"
- **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**, in 2015 – this Convention contains pertinent provisions on social security and an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities.
- **The ILO Social Protection Floor Recommendation (R202)** has been used as the international standard to inform the multi-tier approach which has been introduced by the new social protection policies. This is intended to ensure that the approved Government Master Plans are implemented in an integrated manner.
- **UNCESCR's General Comment No 19 on the right to social security** The General Comment confirms that a country's social security system should provide for the coverage of the nine principal branches of social security enshrined in **ILO Minimum Standards (Social Security) Convention**, Convention 102 of 1952 (see below), and clarifies that the right to

social security as enshrined in the ICESCR should not be narrowly defined, should **ensure minimum enjoyment** and encompasses "the right to access and maintain benefits, whether in cash or in kind, from:

- (i) lack of work-related income caused by **sickness, disability, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, old age or death of a family member**;
  - (ii) unaffordable access to **health care**; and
  - (iii) insufficient **family support**, particularly for children and adult dependents."
- **ILO Minimum Standards (Social Security) Convention (C102)** and **ILO Recommendation 202 on Social Protection floors** which **require certain reforms to the social protection system of Viet Nam**. The Convention has **overall** significance as regards **specific social protection risk areas**, as well as the social protection context of **certain categories of vulnerable people**, including migrant workers and workers in the informal economy. Recommendation 202 has been used to specially inform the development of a multi-tier social protection system in Viet Nam, which has been the core contribution and support of this UNJP.

### Partnerships

- The UNJP has closely collaborated with MOLISA in the formulation, management and implementation of Viet Nam's social protection, including joint research, policy dialogues and joint monitoring of the SP programmes.
- Partnerships with other stakeholders have been strengthened including the **Ministry of Finance** (MoF) in an assessment of the national fiscal space for extension of social protection coverage and the proposal for extension of social pension in the 2021-2030 period.
- The UNJP has also benefited from coordination mechanisms with other development partners. This includes, for instance, (i) The ongoing ILO-World Bank joint work plan for pension reform; and (ii) The ILO-World Bank collaboration on an actuarial assessment of the pension funds and development of policy options for extension of social protection coverage through a multi-tier social protection system.
- The UNJP work on social protection in Vietnam has been coordinated through the interaction with the UN's Result Group on Inclusive Growth and Social Protection – which is aligned with the UNCT's approach.

### Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Comments
JP launch event	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>In person, January 2020</i>
Annual JP development partners'/donors' event*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>In person, November 2020</i>

### Funding and financing

- Additional funding was mobilized for COVID-19 response through other sources which also contributed to the JP outcomes. To elaborate:
  - Additional funding was mobilized by UNICEF from the Government of Japan to conduct a rapid assessment of the social and economic impact of COVID-19 on children with respect to social protection.
  - An additional fund of \$250,000 from CITI Fund was mobilized through UNDP for (i) further experimentation of cash-transfers to 1,400 most vulnerable people through e-registration and e-payment tools and (ii) e-commerce based business solutions to 100 ethnic minority women-led cooperatives (benefiting nearly 10,000 people) in Bac Kan and Dak Nong provinces to address the COVID-19 induced disruption of supply chains and lower demand and recover their income to pre-COVID levels.
  - Additional resources were mobilized by RB slippage fund (which was reprogrammed due to COVID-19) through ILO to support a qualitative study on gender issues in the social insurance system and a communications and advocacy campaign on gender issues in social insurance system
  - Additional fund of \$170,000 from UNFPA core funding was mobilized to support COVID-19 response and recovery for older persons in 12 high-risk provinces, and to develop mobile app to provide e-health care for older persons
    - The existing ILO Project funded by Irish Aid on Social Protection and Inclusive Growth had synergy effect with the UNJP through its provision of technical inputs to the Government's VND 62.2 trillion (approx. USD 2.7B) social protection package which provided direct financial assistance to an estimated 6.5 million households, especially by topping up on existing programs.
    - Social protection is a vital instrument to address chronic disparities but also the fluid nature of poverty in the COVID-19 context where vulnerable people such as informal sector workers, older people, people with disabilities and children are increasingly at risk. With Viet Nam's potential to better redistribute the fruits of growth to ensure the well-being and resilience of vulnerable people, the UN is committed to joining hands with the Government to address the remaining gaps and foresees further opportunities to jointly mobilize resources towards the achievements of these objectives.

### *Innovation, learning and sharing*

- The UNJP presented international countries' experiences to respond to the COVID-19 crisis; and conducted a mapping of the responses that took place in the region. Looking forward, it will now prioritize policies required beyond the emergency response.

### *Strategic communications*

**Three stories and two videos produced promoting the JP and raising awareness on the benefits of SP schemes especially during COVID-19 and the needs for integrated and inclusive SP system in Viet Nam**

**Videos and stories were used to highlight the results and achievements of the JP especially among key stakeholders such as government and donors**

**The communications materials were published on both social media and website platforms for further dissemination and visibility among the public and partners**

## B. Annual Results

### Overall progress

- On track (expected annual results achieved)
- Satisfactory (majority of expected annual results achieved)
- Not-satisfactory (majority of expected annual results not yet achieved)

Please, explain briefly:

The Joint Programme (JP) has made satisfactory progress in 2020 supporting Viet Nam to accelerate its transition towards an inclusive and integrated social protection (SP) system despite the COVID-19 pandemic which has challenged the fiscal space to reform the social protection in the country.

The most **notable results** achieved in 2020 are:

The Government formulated and implemented a social assistance “package” to support 14 million vulnerable people affected by COVID-19 in a timely manner and embarked on long-term social assistance reform toward a more inclusive, transparent and shock-responsive system.

**The new draft of Viet Nam’s Decree on Social Assistance (Decree 136) has been prepared** with technical support from the UNJP (**Outcome 1**), reflecting some increase/expansion in social protection coverage for its vulnerable population, including a small group of children, older persons and people with disabilities. This is a significant result as it demonstrates the Government’s commitments to leaving no one behind and realizing the right to social security for everyone.

**The draft National Programme on Social Work 2021-2030 and a draft Decree on Social Work have been prepared** with technical support from UNJP (**Outcome 2**). The Programme provides an overall strategic framework to strengthen the social care system, including strengthening the legal framework on social work profession and improving social service workforce and social services for vulnerable people illustrating the Government’s recognition of social service and social workers as an integral part of the social protection landscape in Viet Nam.

**The National Programme on Child Protection, 2021-2025** was developed and approved with UN’s advocacy and technical support to promote the multi-sectoral child protection approach **to address violence against children**, involving the participation of cross-sector agencies including from the Social Welfare, Health, Education, Justice and Law Enforcement sectors (**Outcome 2**).

**A breakthrough in the digital transformation of the Government’s cash transfer program management and delivery has been made (Outcome 3)**. Based on the initial achievement, the UNJP will continue to support scaling up the digitalization of social protection system management and cash transfer delivery by supporting the application at national scale of the successfully tested digitalization pilot conducted in the first year.

Even though the Government approval of Decree 136 on Social Assistance has been delayed due to the impact of COVID-19, the UNJP’s activity results for 2020 have been achieved.

### *Contribution to Fund's global results*

This UNJP has progressed in supporting Viet Nam in designing innovative solutions for social protection that adopt a transformative, systems perspective and create pathways for faster, catalytic and more sustainable progress towards the SDGs, with the focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized populations.

In 2020, the UNJP achieved almost all the targets committed in the Results Framework and progressed in accelerating the transition towards an inclusive and integrated social protection (SP) system by demonstrating the potential of an (i) integrated multi-tiered social protection system (MTS) using the rights-based and life-cycle approach; (ii) extended social care services system; and (iii) effective e-system for SP service delivery. This ensures that social protection is accessible by all, including those furthest behind and that it represents an effective approach to addressing inequalities in the context of the sustainable development policy.

The UNJP took a bold and coordinated approach that simultaneously addresses not just multiple policy objectives but also key SDG targets: improving the welfare of working families and covering children from birth as a right (1.2), expanding social protection coverage (1.3), promoting women's employment through expanded paid leave and basic protections (5.4), and the adoption of policies which progressively achieve greater equity (10.4).

Responding to the COVID-19, which has increased the salience of social protection for the most vulnerable, UNJP repurposed activities have supported the Government of Viet Nam to adapt and respond to the pandemic by supporting the Government to develop a shock-responsive social protection system that protects people affected by COVID-19 and future crises, thus making social protection systems in Viet Nam more adaptive and resilient in preparation for future shocks due to pandemics, natural disasters or climate change;

### *JP Outputs and Outcomes*

#### **Achievement of expected outputs**

1. A number of policy reviews and reports have been produced by the government with the support of the UNJP on SP-related policies and legal documents producing evidence and recommendations for integrated, inclusive and universal Social Protection coverage. These reviews and reports include:
  - **Legal Review Report** which will act as the basis for the Government's policy orientation for the Social Insurance Law revision, proposing policy options for the Government's consideration on a coherent SP framework advocating for an integrated legal SP system and framework through a combination of contributory and non-contributory benefits
  - **An Assessment of the implementation of social assistance (Decree 136) and costing policy options for regular cash transfers for older persons (OP) and older persons with disabilities (OPWD)**, providing evidence on the impact of social assistance in supporting the most vulnerable OP and OPWD regularly and during the COVID-19 pandemic. This research provided the Government evidence for revising the regulations on Social Assistance to extend the coverage and adequacy of income security for older persons proposing a roadmap to achieve the Government's targets of 45% and 60% coverage of old-

age income security in 2025 and 2030, respectively in its policies<sup>1</sup>. The Assessment Report also recommends linkages between shock responsive mechanisms and regular cash transfers.

- **A full research report to review Decree 136 with a focus on social assistance for children and a policy brief** providing the Government with estimated financial resources needed and concrete policy options and a costed roadmap for gradual expansion and a path towards universal social protection for children in the short, medium and long-term to inform the revision of Decree 136 was finalized and informed high-level advocacy with senior officials the of National Assembly, MOLISA, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and Investment as well as development partners and IFIs.
  - A comprehensive **Gender Impact Assessment of social insurance in Viet Nam was completed** by the UNJP in partnership with the Viet Nam Women’s Union. This report provides an overview of the gender gaps in social protection outcomes, particularly pensions, arising from labour market inequalities and suboptimal social insurance regulations. It makes key recommendations for increasing adequacy and narrowing down gender gaps in coverage and benefits.
  - **A Rapid Assessment on Social Assistance Needs of Children and Families in Viet Nam affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic** was conducted covering all 63 provinces in Viet Nam highlighting the acute needs of families with children affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was one of the first rapid assessments on social assistance needs conducted under the government’s development frameworks with the key objective of strengthening the national social assistance system to be more shock-responsive enhancing the resilience of children and families in Viet Nam on climate, economic shocks and disease outbreaks. The key findings and recommendations of the assessment were disseminated at the consultation workshops.
  - **Data for an actuarial assessment of social insurance funds in Viet Nam** was collected, cleaned and consolidated. This data includes the performance of the social insurance fund during 2016-2019 as well as the costing of the possible policy changes in the contributory social protection policies in Viet Nam and the revision of the Social Insurance Law in 2021.
2. The JP made huge advocacy and influence on the formulation of several key National Programmes, Decree and capacity trainings for inclusive social care system for accelerating SDG progress. These include:
- The UN’s technical support to MOLISA on how to conduct the review of the implementation of the previous National Programme on Development of the Social Work Profession 2010 – 2020 to inform the development of the new **National Programme on Development of Social Work Profession 2021-2030**. The Programme is being finalized before submission to the Government for approval. This programme will result in improvements to the social service workforce and improved services for vulnerable families and children. They aim to strengthen multi-sectoral approaches and address social norms that condone violence and exploitation of children.
  - **Evidence on gaps in social work and social care services, human resources, and care facilities have been identified** through an assessment of the National Project on Social Work Profession Development 2011-2020 and a review of the social care system for older persons,

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 28/NQ-TW on the Master on Social Insurance Reforms and Decision 488/TTg-QĐ on Master Plan on Social Assistance Renovation and Development.

commissioned by MOLISA with technical support from the UNJP, to inform the development of the new National Project on Social Work 2021-2030, and a draft Decree on Social Work.

- **Advocacy and technical support were provided for the development of the draft Decree on Social work to strengthen the normative framework on social work profession.** The decree, the first legal document of its kind on social work, is being finalized for Government endorsement. The UNJP has advocated for an alignment with international best practice on social work legislation and service delivery of the social work profession in Viet Nam. This legal document will contribute to national efforts to improve the functioning and provision of social care services especially for child protection in preventing, mitigating and responding to child protection issues.
  - **The National Programme on Child Protection, 2021-2025** was developed with the UN's advocacy and technical support to promote the multi-sectoral child protection approach to address violence against children, involving the participation of the Social Welfare, Health, Education, Justice and Law Enforcement sectors. This programme was later merged into the National Action Plan for Children for the duration of 2021-2030 and approved by the Government in early January 2021. This Programme provided a stronger national strategic framework to address the unfinished agenda on child protection by strengthening the child protection workforce and service system to address abuse and violence against children with a stronger priority on the development of specialized child protection services for child victims of abuse and violence and those at high risk.
  - **National capacity on child protection was increased through technical support provided to the enhancement of the child protection workforce in the welfare, health and education sectors.** The UNJP supported MOLISA, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Education and Training to develop the first-ever competency-based training programmes on basic knowledge and skills on child protection for managers and frontline workers in these sectors, in tandem with sectoral protocols on child protection in the health and education sectors. 130 master trainers of the Social Welfare, Education and Health sectors were trained on child protection, including case management. 160 local child protection officers and 80 school managers were trained by the master trainers and are now better able to identify and provide effective responses to child abuse and violence cases. The final draft of child protection competency standards for managers and frontline workers was submitted for approval.
  - **National capacity on social care services for older persons** was increased through UNJP's technical support in developing training courses for managerial officials of social protection and social work centers. 65 managerial officials of social protection and social work centers from 9 provinces have been trained on basic knowledge, principles and procedure in providing social services for older persons in various institutional settings.
  - **Training materials and training course on providing social care services for older persons were developed** and implemented for managerial officials of social protection and social work centers in Northern provinces in Viet Nam.
3. The JP made a **breakthrough in the digital transformation** of the Government's cash transfer program management and supported the government in providing policy advice on COVID-19 response. This includes:
- Policy advice and technical consultancy on the **formulation, implementation and extension** of the Government's US\$2.6 billion social assistance program providing cash transfers to over

14 million of the most vulnerable people and workers affected by the COVID-19, providing them with cash and essential goods to supplement their lost income caused by COVID-19 and sustain their livelihood and businesses, and thus preventing them from falling into poverty;

- **Prime Minister’s decision (No. 32) to reform** the country’s social protection system towards a more comprehensive and shock-responsive response through evidence produced by the rapid assessment of the UNJP on vulnerable people and households and the national workshops on social assistance reform on the revision of the Decree No. 136 on social assistance policy and accelerating digitalization;
- **Digital transformation of social assistance transfers was triggered** building on the piloting of a digital cash transfer program successfully conducted in partnership with the business sector (Vietnam Post) and local governments/mass organizations/Women’s Union helped the government for the first time, thanks to UNJP support (i) to adopt a digital reporting system in the entire ministry’s structure; (ii) to draft a digital system for social assistance beneficiary self-registration, verification and management under the revised Decree No. 136 on social assistance policy; (iii) to make the digital payment as a new and important method of cash transfer, laying the crucial foundation for digitalization transformation of the social assistance system to reach the beneficiaries faster, more transparently on a large scale, thereby building an integrated data base of social protection system.

#### **Achievement of expected contributions to outcomes**

- **(Outcome 1) The new draft of Viet Nam’s Decree 136 on Social Assistance has been prepared with technical support from PUNOs. The new draft will replace Decree 136/2013/ND-CP**, which will regulate the non-contributory provisions during 2021-2025. The draft Decree reflects a minor increase in the social protection coverage for different groups of vulnerable populations, including a small group of children, older persons and people with disabilities, which demonstrates the Government’s commitments to leaving no one behind and realizing the right to social security for everyone. A decision on the reform of social assistance is expected to be reached in early 2021.
- **(Outcome 2) National capacity and awareness on social care and social work was improved and the social care policies and legal documents are revised/formed with strong evidence and technical assistance** in order to strengthen the social care system which includes strengthening the legal framework on social work profession and improving social service workforce and social services for vulnerable people including children, older persons and PWDs and other vulnerable groups.
- **(Outcome 3) The digital transformation** in registration, management and delivery of the government’s cash assistance system (both regular and irregular/emergency relief) **laid the foundation for the government to build an integrated social protection database which enables policy reform and development toward the achievement of a more universal, shock-responsive social protection system** in Viet Nam.

#### *Workplan*

- JP workplan was modified
- JP workplan was not modified

Explain briefly: The workplan was modified 20% for the repurposing for COVID-19 response

### C. Plan for the Next Year of implementation

#### *Next year*

The main expected annual results by outcomes are:

**Outcome 1:** Acceleration of the social protection reforms in Viet Nam through 2 main pillars (non-contributory and contributory) of the social protection system and continued support provided to 1) the implementation of the new Regulation (Decree replacing the existing Decree 136 on Social Protection), including the **expansion of social pension coverage** and the emphasis on shock-responsive social protection, as well as 2) reforming the contributory social protection pillar through **full actuarial valuation** of the social insurance system to support evidence-based policy-making and also to mainstream the work into the **review process of the Social Insurance Law, which will seek to reflect the goal of universal coverage.**

At the output level, the UNJP is expected to have:

- A full actuarial valuation of the social insurance system completed
- Communication campaigns to increase awareness on social protection organized
- M&E framework to track the changes in the public awareness of social insurance and social protection developed
- Policy brief on extending Social Insurance for migrant workers and on extending Social Protection to workers with informal employment completed
- GIS data and evidence on population groups in emergency situations (pandemic, humanitarian and climate change), especially vulnerable groups including older persons and people with disabilities, to inform development of shock-responsive social protection policies
- Study on fiscal gains from social pension investment for social assistance for older persons and people with disabilities
- Expansion of social pension at sub-national level
- Legal review of DRR policies and international policies and experience of shock-responsive social protection systems
- Revision of law on older persons to ensure social inclusion, and social protection rights of older persons
- Fiscal space analysis for the roadmap on expanding cash assistance to children, especially 0-3 years old, in the amended Decree 136.

**Outcome 2:** Increased knowledge and understanding of Government partner (MOLISA), relevant agencies and organizations to develop and implement more social work and social care policies, legislative frameworks, and implementation guidelines for children, older persons and people living with disabilities

At the output level, the UNJP is expected to:

- Support a feasibility study to explore the linkages between Social Insurance and Social Assistance, including the scaling up of care policies and child benefits in the workplace

- Support the assessment and analysis including policy options to improve tax-based child benefit floor and its linkages with contributory schemes
- Support the development of a multi-sectoral protocol to respond to cases of child abuse and violence, with clear guidance and procedures
- Support the Ministry of Health on the development of the Programme for Social Work Development in the health sector and the development of a normative framework on social work
- Support the Government to conduct a Costing Analysis of the Child Protection System and assessment of the situation of children in institutions
- Help the government in standardizing and institutionalizing competency-based training programmes on child protection
- Policy development and advocacy on social work and social care including advocacy for development of the Law on Social work and the ongoing work to develop new decree on Social Assistance, Social Work decree, National Projects on Social Work development in Health and Education sectors.
- Support for development of integrated social care model for older persons to be piloted by the Government.
- Increasing national capacity on social care for older persons and people living with disabilities, including development of collaboration mechanisms, guidelines and training on case management.

**Outcome 3:** to scale-up the successfully experimented solutions for **e-management and e-delivery** of integrated social assistance services and real-time M&E approved by Government. This includes scaling up to other localities to refine the solutions, disseminating the results and lessons learned with wide consultation for scale-up direction, supporting stakeholders in developing a plan for scaling-up including costing, financing strategy and roadmap, and conducting policy advocacy and public consultation on the scaling-up plan.

At the output level, the UNJP is expected to:

- Provide innovative solutions for accelerating the application of digital modalities in social assistance cash transfers at larger scale which are further experimented, refined and integrated into the Government action-plan for scaling up at national level
- Support Government's action-plan for scaling-up the successfully experimented solutions for **e-management and e-delivery** of an integrated social assistance policy and ensure that real-time M&E is approved.
- Expanded digitalization transformation of management and delivery of the social assistance system at larger scale under the Government approved action-plan by end 2021.

Additionally, in coordination with the Resident Coordination's Office, the UNJP will complete:

- Monitoring and Reporting of the JP (JP annual and final reports)
- Advocacy & Strategic communication including stakeholder consultations and donor meetings
- Final Evaluation (RCO)

### *Towards the end of JP implementation*

There is no major modification anticipated to the overall JP. By the end of UNJP implementation, the following results are expected:

(i) Development of a coherent and well-designed gender-sensitive multi-tiered coverage expansion strategy involving both social insurance and social assistance services of the SP system. This will contribute to ensuring that the two approved Master Plans <sup>(2)</sup> are implemented in an integrated manner and in line with Social Protection Floor Recommendation (R202).

(ii) Development of a high quality, integrated social care system that is an essential complement to cash assistance, reaching those most left behind. This will improve social welfare services and the workforce will be provided with complementary support to reduce the care burden on families, especially women, allowing women to further participate in the labour force and enrollment in contributory social insurance schemes.

(iii) Ensure that the management and delivery of the services of social assistance (regular and emergency cash transfer) programs are digitalized at large scale to enhance (i) the effectiveness and efficiency of the schemes' administration, (ii) transparency and accountability and (iii) the timeliness and preciseness of cash transfer schemes reaching the intended beneficiaries.

(iv) As a lesson learnt from COVID-19, continued UNJP activities to support the development of an integrated social protection system are needed. The focus is not only on the immediate crisis response, but also on building a long-term integrated, inclusive and shock-responsive social protection system. This is in line with the Government's COVID-19 Social Protection package, while also accelerating the achievement of the targets established under the government-related Master Plans on social insurance and social assistance (MPSIR and MPSARD).

### *Risks and mitigation measures*

**Risk 1: Limited fiscal space for reform.** Limited government fiscal space could hinder the expansion of cash assistance and limit the scope of amendment of Decree 136, the scope of coverage extension for income security for children, older persons and PWD.

**Mitigation:** The costing study will show the possibility of social protection extension/expansion without stressing public finances. Also improving collaboration with the Ministry of Finance will help to understand the Government's concerns from the State budget perspective. Supporting the evidenced-based knowledge for mobilizing other resources, such as sub-local budget, as complementary for the central budget is also a good strategy.

**Risk 2: Shaky political will.** Despite Government's direction to develop a multi-tiered approach, legal developments tend to deal with the different components of the system in silo fashion, which lead to uncoordinated social security laws and continued system fragmentation.

**Mitigation:** Continue to advocate for a coherent SP framework, informed by international guidelines and best practice experience world-wide. Also, undertake further legal mapping to address shortcomings in the legal framework and to ensure proper alignment.

**Risk 3:** The Government's focus on poor and near-poor groups may lead to further categorical social protection schemes design, which will negatively influence the life-cycle and universal approaches.

**Mitigation:** The fragmentation (rooted in the fragmentation of banking system), together with low financial literacy, legal and regulatory frameworks that need improvements have been identified as the causes of the "below-expectation" expansion of digital payment in Viet Nam.

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<sup>2</sup> Party Resolution 28-NQ/TW on the *Master Plan on Social Insurance Reform* (2018), and the *Master Plan on Social Assistance Reform and Development* (MPSARD), adopted by Prime Minister Decision 488/QD-TTg (2017)

## Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Results

### 1. JP contribution to global programmatic results (annual)

#### Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

List up to 3 main SDG targets that your Joint Programme primarily focused on in 2020

SDG:1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

SDG:1.3 By Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

SDG:5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

#### **Global Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale**

1.1 Did your Joint Programme contribute to implementation of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scope<sup>3</sup> in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: The UNJP is supporting the Government to develop an integrated multi-tiered social protection system (MTS) using the rights-based and life-cycle approach

1.2 Did your Joint Programme contribute to implementation of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scale<sup>4</sup> in 2020? (if so, brief explanation)

Yes

No

Explain briefly: New Decree on Social Assistance leads to higher coverage, especially among vulnerable groups including children, older people, PLWD

#### **Global Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented**

1.3 Number of innovative solutions tested in 2020

Total number disaggregated by % successful and unsuccessful: 2

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<sup>3</sup>Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

<sup>4</sup>Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

Provide the list New Decree on Social Assistance

Explain briefly: New Indexation Mechanism in Social Assistance, Mobilizing sub-national resources for social pension expansion

1.4 Number of integrated policy solutions implemented with the national partners in lead in 2020

Total number: 5

Provide the list: (i) New Decree on Social Assistance replacing Decree No. 136, (ii) Decree 135/ND-CP/2020 on Retirement Age, (iii) Resolution No. 42 on Government's social assistance package to COVID-19, (iv) Resolution No. 154 on expansion of Resolution No. 42 on Government social assistance package to COVID-19, (v) National Program on Social Work Development 2021-2030.

Explain briefly:

- Government provided timely social assistance support/cash-transfer for 6 groups of most vulnerable (estimation of 20 million) people impacted by COVID-19
- The Decision No. 15 (on social assistance/cash transfer to most vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19) has reduced eligibility requirements and access criteria, and simplified procedures to access the support, resulting in more intended target beneficiaries to receive the Government supports and in a more timely manner
- The revision of the Government decree on social assistance policy which includes a chapter on digital transformation in management and delivery of cash transfer program, allowed more inclusive, transparent and shock-responsive social cash transfers

1.5 Did your Joint Programme contribute to strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: Promoting a rights-based and integrated SP system and more effective service delivery, prioritizing State budget to address equity, leading to higher coverage, especially among vulnerable groups including children, older people, PLWD, and informal workers

1.6 Did your Joint Programme develop a functioning partnership framework for integrated policy solutions to accelerate progress on SDGs in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: We already work under the UNJP framework with the Government and development partners

## 2. Selected global performance indicators (annual)

2.1. Did your Joint Programme contribute to the improvement of overall UNCT coherence in 2020?

- Yes, considerably contributed
- Yes, contributed
- No

Explain briefly: UNJP promotes a more coherent and collaborative UN delivery in the of social protection, under the leadership of the RC, and in line with UN Development System reforms, thus avoiding duplication of efforts

2.2. Did your Joint Programme contribute to reduced transaction costs for participating UN agencies in their interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other Joint Programmes?

- Yes,
- No
- N/A (if there are no other joint programmes in the country)

Explain briefly: Joint programming and implementation contributed to reduce the transaction cost, not only for PUNOs, but also for Government partners

2.3. Was your Joint Programme aligned with the UNCT Results Groups in 2020?

- Yes
- No

Explain briefly: UNJP aligned with the biennial WP of UN Result Group on Inclusive Growth and Social Protection

2.4. Did your Joint Programme secure additional funding resources in 2020?

- Yes
- No

Explain briefly: ILO slippage fund, New Japan Fund for Social Protection

### 3. Results as per JP Results Framework (annual)

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2020 target	2020 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected 2021 target	Expected final target (if different from 2021)
Outcome 1: Gender-sensitive multi-tiered coverage expansion strategies for accelerating SDG progress towards universal social protection coverage						
Outcome 1 indicator: Number of evidence-based, gender-sensitive policies on multi-tiered coverage	1	1	1		2	

expansion for accelerating SDG progress.						
Output 1.1- Legal review and drafting support to facilitate the development of a rights-based, coherent SP framework in line with MOLISA's legal review schedule						
Output 1.1 indicator: Number of legal instruments reviewed	0	1	1		2	
Output 1.1 indicator: Number technical reports providing gender-sensitive policy options for reform of benefit regulations	0	2	2		3	
Output 1.2 - Output 1.2 Support evidence-based policy options aimed at improving tax-based floors and contributory schemes and the links between them, in line with MPSARD and MPSIR objectives						
Output 1.2 indicator: Number of gender-sensitive costing models and financing analysis available for government to test.	0	2	2		3	
Output 1.2 indicator: Number of impact assessments conducted to feed government discussions, including dedicated gender impact assessments.	0	2	3		3	
Output 1.3 - Advocacy and communications support to Govt and other partners to facilitate evidence-based decision-making on existing and new multi-tiered schemes						
Output 1.3 indicator: Number of high-level policy dialogues to advocate for the MTS	0	1	2		2	
Output 1.3 indicator: Number of advocacy and communication products to support policy discussions	0	3	3		6	
Outcome 2: Inclusive social care system for the most vulnerable for accelerating SDG progress						
Outcome 2 indicator: Number of legal frameworks (including targeted/master programmes, strategies/laws and sub-laws) on inclusive social care for the most vulnerable and adults developed	0	0	1		2	

Output 2.1 – Evidence-based, gender-sensitive policies on social care (including care for the elderly, victims of violence, social welfare workforce, social work, child protection, community-based service delivery, financing) adopted for implementation of inclusive social protection system						
Output 2.1 indicator: Number of analysis (studies, reviews, technical reports) and policy dialogues conducted for policy advocacy	0	5	7		7	
Output 2.1 indicator: Number of new gender-sensitive national programmes/plans social care (social work, child protection, and elderly care) developed	0	0	1		2	
Output 2.2 - National Capacity strengthened for development and implementation of policies on social care						
Output 2.2 indicator: Number of training programmes, workshops, and knowledge exchange with ASEAN and other countries in the region (social work, child protection, elderly care)	0	3	4		5	
Output 2.2 indicator: Number of new gender-sensitive policy/protocols/standards/guidelines on social work, child protection, and elderly care developed	0	2	1		4	
Outcome 3: Integrated e-system for delivering SP services and real-time M&E for accelerating SDG progress and gender equity						
Output 3.1 – Innovative solutions for the development of an integrated e-system of delivering SP services and real-time M&E experimented						
Number of innovative and gender-sensitive solutions experimented for accelerating the application of an integrated e-system for SP service delivery and real-time M&E with sex-disaggregated data	0	1	2	The COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020 and repurposing of workplan and budget required by both HQ and the Government led to additional solution	1	

				experiments to response to COVID-19 pandemic.		
Number of scaling up plans approved by Government with gender-sensitive roadmap of actions prioritizing gender-equity	0	0	0		1	

## Annex 2: List of strategic documents

### Strategic documents that were produced by the JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
A Rapid Assessment on Social Assistance Needs of Children and Families in Viet Nam affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic	08/20	Conducted nation-wide, it was one of the first rapid assessments on social assistance needs conducted under the government’s development frameworks with a key objective to strengthen the national social assistance system to be more shock-responsive enhancing the resilience of children and families in Viet Nam on climate, economic shocks and disease outbreaks
Assessment on implementation of social assistance social older persons and policy options for expanding cash transfer for older persons and PWD	09/20	Provide results of implementation of cash transfer policy for older persons and costing various options for expansion of cash transfer for older persons and PWD to ensure adequate support based on minimum living standards and adjustable benefit levels.
Gender Impact Assessment of social insurance in Viet Nam	10/20	Provides overview of the gender gaps in social protection outcomes, particularly pensions, arising from labour market inequalities and suboptimal social insurance regulations including key recommendations for increasing adequacy and narrowing down gender gaps in coverage and benefits
Research report to review Decree 136 with a focus on social assistance for children	11/20	Provides the Government with estimated financial resources needed and concrete policy options and costed roadmap for gradual expansion and path towards universal social protection for children in short, medium and long-term to inform the revision of Decree 136.

		<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bMzRRN91pheMnZIBXIwZu7GrJgCo8tkx/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bMzRRN91pheMnZIBXIwZu7GrJgCo8tkx/view?usp=sharing</a>
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**Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution**

<b>Title of the document</b>	<b>Date when finalized (MM/YY)</b>	<b>Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it</b>
Government Resolution No. 42 on Government's social assistance package to COVID-19	04/20	The Resolution allowed timely social assistance support and cash-transfer for 6 most vulnerable groups of people (estimation of 20 million) impacted by COVID-19. JP provided policy advice and technical assistance to identify the most vulnerable groups who were most impacted by COVID-19 and directions for implementation of this policy/package. <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iqpXCdcLL-FvP3y5sRr3GLHQ-CjBmeYT?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iqpXCdcLL-FvP3y5sRr3GLHQ-CjBmeYT?usp=sharing</a>
Decision No. 15 by the Prime Minister on implementation of Government's social assistance package to COVID-19	04/20	The Decision regulated the policy, beneficiaries, level of supports and ways of implementation of above Resolution No. 42 on Government's social assistance package to COVID-19. JP provided policy advice and technical assistance on digitalizing the payment of the government's social assistance package to COVID-19. E-payment option was provided for all beneficiaries to choose when receiving the cash-transfer during COVID-19's social distancing period. And in partnership with MOLISA and e-payment service providers, i.e., Vietnam Post, Viettel, JP supported national and sub-national level governments to develop and test (i) digital system for self-registration of social assistance beneficiary, verification/management and payment and (ii) digital reporting system throughout the ministerial structure. <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iqpXCdcLL-FvP3y5sRr3GLHQ-CjBmeYT?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iqpXCdcLL-FvP3y5sRr3GLHQ-CjBmeYT?usp=sharing</a>
Resolution No. 154 on expansion of Resolution No. 42 on Government's social assistance package to COVID-19	10/20	The Resolution revised some regulations under the Resolution No. 42 by loosening some criteria for receiving the Government's social assistance package. UNJP supported the revision of criteria by providing evidence/data on COVID-19 social economic impacts on the eligible beneficiaries – informal/migrant workers with temporarily

		<p>pending labour contracts, without salaries from enterprises; workers ended labour contracts, not eligible for unemployment benefits; Labors lost jobs without labour contracts, without social insurance (MOLISA-UNDP report on rapid assessment of socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on social assistance groups)</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iqpXCdcLL-FvP3y5sRr3GLHQ-CjBmeYT?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iqpXCdcLL-FvP3y5sRr3GLHQ-CjBmeYT?usp=sharing</a></p>
<p>Decision No. 32 by Prime Minister on expanding/replacing the Decision 15 on implementation of Government's social assistance package to COVID19</p>	10/20	<p>The Decision regulated the mechanism, revised groups of beneficiaries, time for local authorities to execute the proposals by potential beneficiaries. JP provided policy advice and technical assistance for revising/refining the Decision No. 15 by reducing eligibility requirements and access criteria and simplifying procedures to access the support. These helped the Government's COVID-19 package reach more intended target beneficiaries, in timely manner (resulting in 14 million vulnerable people provided with cash/supports by the end of 2020)</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iqpXCdcLL-FvP3y5sRr3GLHQ-CjBmeYT?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iqpXCdcLL-FvP3y5sRr3GLHQ-CjBmeYT?usp=sharing</a></p>
<p>Government's Decree 135/2020/NĐ-CP on Increased Retirement Age</p>	11/2020	<p>According to this document, from January 1, 2021, Vietnam will gradually increase the retirement age to 60 years for women and 62 for men. The gradual changes are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The retirement age of male workers and employees is 60 years and 03 months which is increased by 03 months till 62 years of age reached in 2028.</li> <li>- The retirement age of female workers and employees is 55 years and 04 months which is increased by 04 months till 60 years of age reached in 2035.</li> </ul> <p>This changes in the retirement age are expected to be an important contribution to the system financial sustainability and reduce the gender gaps in retirement age.</p>
<p>MOLISA's letter on the endorsement of UNDP's support to COVID-19 package and requesting technical assistance for development of e-reporting system of entire MOLISA.</p>	06/20	<p>With timely policy advice and technical support from UNDP, MOLISA had drafted Government's social assistance package to support vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19, resulting in 14 million vulnerable people receiving supports to supplement their lost income</p>

		caused by COVID-19 for sustaining their livelihood and business, and thus preventing them from falling into poverty. Built on this result, MOLISA requested UNDP's continued support to the scale up and develop a full e-reporting system for MOLISA. <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iqpXCdcLL-FvP3y5sRr3GLHQ-CjBmeYT?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iqpXCdcLL-FvP3y5sRr3GLHQ-CjBmeYT?usp=sharing</a>
Draft Government Decree on social assistance policy (replacing Decree No.136)	In approval process by the Government	The draft Decree regulated the eligible beneficiaries, level of social assistance supports (both at institutions and community), ways of implementation/management of social assistance policy (both regular and emergency relief). UNDP-led experimentations of the digital delivery of cash transfers also informed the revision of Government decree on social assistance policy which includes a chapter on digital transformation in management and delivery of cash transfer program, making social cash transfers more inclusive, transparent and shock-responsive. <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iqpXCdcLL-FvP3y5sRr3GLHQ-CjBmeYT?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iqpXCdcLL-FvP3y5sRr3GLHQ-CjBmeYT?usp=sharing</a>
Draft national program on social work development 2021-2030	12/20	Approved by the Government on 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2021
Draft national program on older persons 2021-2030	Under development	

### Annex 3: Strategic communication results

3.1. Have you created a strategic communication plan for the Joint Programme?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: The JP has developed a Communications Matrix to support communications planning of the JP

3.2. What percentage of the annual budget towards communications was utilized from the total budget? (Note that the entire JP comms budget must be min 5% of the total JP budget)

Explain briefly: Around 3% of the annual budget was used for strategic communications including organization of donor events, ASEAN Conference on active ageing, communications and advocacy campaigns. The amount of budget is expected to increase during 2021 for other planned communications activities.

3.3. Have visibility outcomes increased due to the provided funding for JP strategic communications?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: The communications contents have been promoted across communications platforms including social media and websites at both global and national levels

3.4. Does the Country Profile Page on the Joint SDG Fund website contribute to your JP outreach?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: It is difficult to measure or identify the global website's contribution to our JP outreach. However, we believe that it has helped understanding of audience visiting global website to learn the JP of our country with latest updates.

3.5. How many articles (interviews, human interest stories, press releases, expert insights, etc) about your JP were published by an external media outlet (Non-UN published)?

Total number:1

Explain briefly: A press release on consultation meeting with Department of Social Assistance on the e-payment system introduction was covered by a national media outlet

3.6. How many articles (interviews, human interest stories, press releases, expert insights, etc) about the Joint Programme were published by the UNCT and JP PUNOs?

Total number:5

Explain briefly:2 human-interest stories on the social insurance and e-payment of cash assistance, 1 video of COVID-19 researchers, 1 video on the social protection landscape in Viet Nam including COVID-19 context, 1 story of donor event

3.7. Have you received an increase of social media followers?

Yes

No

Total number: (Not mandatory)

Explain briefly: While it is difficult to measure whether the JP contents contributed to the increase of social media followers, based on the engagement rate of JP contents, we believe that it has helped increasing social media followers to some extent

### Multi-Media Faucets

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
How Viet Nam aims to ensure family benefits reach working parents to	04/20	Through the voices of Vietnamese women, <a href="#">the story</a> focuses on the needs for integrated and inclusive social protection system in order to support the vulnerable groups including women, workers and children

cope with financial constraints		Hyperlink: <a href="https://vietnam.un.org/en/40175-how-viet-nam-aims-ensure-family-benefits-reach-working-parents-cope-financial-constraints">https://vietnam.un.org/en/40175-how-viet-nam-aims-ensure-family-benefits-reach-working-parents-cope-financial-constraints</a>
Electronic payment - Life-changing Technology for Social Protection in Times of COVID-19	06/20	<p><a href="#">This human-interest story</a> introduces how innovations can help the government and people to benefit from safe and fast cash transfer through e-payment system via mobile and nearest ATM machine during times of COVID-19.</p> <p>Hyperlink: <a href="https://vietnam.un.org/en/51710-electronic-payment-life-changing-technology-social-protection-times-covid-19">https://vietnam.un.org/en/51710-electronic-payment-life-changing-technology-social-protection-times-covid-19</a></p>
Social assistance reform and digital transformation is key to reducing COVID-19 impact on vulnerable people	07/20	<p>Press Release on national consultation workshop on social assistance reform and accelerating digitalization</p> <p>Hyperlink: <a href="https://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/DigitalizingSP.html">https://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/DigitalizingSP.html</a></p>
Interview with Researchers on Rapid Assessment on Impacts of COVID-19 in Viet Nam	10/20	<p>The video introduced the key findings of the rapid assessment on socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Viet Nam together with MOLISA through the voices of the researchers who executed the interviews in innovative way in COVID-19 context and identified the key challenges and gaps for people especially in vulnerable groups such as children and women.</p> <p>Hyperlink to YouTube: <a href="https://youtu.be/ioP3OIKIAA0">https://youtu.be/ioP3OIKIAA0</a>          Hyperlink to Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/uninvietnam/posts/4526248824116267">https://www.facebook.com/uninvietnam/posts/4526248824116267</a></p>
Social Protection in Viet Nam in COVID-19 times	11/20	<p>This video illustrates the benefits of Social Protection schemes for the vulnerable groups of people such as irregular worker, elderly, and women while also illustrating the challenges COVID-19 posed to people in the vulnerable groups such as small-scale businesses and children accessing COVID-19 social assistance due to the existing gaps in the current SP policy.</p> <p>Hyperlink: <a href="https://youtu.be/cyqDy_31xVo">https://youtu.be/cyqDy_31xVo</a></p>
Towards Inclusive and Integrated Social Protection to Leave No One Behind in Viet Nam	11/20	<p>Recap article of the JP's Donor Event</p> <p>Hyperlink: <a href="https://vietnam.un.org/en/105903-towards-inclusive-and-integrated-social-protection-leave-no-one-behind-viet-nam">https://vietnam.un.org/en/105903-towards-inclusive-and-integrated-social-protection-leave-no-one-behind-viet-nam</a></p>

### Social Media Campaigns

Title of the document	Type (FB/Twitter/LinkedIn/Etc.)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
Social Protection in Viet Nam in COVID-19 times	FB/YouTube	<p>This video illustrates the benefits of Social Protection schemes for the vulnerable groups of people such as irregular worker, elderly, and women while also illustrating the challenges COVID-19 posed to people in the vulnerable groups such as small-scale businesses and children accessing COVID-19 social assistance due to the existing gaps in the current SP policy.</p> <p>The video reached 5,417 people on <a href="#">UN in Viet Nam Facebook</a> and also published on <a href="#">UN in Viet Nam YouTube</a>.</p>

#### Annex 4: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix

Risks	Risk Level:	Likelihood:	Impact:	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
Contextual risks					
Insufficient fiscal space to allow extension of social protection	High	3	3	Continued evidence-based advocacy; Capacity building for government line ministries to develop and present evidence-based budgets	UNJP
Low political commitment to reform	Low	1	4	Continue evidence-based advocacy	UNJP
Programmatic risks					
Government does not proceed with SP schemes or delays implementation	Medium	2	3	Continued evidence-based advocacy; Capacity building for government line ministries to develop and	UNJP

				present evidence-based studies	
Government does not have capacity to implement new schemes	Medium	2	3	Capacity building for the government partners	UNJP
Lack of co-ordination between Government agencies	High	4	3	Continue support and build capacity for existing coordination mechanisms	UNJP
Government agencies delay in engaging with the project	Low	1	2	PUNOs engage with longstanding partners	ILO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP
Capacity building activities not translated into concrete actions	High	3	3	Test and evaluate effectiveness of capacity building initiatives	UNJP
Lack of co-ordination amongst PUNOs	High	3	3	UNRC/RCO will monitor closely together with the lead agency	UNRCO
Project period will be insufficient to implement all activities	High	3	3	Timed work plan will be developed on inception	UNJP
Institutional risks					
Fiduciary risks					