

Joint SDG Fund

SDG FINANCING PORTFOLIO – COMPONENT 1

Cover page

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Programme title and Country

Country: Viet Nam

Joint Programme (JP) title: Supporting Viet Nam towards the 2030 integrated Finance Strategy for accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.

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Participating Organizations / Partners

RC (name and email): Mr. Kamal Malhotra, Kamal.malhotra@un.org (from 28/06/2020 to 31 August 2021); Ms. Pauline Tamesis, pauline.tamesis@un.org (from 20/06/2022 to 31/12/2022)

Government Focal Point (ministry/agency, focal point name and email): Ministry of Planning and Investment, Department of Science, Education, Natural Resources and Environment; Mr. Le Viet Anh, Director General; levietanh@mpi.gov.vn

RCO Focal Point (focal point name and email): Ms. Uzumma Marilyn ERUME, erume@un.org (28/06/2020 to 28/06/2022); Ms. Tran Thi Minh Tien, minh.tien@un.org (28/06/2022-31/12/2022)

Lead PUNO (focal point name and email): Mr. Nguyen Tien Phong, nguyen.tien.phong@undp.org (from 28/06/2020 to 17/02/2022); Ms. Do Le Thu Ngoc, do.le.thu.ngoc@undp.org (from 18/02/2022 to 31/12/2022)

Other PUNO Focal Points (focal point names and emails): Ms. Nguyen Thi Thanh An, nttan@unicef.org; Ms. Vu Phuong Ly, ly.phuong@unwomen.org.

Programme Budget (US\$)

¹ Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

Total Budget (as per Programme Document, without co-funding): USD 935,266

Agency/Other Contributions/Co-funding (if applicable): USD 300,000

Joint SDG Fund Contribution and co-funding breakdown, by recipient organization:

Agency/others	Joint SDG Fund contribution	Co-funding	Total
UNDP	505,265	150,000	655,265
UNICEF	190,000	70,000	260,000
UN Women	240,001	80,000	320,001
Total	935,266	300,000	1,235,266

External Consultant Details

Name: Pham Thai Hung

Title and organization (if applicable):

Email: hungpham@irc.com.vn

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Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
DFA	Development Finance Assessment
DG	Director General
DGE	Department of Gender Equality
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality
DP	Donor Partners
DSENRE	Department of Science, Education, Natural Resources, and Environment
EMWG	Ethnic Minority Working Group
EU	European Union Delegation
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GoVN	Government of Viet Nam
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
HoA	Head of Agency
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INFF	Integrated National Finance Framework
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
JP	Joint Programme
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MoET	Ministry of Education and Training
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoLISA	Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MTBP	Medium Term Budgetary Plan
MTIP	Medium Term Investment Plan
NA	National Assembly
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NIF	National Institute for Finance
NII	National Institute for Nutrition
NIM	National Implementation Modality
NPAN	National Plan of Action for Nutrition
NTP-NRD	National Target Program on New Rural Development
NTP-SEDEMA	National Target Program on Social and Economic Development for Socio-Economic Development of Ethnic Minorities and Mountainous Areas
NTP-SPR	National Target Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PUNO	Participating UN Organization
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
SCO	Civil Society Organization
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

SEDP	Socio-Economic Development Plan
SEDP	Socio-Economic Development Plan
SEDS	Socio-Economic Development Strategy
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
TA	Technical Assistance
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VBSP	Viet Nam Bank for Social Policies
VCCI	Viet Nam Chamber for Commerce and Industry
VWU	Viet Nam Women's Union
WB	World Bank

Executive summary

Context. Viet Nam has made a strong commitment toward the SDGs and secured important achievements with the overall progress scores towards all the SDGs improving from 88/149 in 2016 to 41/166 in 2020. However, there are challenges ahead. As of 2020, Viet Nam could certainly achieve five out of 17 SDGs by 2030. However, it will be challenging to achieve 10 SDGs, and not possible to achieve two SDGs. The Joint Programme (JP) on Supporting Viet Nam towards the 2030 Integrated Finance Strategy for Accelerating the Achievement of SDGs was a response of the UN to challenges for Viet Nam in achieving the SDGs by 2030. The JP was implemented by the four UN agencies, including UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, and UNEP with the coordination support from the Resident Coordination Office (RCO).²

Misalignment. Unfortunately, the JP was misaligned to the current 5-year planning cycle 2021-2025 of Viet Nam. With the original start of June 2020, the JP would join final stages of finalizing the key documents of the integrated national finance framework (INFF) for the period 2021-2025.³ The new regulations related to official development assistance (ODA), which was not in place at the time of designing the JP, and its resultant approval process caused a 11-month delay. Consequently, when the JP started its actual operation, it almost missed the opportunities to influence the design of the selected INFF documents that the JP aimed to contribute to. This should have triggered a refocus of the JP. However, there was no guidance available from the Joint SDG Fund for such refocus and this was in fact not pursued. Instead, the JP workplan was (re)oriented to “low-hanging fruits” to influence some elements of the INFF. This caused difficulty in assessing the JP results according to the original theory of change.

Overall assessment. In that difficult context, which was further sophisticated by the COVID-19, the PUNOs have strived to achieve important results. The JP has contributed to revitalize policy debates on important aspects of development finance, and particularly financing the SDGs. It made contribution to enhance the focus on human capital investment in the new Finance Strategy 2030. Notably, the JP contributed to enhance nutrition, rural water supply and sanitation in the national target programmes (NTPs) for the period 2021-2025. It also contributed to enhance monitoring arrangements of public investment through this NTP instrument in financing the SDGs in the rural and mountainous areas. In addition, the JP raised awareness on the lack of gender mainstreaming in the key INFF documents and initiated capacity for gender-responsive budgeting (GRB). It is important to note that many of the JP outputs, which were in the forms of evidence-based findings, international best practices, and recommendations were in the early stage of inputting to policy debates that would eventually lead to enhancements in SDG financing. Nevertheless, the theory of change was largely disabled by the above misalignment. Without a substantial refocus of the design, it was challenging for the JP to demonstrate its achievements of the original objectives and outcomes. With this, the JP was assessed to be **satisfactory**.

Lessons learned. There are important lessons learned that could be drawn. Most importantly, being aligned to national planning cycles is vital for influencing changes in policy and strategies. In a country where SDG financing consists of many strategies, policies, and plans, it is important to identify the most relevant and appropriate entry points for SDG financing-related initiatives. To make policy changes possible and sustainable, ensuring local ownership and other arrangements to facilitate internally driven change processes is most important for success. The national implementing modality (NIM) demonstrates its merits to facilitate such change processes. The new ODA regulations represent a challenge for adoption of NIM but this could be addressed by allowing sufficient time for going through formal approval procedures. In addition, embarking on joint actions for joint results, and therefore synergy, could contribute to the coherence of the UN country team.

² UNEP implemented activities through UNDP. There was no funding allocation made directly to UNEP. Therefore, the assessment in this report does not mention UNEP.

³ In the JP design, the INFF documents referred to 5-year Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP), National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG NAP), 10-year Finance Strategy, Medium Term Investment Plan (MTIP), Medium Term Budgetary Plan (MTBP). The 10-year Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) was also mentioned as the most important background document for development planning. In addition, as INFF provides a framework to finance sustainable development and SDGs, the INFF in Viet Nam may also include other documents such as the National Target Programmes (NTP) to achieve SDGs and other development targets in the rural, poor, and ethnic minority areas; other sectoral plans that mainstream SDGs (as it is required by the Decision 622/2017/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister on the approval of the SDG NAP). Among these documents, the JP aimed at influencing the Finance Strategy by 2030, MTIP and MTBP for the period 2021-2025.

Recommendations. It was recommended that the UN should continue the support for the GoVN in making the INFF to work better for achievement of the SDGs. The JP has created a foundation that might eventually lead to important improvements in SDG financing in the next planning cycle 2026-2030. For that future support, some design enhancements were recommended, including: (i) making future INFF support aligned to the next planning cycle; (ii) making it an internally driven process; (iii) having oversight at the ministerial level in the implementation strategy and structure; (iv) identifying joint actions at the design stage and in the actual work-planning to enforce meaningful cooperation for joint results; and (v) identifying concrete entry points for convening power of the UN, and particularly the RC; (vi) paying sufficient refresh and refocus efforts for ensuring quality of implementation. In the meantime, there is a 2-year gap between the JP completion and the next planning cycle. The UN should make some forms of support to maintain the pace of INFF-related policy discussions facilitated by the current JP.

Context

Viet Nam has made strong commitments to SDGs as well as efforts to operationalize such commitments. The Decision 622/2017/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister on the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG NAP). The SDG NAP sets out targets, tasks, and assignments of responsibilities for line ministries, related agencies, and provinces toward the SDGs. To further strengthen the implementation of the SDG NAP, the Decision No. 681/2019/QĐ-TTg promulgated the Roadmap for the SDGs implementation to 2030 with specific milestones defined. With these, Viet Nam has exhibited impressive progress on the SDGs (VN, 2020).⁴ The overall scores on progress towards all SDGs indicated a continuous improvement of Viet Nam with the improved ranking from 88/149 in 2016 to 41/166 in 2020.

There are challenges ahead. As of 2020, it was anticipated that Viet Nam could certainly achieve five out of the 17 SDGs by 2030. However, it will be challenging to achieve 10 SDGs, and not possible to achieve two SDGs. Out of the specific 115 SDG indicators, 41.7% were identified to be challenging to achieve and 11.3% not possible to achieve by 2030 (VN, 2020). Therefore, enhancing the integrated financial framework (INFF) to ensure better alignment to the SDGs (i.e., more resources for SDGs), improving the effectiveness of public investment (i.e., making existing resources work harder for SDGs), and prioritizing public investment to crowd-in private investment, quality foreign direct investment (FDI) (i.e., increasing private finance for SDGs) – which are the three objectives of the JP – were highly relevant for Viet Nam to further progress its achievement of the SDGs.

The JP aimed to achieve the above objectives by influencing some key INFF documents. Although Viet Nam has adopted several documents for financing national sustainable development targets and the SDGs, the term INFF was not used in policy discussions until this JP. Given components of an INFF already exist, it is not straightforward for the JP to consider how the INFF guideline envisaged in UN DESA and EU (2022) should be adopted to start the INFF process.⁵ Stemming from the existing context, the JP selected the three INFF documents: Finance Strategy, Medium-Term Investment Plan (MTIP), Medium-Term Budgetary Plan (MTBP). This scoping was justified by the need of making the JP manageable. However, it was not clear why these three documents were selected out of many strategies or plans that might constitute the INFF, considering limited opportunities for the JP to enhance to the development of these three selected INFF documents (see below).⁶

The JP was misaligned to the current planning cycle 2021-2025 and therefore opportunities to influence the selected INFF documents were limited. The Government of Viet Nam (GoVN) adopts a 5-year planning cycle with the current one for the period 2021-2025. With this practice, the 5-year SEDP, MTIP, MTBP, and other strategies and plans of the period 2016-2020 were reviewed in late 2019 or during 2020 for drafting those for the cycle 2021-2025. When the JP finally operated in June 2021, it missed the opportunities to influence the MTIP and MTBP, which were approved by the National Assembly in July 2021.⁷ The new ODA regulation caused the actual start of the JP a 11-month delay. But even with the original starting date in June 2020, it was already late for making contribution to these MTIP and MTBP (as the draft MTIP and MTBP were available by the middle of 2020). For the Finance Strategy 2030, the reviewing process of the previous Finance Strategy was already completed, and the draft Finance Strategy 2030 was in shape when the JP started. The opportunities for the JP to contribute to that Finance Strategy was therefore limited.

The COVID-19 pandemic was another delay factor. Viet Nam experienced the most serious “wave” of COVID-19 infections in early 2021. Under the prevailing zero-covid strategy, restrictive social distancing measures were put in place. Being encouraged by the past success in controlling the previous COVID-19 waves, “hard knockdown” regarding travelling and public meetings were enforced until early October 2021. When the JP started, these knockdown measures prevailed for three months, and this caused the JP a slow start.

⁴ Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (2020), National Report 2020: Progress of Five-Year Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.

⁵ UN DESA and EU (2022), Integrated National Finance Frameworks: A Short and Practical Introduction. A publication of the INFF Facility.

⁶ See footnote 3 on the documents that might constitute INFF of Viet Nam.

⁷ MTIP and MTBP 2021-2025 were approved by the National Assembly in July 2021 by the Resolution 23 and Resolution 29/2021/QH15, respectively.

The JP design was not adjusted to adapt to these important changes. This misalignment to the current planning cycle was a derailing factor. This should have resulted in a substantive refocus of the JP theory of changes, including the specific objectives, the expected outcomes, as well as the outputs required to deliver the outcomes. However, such refocus was not made. There was a lack of guidance available from the Joint SDG Fund on whether such design adjustments are possible after the approval. As a result, the PUNOs did not initiate that refocus discussion and instead adjusted the workplan. Therefore, while the JP has produced some important results, influencing the key selected INFF documents to achieve the JP objectives was no longer possible.

Joint Programme Results

1. Overview of Strategic Final Results

1.1. Overall assessment

The JP performance was satisfactory. When the JP came into operation in June 2021, almost all the key INFF documents for the period 2021-2025 were already approved. The JP missed the opportunity to influence the process of developing these documents. Under such difficult circumstances, the JP produced contribution to finalization of the Finance Strategy 2030 and NTPs for the period 2021-2025. In addition, the JP contributed to policy debates that would eventually reshape the INFF in the next planning cycle 2026-2030. At the JP completion, many potential policy outcomes are yet to come. With this, the JP was assessed as **satisfactory**.

Satisfactory (majority of expected JP results achieved, but with some limitations/adjustments)

1.2. Key results achieved

A remark on the key results. Being an INFF initiative, the JP was required to contribute to progress toward the development and implementation of the INFF, contribution to SDG acceleration and to SDG resource mobilization. These were among the strategic results envisaged in the JP design. Influencing the selected INFF documents (i.e., the Finance Strategy, MTIP, and MTBP) was the pathway to achieve the expected outcomes in the JP's theory of change. However, the late start of the JP made it not possible for the JP to input to the development of the MTIP, and MTBP. Without adjustments to the context change, assessing the JP against the progress toward these selected INFF documents is not practical as the JP's theory of change was almost disabled at the start. With this, the JP was assessed on actual results observed.

The JP contributed to finalization of the Finance Strategy and revitalized policy debates that might eventually contribute to review and reshape the key INFF documents in the next planning cycle. The JP has contributed to enhance policy discussions on some important aspects of the current INFF through providing quality inputs available from a series of studies contracted. Among these discussions, UNDP has enhanced the ones on fragmentation of public investment, limited alignment between public investment and progressing SDGs, lack of crowding-in effect on private investment including quality FDI, weakness of development banking, issues of the corporate bond and equity markets, constrained access to finance for SMEs. UNICEF has contributed to the discussion on priorities for investing in human capital (for the finalization of the Finance Strategy 2030), accountability of public investment through NTPs. UN Women has made significant efforts in generating evidence-based lack of gender mainstreaming in the existing INFF documents (e.g., 10-year SEDS, 5-year SEDP, Finance Strategy, MTIP, MTBP...). At the JP completion, these discussions have not produced policy changes yet (except the Finance Strategy 2030). However, these might eventually contribute to review and reshape the key INFF documents in the next planning cycle 2026-2030.

The JP has contributed to enhance other INFF-related documents that were not focused by the design. Viet Nam has maintained the series of NTPs which are mechanisms to mobilize resources to pursue some "fast track" for achieving socio-economic development targets that would otherwise be difficult to reach within mainstream policies. In the period 2021-2025, there were three NTPs on new rural development (NRD), sustainable poverty reduction (SPR), and socio-economic development of the ethnic minorities and mountainous areas (SEDEMA). With the overall aims of poverty reduction and rural development, these NTPs could be parts of the INFF. The PUNOs and other UN agencies contributed to the design of the NTPs for the period 2021-2025 through different platforms. Within this JP in particular, UNDP contributed to enhance resource allocation mechanism; UNICEF enhanced accountability and monitoring arrangements for the NTPs. Notably, UNICEF has

focused on providing costing inputs for the sectoral plans on nutrition, rural water supply and sanitation – which were then used as inputs for design of the NTPs.

[1.3. Results achieved on Integrated National Financing Framework/SDG financing building blocks](#)

Overall assessment of the results achieved on the INFF process is summarized in the table below.

Implementation stages	Planned (0%)	Emerging (1-49% progress)	Advancing (50-99% progress)	Complete (100% progress)	Previously completed	Not applicable
1. Inception phase	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Assessment & diagnostics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Financing strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Monitoring & review	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Governance & coordination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Results from the Inception Phase

Some of the Inception Phase tasks were completed before the JP start. For instance, UNDP conducted a Development Finance Assessment (DFA) in 2018 and the JP design captured the main findings of that DFA. Scoping financial policies, strategies, and trends were partly addressed in that DFA. Based on the existing INFF documents such as SEDS, SEDP, MTBP, MTIP, Finance Strategy, NTPs... three key INFF documents were selected, including MTBP and MTIP (for the period 2021-2025), and Finance Strategy 2030 (for the period 2021-2030). Influencing these key documents was the pathway to each the JP objectives.

Finding the INFF institutional home was challenging. According to the guideline, finding an institutional home for the INFF process is important result of the Inception Phase.⁸ This process was in fact complicated. According to the new ODA management regulations, the JP document needs to be approved by the GoVN side through a cumbersome consultation process. It was also required that a JP management unit to be established by the national executing agency – which was the Foreign Economic Relation Department (FERD) of MPI as per the JP design. However, FERD recognized that the department was not suitable for being the INFF institutional home, which goes beyond its mandate. The MPI leadership therefore assigned this role to DSENRE based on its mandate with SDG-related issues. This process caused a delay of 11 months after the original start date of the JP. As a result, the JP was misaligned to the 2021-2025 planning cycle and therefore missed the opportunities to influence to the selected INFF documents (except the finalization of the Finance Strategy 2030).

A roadmap for the INFF process was not developed. Having a roadmap developed and agreed by relevant stakeholders was one important outcome of the INFF Inception Phase. This roadmap was however not developed. The JP workplan reflected activities to be implemented by the PUNOs rather than a roadmap for influencing the INFF process, especially the selected INFF documents. The JP workplan and management should have benefited from having such a roadmap. In addition, developing that roadmap might be a good opportunity to reshape the JP theory of change in addressing the misalignment of the JP to the planning cycle. Unfortunately, this was not pursued in practice.

Results from the Assessment and Diagnostics

Implementation of the JP focused on the Assessment and Diagnostics block of the INFF process. The JP workplan was made with a focus on assessment and diagnostics. UNDP contracted several quality studies to follow-up DFA findings made before the JP. This included assessments on capital market, result-based public finance management, green financing, resource allocation mechanisms through the NTPs, access to capital by SMEs, and FDI linkages. These assessments

⁸ UN DESA and EU (2020), INFF Inception Phase. A publication of the INFF Facility, available at <https://inff.org/inff-building-blocks/inception-phase>

have not yet resulted in observable policy changes or improvements in the INFF documents. However, as highlighted earlier, these contributed to enhance the ongoing policy debates on development finance with evidence-based findings, international good practices, and recommendations.

UNICEF contributed to finalization of the Finance Strategy 2030, which is one of the three key INFF documents targeted by the JP design. In addition, it has conducted a number of costing exercises for nutrition, rural water supply and sanitation (WASH), and secondary education. These assessments provided inputs for the implementation of the related sectoral plans and the design of the NTPs that are important for achieving SDGs in the rural and ethnic minority areas. With financing gaps highlighted, these costing exercises contributed to enhance the content on nutrition and WASH of the NTP SPR and the NTP SEDEMA for the period 2021-2025.

The UN Women has contracted two quality studies to highlight that the current INFF documents are “neutral” in terms of gender mainstreaming and being “neutral” implies that the INFF might not contribute to narrow different aspects of the gender gaps to progress towards the SDG5 on gender equality and empowerment of women. This finding is consistent with the previous studies on gender mainstreaming. For instance, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids, and Social Affairs (MoLISA) indicated that gender mainstreaming remained very limited in policies, strategies, and SEDPs (MoLISA, 2020).⁹ However, these two studies revitalized these issues in the INFF context, and these therefore set the stage for further discussion on gender mainstreaming in the INFF process.

Progress of the Financing Strategy

A remark on the Finance Strategy. The Finance Strategy is one of the three INFF documents selected to influence by the JP. It should be noted that the Finance Strategy in the current context of Viet Nam is better seen as a “sectoral” strategy developed by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) rather than the (broader) meaning captured by the Financing Strategy in the general INFF process. In fact, the legal status of the Finance Strategy is lower than that of the MTIP and MTBP. While the former is approved by a Prime Minister’s Decision, the later need to be endorsed by a National Assembly’s Resolution and therefore bear higher legal enforcement.

The JP had a limited opportunity to influence the Finance Strategy 2030. Viet Nam had implemented the Finance Strategy 2011-2020 before the JP came into effect. At the actual start of the JP, the review of that Strategy was already completed, and the development of the new Finance Strategy 2030 (for the period 2021-2030) was in the final stage. Fortunately, UNICEF has maintained a partnership developed under previous initiatives with the MoF. With that partnership, UNICEF managed to contribute inputs to strengthen the focus on human capital investment in the draft Finance Strategy 2030. Although SDGs were not mentioned in the Finance Strategy, key words on human capital investment; inclusion of children, women, ethnic minorities; and decentralization of budget management proposed by UNICEF were accepted in the Finance Strategy 2030, which was then approved in March 2022. Implementation of the Finance Strategy will be under the mandate of the MoF and to be pursued to eight finance sub-sectoral plans (including tax reforms, customs, treasury, public debt, equity market, national reserves, and accounting and audit). At this stage, it is not straightforward how such plans would be linked to financing the SDGs.

Results from the Monitoring and Review

This Monitoring and Review block in the INFF process was partly pursued. Monitoring and Review in the INFF process refers to monitoring the implementation of the INFF documents or track financial flows towards the SDGs.¹⁰ However, none of these contents were included in the JP design. As highlighted earlier, the INFF in Viet Nam is not a single document. It might consist of the 10-year SEDS, is endorsed by the Community Party Congress, being the most strategic document; two 5-year SEDP “operationalizes” the 10-year SEDS approved by the National Assembly. Below these strategic documents, there are the Finance Strategy, MTIP, MTBP. In addition, other sectoral plans developed by line ministries or SEDPs developed by provinces, and the NTPs also constitute parts of the INFF. Therefore, monitoring the INFF process is a very complex task and goes beyond the scope of this JP. Tracking the financial flows requires intensive public expenditure reviews of multiple sectors and none of this review was included in the JP design.

Nevertheless, the JP made a concrete contribution toward monitoring of public investment under the NTPs. This was made through a technical assistance from UNICEF to the MPI in preparing a Prime

⁹ Ministry of Labour, War Invalids, and Social Affairs (MoLISA) (2020), Assessment of Gender Equality 2020 and the Implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2011-2020. MoLISA: Hanoi.

¹⁰ The guideline for this Block could be found at <https://inff.org/inff-building-blocks/monitoring-and-review>

Minister's decision on monitoring the NTPs, including planning, budgeting, and implementation stages. The technical assistance was completed with the close of the JP and the decision was in the drafting process. But the foundation for adopting the result-based management and some good international practices on M&E was adopted in the draft decision as a main principle of monitoring arrangements for the NTPs.

Results from the Governance and Coordination

Governance and coordination of the INFF process was not actively pursued by the JP.

According to the guideline, Governance and Coordination in the INFF process operates through an INFF Oversight Committee supported by the INFF institutional home.¹¹ In actual implementation of the JP, an Oversight Committee was not established. Activities were implemented directly by the PUNOs with certain coordination of the MPI/DSENRE. The launching and stakeholder event (which was organized at the JP completion) were the observed platforms for stakeholder participation. The PUNOs tended to work with each GoVN agencies for implementing the workplan and joint actions were not pursued. Nevertheless, advocacy events and technical consultations supported by individual PUNOs also involved other PUNOs and relevant UN agencies. Except for one local CSO that was involved in the JP implementation through the partnership with the UN Women, other development partners and NGOs were not directly engaged or coordinated by the JP. Regarding coordination within the GoVN system, being the focal point on the SDGs, the DSENRE has a certain role in coordinating the processes toward the SDGs within the MPI. Coordination with other GoVN agencies outside the MPI however requires an arrangement at higher levels and an INFF Oversight Committee should have performed that role if it was established (this will be discussed further in subsection 1.6).

[1.4. Contribution to SDG acceleration](#)

¹¹ The guideline is available at <https://inff.org/inff-building-blocks/governance-and-coordination>

SDG target	Baseline (Q1 of 2022)	Expected target (as described in the JP design)	Actual results achieved/to be achieved in the near future	Reasons for deviation from targets if any
<p>SDG Target 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources</p>	<p>There were 2 published set of guidelines providing support for private entities to increase access to climate and green related financing</p>	<p>Additional guidelines to improve access to domestic and external climate and green financial resources are produced and disseminated across Government entities and domestic enterprises [output 3.3]</p>	<p><i>Not achieved:</i> No additional guidelines were observed. <i>Source:</i> UNDP contracted paper by Jonathan Pincus, Tuan H. Dao, and Nhung T. Nguyen (2022), <i>Review of bottlenecks and make recommendations for development of domestic capital markets</i></p>	<p>UNDP contracted a review on bottlenecks and make recommendations for development of domestic capital markets. But no additional guidelines produced. There was a Sustainable Banking Framework produced when the JP approached its end, but this Framework does not contain details and procedures that are usually seen in guidelines.</p>
	<p>There were no resources specifically on principles and best international practices to improve blended finance policy across different sectors in Viet Nam.</p>	<p>Principles and best international practices on a national blended finance policy framework are compiled and disseminated [output 3.1]</p>	<p><i>Partly achieved:</i> Principles and best international practices on performance-based budgeting and tracking PFM reforms were introduced but no focus was made on blended financial policies. <i>Source:</i> UNDP contracted studies: (i) Jonathan Di John (2022), <i>Technical Guidance Note: Frameworks for linking public expenditure to developmental outcomes</i> and (ii) K. Thanh and H. Hanh (2022), <i>Performance of the Viet Nam Development Bank (VDB) in Viet Nam.</i></p>	<p>Mobilizing additional commercial finance for achieving SDGs was not discussed in these two studies. It was not clear why the blended finance policy was not the focus of the two studies commissioned under this output 3.1.</p>
<p>SDG Target 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the</p>	<p>There was no mechanism or capacity to monitor and assess public spending and accountability measures towards achievement of the national SDG targets.</p>	<p>Technical assistance and capacity building to monitor the effectiveness of public spending and accountability measures towards achievement of the national SDG targets is delivered and considered of high value by the Government [output 1.2]</p>	<p><i>Partly achieved for monitoring public spending:</i> arrangements for monitoring public resources in NTPs were enhanced; no progress on monitoring other sources of public investment.</p>	

<p>sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation</p>			<p>Source: UNICEF's contracted assessment by H. Pham (2022), <i>M&E for the NTPs</i>.</p> <p><i>Achieved for accountability measures towards SDGs</i>: costing exercises on nutrition, WASH, and education were made to enhance accountability in these areas; mechanisms for budget allocation and decentralization through the NTPs were assessed.</p> <p>Source: UNICEF's contracted papers by Kim B. Giang and Vu H. Giang (2022), <i>Costing exercise for the National Plan of Action on Nutrition</i>; Nguyen C. Thanh, Nguyen D. Thuc and O. Tkachenko (2022), <i>WASH funding and financing</i>; Thuso (2022), <i>Costing of Universalizing Lower Secondary Education</i>; Nguyen Viet Cuong (2022), <i>Mapping of Poverty and Coverage of WASH</i>; UNDP contracted study by Nguyen N. Anh, Dang D. Ngoc (2021), <i>Allocation of resources in the NTPs</i>.</p>	
<p>SDG Target 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.</p>	<p>Currently 0 mechanisms to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development in the areas of (i)-(v):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Establishing links between national SDG targets and financing policies and instruments. ii) Implementing monitoring and accountability to assess effectiveness of development finance policy 	<p>At least 1 mechanism developed to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Establishing links between national SDG targets and financing policies and instruments; ii) Implementing monitoring and accountability mechanism to assess effectiveness of development finance policy iii) Enhancing government integration iv) Integrating policies on SME development, productivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <i>Partly achieved</i>: discussions on development financing were held at the VEP 2022; evidence-based findings and recommendations were made by some studies commissioned by UNDP. But explicit links were not seen. ii) <i>Partly achieved</i>: technical assistance for developing the NTP M&E arrangements was provided to the MPI; various costing exercises were made iii) <i>Not achieved</i>: no activities were carried out to contribute to this complex and ambitious target. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) Enhancing government integration iv) Integrating policies on SME development, productivity and green and climate finance and; v) Assessing the quality of FDI according to environmental, social and governance criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and green and climate finance and; v) Assessing the quality of FDI according to linkages with domestic sector; environmental, social and governance criteria <p>[outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.3]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv) <i>Not achieved</i>: although one study on SME access to long-term financing was made, no SME-related policies were supported or contributed to by the JP v) <i>Partly achieved</i>: linkages between FDI and domestic sector were partly assessed in one study but quality of FDI through governance, environmental, and social criteria were not discussed. <p>Source: UNDP contracted paper by Toan Thang and Pham V. Khoi (2022), <i>Attracting quality FDI for achieving the SDGs</i>.</p>	
<p>SDG Target 17.16</p> <p>Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries</p>	<p>There was no specific Multi-Stakeholder Platform established for dialogue on financing priorities to support the achievement of the national SDG targets.</p>	<p>A multi-stakeholder platform is established to support the development finance dialogue at the national level and to enhance partnership for sustainable development</p> <p>[output 1.3]</p>	<p><i>Partially achieved</i>: no multi-stakeholder platform was established by the JP. But the Viet Nam Economic Pulse (VEP) forum launched by UNDP and MPI in 2021, being a semi-annual series of workshops on Viet Nam economic update. Development financing was selected as the theme for the VEP in Oct 2022.</p> <p>Source: https://vep.undp.org.vn/</p>	<p>The need of establishing another multi-stakeholder platform was not perceived necessary during the JP implementation. This might be linked to the existence of the VEP. In addition, the misalignment of the JP to the country's planning cycle eroded interests from some key INFF stakeholders.</p>
<p>SDG Target 8.3</p> <p>Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small-</p>	<p>The number of tools to better integrate policies towards SME development (horizontally and vertically) are considered low.</p> <p>(Source: <i>Joint UNDP-GOV Development Finance Assessment, 2018</i>)</p>	<p>Guidelines to integrate policies to support SME-development, and green and climate resilient growth are established</p> <p>[output 2.2]</p>	<p><i>Not achieved</i>: there was one study on SME access to finance, but no guidelines established.</p> <p>Source: UNDP contracted study by Vu Cuong, Pham T. Chi, Vu P. Lien (2022), <i>Access of SMEs in apparatus industries to long-term finance for green and inclusive growth</i>.</p>	<p>The guideline was not part of the study or other activities under this output 2.2.</p>

<p>and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.</p>		<p>National Resolution on FDI quality and efficiency which enhances linkages to domestic enterprises is implemented [output 3.2]</p>	<p><i>Not achieved:</i> no activities found in the JP workplan that contributed to the implementation of the FDI-related Resolutions.</p>	<p>GoVN issued Resolution 58/2020/NQ-CP to implement the Resolution 50/2019/NQ-TW of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam. But the JP has not pursued activities that directly contributed to implementation of these Resolutions.</p>
<p>SDG Target 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.</p>	<p>The proportion of overall lending going to green activities is low at 5% in 2016 (source: IFC)</p>	<p>Increased proportion of overall lending going to green activities [output 3.1; and 3.3]</p>	<p><i>Inconclusive:</i> No update from IFC is available. Using the figures from the State Bank of Viet Nam (SBV), as of 31 October 2022, the % of lending to green project was 4.4%. However, these two sources (i.e., SBV and IFC) are not entirely compatible. Therefore, achievement of this target is not conclusive. Source: https://ven.vn/green-finance-puts-down-roots-in-vietnam-46567.html (accessed Dec 25, 2022)</p>	

Note: The six SDG targets were identified in the JP design document; baseline values and expected targets were described in the JP design.

1.5. Contribution to SDG financing flows

Financing the SDGs in Viet Nam was mainstreamed in the SEDP process. Although the GoVN has made strong commitments and vigorous efforts towards the SDGs, there was no explicit and single strategy for SDG financing. These commitments were institutionalized by the Decision 622/2017/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister on the SDG NAP. The Decision No. 681/2019/QĐ-TTg further specifies the roadmap for SDGs implementation to 2030. In these decisions, no specific levels of resources were specified. Instead, it was mandated that the SDGs are to be mainstreamed to the national and provincial SEDPs, sectoral plans of line ministries and other central GoVN agencies. With this, financing SDG implicitly means financing sustainable development of Viet Nam.

The JP influenced some elements of SDG financing. The JP did not aim at SEDPs but originally focused on the Finance Strategy, MTIP, and MTBP. Due to the misalignment with the current 5-year planning cycle, the JP managed to make a certain contribution to strengthen the priority on human capital investment of the Finance Strategy but unable to influence the remaining documents. For the Finance Strategy, the JP contribution on strengthening the focus on human capital investment that is among the principle of the Strategy. But this does not imply concrete changes in financing. In addition, the JP made certain contribution to other elements of SDG financing. Most notably, the JP contributed to the design of the NTPs in the period 2021-2025 – being an important instrument for achievements of the SDGs in the rural and mountainous areas. This was made in the forms of providing costing exercises for the NAP on nutrition, education, and WASH. Nutrition, rural water supply, and sanitation remained in the NTP NRD (as in the previous 2016-2020) and added to the NTP SPR and the NTP SEDEMA. For the period 2021-2025, the NTP SPR and SEDEMA have a total budget of VND212.664 billion (equivalent to roughly US\$ 09 billion), of which nutrition and WASH accounted for around 11%.

Contribution to policy debates on SDG financing. In addition, the JP contributed evidence-based findings and recommendations on development finance (as discussed in sub-section 1.3). Such discussions have not resulted in additional financing for SDGs but were perceived to be potentially useful for shaping the SDG financing framework in the next 5-year planning cycle. This creates an entry point for the UN to continue working with the GoVN after the completion of the JP in advancing the INFF process (to be discussed in sub-section 6.2).

1.6. Results achieved on contributing to UN Development System reform

The JP was implemented as part of the One Strategic Plan of the UN and the GoVN. The JP design noted that “the JP will be implemented within the framework of the One Strategic Plan (OSP) 2017-2021” between the UN and the GoVN. The OSP Evaluation Report indicated that since the OSP inception, the UN Country Team (UNCT) stepped up efforts on joint resource mobilization for the OSP implementation. This approach was in line the strategic direction to move towards joint programmes in order to build on complementarities of UN agencies and bring together their added values in addressing complex development challenges. The JP represents another opportunity for the PUNOs to cooperate for joint advancing the INFF process. This was also another opportunity for the RC to exercise the convening power and coordination in the overall architecture of the UN operations in Viet Nam.

Having a JP does not guarantee joint actions and joint results. There was a goodwill among the PUNOs working together for delivering the JP. Certain level of cooperation was practiced. For instance, draft ToRs for studies were circulated for comments; frequent discussions on planning were made; coordination for the launching and the final stakeholder events was observed; advocacy events supported by individual PUNOs were joint by other PUNOs and relevant UN agencies. But joint actions were not pursued. There were opportunities available for all the PUNOs to pursue some joint actions. For instance, the actual support of the JP to the development of the NTPs was potentially a joint action for all the PUNOs but this was not pursued. Instead, UNDP and UNICEF separately provided support to the MPI and other line ministries in that process. Efforts to identify joint actions was not sufficient and the JP was implemented by separate workplans of the PUNOs. With this, the JP did not contribute the expected role to operationalize the JPs as a platform to enhance the UNDS reform of the UN in Viet Nam.

Lack of institutional arrangements for addressing the issues that are beyond the DG level from the GoVN side undermined the convening power of the RC and the UN in general. As per design, the JP was directed at the Director General (DG) level. For more strategic issues, the DSENRE DG might report to the Minister/Vice Minister through internal hierarchy of the MPI. But there was no formal power assigned to the ministerial level in the JP structure. Given the complex

institutional setting of the INFF process in Viet Nam, it would require an arrangement for oversight the JP implementation and addressing strategic issues that this goes beyond the DG level. This institutional setting from the GoVN side was asymmetric to that of the UN where the RC was supposed to oversight the JP implementation. Consequently, it constrained the convening power of the UN and the RC to facilitate dialogue with the GoVN.

1.7. Results achieved on cross-cutting issues

The JP has contributed to improving awareness of gender mainstreaming in the key INFF documents and readiness for RGB. The UN Women has led this contribution through a study on gender analysis of the INFF and another study on gender equality mainstreaming in planning and budgeting. These studies highlighted that the current INFF documents (SEDS, SEDP, MTIP, MTBP, annual budgeting, NTPs) are “neutral” in terms of gender mainstreaming. Therefore, these might not contribute to narrow different aspects of the gender gaps to progress toward gender equality and empowerment of women (i.e., the SDG5). These two studies revitalized the discussion on gender equality mainstreaming in the INFF context, and these set the stage for further discussion on gender in the future INFF documents. The JP also contributed to enhancing readiness and local capacity for gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) for more than 300 GoVN at the provincial level. In addition, the JP supported the General Statistical Office (GSO) to review the implementation of the Circular 10/2019/TT-BKHDT on the national statistical indicators on gender development. Parts of the evidence and discussions were used as inputs to the amendment of the Law on Gender Equality (supported by UN Women under other initiative).

1.8. Results achieved on COVID-19 recovery

The UN made significant contribution to support the COVID-19 recovery, but this was not directly linked to the JP. The COVID-19 was an important contextual factor for the JP implementation. The pandemic was also seen as a risk and, as a result, risk mitigation measures were prescribed. However, the JP design (and the workplan) did not include activities that directly support the COVID-19 recovery. In early 2022, the GoVN announced a Recovery Plan and the associated stimulus package. The Recovery Plan focused attention and allocated significant resources to important Covid-19 response measures as the UN advocated such as strengthening the health system, social protection and employment and supporting the affected enterprises, cooperatives, and household businesses. That important outcome reflected concerted efforts of the UN in cooperation with other donor partners. However, a direct link between the JP and the UN contribution to support the Recovery Plan was not observed.

1.9. Strategic Partnerships

The JP implementation would not be possible without leveraging some existing partnerships between the UN and GoVN agencies. The PUNOs have leveraged the existing strategic partnerships with the GoVN agencies that were built over times. All PUNOs have worked intensively with different departments of the MPI over the past two decades or so. Outside the MPI/DSENRE, UNICEF leveraged from the existing partnerships with MARD (through the National Center for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation – NCERWASS), Ministry of Health (through the National Institute for Nutrition), and the MoF (with the National Institute for Finance) to execute its JP workplan. The UN Women continued to build up its long-standing partnership with MoLISA (the Department of Gender Equality – DGE) to implement the JP activities for awareness raising and capacity of the GoVN staff for gender-responsive budgeting (GRB); and with the GSO to review the implementaton of gender statistics regulation. Under new ODA management regulations, technical assistance initiatives with the GoVN agencies needs to be approved in the form of a technical assistance project. The procedure to get such approval might take between three or six months. Therefore, without leveraging the existing partnerships, it might not be possible for the PUNOs to deliver many JP activities.

Engagement with donor partners and CSOs were below the level envisaged in the design. As per design, the EU Delegation, the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were expected to contribute and be involved in the JP platform given their expertise and on-going initiatives related to the INFF processes. There were no specific Civil Society Organizations (CSO) mentioned in the JP designed but CSOs in general were among the stakeholders included in the JP settings. In fact, cooperation with donor partners and CSOs was limited. Some donor partners were invited in the PUNO-hosted workshops or consulted by the

consultants for the series of the studies carried out. It was reported that UNICEF worked with the World Bank and GIZ to contribute to finalization of the Finance Strategy 2030. With regard to CSO, the UN Women has worked with LIGHT, a local NGO, in organizing a workshop on gender mainstreaming in the key INFF documents.¹² The outreach to CSOs was enhanced with LIGHT being the co-lead of the Gender-Based Violence Network and issues on gender mainstreaming into the INFF process and GRB was passed through that CSO network. It does not seem that the JP-related initiatives by the donor partners mentioned in the JP design were linked to the JP implementation. In overall, engagement of donor partners and NGOs was modest. Therefore, opportunity for the UN and other partners to enhance cooperation for synergy in supporting SDG financing under the JP was not taken.

1.10. Additional financing mobilized

The JP did not directly contribute to additional financing toward SDGs. No additional financing for achievement of SDGs was observed except the funding contributed by the PUNOs as part of the JP. This contribution of US\$ 300,000 accounted for 24.3% of the total JP funding. However, this was part of the JP design and therefore might not be counted as additional funding for SDG financing. Among the other sources, as discussed in sub-section 1.5, the JP contributed to strengthen the focus on nutrition and WASH in the NTP SPR and SEDEMA. In these two NTPs, nutrition and WASH were allocated an amount of VND 22,861 billion (roughly one billion US\$) for the period 2021-2025. The JP contribution was among several factors leading to the inclusion of nutrition and WASH in the two NTPs. The gaps in nutrition and WASH access between the rural and mountainous areas and the national average were the main background for having these nutrition and WASH components in these two NTPs. Therefore, that funding to nutrition and WASH might not be counted as an additional SDG funding that the JP made a major contribution to.

Source of funding	Yes	No	Type of co-funding/co-financing	Name of organization	Amount (USD)	Comments
Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				The JP contributed to enhance nutrition and WASH in the NTP SPR and SEDEMA. But this contribution was one of many factors leading to a total funding of VND 22,861 billion (nearly one billion US\$) for these fields in the two NTPs.
Donors/IFIs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				Donors, IFIs also contributed to SDG financing and the UN has certain coordination to that support. But this was not linked to the JP.
Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				The JP only engaged private sector in some workshops
PUNOs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Co-funding for the JP	UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women	300,000	This is part of the JP and therefore might not be counted as additional funding.
Other partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

¹² Further information on LIGHT is available at <https://light.org.vn/>

2. Results by JP Outcome and Output

2.1. Results achieved by Fund's global results

The JP aims to contribute to two Joint SDG Fund Global Outcomes, including the Outcome 2 (indicator 2.1: US\$ & Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged disaggregated in terms of public and private sector funds) and Outcome 4 (with three indicators). Results were reported in Annex 1.1 (in Annex 1).

Assessing the Outcome 2 on Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement was inconclusive. Information available at this evaluation was not sufficient to inform this indicator. As per the design, it was indicated that "UNCT in Viet Nam will work with the Secretariat to identify targets by the end of 2020". However, this was not pursued. For the JP Annual Progress 2021 and the latest update in the JP Bi-Annual Progress Report 2022, this indicator was still left as "TBC" (to be confirmed). No further update was available to the date of this evaluation. Based on the workplan, it was not straightforward to assign any particular activities to this outcome. Therefore, it was not possible to inform the actual progress toward this indicator.

The JP made some progress toward Outcome 4 on Integrated financing strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented. The JP partly achieved one indicator and did not achieve the two remaining indicators. In particular:

Indicator 4.1: #of integrated financing strategies/instruments that were tested: This might not be relevant to assess the JP according to this indicator. As per the JP design, the JP did not aim to develop new integrated financing strategies or instruments. Instead, as the INFF documents in Viet Nam already existed before the JP, the JP aimed at influencing some of the key INFF documents (i.e., the Finance Strategy, MTIP, MTBP). It did not introduce new integrated financing strategies or instruments for testing.

Indicator 4.2: #of integrated financing strategies that have been implemented with partners in lead: This indicator was not pursued by the JP. As mentioned above, the JP did not directly implement any integrated financing strategies or instruments. The JP only aimed to influence some of the key existing INFF documents. However, in the presence of the misalignment to the current 5-year planning cycle, the JP contributed to (i) finalization of the Finance Strategy 2030; (ii) enhance the design of NTPs for the period 2021-2030; and (iii) policy debates on financing sustainable development and SDGs.

Indicator 4.3: # of functioning partnership frameworks for integrated financing strategies to accelerate SDG progress: This was partly achieved. There was one multi-stakeholder platform in function, which was the Viet Nam Economic Pulse launched by UNDP and MPI. However, the JP did not establish this VEP. Instead, the JP contributed to one VEP session in October 2021 (on Financing Recovery and Sustainable Development – see Annex 3).

2.2. Results achieved by Joint Programme Outcome

The JP has partly contributed to the selected outcomes. The JP design was embedded with the three broadly defined outcomes that the JP aimed to contribute to through inputting to the selected INFF documents. However, when the JP came into operation, the approval of these INFF documents were near a *fait accompli*. Without re-adjustments made in the design, it is more reasonable to assess the JP according to the expected results from the actual activities.

Regarding the outcome 1 (i.e., strengthened resource allocation through better alignment of development finance with national SDG priorities). As discussed in sub-section 1.5, the JP contributed to some elements of SDG financing through providing inputs on costing nutrition and WASH for the NTPs in the period 2021-2025 – being an important instrument for the GoVN to achieve the SDGs in the disadvantaged areas. The JP also contributed to the policy debates that might eventually contribute to better alignment of development finance with achievements of the SDGs. With this, the JP partly contributed to this outcome.

With regard to the outcome 2 (i.e., improved effectiveness of public investment gained through better integration across government, vertically and horizontally), this would be made through influencing the MTIP for the 2021-2025 period. However, the JP was not able to influence the MTIP, which was approved at the time of the JP's actual start. Influencing the Finance Strategy was another channel to contribute to the outcome 2. The JP contributed to enhance the focus on human capital investment in the draft Finance Strategy, which was already in shape at the JP start. In

addition, the JP provided several findings and suggestions on the policy debates on public finance (see Annex 2). With this, the JP made certain contribution to this outcome.

Regarding to the outcome 03 (i.e. Increased public investment crowding-in of private finance, and attracting quality FDI flows that support the development of domestic private enterprises), using the GSO statistics, the share of private sector investment has increased from 57.3% to 59.5% between 2020 and 2021 (the corresponding 2022 figure was not available), meaning an increase of 2.3% - which was far below from the ambitious target of 10%. Most importantly, it was not clear whether such increase was a crowding-in effect of the public investment, or it was simply a reflection of private sector growth. Therefore, contribution of the JP to this outcome was inconclusive.

Enhancing awareness and capacity for GRB was an outcome that was not captured by the Result Framework. Enhancing capacity for key government stakeholders on financing for gender equality was a concrete outcome of the JP. Promotion of GRB has been a priority of the UN Women for many years.¹³ The JP was a new “add-on” to this important endeavor. Accordingly, the UN Women conducted two rounds of trainings on GRB for representatives from many line departments at the provincial level. It was acknowledged that there is a long way ahead toward enforcing GRB in practice. However, this improved awareness and capacity was useful to consolidate readiness from relevant stakeholders for GRB.

2.3. Results achieved by Joint Programme Output

The JP progress toward outputs was moderate if the outputs was assessed based on the indicators prescribed in the design. Accordingly, the JP completed five out of the total 12 output indicators, reached some progress in four indicators, and not able to progress against the remaining 03 indicators (see Annex 1.3 in Annex 1). Assessing the JP outputs per these indicators is subject to a shortcoming. This is because the links between the activities and the JP outputs were not straightforward. In the JP workplan, the activities were mainly taken place in terms of a study (some activities were through advocacy or capacity development events). However, a detailed review of these studies indicated that almost all of the studies had a scope being considerably narrower compared to the description of the output.¹⁴ Therefore, an exclusive focus on assessing the output indicators *per se* might not capture all outputs produced by the JP.

There are some important outputs that are not captured by the JP Result Framework. Notably, the majority of outputs were provided in the forms of study findings and recommendations. Out of 35 activities in the actual JP workplan, 25 activities (or 71% of total activities) were in the forms of studies or assessments. In addition, more than a half of the studies were completed within the last six months of 2022. These newly available findings and recommendations have just started to be disseminated to a wide range of relevant stakeholders. It is likely that these newly produced findings would be inputted to the related policy discussions, but it is too early to assess whether these policy debates might eventually lead to concrete changes.

3. Challenges and Changes

3.1. Challenges faced by the JP

Misalignment of the JP to the planning cycle eroded interests many key INFF actors. This misalignment had a vital impact to the JP objectives and scope. With exception of the Finance Strategy 2030 – to which the JP contributed to the final stage of finalization of the draft Strategy, other selected INFF documents (i.e., the MTIP and MTBP) were approved at the JP start. Influencing

¹³ Before the JP, UN Women has worked with other GoVN agencies to raise awareness and capacity on GRB. Notably, a Manual on GRB in the Programme 135 – being the major instrument of the GoVN between 1999 to 2020 for socio-economic development of the ethnic minority areas, which was then replaced by the current NTP SEDEMA – was published 2019 and piloted in some Programme 135 communes in Bac Giang province.

¹⁴ To give an example, output 2.2 specifies that “Principles and instruments designed for integration between policies and public investments to support private SME development, green & climate resilience, R&D and human capital development”. This output 2.2 was expected to be reached mainly through one study on “Review the bottlenecks in regulatory/policy frameworks and practical implementation and coordination (horizontally and vertically) of government policies or facilities on SME access to long term capital to support for enhancing productivity and competitiveness of SMEs...”. In actual implementation, a study to identify solutions for SMEs in the apparatus industries to access long-term finance instruments was made. This actual study covered only parts of the one prescribed in the workplan. Reviewing the workplan progress and actual activities provided many similar examples.

the MTIP and MTBP was therefore no longer possible, and this eroded the interests of some key INFF actors from the GoVN.

New ODA management regulations constrained implementation by and ownership of the national partners. At the time of JP approval, the GoVN has introduced the Decree 56/2020 on management of ODA and preferential loans. The new procedure for getting the JP approval by the GoVN side caused a long delay in the JP implementation. It also requires the activities to be implemented with GoVN agencies to be approved in the form of technical assistance projects through complicated procedures. Being a multistakeholder programme, going through this process for all GoVN agencies concerned would be time-consuming. Therefore, the JP was implemented through a Direct Implementation Modality (DIM). Consequently, it became an *externally driven endeavor* for the INFF-related policy changes. With this, it was challenging to encourage the buy-in and build up local ownership.

Lack of institutional arrangements for addressing the issues that are beyond the DG level from the GoVN side. As discussed in sub-section 1.7, with the MPI/DSENRE being the institutional home, the JP was directed at the DG level. However, the INFF processes require participation of and coordination among different line ministries. Some strategic issues are under the power of other ministries (rather than the MPI), GoVN or National Assembly. Therefore, it would require an arrangement for oversight and addressing strategic issues that this goes beyond the DG level. The JP Oversight Committee was however not established. This represents a pitfall of the JP design.

3.2. Changes made to the JP

The challenges mentioned above should have triggered refocus and re-prioritization of the JP. The misalignment of the JP to the current planning cycle, new ODA management regulations that lead to the adoption of DIM, lack of institutional arrangement to address strategic issues across the GoVN agencies are among the factors that should have triggered a substantive refocus and re-prioritization of the JP. However, such substantive refocus was not observed in practice. The lack of guidance available from the Joint SDG Fund on whether it is possible and how to revise the JP objectives or theory of change was a factor constraining such refocus. Instead, adjustments were made mainly in terms of identifying specific activities for the JP actual implementation without revising the outcomes and objectives. With such adjustments, the JP have reached to some “low-hanging fruits” and contributed to policy debates on the INFF process. The JP theory of change was however broken by these challenges and without substantial refocus, operationalizing the theory of change was not feasible.

No-cost extension was made to partly address the delay. A six-month no-cost extension was made to provide more time for the JP to complete its workplan after the one-year delay in actual implementation. However, this was not sufficient to address consequences of the misalignment.

4. Sustainability and Country Ownership

4.1. Sustainability and country ownership

It is too early to assess sustainability. As discussed in sub-section 2.3, many outputs (in terms of the findings and recommendations from the series of studies) were available in the last six months of 2022. These results have started to be disseminated and therefore many potentially useful findings were not yet used by relevant stakeholders or at the early stages of inputting to policy debates. Therefore, it is too early to assess sustainability of the results and processes of the JP. At this stage, there were some results of the JP that could be sustainable. First, the improvements in the design and monitoring of the NTPs for the period 2021-2025 (i.e., strengthened focus on nutrition and WASH) were in operations and these are therefore sustained. Second, the enhanced principle on human capital investment of the Finance Strategy 2030 was already in place. Third, improved awareness and capacity for GRB were likely to be sustained.

Strong local ownership over the JP being an externally driven endeavor was modest. The JP implementation was best described as a DIM and therefore, the GoVN agencies including the MPI/DSENRE did not implement any activities by themselves. The PUNOs have enhanced local buy-in and ownership by consulting with the GoVN counterparts in detailed work-planning, draft ToRs for the series of studies carried out etc. Suggestions of qualified consultants were also invited from the GoVN counterparts for the PUNOs in recruiting the consultant(s) for the studies. According to the representatives from the MPI/DSENRE, a few studies were identified by consulting with the GoVN agencies based on their perceived needs for technical assistance. For most cases, draft ToRs were developed by the PUNOs and shared with the MPI/DSENRE for comments before finalization. The

same applies for other activities carried out in partnerships with other GoVN agencies. There was consultation to collect inputs from the GoVN counterparts in shaping the details of the JP activities. However, this consultation was not sufficient to build up a strong local ownership. The GoVN agencies largely remained “users” of or “beneficiaries” from rather than owners of the JP results or its processes.

Ongoing policy debates on some important INFF issues might continue but additional support from the UN to the GoVN agencies is required. One important contribution of the JP was to enhance and revitalize the policy debates on the INFF process for progressing the SDGs. These policy debates might eventually contribute to the review and reshape of the INFF documents for the next planning cycle 2026-2030. However, there is a gap of two years between the JP completion and that planning cycle (which will start in 2025 with the review of the INFF documents in the period 2021-2025 and drafting new documents for the next 5-year period). With modest local ownership on the JP results and processes, it might not be reasonable to expect these policy debates to continue without additional support and follow-ups from the UN in this 2-year gap.

5. Communications

5.1. Communication products

A communication strategy came late with limited implementation. It was not until April 2022, the JP engaged a consultant to develop and execute a communication strategy. The strategy was ready by June 2022 when the JP entering its no-cost extension. However, actual implementation of this strategy appeared to be limited. Insufficient arrangements for disseminating the JP results available from the series of studies reflected the lack of communication strategy before June 2022 and modest implementation of that strategy afterward. There was other indication of ineffective communication in the deliverables of the JP workplan. Except the publications and workshops of the UN Women, the (end-of-the JP) Stakeholder Event coordinated by the RCO, the JP was not visible in the remaining publications and workshops. Some workshops held by the PUNOs were features in e-newspapers (see Annex 3.2) but the JP was not visible in virtual platforms outside the portals of the UN agencies.¹⁵

Limited resources for communication. There was a budget of USD 7.477 allocated for “advocacy and strategic communication including stakeholder consultations and donor meetings” under the JP management. This accounted for only 8.5% of the total JP management cost. Most of this budget item was spent for the launching and the end-of-the JP stakeholder event and therefore budget left for communication was almost ignorable. For an initiative with strong emphasis on policy advocacy, such amount of funding for advocacy and strategic communication was found to be limited.

5.2. Events

Type of event	Yes	No	Number of events	Brief description and any highlights
JP launch event (mandatory)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	01	The JP launching event was made in a hybrid mode (both in person and virtually) after the JP approval from the GoVN in June 2021. The key stakeholders and partners were informed with the JP main results and outcomes.
Annual donors’ event (mandatory)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	01	This was part of the JP launch event
Partners’ event (optional)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	04	The Viet Nam Economic Pulse Forum jointly organized by UNDP and the MPI both in person and virtually on 11 November 2021 on financing recovery and sustainable development. The JP key study findings under the outcome 1 were presented that Forum and captured interests from the GoVN participants as well as high-level partners.

¹⁵ A google search of the JP title in English found some relevant information on portals of the SDG Joint Fund, UN in Viet Nam, and UNDP. When the JP title translated into the Vietnamese language, there was no relevant information found on the JP through a google search made in 15 Jan 2023.

				<p>A Stakeholder Event organized in person on 05 December 2022 to highlight the key results of the JP achieved by the PUNOs and the key findings of the final evaluation. The Event was joint by the GoVN focal point, RC, 04 HoAs, European Union, and two Embassies.</p> <p>A Workshop on Strengthening Financial Resources to Advance Gender Equality in Viet Nam was organized in person by the UN Women, LIGHT (UN Women’s CSO partner in the JP), and MPI on 17 August 2022. The workshop highlighted limitations of financing gender equality in Viet Nam.</p> <p>The Workshop on Financing for Development-The roles of Domestic Financial Institution was organized in person by UNDP and MPI on 08 December 2022. The workshop was on financing for development topic and to discuss the related issues and recommendations on the roles of domestic financial institutions in development finance.</p>
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6. Lessons and Best Practices

6.1. Key lessons learned, best practices, and recommendations on SDG financing

Continuing the support for the GoVN in making the INFF to work for the achievement of SDGs continues to be highly relevant. The JP has created a foundation that might eventually lead to improvements in the INFF for achievement of the SDGs. With this, further support from the UN on the INFF process to leverage from that foundation was recommended. This recommendation was well perceived by the PUNOs and the GoVN key stakeholders.

Future support initiative for the INFF process for Viet Nam should be made with design enhancements. The scope of the support should be reconsidered in reference to the complex setting of the INFF in Viet Nam. Feasible changes to that complex and highly politically driven processes need to be identified and used for scoping future initiatives. Among other design enhancements, the followings are recommended: (i) making future INFF support aligned to the next planning cycle; (ii) making it an internally driven process; (iii) having oversight at the ministerial level in the implementation strategy and structure; (iv) identifying joint actions at the design stage and in the actual work-planning to enforce meaningful cooperation for joint results; and (v) identifying concrete entry points for convening power of the UN, and particularly the RC; (vi) paying sufficient refresh and refocus efforts for ensuring quality of implementation.

Maintaining the pace of the current INFF-related policy discussions in the short-term. Finally, there is two-year gap (i.e., 2023 and 2024) between the completion of the current JP and the start of the next planning cycle. To ensure that the pace of policy discussions facilitated by the current JP continue and further enhance before the next planning cycle, the UN should introduce some forms of support to maintain that foundation for future initiatives on the INFF process. This might be part of the VNR initiative or other existing support of the UN to the GoVN in the areas of the INFF and/or achievements of the SDGs.

6.2. Key lessons learned and best practices, and recommendations on Joint Programming

Time consistency with and alignment to the national planning processes are prerequisites for initiatives that aim at enhancing strategies and policies such as the INFF. Ideally, the JP should be launched in 2019 to allow a few inception months to find entry points for inputting to review of the key INFF documents for the period 2016-2020. This would provide the JP with windows of opportunities to input to the INFF process. In fact, the JP missed that planning cycle and therefore struggled to keep activities relevant.

Making the policy change being an internal process driven by national champions of change under quality TA support might be the most effective modality of delivery. For an initiative that aims for inputting to policy changes, making it an internally driven process is vital to ensure the local ownership and hence the buy-in. NIM might be the best among the implementation modalities available for making the UN support to be an internally driven process (conditional on having sufficient time and arrangements to go through the ODA approval process).

Disseminating evidence to encourage the buy-in is equally important as making evidence available. The JP produced many studies with useful findings and recommendations. Disseminating these inputs in relevant forms to both selected and general stakeholders is equally important compared to producing inputs. How to disseminate these inputs to relevant stakeholders need some innovations to avoid meeting or workshop fatigue by the GoVN officials and other donor partners concerned.

Joint programmes do not guarantee joint actions. The JP represents a platform for the UN agencies to work together for jointly delivering the results but the PUNOs might continue to implement their workplans separately. To realize potential contribution of JPs in the UNDS reform, it is important to make sure that sufficient efforts are in place to identify joint actions.

Potential convening power the UN needs to be operationalized by identifying concrete entry points. The JP envisaged a convening role for the RC in particular and the UN in general. For the RC or UNCT team to lead some political and policy advocacy work, the PUNOs should identify and provide them with concrete entry points.

Presence of meeting/reporting fatigue should not prevent refresh and refocus efforts for improvements. The PUNOs were implementing several initiatives in parallel to this JP. It was acknowledged in this assessment that the PUNOs were under a high time pressure for the JP delivery. While the usefulness of having refresh and refocus meetings to review the progress and find opportunities to improve the performance was well noted, actual efforts for these refocus meetings were modest.

Annex 1: Consolidated results framework

1. JP contribution to global programmatic results (full programme duration)

Joint SDG Fund Global Outcome 2: Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement (Complete table below)

Indicators	Baseline 2021	Target (end of JP, 2022)	Result (end of JP)	Notes
2.1: US\$ & Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged disaggregated in terms of public and private sector funds	N/A	N/A	N/A	As per the design, it was indicated that "UNCT in Viet Nam will work with the Secretariat to identify targets by the end of 2020". However, this was not pursued. The JP Annual Progress 2021 and the latest update in the JP Bi-Annual Progress Report 2022, this indicator was still left as "TBC" (to be confirmed). No further update was available to the date of this evaluation.

Joint SDG Fund Global Output 4: Integrated financing strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented (Complete table below and provide details as requested)

Indicators	Baseline 2021	Target (end of JP, 2022)	Results (end of JP)	Notes
4.1: #of integrated financing strategies/instruments that were tested	N/A	1	0	The INFF documents in Viet Nam already existed before the JP. The JP aimed at influencing some of the key INFF documents but misaligned to the current 5-year planning cycle. Therefore, the JP did not introduce new integrated financing strategies or instruments for testing.
4.2: #of integrated financing strategies that have been implemented with partners in lead	N/A	1	0	Similar to the above, the JP did directly implement any integrated financing strategies or instruments. The JP only aimed to influence some of the key existing INFF documents. However, due to the misalignment to the current 5-year planning cycle, the JP contributed to (i) finalization of the Finance Strategy 2030; (ii) enhancing the design of NTPs; and (iii) policy debates on development finance.
4.3: # of functioning partnership frameworks for integrated financing strategies to accelerate SDG progress	N/A	1	1	The Viet Nam Economic Pulse launched by UNDP and MPI was a platform where the JP contributed to one VEP session in October 2022 (on Financing Recovery and Sustainable Development). However, this VEP is not a product of the JP.

2. Selected global operational effectiveness indicators (full programme duration)

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

Yes, considerably contributed

Yes, contributed

No

Explain briefly: As discussed in the sub-section 1.6, the JP's PUNOs did not pursue any joint activities. There were opportunities to implement some joint actions for joint results but efforts to identify joint activities were modest. While certain level of exchange and cooperation was seen, PUNOs tend to implement their own workplans agreed in the JP. The role of the RC and the UN in general in convening high-level policy dialogue was modest during the JP implementation. Having the institutional home at the department level of MPI was asymmetric to the JP structure at the UN where the RC assumed an oversight role.

2.2. Did your Joint Programme contribute to avoiding duplication of efforts for the participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities?

Yes

No

N/A (if there are no other joint programmes in the country)

Explain briefly: PUNOs agreed on the JP workplans. Accordingly, activities were assigned to PUNOs for execution through the DIM modality. With a clear division of labour on work-planning, no duplication efforts for the PUNOs in interacting with the GoVN agencies or other stakeholders observed.

3. Results as per JP Results Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2022 target	Result (end of the JP)	Reasons for variance from original target (if any)	Remarks
Outcome 1: Strengthened resource allocation through better alignment of development finance with national SDG priorities					
Outcome 1 indicator: Number of priority national SDG targets, especially on green, climate resilient and inclusive growth that are aligned with finance policies.	N/A	2	N/A	Too early to achieve the result	
Output 1.1: Tools provided and applied to establish links between finance (2030 FS, MTIP and MTBP) and national priorities and SDG targets (SEDP)					
Output 1.1 indicator: Number of tools provided and applied	N/A	3	1	A tool was provided and is being applied.	
Output 1.1 indicator: Availability of guidance to integrate financing for gender equality in INFF	N/A	1	1		This is a combination of (i) gender analysis of the INFF; (ii) assessment of gender mainstreaming in planning and budgeting; and (iii) Manual on GRB
Output 1.2. A monitoring and accountability mechanism to assess effectiveness of development finance policy instruments.					

Output 1.2 indicator: Availability of the monitoring system, that helps track development finance allocation and sending on national SDG targets including on green, climate resilient and inclusive growth and gender equality	N/A	1	1		A system for NTP monitoring was in the development process led by the MPI with the JP support (through UNICEF)
Output 1.3. National multi-stakeholder platform established for inclusive dialogue around financing priorities for building extra momentum for key reforms in the INFF implementation stage.					
Output 1.3 indicator: Availability of policy recommendations generated through multi-stakeholder dialogue on gender integration into formulation and implementation of Viet Nam's INFF	N/A	Available	Available		UN Women led 02 workshops to discuss gender mainstream into planning, budgeting of the INFF. Several policy recommendations were made through these workshops
Outputs 1.3 indicators: Number of multi-stakeholder consultations and dialogues	N/A	2	1		This is the VEP introduced by UNDP and MPI. The JP did not contribute to establish that platform
Outcome 2: Improved effectiveness of public investment gained through better integration across government, vertically and horizontally					
Outcome 2 indicator: The number of public finance policies that applied integrated approach in designing and implementation and level of synergy created	N/A	2	1		The Finance Strategy 2030 was the only public finance policy influenced by the JP
Output 2.1. Integrated public investment management principles and procedures introduced for enhancing integration across the government and alignment of public investment projects to national SDG targets.					
Output 2.1. indicator: Standard Operation procedures introduced and applied in the MPI-led e-portal for public investment management	N/A	2	0		No activities in the JP workplans contributed to this indicator. The MPI developed the PIM portal (with support from JICA) before the JP
Output 2.2. Principles and mechanisms designed for integration between policies and public investments to support private SME development, green & climate resilience, R&D and human capital development.					
Output 2.2. indicator: Number of principles and mechanisms designed and applied.	N/A	1	0		A study on access of SMEs (in apparatus industry) to long-term financing was made with some recommendations (Vu Cuong, Pham T. Chi, Vu P. Lien, 2022). But no principles or mechanisms designed and applied
Outcome 3. Increased public investment crowding-in of private finance, and attracting quality FDI flows that support the development of domestic private enterprises					

Outcome 3 indicator: Increased share of private sector investment in total investment	N/A	10%	2.3%	The target of increase by 10% in the share of domestic private sector in the JP timeline was too high. It is too early for the JP to contribute to this target	The % of private sector investment in total investment was 57.3% and 59.5% in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Figures on 2022 was not available.
Output 3.1. Principles and best international practices introduced and applied on public investment crowding in domestic private investment.					
Output 3.1. indicator: Number of principles and best international practices introduced and applied in public investment policy	N/A	1	1		Best practices were introduced but not applied yet
Output 3.2. Quality FDI implementation plan formulated with clear actions for enhanced linkages between FDI and domestic private enterprises.					
Output 3.2. indicator: Availability of the implementation plan	Available	Available	Available		The GoVN issued the Resolution 56/2020/NQ-CP before the start of the JP. Therefore, this result was not linked to the JP
Output 3.3. Guidelines developed and applied for designing innovative legal/regulatory instruments for Government and private sector to mobilize additional climate and green financial resources.					
Output 3.3. indicator: Availability of guideline	N/A	Available	Not available	The guideline was not part of the deliverable in the related studies on climate and green financing	Discussions on climate and green financing were made at a workshop where consultants from SOAS, the UK presented on climate financing. But no guidelines produced

Note: the column "revised target (if applicable)" in the template was deleted as there were no revised targets; the column "Remarks" was added to provide supporting evidence and/or other comments on the achievement of the targets

Annex 2: List of strategic documents

1. Strategic documents that were produced by the JP

Title of the document	Date (month; year) when finalized	Document type (policy/strategy, assessment, guidance, training material, methodology etc.)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
Financing Development for Recovery in Viet Nam: Principles and Prospects. By Jonathan Pincus (2021)	October, 2021	Methodology	https://vep.undp.org.vn/category_library/research-papers This paper set out three core principles of development finance and explains their implications for economic recovery from Covid-19 and the achievement of the SDGs and national development goals. The paper was made by UNDP as part of the JP. The paper was then presented as a keynote presentation at the VEP Oct 2021.
Review bottlenecks and make recommendations for development of domestic capital markets. By Jonathan Pincus, Tuan H. Dao, Nhung T. Nguyen (2022)	December, 2022	Assessment	This report presented an analysis of constraints on the development of Viet Nam's domestic capital markets. Based on the analysis, the report offered policy recommendations to deepen and broaden these markets to increase and diversify sources of financing for productive public and private investment. The paper was contracted by UNDP as part of the JP.
Result-based budget management: international experiences and practices in Viet Nam By Hoang T. Nguyet, Tran M. Phuong	March, 2022	Assessment, methodology	The paper presented key issues of result-based budget management, good international practices, experiences in Viet Nam. Based on these discussions, the paper provided recommendations towards result-based budget management. The paper was contracted by UNDP as part of the JP.
Costing the National Plan of Actions for Nutrition (2021-2025) By Kim B. Giang and Vu Q. Mai	August, 2022	Assessment, costing	This costing reviewed the resource allocation for nutrition and provided the costing of the NAP on Nutrition in 2021-2025 as well as suggested options for allocation and mobilization of the required fund. The paper was contracted by UNICEF as part of the JP.
Assessment of WASH funding and financing in Viet Nam By Goufrane Mansour, Nguyen C. Thanh, Nguyen D. Thuc and O. Tkachenko	October, 2022	Assessment, costing	The main objective of this report was to formulate recommendations to the government of Viet Nam and development partners on a funding and financing strategy for WASH going forward. The paper was contracted by UNICE as part of the JP.
Mapping of Poverty and WASH coverage by Nguyen Viet Cuong	June, 2022	Analysis for advocacy	This study analysed the linkage between poverty and access to WASH to inform policy advocacy for better investments in WASH. The paper was contracted by UNICEF as part of the JP.

Monitoring and evaluation of the NTPs: issues and proposed recommendations to implement the Decree 27/2022/ND-CP for the period 2021-2025 By Pham T. Hung	December, 2022	Methodology, assessment	The paper reviewed the existing M&E arrangements of the individual NTPs and proposed the background for the uniform M&E system for all NTPs to be established and maintained by MPI. This was a requirement of the Decree 27/ND-CP on NTP management. The paper was contracted by UNICEF as part of the JP.
Integrated National Financing Frameworks: Analysis from a gender perspective. By Pham T. Hien, Nguyen K. Dung, and Vu P. Ly	July, 2022	Assessment	To ensure that both the global and the national levels focus on gender mainstreaming in the INFF, the UN Women and UNDP have developed guidelines with specific questions for the initial review and preparation phases. Following these guidelines, this paper provided a gender analysis of the INFF process in Viet Nam. The paper was contracted by UN Women as part of the JP.
The analysis of gender equality mainstreaming elements in national strategic-orientation documents on socio-economic development and financing period 2021-2030 By Vu Cuong	August, 2022	Assessment	The overall objective of this study was driven towards raising the knowledge and understanding of the key stakeholders about the significance of mainstreaming gender in the SEDP processes, strategies and policies in conjunction with the public financing policies of Viet Nam, thereby proposing orientations for a more effective use of domestic financial investment resources to guarantee the advancement of gender equality. The paper was contracted by UN Women as part of the JP.
Training materials on gender-responsive budgeting By Pham T. Hien and Vu P. Ly	December, 2021	Training materials	This training material described gender-responsive budgeting and provided guidance on step-by-step preparation of a GRB plan.

[2. Strategic documents to which the JP directly contributed to](#)

Title of the document	Date (month; year) when finalized	Document type (policy/strategy, assessment, guidance, training material, methodology etc.)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
The Finance Strategy 2030 approved by the Prime Minister by the Decision 368/QD-TTg dated 21 March 2022	March, 2022	Strategy	This was one key INFF document that the JP aimed to influence. When the JP started, review of the previous Finance Strategy was already completed and the draft for the Strategy 2030 was in shape. Within the JP, UNICEF leveraged from the existing partnership with the MoF to strengthen the focus human capital investment of the Strategy.

Annex 3. Communications materials

1. *Human interest story*

No story was documented in this evaluation. The majority of the JP activities were taken place in terms of studies or reviews commissioned by the PUNOs to external consultants. The majority of these were completed in the second half of 2022. Findings and recommendations of these studies have been at the early stages of dissemination to relevant stakeholders. Therefore, it is too early for the JP to produce human-interest stories.

2. *Communication products*

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
Viet Nam Economic Pulse Forum 2021: "Financing Recovery and Sustainable Development" (video clip)	November, 2021	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2iUyaYaVWU
Viet Nam needs to prepare financing for just energy transition (press release)	December, 2022	https://www.undp.org/vietnam/press-releases/viet-nam-needs-prepare-financing-just-energy-transition
Strengthening Financial Resources to Advance Gender Equality in Viet Nam (news)	August, 2022	https://nhandan.vn/tang-cuong-nguon-luc-tai-chinh-trong-nuoc-de-thuc-day-binh-dang-gioi-tai-viet-nam-post710876.html https://vov1.vov.gov.vn/tin-thoi-su/tang-cuong-nguon-luc-tai-chinh-de-thuc-day-binh-dang-gioi-tai-viet-nam-1782022-c184-88134.aspx
Strengthening Financial Resources to Advance Gender Equality in Viet Nam (video clip)	August, 2022	https://drive.google.com/file/d/17F24cUo0xBAC66FyfOTLxotsvCXzNI7T/view