

Joint SDG Fund
PORTFOLIO ON INTEGRATED POLICY AND LNOB

Joint Programme 2021 Annual Progress Report

Cover page

Country: Viet Nam

Joint Programme title: Accelerating Viet Nam's transition toward inclusive and integrated social protection

Short title: Viet Nam's Inclusive Social Protection

Start date (day/month/year): **01 January 2020**

End date (day/month/year): **31 May 2022**

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

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

Total estimated expenditure (in USD, for the whole JP by 31 December 2021): **USD 1,628,000**

Total estimated commitments (in USD, for the whole JP by 31 December 2021): **USD 1,886,000**

Short description of the Joint Programme

The main purpose of the Viet Nam UN Joint Programme (JP) on Accelerating Viet Nam's transition towards inclusive and integrated social protection is to support the development of an integrated gender-sensitive multi-tier social protection system. The JP aims to expand the coverage of the social protection system, with a particular focus on those who were insufficiently covered or at risk of being left behind. The JP is enhancing the coherence between social insurance and social assistance systems, developed the capacity of the social care system and improved the effectiveness and efficiency of services through the use of innovative e-management and e-delivery mechanisms. This new integrated and inclusive social protection system will accelerate Viet Nam's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will help to ensure that every child will benefit from social protection services, that all new mothers are entitled to paid maternity leave, and that the elderly and persons with disabilities (PwDs) can access the quality care services they need, thus contributing to the wellbeing of all Vietnamese citizens throughout their lives.

Executive summary

The JP has achieved its overall goal of accelerating Viet Nam's transition towards an inclusive and integrated social protection system. This JP has supported the Government of Viet Nam (GOVN) 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 achievement of the SDGs, with a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalised populations.

There are challenges and ongoing gaps that will require the UN agencies to continue to work together to achieve sustainable change. The UN agencies will continue to work together in raising and securing a transparent debate, in seeing expanded reach of benefits, and in tabling significant reforms - combining the advocacy message from many UN agencies, and the economic impact and SDG surveys conducted by agencies that confirm poor targeting of and insufficient funding to reach the populations in most need. Our work is yet done and challenges remain but the UNJP has laid a solid foundation.

By the end of 2021, JP expertise, technical inputs, and strategic advocacy has;

- accelerated progress towards a multi-tiered social protection system using a life-cycle approach that includes child benefits, maternity/paternity benefits, old-age pensions and a social protection floor for persons with disabilities and expands coverage to include families in the informal economy and other vulnerable groups (**Outcome 1**);
Estimated rate of completion as of 31 December 2021: 95%
- enhanced and improved child protection services, expanded the capacity of social work provision and developed and piloted integrated social care services for vulnerable children, older persons and PwDs that provide evidence for further scaling up and at a national level (**Outcome 2**);
Estimated rate of completion as of 31 December 2021: 90%
- consolidated and modernised administrative processes and accelerated the digital transformation of the management and delivery of social protection services, including their monitoring and evaluation (M&E), to expand coverage, improve accessibility and enhance transparency and accountability (**Outcome 3**).
Estimated rate of completion as of 31 December 2021: 93%

In 2021, the JP reached >12 million people supporting those who the COVID-19 pandemic had most severely impacted. The reforms initiated by the JP also contributed to reaching >3 million children, 1.9 million older people and 1.1 million PwDs

In the long-term, the JP's social protection reforms could, by 2030, contribute to reaching several targets, namely: 60% of workers participating in the social Insurance system, 100% of Vietnamese children benefiting from social protection, 100% of women having access to paid maternity leave, 60% of older persons having pensions and an additional 2 million persons with disability receiving assistance.

I. Overall progress and priority, cross-cutting issues

I.1 Context and the overall approach

Ensuring an adaptive and strategic JP

Viet Nam's economy has experienced strong growth in recent decades, with an average growth rate of around 7% before the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This growth contributed to a significant decline in poverty, from 20.7% in 2010 to only 2.75% in 2020¹. However, the benefits of this economic growth have not been evenly distributed, and certain groups, such as vulnerable children, the working poor, the elderly and PwDs, have been left behind.

Although Viet Nam has a relatively well-developed social protection system that covers, among other things, pensions and unemployment insurance, it is fragmented and not effectively implemented, leading to significant gaps in coverage. For example, less than 1% of children under 36 months are covered by SP benefits, only one-third of older people receive a pension, and less than 1 in 5 PwDs receive any form of social assistance.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these weaknesses in Viet Nam's social protection system. The pandemic exposed the system's shortcomings in providing immediate emergency support to those at risk of increased deprivation and its ability to absorb large-scale economic shocks in the longer term. The JP confronted these challenges by providing technical support to the Government of Viet Nam (GOVN) to improve the implementation of social protection policies. This support is aligned with recently approved national plans on social insurance, social assistance, and the digitalization of the delivery of services. In doing so, the JP has accelerated SDG achievement, particularly SDG 1 (end poverty) and SDG 5 (achieve gender equality).

As well as presenting challenges, the COVID-19 crisis also provided the opportunity to realign the JP to ensure a more resilient social protection system that can act as a shock absorber in the event of significant external shocks such as pandemics and natural disasters. Throughout the pandemic, the JP has informed the GOVN response by providing rapid assessments and technical advice to ensure that emergency stimulus packages effectively mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, especially on vulnerable people. These responses are illustrative of a flexible and adaptive strategic approach that can respond to abrupt and gradual changes in context.

Link with UNDAF/ UNSD Cooperation Framework

The overall aim of the JP is to accelerate Viet Nam's transition towards an inclusive and integrated social protection system. The JP supports the *UN Viet Nam Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), 2017-2021*, particularly Outcome 1.1 on inclusive and equitable social protection and poverty reduction and Outcome 4.1 on accountable institutions, with policies and implementation mechanisms that are responsive to all people.

The JP directly contributes to the *One Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development Cooperation between the UN and GOVN (2022-2026)*, referred to as the CF. Specifically:

- **Outcome 1: Inclusive Social Development:** *Output 1.3 The national social protection and social care system is inclusive, coherent, and integrated, applying life-cycle, risk informed, resilient and gender-responsive approaches, focusing on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people.* For example, the JP has assisted in the development of Viet Nam's Decree on Social Assistance (Decree 20/ND-CP/2021), the Policy Orientation on Revising the Social Insurance Law (Resolution 152/ND-CP/2021) and the draft Decree on Social Work, all which will expand coverage of services to vulnerable populations.
- **Outcome 3: Shared Prosperity through Economic Transformation:** *Output 3.5 on evidence-based options and mechanisms are promoted to expand public and private finance for achieving the SDGs.* For example, the JP has accelerated the digital transformation of the social assistance system to make it more responsive and shock resilient.
- **Outcome 4: Governance and Access to Justice:** *Output 4.2 National institutions and systems are enhanced to strengthen the rule of law.* For example, the JP contributed to developing the *National Programme on Child Protection (2021-2025)* that sets out a national multi-sectoral framework to strengthen the child protection system, *expand access to justice and combat discrimination against women, girls and LGBTIQ persons.* *Output 4.6 Data and production, analysis and use are strengthened to inform*

¹ <http://www.molisa.gov.vn/Pages/tintuc/chitiet.aspx?tintucID=224563>

evidence-based and rights-based policies, planning and budgeting. For example, the JP supported the finalisation of the actuarial assessment of the social insurance pension fund to support planning and budgeting for future pension needs.

The JP directly supports Viet Nam's strategic plans on social protection reform, including: the *Master Plan on Social Assistance Reform and Development (MPSARD)*; the *Master Plan on Social Insurance Reform (MPSIR)*; and the *Master Plan on the Development of the National Database of Social Protection and Application of Information Technology in Implementing Social Protection Policies (MNDSITA)*. Thus, the JP directly contributes to Viet Nam's development goals as defined in the *National Socio-Economic Plan (NSEDP)2021 -2025* and *Agenda 2030 for the Achievement of the SDGs*.

COVID-19 impact

Initially praised for its successful response to the pandemic, the country has, since April 2021, been experiencing its worst wave of COVID-19. The pandemic has precipitated a declining fiscal and current balance and a contraction of the manufacturing sector, in which many people are employed. These impacts also exposed weaknesses in the current social protection system, including:

- **an inability to promptly identify people requiring assistance**, thus excluding people such as internal migrants and those working in the informal sector;
- **insufficient coverage to meet the needs of the missing middle** and the "new poor" (i.e households that slid into deprivation as a result of COVID-19);
- **the short duration of support** in relation to the longer-lasting impacts of the crisis;
- **budget shortages** that prevented poorer provinces from implementing social assistance policies;
- **interrupted social services** such as support for victims of violence, preventing people from getting support.

The COVID-19 pandemic also affected the implementation of the JP activities in Vietnam, as the GOVN's priorities shifted from the day-to-day implementation of the master plans for social protection to respond to the direct impacts of the pandemic.

The JP adapted its approach to support the GOVN in providing immediate assistance to those in need. For example, JP policy recommendations helped simplify the eligibility and access criteria to emergency assistance to include vulnerable, hard-to-reach populations, such as informal migrant labourers. In 2021, these changes helped ensure that COVID-19 support funds reached more than 26 million people. The COVID-19 pandemic also provided the opportunity to repurpose the social protection system to respond to variant shocks and act as a stabiliser to prevent people from falling into poverty due to other large-scale crises, such as natural disasters.

I.2 Update on priority cross-cutting issues

UN Development System reform - UN coherence at the country level:

The JP involves four participating UN organisations (PUNOs), which are ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP, and is led by the ILO. The Resident Coordinator's Office supports the coordination of the JP at the strategic level, including joint advocacy, monitoring, and external outreach, whilst the PUNOs are responsible for the JP's day-to-day implementation.

The JP builds upon existing joint interventions between, for example, UNDP/UNICEF/ILO on MPSARD, UNICEF/ILO on child benefits, UN Women/ILO on maternity benefits and ILO/UNFPA on social pensions. The JP's work is strengthened through collaboration with the UN's Result Group on Inclusive Growth and Social Protection, the UN SDG Task Force and the UN Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Group. The JP's multi-sectoral and transdisciplinary approaches have strengthened the coherence of the UN in Vietnam through:

- **Facilitating multi-sector dialogues and cooperation** in defining and implementing integrated solutions to pressing development issues.
- **Building cross-thematic approaches** that link previously "siloes" projects to encourage an integrated approach to policy development and implementation.
- **Fostering cooperation between different stakeholders** in the Government, civil society and the private sector.

- **Encouraging experimentation and innovation** to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services to ensure no one is left behind.

Going beyond "business as usual" to produce catalytic results at scale

The JP has built upon previous activities and continued to deliver technical support and policy advice to the GOVN to accelerate the transition towards Viet Nam's integrated multi-tiered social protection system. By promoting a rights-based social protection system based on a life-cycle approach, with a more effective service delivery, the JP will help to ensure that no one is left behind by advancing gender equality and ensuring the vulnerable are considered first. The JP is thus an exemplary model for going beyond "business as usual", as it has:

- **strengthened the linkages between social insurance and social assistance through a multi-tiered social protection system approach**, including child benefits, maternity/paternity benefits, old-age pensions and disability benefits, with a focus on making the system more inclusive for those at risk of being left behind.
- **developed the social care system** along the lines of the life-cycle approach in addition to advocating for a more rights-based, progressive and efficient use of state resources.
- **promoted greater integration of the social care system** by enhancing the links between SA and SI policies, with a focus on making the system more inclusive and accessible for the most vulnerable as complementary to income support.
- **rapidly iterated solutions for digitising the social protection system on a national scale** to facilitate and support the e-registration of beneficiaries, e-delivery payments and service, and M&E
- **developed shock-resilient mechanisms** to deliver rapid assistance and absorb the impacts of unexpected large-scale crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters.

SDG acceleration

The JP has continued to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs in alignment with its Theory of Change. Specifically, SDG1 and SDG5.

- **SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere:** The JP and GOVN jointly carried out extensive evidence-based assessments, research, and analysis to strengthen a multi-tiered social protection system. For example, it supported the GOVN to produce *National Guidelines on Social Pension provision*. The development of a multi-tiered system, from child benefits to old-age pensions with protection floors, directly contributes to *SDG1.2 (Reduce poverty by half)* and *SDG1.3 (Implement national social protection systems for all)*
- **SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.** The JP and Viet Nam Women's Union undertook research and analysis to better understand gender gaps within the social protection system and the labour market. For example, the JP supported the production of multi-sectoral protocols to respond to cases of child abuse and violence and expanded training for social workers (*SDG5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls*). The JP also produced policy recommendations on adapting social protection to women's life courses and promoting women's employment through expanded maternity and basic protections, directly contributing to *SDG5.4 (Recognise and value unpaid work through the provision of social protection policies and promotion of shared responsibilities)*.
- **SDG2 Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG8 Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG10 Reducing Inequality, SDG17 Partnerships** highlighting the importance of holistic approaches to tackling complex development issues.

Policy integration and systems change

The JP brings together the expertise of the PUNOs, GOVN partners and other stakeholders in a multi-sectoral partnership that supports policy integration. This approach has "broken down siloes" and has transformed a fragmented social protection system into an integrated multi-tiered system that supports people throughout their lives. Key highlights of this approach are the development of:

- **A Policy Orientation for the Social Insurance Law Reform** including the introduction of multi-tiered child benefits and a non-contributory social pension fund, marking the first-ever integrated life-cycle approach to social protection policies in Viet Nam;

- **National Guidelines on Social Pension Extension** for use throughout Viet Nam to ensure that at least 60% of the pensionable population are covered with at least one source of income security by 2030
- **A multi-sectoral protocol** to respond to cases of child abuse and violence based upon international standards and best practices. The protocol provides clear guidance for related sectors, e.g. education, health, justice, social work, to respond to the abuse of children;
- **A Draft Decree on Social Work** and the approval by the GOVN of a *National Programme on Social Work (2021-2030)* that strengthens the legal framework for social work and developing the social care workforce to meet the needs of vulnerable people;
- **An Evaluation of the 10-Year Implementation of the Law for the Elderly** that recommended expanding the social pension benefit for all older persons;
- **An integrated social care model for older persons** in institutional and non-institutional care settings, including a computer-based care management system integrated with the comprehensive social protection database.

Contribution to the improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups

The JP significantly contributed to improvements in the situation of vulnerable groups by improving the effectiveness of the social protection and care systems, which has resulted in a more rights-based efficient use of state resources. Key highlights from 2021 are:

- **People impacted by COVID-19:** Adjustments in eligibility criteria and simplifying procedures enabled 12 million people, including hard-to-reach populations, to benefit from the GOVN's second 1.4 billion USD assistance package.
- **Ethnic Minorities:** The JP has introduced innovations to improve access to benefits, such as e-payments which have been piloted in remote mountainous ethnic minority areas, such as Ha Giang, to assess their effectiveness.
- **Vulnerable women:** The JP conducted significant assessments to identify gender gaps in the social protection system, which has informed all of the JP's activities and contributed to policy reform. JP activities will expand benefits to reach women in vulnerable employment and improve the position of working mothers through the provision of maternity pay. Improvements in social work will enhance the prevention and response to gender-based violence.
- **Children at risk:** The JP has significantly improved the child protection system through support to the National Programme on the Child Protection (2021-2025) and the establishment of clear protocols informed by international best practices for preventing and responding to child abuse. The extension of child benefits will help lift deprived children out of poverty.
- **Older people and PwDs:** The JP successfully advocated for extended coverage and benefits for older people, which were incorporated into the new Decree on Social Protection (20/ND-CP) and has piloted an integrated care system for older people in 5 provinces with the potential to be rolled out nationally.

The estimated number of people reached through JP efforts in 2020-2021 was **32.72 million**. An estimated **48%** of these were women and girls

Mainstreaming Gender equality and women's empowerment

The JP mainstreamed gender equality and women's empowerment throughout all its activities; it incorporates a gender equality strategy and disaggregated gender indicators. The JP's gender equality work included:

- **A comprehensive Gender Impact Assessment of the Social Insurance system in Viet Nam.** The study and associated policy briefs contributed to a global initiative, Gender Responsive and Age Sensitive Social Protection (GRASSP) research that examines social protection inequities in low- and lower-middle income countries.
- **A High-Level Dialogue on Gender Gaps in the Social Protection System** based on the above report and co-organised with Viet Nam Women's Union and the National Assembly Committee for Social Affairs was attended by over 150 senior delegates and advocated for significant policy reform to advance gender equality.
- **The development of child protection protocols** and support for the National Programme on Child Protection (2021-2026) to ensure young girls and boys are protected from abuse and violence.
- **A new Decree on Social Protection** expanded benefits for women in areas such as paid maternity/paternity leave, supporting women's employment and promoting shared responsibilities within the household.

- **The digitisation of social protection services**, e.g. the e-payments of benefits, recognising the value of women's care roles and providing more financial independence and control.
 - **The digitisation of the social protection M&E system and disaggregation of gender data** quantified gender gaps, promoting reforms to advance gender equality.
- *The estimated % of overall disbursed funds spent on Gender equality by the end of 2021 was **32%***

Human rights

The JP has applied a rights-based approach through all of its activities that support the realisation of the GOVN's international human rights commitments. Relevant recommendations of human rights mechanisms are listed below:

- **ICPD Programme of Action:** The review of the Law on the Elderly, actuarial assessment of pensions and piloting of integrated care system for older people has enhanced social security for older persons (R6.18), increased older people's self-reliance and recognised the importance of caregivers (R6.19).
- **CEDAW:** An expanded social protection system has extended benefits to people working in the informal sector (R29c) and ethnic minority women (R39b).
- **CRC:** Improved protocols for child protection and extension of child benefits have strengthened the framework for preventing and responding to child abuse and reduced child poverty.
- **UPR:** An extended social protection system has enhanced access to services for vulnerable people (R38.107), reduced extreme poverty (R38.127), recognised the contribution of the elderly (R38.201), has increased the number of caregivers to support the elderly (R38.240), multiplied health care models for the elderly (R38.4) and has improved access and quality of services for PWDs (R38.286).
- **ILO:** The transition to an integrated multi-tier social protection system has extended access to social security (C102) and has enhanced social protection floors (R202).

Partnerships

The JP's key implementing partners are the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), the Vietnam Social Security and Social Insurance Authorities, the Viet Nam Women's Union and provincial authorities. The JP provides a model for collaborative working that contributes to UN Viet Nam's position as a trusted partner in securing a sustainable future for all Vietnamese people. Through its activities the JP has partnered with:

- **MOLISA**, to conduct a range of extensive evidence-based assessments and research to accelerate the transformation to a rights-based, inclusive, shock-resilient multi-tiered social protection system.
- **Ministry of Finance** to conduct actuarial assessments and finance options for social protection.
- **Ministry of Education and Training** to develop guidelines for social work within the education sector to improve the social wellbeing of pupils.
- **Ministry of Health** to examine the care needs of older people with disabilities.
- **Ministry of Justice** to improve the police and justice framework for child protection.
- **National Assembly Committee of Social Affairs** to advocate for the incorporation of recommended changes into legislation and advance gender equality at a national level.
- **Provincial Authorities** to test the feasibility of proposed options at the local level and use local resources and funds to expand the coverage of the social protection system.
- **Viet Nam Women's Union** to undertake a comprehensive gender impact assessment to identify gender gaps within the social protection system and make recommendations to address them.
- **Civil Society Organisations, such as the Viet Nam Association of the Elderly**, to engage the community and pilot community-based initiatives, such as an integrated care model for older persons.
- **Viet Nam Post, Viettel Pay and local IT companies** to accelerate the pilot of digital cash transfers to vulnerable ethnic minority women in Ha Giang, Bac Kan, Dak Nong, Bac Lieu, and Cau Mau Provinces, the JP provides a model for collaborative working that contributes to UN Viet Nam's position as a trusted partner in securing a sustainable future for all Vietnamese people.

Mobilising additional funding and/or financing

The success of the JP has enabled it to mobilise additional resources to strengthen the social protection system and respond to the impacts of COVID 19. For example:

- **The Government of Japan** contributed with 350,000 USD to pilot inclusive social care services for older persons.

- **The CITI Fund** contributed with 250,000 USD to pilot e-cash transfers and e-commerce solutions for vulnerable ethnic minority people and women-led ethnic minority cooperatives in two remote provinces.
- **Various donors**, including Irish Aid (400,000 Euro), the EU (190,000 Euro) and ILO RBTC (30,000 USD) contributed to the work focused on social protection reforms.
- **UN core funds** of USD 170,000 were mobilised to support the COVID-19 response and recovery for older persons in 12 high-risk provinces and to develop a mobile app to provide e-health care for older persons.

Strategic meetings

The JP has a significant focus on communication and advocacy. In 2020 a strategic advocacy event was attended by stakeholders, including GOVN counterparts and representatives from 12 international donors. In 2021, events continued to be held, all conforming to COVID-19 regulations. The highlights are shown in the table below:

Type of event	Yes	No	Comments
Advocacy and Technical workshop March 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Developing a roadmap for the implementation of the Ha Noi Declaration on the Strengthening Social Work Towards Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN Community
Advocacy and Technical Workshop April 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Extending social protection to workers in informal employment in Viet Nam
Advocacy and Technical Workshop July 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guidance on implementation of social pension expansion under Decree 20/2021/NĐ-CP
High-Level Dialogue July 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender Issues in Social Security Policies
Advocacy and Technical Workshop Aug 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Development of integrated care models for older persons.
Advocacy and Technical workshop, October 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	International standards and protocols for handling cases of child abuse and violence.
Consultation Workshop November 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Communication strategy to expand social insurance coverage social security for women.
Advocacy and Technical Workshop: November 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Active ageing, Innovation and application of Digital Technologies in Care for Older persons in ASEAN
Consultative Workshop: December 2021	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluation of the 10-year implementation of the Law on Older Persons and recommendations for revision of the Law for the Elderly

Innovation, learning and sharing

The JP has comprehensive learning, sharing and communication plans, which have been followed throughout all its activities.

- **Communications.** The JP's activities, results and lessons learned are communicated to key audiences through consultations and workshops such as those listed above. Success stories, important events and publications are highlighted through social media platforms, including the UN Viet Nam and Joint SDG Fund websites, Facebook and Twitter, as well as print media and national TV.
- **Learning and Sharing.** The JP's Annual and Quarterly Reports, Monitoring and Evaluation reports, research studies, peer-reviewed papers, policy briefs and short video clips, infographics and animations are all used to share information and knowledge generated by the JP.
- **Experimentation and Innovation.** The use of small-scale pilots is a key approach of the JP. They have been used to test the feasibility of the models. For example, the integrated care for the elderly and the validation of the national guidelines for social extension used this approach. Fast iterative experimentation

was used to test innovative e-solutions for service delivery, such as e-registration and payment of benefits. This approach was used to select and refine the most effective solutions for national scale-up.

II. 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)

The JP has made excellent progress towards accomplishing the outcomes defined in the JP Results Framework. Most of the outputs were completed by 31 December 2021. The impacts of COVID-19 delayed some activities; these will be completed by the end of the no-cost extension period.

Contribution to Fund's global results

The JP has contributed to the following Joint SDG Fund's Global Outcomes and Outputs:

- **Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale.** The JP accelerated the transition towards a multi-tiered, shock-resilient social protection system by strengthening the linkages between social insurance and social assistance.
- **Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented.** The JP used rapid experimentation to select innovative social protection models and e-delivery systems for national scale-up.
- **Output 4: Integrated financing strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented.** The JP has mobilised significant additional finance for social protection reform in Viet Nam illustrating confidence in JP to achieve its goals.

Achievement of JP Outputs

Output 1.1 Legal Review and drafting support to facilitate the development of a rights-based coherent framework. Under Output 1.1, the JP completed:

- A legal review to inform the Policy Orientation for the Revision of the Social Insurance Law to enhance the coherence of contributory and non-contributory benefits and achieve 60% pension coverage by 2030.
- An assessment of the implementation of the Decree on Social Assistance (Decree 136/ND-CP/2013) and the costing policy options shock-responsive regular cash transfers to older people and PWDs.
- An evaluation of the 10-year implementation of the Law for the Elderly and recommendations for extending social pensions.
- A gender impact assessment on the social insurance system and recommendations to enhance gender equality.

Output 1.2 Support evidence-based policy options aimed at improving tax-based floors and contributory schemes and the links between them: Under Output 1.2, the JP completed:

- An actuarial assessment of the long-term pension fund and short-term benefits, (e.g. unemployment insurance and maternity pay) to support the revision of the social insurance law.
- Costed policy options for introducing multi-tiered child benefits, including children from 0-3 years old.
- Costed policy options for promoting gender equality in the social insurance system, such as the introduction of a pension care-credit.
- Detailed costed studies to expand social pensions, including lowering the age eligibility from 80 years old.
- A national guideline to support the implementation of the Social Assistance Regulation (Decree 20/ND-CP/2021) and assist provinces to expand the provision of social pensions using sub-national budgets.
- A comprehensive research report presenting costed policy options and recommendations for expanding social assistance to vulnerable children, including those under 3 years old.
- A rapid assessment of the social assistance needs of families with children impacted by the COVID-19 to facilitate targeted support packages and extend cash transfer coverage to pregnant women.

Output 1.3. Advocacy and communications support to Govt and other parties to facilitate evidence-based decision making on existing and new multi-tiered themes. Under Output 1.3, the JP supported

numerous dialogues, technical workshops, and advocacy events (see *Strategic Meetings section*). Notable examples of advocacy and communications activities included:

- The development of communication messages and indicators to support the implementation of the GOVN's Social Insurance Communications Master Plan.
- A high-level dialogue on gender gaps in social protection in collaboration with the Vietnam Women's Union and the National Assembly Social Affairs Committee to discuss gender equity in social insurance.
- A consultative workshop on the social care system to develop a roadmap to implement the Hanoi Declaration on Strengthening Social Work towards a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN community.
- Sub-national advocacy to promote the social protection achievements of provincial authorities, for example, Kon Tum Province's implementation plans for expanding social assistance to vulnerable children.

Output 2.1 Evidence based, gender-sensitive policies on social care adopted for implementation of an inclusive social protection system. Under Output 2.1, the JP completed:

- The National Programme for Child Protection that was incorporated into the National Action Plan for Children 2021-2030 approved by the Prime Minister.
- A Policy Paper on Inter-Agency Prevention of Violence against Children Protocols drawing on international best practice with recommendations for Viet Nam.
- A multi-sectoral protocol to respond to cases of abuse and violence against children that draws upon international standards and best practices and defines clear roles and processes for each sector.
- The development of competency-based training programmes and materials on child protection.

Output 2.2 National Capacity Strengthened for development and implementation of policies on social care. Under Output 2.2, the JP completed:

- A draft Decree on Social Work and Social Care Providers aligned with international standards and best practices. The first top-level policy on social work in Viet Nam is being finalised for Prime Ministerial approval.
- The National Social Work Development Programme 2021-2030 that strengthens the legal framework on the social work profession and multi-sectoral approaches to social work provision.
- A Programme for Social Work Development in the education sector for 2021-2030 and endorsed by the Minister of Education and Training.
- Competency-based training programmes and materials on the social care for older people and initial courses conducted at central and provincial levels for care staff and other caregivers.
- Pilot of integrated, shock-resilient care model, in 5 provinces, for uninterrupted care of older persons in COVID-19 pandemic and the new normal.

Output 3.1 Innovative solutions for the development of an integrated e-system of delivering SP Services real-time M&E experimented. Under Output 3.1, the JP completed:

- A multi-stakeholder review (sense-making) of current local actors' efforts and capacity in e-service delivery, e-management and M&E.
- The definition of feasible solutions and conduction of experimentations with rapid iterations and testing to identify and select optimum solutions for national scale-up.
- The rapid impact assessments of the GOVN's second COVID-19 social assistance package resulted in reducing the eligibility criteria and simplifying procedures to streamline the package for vulnerable people.
- GIS data system of population data (including data on older persons and PwDs) to ensure the inclusion of vulnerable people in shock-responsive emergency assistance packages.
- The definition and experimentation of an automatic triggering mechanism for providing social assistance relief in the event of large-scale shocks, such as pandemics and natural disasters.

Output 3.2 Plan for scaling up the successfully experimented solutions for the development of an integrated e-system of delivering social protection services and real-time M&E approved by the Government. Under Output 3.2, the JP has completed:

- A draft decree to legalise the national social assistance database and digital management system has been prepared and being finalised for authorisation.
- The development and approval of an action plan to scale-up selected e-system solutions at a national level.

Achievement of JP Outcomes

Outcome 1: Gender-sensitive multi-tiered coverage expansion strategies for accelerating SDG progress towards universal social protection coverage. The JP supported the development of a rights-based, inclusive multi-tiered social protection system using a life-cycle approach. Using evidence-based technical assistance, the JP promoted coherence between contributory and non-contributory systems and more inclusive benefits to reach the most vulnerable people, such as women, children at risk, PWDs and older persons.

This policy advice was supported by complementary financial analyses such as a full actuarial valuation of the social insurance system and analysis of state resources to improve the allocation of resources between central and provincial funds, particularly for the expansion of social benefits such as pensions and enhanced Social Protection Floors. All the policy options were supported by relevant impact assessments on beneficiaries' welfare, including a significant gender impact assessment of the social insurance system.

Outcome 2: Inclusive social care services for the most vulnerable for accelerating SDG progress. The JP has provided technical assistance, including comprehensive reviews, gap analyses and costing appraisals to enhance the provision of care services to the most vulnerable, such as children at risk of violence and older people. Knowledge and lessons learned from these initiatives have been disseminated nationally and shared in bilateral exchanges with other countries, including other ASEAN member-states.

The JP has enhanced national capacity on social care to meet the rapidly increasing demand for care services for older persons. It developed guidelines to support the implementation of a new National Programme for Social Work and undertaken trainings on social work for professional and paraprofessional caregivers. The JP significantly enhanced the legal framework for child protection services and developed an inter-sectoral protocol for addressing violence against children. These reforms particularly benefit women, as improved public care services reduce the family care burden and increases women's participation in the labour market.

Outcome 3: Integrated e-system for delivering social protection services and real-time M&E for accelerating SDG progress. Using the Accelerator Lab approach, the JP rapidly iterated technical options for integrated digital services, including e-registry and identification, e-payments and service delivery, e-enquiries and complaints and an enhanced M&E database to inform future developments. Following the identification of successfully experimented solutions, the JP supported the development of a national plan, including a finance strategy, to support the national scale-up of the e-system. The introduction of such a system supports Outcomes 1 and 2, dramatically increases the benefits system's efficiency and effectiveness, and increases coverage even to the poorest people living in remote areas.

Monitoring and data collection

The JP improved the capacity of the GOVN to monitor and evaluate social protection data in Viet Nam. Social protection data generated with the support of the JP was utilised in many of the reports and assessments, such as the actuarial valuation of the pension system. The data has also been utilised in a global study to evaluate the amplifying effects of different types of social expenditure. M&E data on the social protection system remains fragmented and difficult to consolidate. The JPs support for digitalisation of the system, including a national social protection database, will vastly improve the collection of data (disaggregated by gender and other population characteristics) and will greatly enhance the management and M&E of the social protection system.

Lessons learned and sustainability of results

The JP has demonstrated that when UN agencies and GOVN partners work together, their strengths are amplified to accelerate the achievement of SDGs for the wellbeing of all Vietnamese citizens. These achievements are sustainable as they are embedded within government systems and processes. Lessons learned through the JP's implementation include:

- Multi-sectoral approaches are essential to design and implement an integrated social protection system;
- Recommendations must be based on accessible evidence to make a case for social protection reforms;
- Data should be disaggregated to include vulnerable population groups to ensure no one is left behind;
- Policy reforms must be viewed through a gender lens to close gender gaps and advance gender equality;
- Social protection must be rooted in recognised human rights principles to ensure the dignity of all people;
- Digitalisation provides significant opportunities for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of services;
- Integrated and flexible finance options involving central and local resources are needed to extend coverage;
- Social protection systems must be shock-resilient to absorb the impacts of unexpected large-scale crises.

III. Plan for the final phase of implementation.

Towards the end of JP implementation

The JP achieved almost all of the committed results by 31 December 2021. There are a few outstanding actions to complete during the no-cost extension period that ends on 30 May 2022. The outstanding activities have arisen due to the impacts of COVID-19, for example, delays in being unable to complete pilot models due to lockdowns and strict social distancing and realignments of GOVN priorities to combat COVID-19, delaying work on review and approvals of non-COVID related activities.

The following activities are to be completed before 31 May 2022.

- The simulation model for the expansion of social pensions was planned to be piloted in at least 10 provinces during the second half of 2021 but has had to be rescheduled due to the impact of COVID-19. It will be undertaken in Q1 of 2022, assuming COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.
- The pilot of the integrated social care model for older persons and PWD will be evaluated within the context of COVID-19, and the "new normal" and results and recommendations will be documented and disseminated.
- Technical assistance will be provided to support provincial authorities in the approval of their plans to expand social assistance for older persons.
- The fiscal analysis for expanding social assistance to children will be completed, and a final comprehensive report will be produced.
- The final stage of the research into Gender-Responsive Social Protection systems will be undertaken and a working paper produced.
- The draft operational guidelines for the scaling-up of social assistance for children at the sub-national level will be completed in February 2022 and piloted and validated in selected provinces before finalisation.
- The draft Decree on Social Work will be finalised for Prime Ministerial endorsement.
- The intersectoral Protocol for Handling Cases of Child Abuse and Violence will be finalised for approval.
- The Legal Review of Social Work report will be finalised and published.

A final donor event/dissemination workshop, coordinated by the RCO, will be held in May 2022 to share achievements and lessons learned and to discuss plans. The aim in future years will be to build upon the success of the JP by further accelerating the impetus towards an integrated, inclusive, shock resilient social protection system. Priorities will continue to focus on extending and deepening the reforms introduced by the JP and will include:

- Supporting the revision of the Social Insurance Law and furthering the integration of contributory and non-contributory social protection, emphasising universal access to basic protection in line with ILO Recommendation on Social Protection Floors (R202).
- Extending social protection to address the "missing middle", in order to extend protection to more men and women in informal employment and their families.
- Addressing gender gaps within the social protection system by closing caps in pension provision and other benefits.
- Institutionalising multi-tier child benefits and ensuring that children of 0-3 years are included within coverage.
- Increasing recognition of the importance of social work and building the capacity of the social care workforce.
- Enhancing the quality and reach of child protection services to help prevent and respond to abuse and violence against children.
- Scaling-up integrated and innovative community care models for older people and increase support and assistance for PWDs.
- Scaling-up successful innovations for the national social protection database and digitisation of services.
- Strengthening the shock resilience of the social protection system and emphasising its critical importance to Viet Nam's post-pandemic recovery and adaptation to the "new normal".
- Reinforcing the importance of investing in the social protection system through strengthening the public finance system.

Risks and mitigation measures

Most of the risks identified at the start of the JP were programmatic. This included. capacity building activities which were not translated into concrete actions, lack of coordination amongst PUNOs and insufficient time to implement all activities. These risks were all successfully managed through transparent governance, sound project management, strong partnerships and effective monitoring and learning.

This is a significant accomplishment given the disruption to normal working patterns brought by COVID-19. The JP has demonstrated that, by working together through multi-sectoral partnerships, the strengths of individual agencies can be combined and amplified, and risks minimised. The programmatic risks are low and residual for the remainder of the activities, and due to experience acquired throughout this, JP will be lower for future joint programme initiatives. The remaining risks are external to the JP. These are:

- **Impact of COVID-19:** The impact of COVID-19 remains unpredictable with the emergence of new variants and mitigation measures such as lockdowns, work-from-home orders and travel restrictions may still arise and disrupt programme activities, particularly research fieldwork and the piloting of models in provinces. In addition, GOVNs priorities to tackle COVID-19 may mean other activities are accorded lower priority. The longer-term impacts of COVID-19 will impact future programming. **Mitigation:** The JP adapted its work arrangements to the "new normal" using online tools such as Zoom and could continue with most activities. The JP also adapted its activities to support the GOVN in its economic measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and ensure assistance packages reached the most vulnerable people. The JP activities were also adjusted to place greater emphasis on shock-resilience within the social protection system. Future activities emphasise the importance of social protection in "building back better" and tackling post-pandemic challenges.
- **Limited fiscal space for reform.** Limited government fiscal space, that further narrowed due to COVID-19, could hinder the expansion of cash-assistance and limit the scope of coverage extension for income security for children, older persons and PWD. **Mitigation:** The costing study undertaken by the JP highlights options for extending and deepening the social protection system without stressing public finances. In addition, modelling and simulations at the sub-national level indicates that mobilising local budgets is an effective strategy, as provincial resources can complement finance from the central budget. Future activities will highlight these options and advocate that they are more widely utilised. Future programming will also strengthen partnerships with the Ministry of Finance and will have a renewed focus on inclusive budgeting and financing for social protection.
- **Fragmented implementation presents barriers to integration.** Although the GOVN is committed to developing an integrated multi-tiered social protection system, legal reforms and their implementation still tend to address different components of the system in a silo fashion, leading to uncoordinated social security laws and continued system fragmentation. **Mitigation:** Future activities will build upon the JPs and continue to advocate for a coherent social framework informed by international guidelines and best practice experience worldwide. An updated legal mapping will be undertaken to address shortcomings in the legal framework and ensure proper alignment.

Risk management will continue to be a crucial process in future activities to reduce the probability of adverse events and mitigate impacts. A revised risk register reflecting the current status of programme risks at the finalisation of the JP is shown in Annex 3 Updated Risk Management Matrix.

Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Results

1. JP contribution to global Fund's programmatic results

Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

SDG1: T1.2 (*Reduce poverty by half*)

SDG1: T1.3 (*Implement national social protection systems for all*)

SDG5: T5.4 (*Recognise and value unpaid work through the provision of social protection policies and promotion of shared responsibilities*)

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

Outcome indicators	Expected 2021 target	2021 result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
1.1: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope ²	2	3	N/A: +variance	2
<i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decree 20/ND-CP/2020 on expansion of social assistance Government Resolution 152/NQ-CP on Policy Orientation to revise the Social Insurance Law Resolution 68/NQ-CP dated 1 July 2021 on policies to support people impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic 				
1.2: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale ³	2	3	N/A: +variance	2
<i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decree 20/ND-CP/2020 on expansion of social assistance Government Resolution 152/NQ-CP on Policy Orientation to revise the Social Insurance Law Resolution 68/NQ-CP dated 1 July 2021 on policies to support people impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic 				

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

Output indicators	Expected 2021 target	2021 result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
3.1 Number of innovative solutions that were tested (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)	1	5; (3 successful 2 unsuccessful)	N/A: +variance	3
3.2: Number of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	1	2	N/A: +variance	2

²Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

³Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

Did your Joint Programme contribute to strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators in 2020-2021?

Yes

No

The JP supported Viet Nam's much-needed transition towards an inclusive, rights-based, shock-resilient, multi-tiered social protection system that increased the coherence between social protection. This expansion and deepening of the social protection system accelerates the achievement of the SDGs to the benefit of all Vietnamese citizens. The JP exceeded most of the original targets specified in the Programmatic Results Framework.

2. Results as per JP Programmatic Results Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2021 target	2021 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
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 expansion for accelerating SDG progress.	1	1	1	N/A: +variance	2
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	1	2	2	N/A: +variance	3
Output 1.1 indicator: Number technical reports providing gender-sensitive policy options for reform of benefit regulations	1	1	1	N/A: +variance	2
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.	2	2	3	N/A: +variance	5
Output 1.2 indicator: Number of impact assessments conducted to feed government discussions, including dedicated gender impact assessments.	1	1	1	N/A: +variance	2
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	2	3	N/A: +variance	4
Output 1.3 indicator: Number of advocacy and communication products to support policy discussions	2	2	4	N/A: +variance	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)	0	2	3	N/A: on target	3

on inclusive social care for the most vulnerable and adults developed					
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	8	8	N/A: on target	8
Output 2.1 indicator: Number of new gender-sensitive national programmes/plans social care (social work, child protection, and elderly care) developed	0	3	5	N/A: on target	5
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)	1	6	4	N/A: +variance	6
Output 2.2 indicator: Number of new gender-sensitive policy/protocols/standards/guidelines on social work, child protection, and elderly care developed	0	1	1	N/A: on target	1
Outcome 3: Integrated e-system for delivering SP services and real-time M&E for accelerating SDG progress and gender equity					
Number of innovative solutions included within an improved implementation plan for national scale-up.	0	2	3	N/A: +variance	3
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	N/A: on target	2
Number of scaling up plans approved by Government with a gender-sensitive roadmap of actions prioritising gender-equity	0	1	1	N/A: on target	1

Annex 2: Strategic documents

2.1. Contribution to social protection strategies, policies and legal frameworks

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
Report on "Rapid assessment of design and implementation of Government's 2nd support package for the affected by Covid-19" (according to Resolution No. 68/NQ-CP) by the Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour – Invalids and Social Affairs (ILSSA/MOLISA)	9/21	<p>Informed the Government of Vietnam's policy actions and Development partners' support interventions to mitigate the four waves of COVID-19's negative impacts on Vietnamese people, especially the vulnerable groups and SMEs and households with household business.</p> <p>"Rapid assessment of design and implementation of Government's 2nd support package for the affected by Covid-19" (according to Resolution No. 68/NQ-CP): https://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/library/Assessment2package.html?fbclid=IwAR18QRqOgR8qfw2refQR3u0AduLN_xnPp_xrWqChNjodwvdjaSEUV1WPSbw</p>
Report on "Rapid Assessment of the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact on Vulnerable Households in Viet Nam" by the Centre for Analysis and Forecasting, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (CAF/VASS)	9/21	<p>Informed the Government of Vietnam about economic impacts of the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable households and workers, their coping strategies with a focus on the impediments to their responses, access to the Government's newly introduced support package with a view to making recommendations on how to improve policy actions to help them to rise to the big challenges of the time.</p> <p>"Rapid Assessment of the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact on Vulnerable Households in Viet Nam" (RIM 3): https://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/library/RIM3.html?fbclid=IwAR3b3NCAqBAYKx2RtepVxd2Zx-CFBf1N-9H3mbJa4Zt1oPQMGY4-KFNiTSQ</p>
Evaluation of 10-year implementation of the Law on Older Persons	12/2021	<p>UNJP provided technical support to the evaluation and review of the law on older persons, especially on the social protection issues of older persons to provide recommendation for law revision on expansion social protection coverage for older persons, aiming toward universal social protection</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1oVqyYC93oHIDk_5BfAfAOd0JZJQiA13C</p>
Report and Guidelines on the integrated care model for older persons	12/21	<p>UNJP provided technical support to develop guidelines on (1) Model framework and design; (2) Standards of Procedure for model implementation; (3) Provision of uninterrupted care for older persons in COVID-19 context; (4) Case management for care staff; (5) Handbooks for caregivers</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1oVqyYC93oHIDk_5BfAfAOd0JZJQiA13C</p>
Gender gaps in the social insurance system; Policy Brief	07/21	<p>This policy brief is number 1 in a series of technical notes based on the report Adapting social insurance to women's life courses: A gender impact assessment of Viet Nam. It was prepared by the ILO Social Protection team in Viet Nam as an input to the revision of the 2014 Social Insurance Law.</p>

		<p>The draft benefited from comments from the Policy and Legal Department of the Viet Nam Women's Union.</p> <p>https://ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_816086/lang--en/index.htm</p>
Policy recommendations: Increasing gender equality in social insurance pensions in Viet Nam	07/21	<p>This policy brief is number 2 in a series of technical notes based on the report Adapting social insurance to women's life courses: A gender impact assessment of Viet Nam. It was prepared by the ILO Social Protection team in Viet Nam as an input to the ongoing process of revision of the 2014 Social Insurance Law. The draft benefited from comments from the Policy and Legal Department of the Viet Nam Women's Union</p> <p>https://ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_816080/lang--en/index.htm</p>
Adapting social insurance to women's life courses: A gender impact assessment of Viet Nam	12/21	<p>A Gender Impact Assessment of social insurance in Viet Nam which 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</p> <p>https://ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_819801/lang--en/index.htm</p>
Viet Nam Social Security Law Reform: An Integrated Framework,	12/21	<p>Legal Review to support the Government of Vietnam to identify legal and policy changes needed to be reflected in the Social Insurance Law revision in order to align its legislative framework with the policy reform agenda with international standards, particularly in terms of reaching universal social security for all, as enshrined in the MPSIR and MPSARD.</p>
Expanding Social Insurance Coverage in Viet Nam – The Case for the Introduction of a Multi-tiered Child Benefit	12/2021	<p>The focus of this brief is on the introduction of a multi-tiered child benefit in Viet Nam's social security system. It will discuss the multiple dimensions of social security in which it can have a positive impact if introduced in Viet Nam, while highlighting its alignment with the objectives established by Resolution 28-NQ/TW.</p> <p>https://ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_833932/lang--en/index.htm</p>
Report to the Government, Actuarial valuation as at 31 December 2019 of retirement and survivorship benefits administered by Viet Nam Social Security	08/21	<p>This actuarial valuation presents the financial situation of retirement and survivorship benefits administered by VSS as at 31 December 2019. The previous valuation was realised as at 31 December 2015. The main purpose of the valuation is to find out whether the financing of the scheme is on course, and not to forecast exact numerical values. Due to the long-term nature of the assumptions, absolute figures contain a high degree of uncertainty. Therefore, results should be carefully interpreted, and future actuarial reviews undertaken on a regular basis will make possible a validation of the assumptions in light actual experience.</p>
Actuarial analysis of sickness, maternity, employment injury and unemployment benefits administered by Viet Nam Social Security as at 31 December 2019	10/21	<p>This report presents an actuarial analysis of three benefit funds administered by Viet Nam Social Security as at 31 December 2019: the Sickness and Maternity Insurance Fund, the Labour Accident and Occupational Disease Fund and the Unemployment Insurance Fund, to serve the revision of the Social Insurance Law 2014.</p>
Country Gender Equality Profile – Viet Nam 2021	10/21	<p>The joint publication developed by UNWOMEN in Viet Nam, ILO Viet Nam, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Australian Embassy, Hanoi, and the Asian Development Bank is the first comprehensive gender profile of Viet Nam.</p> <p>https://ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_825083/lang--en/index.htm</p>

Multi-tiered Social Security for Universal Coverage – A focus on Families in Viet Nam	04/21	<p>This policy brief introduces the multi-tiered social security systems to enable universal coverage with a focus on families. A coherent and well-designed family support system within the emerging social security system is truly rights-based, fair and equitable proposal; it has a high potential to attract workers to the social insurance system; and it is the most likely to be politically — and therefore financially- sustainable over time.</p> <p>https://ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_781651/lang--en/index.htm</p>
Vietnamese Women Union, Joint Press Release	07/21	<p>joint press release to promote gender equality in social insurance and ensure social protection rights in Viet Nam. The PR calls for the policy actions to transform the Viet Nam's social insurance system needs to become more gender sensitive and responsive to address inequalities experienced by women throughout their life courses, both at work and at home. One of the recommended policy measures is the introduction of a multi-tiered child benefit to provide support to all children in Viet Nam, while simultaneously promoting an increase in social insurance coverage.</p> <p>https://ilo.org/hanoi/Informationresources/Publicinformation/newsitems/WCMS_814503/lang--en/index.htm</p>

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing)

Title of the document	Date when finalised (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
COVID response							
Government Resolution No. 42 on Government's social assistance package to COVID-19	04/20	Y	Y	Y			https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Lao-dong-Tien-luong/Nghi-quyet-42-NQ-CP-2020-bien-phap-ho-tro-nguoi-dan-gap-kho-khan-do-Covid-19-439526.aspx
Decision No. 15 by the Prime Minister on implementation of Government's social assistance package to COVID-19	04/20	Y	Y	Y			https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Lao-dong-Tien-luong/Quyet-dinh-15-2020-QD-TTq-ho-tro-nguoi-dan-gap-kho-khan-do-dich-COVID19-441047.aspx

Resolution No. 154 on expansion of Resolution No. 42 on Government's social assistance package to COVID-19	10/20	Y	Y	Y			https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/The-thao-Y-te/Nghi-quyet-154-NQ-CP-2020-sua-doi-Nghi-quyet-42-NQ-CP-ho-tro-nguoi-dan-gap-kho-khan-do-Covid-19-455702.aspx
Decision No. 32 by Prime Minister on expanding/replacing the Decision 15 on implementation of Government's social assistance package to COVID19	10/20	Y	Y	Y			https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/The-thao-Y-te/Quy-dinh-32-2020-QD-TTg-sua-doi-Quy-dinh-15-2020-QD-TTg-ho-tro-nguoi-dan-do-Covid-19-455790.aspx
Resolution 68/NQ-CP dated 1 July, 2021 on policies to support people impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic	7/2021	Y	Y	Y			https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Lao-dong-Tien-luong/Nghi-quyet-68-NQ-CP-2021-chinh-sach-ho-tro-nguoi-lao-dong-su-dung-lao-dong-gap-kho-khan-dich-COVID19-479816.aspx
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.	06/20				Y		
Social protection expansion							
Decree 20/ND-CP/2021 on social assistance policy (replacing Decree No.136)	03/21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Van-hoa-Xa-hoi/Nghi-dinh-20-2021-ND-CP-chinh-sach-tro-giup-xa-hoi-doi-voi-doi-tuong-bao-tro-xa-hoi-467723.aspx
Government Resolution 152/NQ-CP on Policy Orientation to revise the Social Insurance Law	12/21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Bo-may-hanh-chinh/Nghi-quyet-152-NQ-CP-2021-phien-hop-chuyen-de-ve-xay-dung-phap-luat-thang-11-496455.aspx
Draft national program on social work development 2021-2030	12/20	Y	Y	Y			

Decision 2156/QĐ-TTg on National program on older persons 2021-2030	12/21	Y	Y	Y			https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Van-hoa-Xa-hoi/Quy-dinh-2156-QD-TTg-2021-phe-duyet-Chuong-trinh-hanh-dong-quoc-gia-nguoi-cao-tuoi-498264.aspx
Official Dispatch No 526/BTXH-CSBTXH to DOLISA re instruction in developing decree on expanding target groups for social assistance and increasing monthly social assistance benefits	10/21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Communication on social protection							
Official Document No 1194/LDTBXH-BHXH to provinces and cities re communication work on social security in 2021	04/21	x			x		
Official Document No 1195/LDTBXH-BHXH to Vietnam Social Security re communication work on social security in 2021	04/21	X			x		
Plan for Social Work Development in Education Sector 2021 - 2025							
Social protection Services and delivery							
Decision No. 877 on approval of Action-plan for implementation of Master-plan "building management information system (MIS) and database on social assistance	7/21				Y		

in period 2021 – 2025”							
Decision No. 878/QD-LDTBXH, dated 28/7/2021 by Minister of MOLISA on approval of investment project on development of electric/online self-registration, management and improvement of integrated information system and data base of social assistance beneficiaries	7/21				Y		
Draft Government's Decree on digitalization of Social assistance self-registration, management and delivery	7/21				Y		
Social work, social care							
National program on social work development 2021-2030	1/21				Y		https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Van-hoa-Xa-hoi/Quyet-dinh-112-QD-TTq-2021-Chuong-trinh-phat-trien-cong-tac-xa-hoi-giai-doan-2021-2030-463552.aspx
National Plan of Action for Children 2021-2030 (with a component on Child Protection)	1/21	Y		Y	Y		https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Van-hoa-Xa-hoi/Quyet-dinh-23-QD-TTq-2021-phe-duyet-Chuong-trinh-hanh-dong-quoc-gia-vi-tre-em-2021-2030-461602.aspx
Decision to endorse the Plan for Social Work Development in Education Sector 2021 – 2025	12/21				Y		https://moet.gov.vn/giaoducquoctdan/giao-duc-dai-hoc/Pages/chi-tiet-van-ban-chi-dao-dieu-hanh.aspx?ItemID=3091

2.2. Focus on vulnerable populations

Title of the document	Date when finalised (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)
ILO, 2021, Expanding Social Insurance Coverage in Viet Nam – The Case for the Introduction of a Multi-tiered Child Benefit		Y	Y		Y			Y
ILO, 2021, Gender gaps in the social insurance system; Policy Brief	07/21	Y	Y		Y			
ILO, 2021, Policy recommendations: Increasing gender equality in social insurance pensions in Viet Nam	07/21	Y	Y		Y			
Adapting social insurance to women's life courses: A gender impact assessment of Viet Nam	12/21	Y	Y		Y			
ILO, 2021, Multi-tiered Social Security for Universal Coverage – A focus on Families in Viet Nam	04/21	Y	Y		Y			

Annex 3: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix

The table below provides updated risks for final period of JP. COVID-19 risk has been added, and most operational/programmatic risks have been reduced as either they did not materialise the work of the JP reduced their probability and impact, e.g. the JP strengthened the capacity of GOVN and UN agencies to work together on joint activities.

Risks	Risk Level:	Likelihood:	Impact:	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
<i>Contextual risks</i>					
Disruption to project activities due to COVID-19	High	4	3	Continue to use online tools for collaboration if disruption occurs. The JP has been repurposed to focus more on shock resilience in the social protection system	JP
Insufficient fiscal space to allow extension of social protection	High	3	3	Continues to be high-risk, particularly due to the economic impact of COVID-19. The JP has undertaken significant fiscal and costed analyses to justify reform. Continue to advocate.	JP
Low political commitment to reform	Low	1	4	The GOVN has shown its commitment to reform through the endorsement of JP Continue evidence-based advocacy	JP
<i>Programmatic risks</i>					
The Government does not proceed with SP schemes or delays implementation	Low	1	3	The GOVN has demonstrated its commitment to SP and appreciates JP support. The JP adapted to GOVN priorities, for example, supporting assistance packages to ensure that benefits reached those most impacted by COVID-19. Continued capacity building and advocacy will reinforce commitments.	JP
The Government cannot implement new schemes	Low	1	3	The JP has helped build the capacity of GOVN partners and increased their ability to implement activities.	JP
Lack of coordination between government agencies	High	2	3	Siloed approaches and fragmentation remains a barrier, but the JP has improved working between Government agencies.	JP
Capacity-building activities not translated into concrete actions	Moderate	2	3	The JP has demonstrated that policy recommendations can be translated into action	JP
Lack of coordination amongst PUNOs	Low	1	3	The JP has demonstrated that with joint governance, planning and monitoring, JPs amplify results.	RCO

Annex 4: Results questionnaire

- Complete portfolio questionnaire online at: <https://forms.office.com/r/H4eZAKyx9H>

Dear Maya,

Thank you very much for your email with additional questions for our UNJP to clarify. Below is our answers responding to your questions:

Mobilising additional funding and/or financing

The success of the JP has enabled it to mobilise additional resources to strengthen the social protection system and respond to the impacts of COVID 19. For example:

- **The Government of Japan** contributed with 350,000 USD to pilot inclusive social care services for older persons. This funding to UNFPA was for Covid-19 response to pilot the integrated care model for older persons for the period of 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.
- **The CITI Fund** contributed to UNDP in 2020 the funding of 250,000 USD to pilot e-cash transfers and e-commerce solutions for vulnerable ethnic minority people and women-led ethnic minority cooperatives in two remote provinces of Bac Kan and Dak Nong. The funding was for Covid-19 recovery response.
- **Various donors to ILO including**, (none of these 3 sources of funding were Covid-19 related)
 - Irish Aid (400,000 Euro). The Irish-Aid programme supported lasted throughout the whole duration of the UNJP (and will continue at least until December 2022)
 - The EU (190,000 Euro). The EU programme started in March 2022 and will continue until March 2023.
 - The ILO RBTC (30,000 USD). This Japan programme contributed to the work focused on social protection reforms, which started implementation in March 2021, and will continue at least until the end of 2023.
- **UN core funds** of USD 170,000 were mobilised to support the COVID-19 response and recovery for older persons in 12 high-risk provinces and to develop a mobile app to provide e-health care for older persons. This core fund was for 2020 and 2021 for COVID-19 and humanitarian response, which was additional funding from UNFPA core fund, and not among of JP original budget that was re-purposed for COVID-19 response in 2020.

I hope they are helpful and please let us know should you need any further information.

Our office has been affected with so many staff catching Covid-19, including me so I was out of office for 10 days and has just returned to the office.

Wishing you a pleasant day!

Le Thanh