The programme environment in Viet Nam is complex and has been rapidly changing over the last decade or more, a process that has continued at an increasing pace since the beginning of the Country Programme in 2012. Despite some slowdown in economic growth the Vietnamese economy is still growing and this transition is only the beginning of a period of reform. Viet Nam’s recently acquired low-middle-income status has resulted in a shift of emphasis from more general development to areas such as investment, trade and green growth. Further changes to overseas development assistance flows are expected in the coming years. As a part of this transition, there is continuing evidence that social changes resulting from rapid economic growth have been accompanied by an alarming increase in inequalities and disparities. This is a major concern for UNICEF Viet Nam and is at the core of the Country Programme work.

Viet Nam made noteworthy efforts to improve the enabling environment for human rights in 2014. The Vietnamese Constitution was amended and now includes provisions for strengthened human rights, which creates a new enabling framework for further realisation of children’s rights. Viet Nam was also elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the 2014-16 term, and its candidacy was supported by voluntary pledges to broaden human rights commitments. Regarding child’s rights, the Prime Minister’s Decision 535 was issued to follow up recommendations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Committee and now provides a very apt platform for CRC implementation and monitoring in Viet Nam. This was the first time the Prime Minister formally requested line ministries and provinces to act on CRC concluding observations. A draft Child Law, which addresses all aspects of the CRC and includes four new chapters on child protection, child justice, child participation, and independent child rights monitoring, is being developed. The country has also engaged in intensive debates around the now ratified Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD).

At the end of 2014 Viet Nam’s first specialised children’s court – the Family and Juvenile Court – was established with approval from the Law on Court Organisation. The creation of the court is a milestone in Viet Nam’s efforts to establish a child-friendly justice system, and is a central part of UNICEF’s support to the Government under the child protection programme. With this new court, children will no longer have to attend adult courts. Children’s legal matters will be handled by specialised judges and court officers who will apply child- and gender-sensitive procedures to legal processes. This achievement represents over 10 years of UNICEF advocacy in favour of child-friendly justice systems. UNICEF’s work on this issue intensified over the past two years to involve high-level advocacy with the Government and the National Assembly, study visits to leading children’s courts, research on justice for children, capacity-building efforts with various justice actors on child-friendly processes and procedures and significant legal reform. The Family and Juvenile Court is scheduled to open in 2015. UNICEF is currently holding discussions with the Supreme People’s Court to determine how best to support the operation of the new institution.

Viet Nam joined the ‘Scaling-Up Nutrition’ (SUN) movement, ‘A Promise Renewed’ (APR) for Child Survival and Sanitation and ‘Water for All’ (SWA) in 2014, demonstrating the
Government’s commitment to child survival and development. The SWA initiative comprises two key commitments – open defecation-free (ODF) Viet Nam by 2025; and safe drinking water for all by 2030. There is also a commitment for increased investment through public resource allocation. The APR movement aims to end preventable child deaths and was incorporated into the approved National Strategy for the Protection, Care and Promotion of the People’s Health (2011–2020). The SUN movement has made the following commitments to achieve 65th World Health Assembly Resolution targets: coherent policy and legal framework, common result framework for national nutrition plan (aligned programming) and financial tracking and resource mobilisation.

In 2014 the integrated approach towards corporate engagement was further expanded, focusing on the areas of corporate social responsibility (CSR), advocacy and innovation, which place UNICEF as an effective convener and a collaborative partner for children’s rights. The Children’s Rights and Business Principles were released in the presence of the Deputy Prime Ministers at a new business leader event called ZEROtalks, in collaboration with 12 new private sector partners including the Vietnamese, American, European, Korean and Australian Chambers of Commerce and the Saigon Business Club.

**Equity Case Study**

**Scaling up Sanitation**

During the last two decades Viet Nam made tremendous progress in increasing access to sanitation, with about 79 per cent population used improved latrines in 2014, compared to 54 per cent in 2000 (MICS/ JMP, 2014). However the positive trend has slowed down in recent years, as most of the population without improved sanitation reside in inaccessible locations with limited access to resources and information. The country has a formidable task ahead, as 15 million people continue either to practice open defecation or use unsanitary latrines.

The scaling-up of sanitation demands a series of policy, planning, financial and capacity development measures, as identified by relevant ministries and provincial departments through a collective bottleneck analysis of the rural sanitation subsector facilitated by UNICEF. The use of participatory bottleneck analysis tool (BAT), consisting of 108 criteria with 18 enabling factors, provided a joint and multi-layered analysis of the root causes of weaknesses in sanitation coverage and helped to develop an in-depth understanding of the sub-sector and to define actions to eliminate barriers hindering its development. Ownership of the product is witnessed by the incorporation of identified activities into the national plan of action for the coming years by the Viet Nam Health and Environment Management Agency (VIHEMA) of the Ministry of Health (MOH).

UNICEF worked closely with the Water and Sanitation Programme of the World Bank to carry out equity mapping that provides a geographical analysis of poverty and sanitation in four selected provinces. The analysis and subsequent presentation to decision-makers in the provinces helped to focus their resources to support community mobilisation and promote pro-poor sanitation marketing for most deserving communes. At the national level, with the technical assistance of UNICEF, VIHEMA/ MOH is developing a manual for low-cost sanitation options to meet the affordability of the poorest quintile of the population.

To accelerate sanitation coverage, ‘community approaches to total sanitation’ (CATS), a combination of community mobilisation, pro-poor sanitation marketing and micro-finance support for the poorest quintile, are deployed by selected provincial Centres for Preventive
Medicine (CPMs), with technical assistance from UNICEF. In the absence of civil society organisations, the CPMs trained selected staff members, women’s union members, and volunteers and leaders from communes, to use community mobilisation approaches. Local artisans and entrepreneurs were trained to make the best use of local construction materials for building latrines. Commune leaders and staff members of the Vietnam Bank of Social Policy were oriented to facilitate access to soft loan for households. Field activities – including mobilising communities, listing households that stopped open defecation, constructing latrines through local artisans, and assisting poorest quintile to access loans – were supported. The leaders and volunteers continued to persuade their villagers until each of the households succeeded in stopping open defecation. The volunteers assisted the most underprivileged households (e.g. households headed by women), to organise construction materials and provide assistance to build their latrines. The promotional effort emphasised safe disposal of infants’ excreta into latrines and hand-washing with soap. Commune leaders were encouraged to set up a group of volunteers to continually monitor the use of latrines, safe disposal of infants’ excreta, and hand-washing, to support sustained behavioural change.

To motivate villagers and their leaders, a guideline for the verification and certification of ODF communities, developed by VIHEMA/ MOH, was applied in pilot scale across seven UNICEF focus provinces. The guideline encouraged communes and their leaders in 50 villages to be ODF-certified. This certification process has helped establish a good practice, as several more villages are now in the process of eliminating open defecation and are ready for verification as certified ODF. This effort has raised hopes for scaling-up sanitation across the country.

Following the confidence gained in applying CATS, the Government of Viet Nam (GoV) made an international commitment at the Water and Sanitation for All (SWA) Partnership forum to eliminate open defecation by 2025. The commitment recognised key bottlenecks hindering the development of the rural sanitation sub-sector and equity-based programming, such as:

- inadequate political prioritisation and funding
- insufficient directives hinder supply chain development
- stringent technical standards for hygienic latrines
- poor level of private sector engagement
- poor lending arrangement for underprivileged households
- unfamiliarity of provincial staff on community mobilisation approaches
- inadequate monitoring systems and procedures.

Moreover, actions to eliminate these barriers for the development of the subsector and equity-based programming were recognised as a part of the commitment; and most were incorporated in the VIHEMA/MOH action plan:

- institutional capacity to enhance social mobilisation and pro-poor sanitation marketing
- development of regulatory framework and policy directive for the engagement of private sector
- encourage innovations to develop affordable latrines for the poor
- review and revise existing lending policy of social policy bank and encourage potential loan support from the private sector to increase access to funds for poor
- enhance local coordination of entities such as line departments, mass organisations, social policy bank and NGOs to accelerate sanitation coverage
- develop directives to improve transparency and management of WASH services, especially in communities and public places
- streamline monitoring systems with the revised definition of hygienic sanitation and ODF verification and certification processes.
Meanwhile, UNICEF’s strategic partnership with the World Bank has helped to leverage significant resources for the GoV to come up with a plan to support scaling-up sanitation in 19 underdeveloped provinces, where a majority of ethnic minorities reside. UNICEF is providing key inputs to design of the programme and brought in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to support the design phase of this large-scale sanitation programme. Programming support from the World Bank is expected to provide a quantum leap in sanitation coverage in Viet Nam, especially in the northern mountains and central highlands, in the coming years.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

ANC - Ante Natal Care  
BAT - Bottleneck Analysis Tool  
BFHI - Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative  
C4D - Communication for Development  
CATS - Community Approaches to Total Sanitation  
CHE - Centre for Health Education  
CLTS - Community Led Total Sanitation  
CMT - Country Management Team  
CPM - Centres for Preventive Medicine  
CPMs - Centres for Preventive Medicines  
CRC - Convention on the Rights of the Child  
CRPD - Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities  
CSD - Child Survival and Development  
CSEC - Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children  
CSR - Corporate Social Responsibility  
DaO - Delivering as One  
DOET - Department of Education and Training  
DOLISA - Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs  
DPO - Detailed Project Outlines  
DRR - Disaster Risk Reduction  
EBF - Exclusive Breast Feeding  
ECCE - Early Childhood Care and Education  
ECE - Early Childhood Education  
EENC - Early Essential New-born Care  
ELDS - Early Learning and Development Standards  
EmOC - Emergency Obstetric care  
GOUNH - Green One United Nation House  
GoV - Government of Viet Nam  
GPE - Global Partnership for Education  
GSO - General Statistics Office  
HACT - Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers  
HCMC - Ho Chi Minh City  
HIV/ AIDS - Human Immunodeficiency Virus /Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome  
HRBAP - Human Rights Based Approach to Programming  
HWTS - Household water treatment and storage  
ICT - Information and communication technology  
IDD - Iodine deficiency disorders  
IMAM - Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition  
IMCI - Integrated management of childhood illness
In 2014, immunisation communication was a priority for the MOH, which UNICEF actively supported by developing an evidence-based and consultative communication plan to rebuild trust in vaccination. The two-year plan was approved in November 2014. Additionally, as part of the measles rubella vaccine introduction (September 2014-February 2015) UNICEF supported the Government with a specific plan to reach hard-to-reach and migrant communities and equip Government officials with communication skills to handle the media, in the event of any adverse effects following immunisation. Another significant area of communication for development (C4D) technical support was the launch of the first phase of the violence against children campaign in Viet Nam. The objective of the national and sub-national multi-layered campaign was to increase awareness of the various physical, emotional and sexual forms of violence that children encounter in Viet Nam and to initiate a dialogue among different sections of the society about the fact that any form of violence against children is unacceptable. The subsequent
phases of the campaign will run in 2015 and 2016. The C4D team conceptualised and developed a communication package, including an informative, three-minute animation film for the official national launch of the social assistance project under the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) supported by the World Bank. The five-year pilot project introduced in Ha Giang, Lam Dong, Quang Nam, Tra Vinh provinces is projected to benefit 500,000 poor households by providing them with an opportunity, with cash support, to move out of intergenerational poverty. It will do so by consolidating existing cash transfers initiatives, improving the registration and delivery system and promoting the use of cash for children’s health, education and protection-related services. For the first time all eligible families with children, including those who are 0-3 years old, are eligible for social assistance from the Government. Technical support for an inclusive C4D strategy, based on provincial participation and development of training and promotional materials for the social assistance project, continued.

**Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy**

UNICEF worked to generate evidence on the disparities and barriers facing most disadvantaged children who remain out of school, including ethnic minority and migrant children and children with disabilities. The evidence was utilised to inform policy advocacy for inclusive education. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education (MOET) to develop an Inter-Ministerial Circular on inclusive education for children with disabilities. The Circular provides financial support to children with disabilities, fast-tracks the identification and certification of eligible children and leads to improved parental awareness. These elements are contributing to greater inclusion of children with disabilities in schools. The study on ‘educational readiness for children with disabilities’ contributed to growing awareness amongst MOET leaders of existing gaps in teaching and learning for children with disabilities. The study supported policy dialogue, leading to the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee to develop job codes for public school assistant-teachers.

Viet Nam’s study on out of school children (OOSC), supported by UNICEF, was used in high-level policy dialogue to strengthen the equity focus of education sector-wide planning processes and to improve education data collection with the use of diversified sources, such as the population census. UNICEF’s ongoing evidence generation about mother-tongue-based bilingual education (MTBBE) – especially the relationship between the removal of language barriers to access to education and improved learning outcomes – continued to generate interest and concern among education actors and decision-makers, especially at the provincial level. For example, Lao Cai and An Giang provinces were able to leverage Government resources to expand the MTBBE. Similarly, the language-mapping developed in one province is now being used as a tool to enhance education for all in remote provinces.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) has received increased policy focus as a result of UNICEF advocacy and partnership building with the World Bank, UNESCO and interested bi-lateral donors. As a result, the MOET organised the Early Childhood Education Forum, and the country now applies early learning development standards and multi-grade early learning, supported by UNICEF, to help address gaps in quality and equity in early childhood education for children between three and five years of age.

**Partnerships**

UNICEF is partnering with the Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) government across programmes, including C4D. UNICEF’s Regional Deputy Director hosted a round-table discussion with senior HCMC leaders to advocate for increased commitment to child rights and implementation of CRC Committee Concluding Observations. This raised the partnership with HCMC authorities to a
new strategic level and improved UNICEF’s ability to access and influence high-level policy makers for city-wide impact.

Integrated corporate engagement was further expanded, focusing on CSR, advocacy and innovation, which positioned UNICEF as an effective convener and collaborative partner. This has leveraged private sector resources beyond cash, and further deepened the internal engagement of programme and private partnership teams to directly support the delivery of programme results. Key corporate partnerships with two private businesses in HCMC, Pou Yuen (manufacturing) and Mobivi (telecommunications), providing combined access to more than 500,000 migrant workers, were established to support CSR initiative promoting workplaces as a platform for increased access to information and services, called ZEROworkplace. The Children’s Rights and Business Principles were launched at a new businessLeaders event (ZEROtalks), in collaboration with Vietnamese, American, European, Korean, Australian Chambers of Commerce and Saigon Business Club. Internally, within UNICEF Viet Nam, an integrated corporate engagement group comprised of private-sector partnership, communications and programme staff meets regularly to ensure coherence between programme, advocacy priorities and private-sector engagement.

Viet Nam joined the global “Sanitation and Water for All” partnership during the high-level meeting in Washington, D.C., demonstrating critical inter-ministerial commitment to eliminate open defecation by 2025 and to ensure safe drinking water for all by 2030. The partnership is furthered through sector coordination mechanisms such as the Sanitation Working Group to popularise use of the “Open Defecation-Free” concept across all provinces. As a result of critical advocacy efforts, UNICEF Viet Nam has successfully helped leverage significant World Bank resources for the GoV to develop a plan to support scaling-up sanitation in 19 underdeveloped provinces where a majority of ethnic minorities reside.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

UNICEF Viet Nam invested considerable effort in 2014 to advocate that the rights and well-being of the country’s most disadvantaged children should be at the heart of Viet Nam’s social, political and economic agenda, and to expand UNICEF’s leadership as a credible and trusted voice for children. UNICEF Viet Nam’s strategic communication and advocacy work were seen as important for increasing these efforts. Advocacy targets were broadened to include various committees of the National Assembly, the Communist Party and Government agencies, the private sector and emerging civil society organisations (CSOs). An internal advocacy log was instituted to yield more targeted and consistent communication, follow-up and monitoring of results/impact in the areas of advocacy and donor relations. UNICEF Viet Nam diversified its communication channels to reach its target audiences. Social media was used to engage the public and raise awareness on children’s issues, most notably through the global IMAGINE campaign to advocate and raise funds for the rights of children. UNICEF Viet Nam’s communication team worked closely with C4D and PSF to launch ZEROworkplace, a community of businesses that promotes positive behaviours using an online toolkit, with the aim of improving the wellbeing of employees’ and their children. ZEROtalks, a series of talks, was also launched to explore how the public and private sector can work together to improve the lives of children. The first ZEROtalks in Hanoi and HCMC brought together business leaders and chambers of commerce to launch the Children’s Rights and Business Principles. In response to UNICEF’s global call to #ENDviolence against children, the GoV launched a national campaign with a high profile public service announcement (PSA) featuring UNICEF Viet Nam’s Goodwill ambassador, Mr Xuan Bac, who made a compelling call to join hands, speak out about violence against children and make the invisible visible. The campaign also aimed to
stimulate policy dialogue and link community and children’s voices to the on-going reform of the Law on Child Care, Education and Protection. During the campaign, local authorities from 63 provinces organised community-based communication activities focusing on how to prevent and report violence, train parents on positive-discipline, and seek support for violence against children.

**South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

UNICEF Viet Nam is placing greater focus on strategic cooperation within the East Asia and Pacific region, and had the opportunity in 2014 to support South-South cooperation by convening a study visit for the Ministry of Education and Culture of Timor Leste to learn about Viet Nam’s experience in the education sector. The one-week visit was supported by UNICEF Timor Leste and UNICEF Viet Nam, which resulted in both governments entering into a cooperation agreement signed by the respective vice-ministers, thus creating the space for further collaboration in the education sector. As a middle income country, Viet Nam offers several areas of experience and expertise in developing sustainable education policies and programmes. Viet Nam’s MOET also presented opportunities for knowledge-sharing and learning interaction to the education ministry of Timor Leste.

The study tour comprised high-level meetings and field visits in Ninh Thuan province and Hanoi. The delegation visited pre-schools and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)-supported Colombian Nueva Escuela model, implemented both in Timor Leste and Viet Nam. The visits to remote areas provided hands-on learning, including roll out of and community involvement in the MTTBE programme, which offers a foundation for developing a mother-tongue education programme in Timor Leste. Discussions with key stakeholders at the national and local level, including a meeting with the World Bank (Supervising Entity for GPE), allowed the delegation to gain a better understanding of Vietnamese education policy, institutional frameworks and systems, as well as strategies to enhance quality standards and sustainability of education programmes.

This experience of South-South cooperation demonstrated the role that UNICEF can play at a strategic level, through facilitating interactions between countries, on policy development, implementation and sharing of best practices, which can help mobilise increased assistance for realisation of children’s rights.

**Identification Promotion of Innovation**

UNICEF Innovation labs are emerging all over the world. They are new enabling eco systems that allow for collaboration between various stakeholders (such as private sector, academia, technologists and civil society) and operate with a simple set of protocols for engagement. The objective is to provide a place where innovative ideas can be conceived, created, tried out and tested, both technical and otherwise, to provide creative solutions that can improve the lives of children. This year, UNICEF Viet Nam recruited a dedicated Innovation Lab Lead to manage the start-up of Viet Nam’s own Innovation Lab.

For a lower-middle-income country like Viet Nam, innovation will look to bring together new actors to help accelerate progress for children, tackle bottlenecks, increase efficiencies, or improve the effectiveness of UNICEF’s country programme. The Innovation Lab will be a place where ideas are borne, and have a safe space to fail. The Lab will engage programme sections on various innovation projects that support the rights of children in line with the overall Country Programme. Key indicators of success will include the levels of collaboration from diverse partners and young people sensitised and working towards the fulfilment of children’s rights in
Viet Nam, in addition to direct programme outcomes for children. UNICEF Viet Nam witnessed activity and growth in this area after conducting its first Hackathon in 2013, which provided a platform to develop a working demo mobile app that could be freely distributed through open-source platforms and used by both relief/aid workers and mobile device consumers. Through this experience, UNICEF Viet Nam gained valuable insight into the technology and start-up world. UNICEF’s growing strength in building collaborative relationships with young professionals through UNICEF Next Generation, and with the private sector will also help to build external collaboration, a key success factor for the Lab.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

In 2014 UNICEF leveraged funds through the ZEROawards (local private sector fundraising) to promote and pilot an integrated and cross-sectoral approach to tackling malnutrition in Kon Tum, one of the poorest provinces in Viet Nam. In Kon Tum malnutrition, especially among children with ethnic minority background, is still a key concern. Through the integrated approach to acute malnutrition (IMAM) UNICEF supported partners to address malnutrition through a package of linked interventions, including C4D, promoting exclusive breast feeding and better feeding practices, improved access to health, clean water and sanitation services as well as linkages with social work and protection schemes for families in need. Through cross-sectoral and joint monitoring with Government and UN partners, it was found that taking an integrated approach to addressing key concerns for children in Kon Tum not only has the potential to achieve long-term impact, but also the ability to foster coordination and cooperation across and between key line departments at provincial, district and community level. The good practice and lessons learnt from Kon Tum have influenced national level policy- and programme-making, as exemplified by the costing of nutrition services and therapeutic products for the finalisation of a national guideline on treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition, as well as contributing to a revision of MOH’s ODF Verification and Certification guidelines.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

As a result of UNICEF’s 2014 joint advocacy and technical assistance, as part of One UN, Viet Nam ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, achieving a major milestone in Viet Nam’s human rights journey. By ratifying the CRPD, Viet Nam joins 151 countries across the world that are committed to enhancing inclusion and breaking down barriers faced by children and adults with disabilities.

UNICEF Viet Nam continued to utilise a human rights-based approach to legal reform, to ensure that laws were in line with international child rights standards and the country’s constitutional principles. As a result of UNICEF engagement the fundamental principles of the CRC (non-discrimination, best interests, right to survival and development, and respect for views of the child) were reflected in several laws that were passed during 2014, including the Law on Civil Status, Law on Family and Marriage and Law on Environmental Protection.

Efforts to implement international commitments on children’s rights were given a strong boost when the Prime Minister issued Decision 535 to act on the Committee on the Rights of the Child’s Concluding Observations. The Decision, strongly supported by UNICEF Viet Nam, was disseminated to relevant ministries, provincial authorities and National Assembly agencies, requiring the development of action plans to implement the specific recommendations by concerned ministries. In addition, guidance for planning and monitoring the implementation of the Decision was developed and is being used by all provinces. More broadly, UNICEF worked with other UN agencies to carry out a review of Viet Nam’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, and developed a coordination plan to follow up those recommendations.
UNICEF provided significant inputs to the UN independent report on implementation of the Convention to Eliminate all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), with particular focus on key gender issues related to children, such as gender bias in school curriculum and early marriage.

**Gender Mainstreaming and Equality**

Gender equality cuts across all UNICEF Viet Nam programmes. In 2014, one primary contribution of UNICEF involved improving knowledge and public awareness on gender inequality in Viet Nam.

Data generation and its disaggregation by sex was used to increase awareness and highlight the extent to which girls and women are more disadvantaged in terms of access to basic services, and are often more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. With UNICEF’s support, Multi-Cluster Indicator Survey (MICS) data was collected and analysed, providing a comprehensive, up-to-date picture of the situation of girls and women in Viet Nam. By disaggregating data by regions, the MICS report highlights the limited access to basic social services, particularly health and reproductive health services, among women from mountainous areas and large ethnic minority communities. The MICS report also indicated that girls in these areas are particularly at risk of dropping out from school, have limited access to higher education opportunities, and are at high risk of early marriage. UNICEF’s OOSC study reinforced findings on gender disparity in education. As highlighted in the report, girls from ethnic minority backgrounds are especially vulnerable to school dropout compared to other groups of children. UNICEF’s work on social audits and child participation also provided further insight into the lives of these girls by highlighting the poor quality of education and health service delivery.

UNICEF is an active member of the One UN Gender Joint Planning Group, and in 2014 worked with other UN agencies to produce the UN independent report on CEDAW implementation in Viet Nam. Inputs from UNICEF focused on gender bias in the school curriculum and early marriage, and gained significant attention from the CEDAW Committee. As a result, the Committee has requested the GoV to provide further detailed information, including policy measures to address these particular issues.

**Environmental Sustainability**

Emergency preparedness and response, disaster risk reduction (DRR), WASH, climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk management (DRM) are integrated from part of UNICEF Viet Nam’s environmental sustainability work. With UNICEF support, MOET approved a curriculum for formal education, including competencies on DRR, environmental education and climate change. The curriculum promotes children as change-agents and leaders of climate-smart behaviour to cope with the impact of disasters/climate change. UNICEF Viet Nam’s advocacy efforts helped integrate DRR and climate change into provincial planning, allowing these issues to be sustainably addressed through formal planning and budgeting processes. UNICEF supported evidence generation and qualitative research on climate change and children through extensive consultation with over 300 children from rural/urban and ethnic minority communities and migrant families. The Law on Environmental Protection included a new chapter on green growth and climate change, and new principles pertaining to the role of civil society, respecting children’s best interest and gender equality.

UNICEF Viet Nam staff’s environmental awareness increased through monthly Green Campaign initiatives including green movie screenings, guest speakers on green topics and
quarterly green audits. UNICEF Viet Nam supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and MOH for WASH CCA and DRM planning for six high-risk provinces. The plans included interventions for water source protection, sustainable management of drinking water systems, safe disposal of human faeces, critical hygiene behaviour, capacity building and awareness-raising about environmental protection. UNICEF Viet Nam supported MOH/VIHEMA procedures for the verification and certification of ODF communities. Guidelines were field-tested in selected provinces resulting in 50 villages being declared ODF. The guidelines will be implemented nationally, to reduce environmental pollution and increase positive health impacts for rural communities, including reduced stunting among under-five children.

MARD established a working group, co-chaired by UNICEF Viet Nam, to promote sustainable water supply. A framework and plan of action will be prepared to improve source protection and water supply services maintenance for 30 low-performing provinces. In 2014, UNICEF Viet Nam utilised US$350,000 for emergency, DRR and climate change, of which, US$200,000 was directly dedicated to climate change policy work, benefiting approximately 25 million children.

**Effective Leadership**

The changing aid environment prompted a mid-term review (MTR) in 2014 to ensure that UNICEF Viet Nam would continue to effectively address remaining challenges with disparities across programme areas as a core to the programme. The MTR offered UNICEF Viet Nam and its partners a critical opportunity to sharpen the Country Programme’s results focus, within the broader results framework and better alignment with available resources. As a result UNICEF Viet Nam has made necessary adjustments to its management structure, maintaining a critical team endowed with the mix of skills required to achieve equitable and sustained results for the most disadvantaged children across Viet Nam.

The revised Management Performance Indicators were used as the key tool for a review of management performance by the country management team (CMT) and programme coordination meeting (PCM), as well as for the MTR and Annual Report. A report on travel expenses was prepared on a quarterly basis and shared with management to improve efficiency of travel activities.

Implementation of the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) was improved by the initiation of a “funding authorisation and certificate of expenditures” (FACE) cover-page that summarises key information on advances and amounts outstanding, thus facilitating the review process by supervisors. The translation of FACE, quarterly work plans, budgets and implementation reports to English has become obligatory through a CMT decision, and will further improve UNICEF’s risk management approach. All implementing partners were micro-assessed, jointly with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), for 2014 and the spot-check plan was successfully and fully implemented.

One of the 2012 audit recommendations was on supply planning. UNICEF Viet Nam has improved in this area by preparing an annual supply plan, monthly supply reports and quarterly supply management reports.

The business continuity plan is an integral part of the annual management plan and is updated regularly. The backup location was moved to a new place and the various groups updated. An important improvement was the implementation of the "light office" project and WINDOWS 8 for senior management in December 2014, allowing them to work remotely from home with full
access to all files and systems.

The Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) System was updated during the annual review process by the Emergency Management Team. Members and the coordinator of the Emergency Management Team were clearly stated in the annual management plan and deliverables outlined in the TOR, monitored through regular meetings and Headquarters/Regional Office reviews of the EWEA system. The Emergency Management Team coordinator and focal persons for sectors where UNICEF is the cluster lead agency also participated in the One UN Disaster Risk Management Team.

The UNICEF Viet Nam risk matrix is discussed at CMT meetings and reviewed whenever there is a change in the country context.

Financial Resources Management

Contribution management, cash assistance and budget control were monitored on a monthly basis through monthly management reports reviewed by the PCM, and quarterly by the CMT, using a set of standard indicators included in the annual management plan. Outstanding direct cash transfers between six and nine months were maintained within the target at below 5 per cent for five months in 2014 and six months at 7 to 22 per cent.

Cash was well-managed with balances maintained at two weeks of expenditure. More importantly, liquidity was ensured, taking into account the complex process of local currency replenishment set up by NYHQ and additional restrictions from local Government for US$ transfers.

Monthly bank reconciliations were completed within the deadline set by NYHQ, and reconciling items were cleared within one month.

Given the funding constraints, contribution management has paid particular attention to maximising all available funding sources. During the MTR process, an affordability analysis was carefully carried out to obtain an overall picture of the funding situation for UNICEF Viet Nam and each of its programmes. In addition, UNICEF Viet Nam has been finalising its resource mobilisation strategy, which will help to raise funds from UNICEF National Committees, public partnerships, thematic funds and local private fundraising partnership activities.

Fund-raising and Donor Relations

The significant decline in ODA has resulted in a radical drop in contributions to the UN One Plan Fund, far below what was pledged during the planning stage. The final allocation to UN agencies in Viet Nam for 2015 is expected to be significantly reduced, and as a result UNICEF Viet Nam is faced with a critical funding gap. Although 2013 proved promising for local private fundraising, progress in 2014 was put on hold due to lack of formal Government endorsement. While the pursuit for Government permission continues, UNICEF Viet Nam adapted its fundraising efforts by developing a resource mobilisation strategy that includes close monitoring of donor interests. The strategy harnesses enhanced communication about results achieved for children, directly and through the One UN communication team. Continued emphasis is placed on timely utilisation of donor funds and high-quality reporting. The strategy takes on a multi-pronged approach for fundraising that is anchored in programmatic priorities. These programme priorities have a specific focus on critical areas that require further support, such as early childhood development and child protection under the overarching social protection agenda. The fundraising approach focused on five areas of existing and emerging funding opportunities:
1) bilateral donors, 2) National Committees, 3) local private sector fundraising, 4) thematic funding and 5) public funds. UNICEF Viet Nam’s resource mobilisation efforts will continue to improve the organisation’s delivery of results under the framework of Delivering as One (DaO) so that UNICEF can achieve its main priorities and outcomes, as articulated in the current One UN Plan and beyond.

Evaluation

On the basis of the standard operating procedure (SOP) for IMEP management, the 2014 IMEP was developed, monitored and updated on a quarterly basis and reported during the regular PCMs.

The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) unit made a crucial contribution to the design and implementation of key studies and evaluations under the 2014 IMEP, particularly the design and management of the MTBBE evaluation, in close collaboration with the education team and with technical support from the Regional Evaluation Advisor. This evaluation looks at one of UNICEF Viet Nam’s flagship programmes and will be instrumental to informing programme development and scale-up under the next Country Programme cycle.

Efforts to strengthen evaluation capacity across the Country Programme continued in 2014, with the wide circulation of information on relevant free e-learning courses including Evaluation in Humanitarian settings (UNICEF), Evaluating Social Programmes (MIT), Making Sense of Social Impacts, and Story-Telling.

UNICEF actively participated in the UN Results Based Management (RBM) Working Group and its sub-group on Evaluation, established in 2014 to coordinate preparations for the 2015 DaO (including One Plan) evaluation. UNICEF also made significant contributions to advancing the evaluation agenda within the One UN context in Viet Nam, including solid technical contributions to the DaO monitoring framework, the Equity-Focused One Plan Review (with technical support of the Regional Evaluation Advisor), the post-2015 report around participatory monitoring and the Training of Trainers on RBM for eight UN Joint Programming Groups (JPGs).

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The major savings planned for 2014 were in relation to the move to the Green One UN House (GOUNH). Some savings on staff cost were realised in 2014, namely the abolishment of the administration officer position, a supply officer position, an information communication technology (ICT) assistant position and one driver position. Large-scale savings, such as rental cost, shared common services for reception, security, cleaning, protocol and premises management didn’t materialise as the move was delayed to 2015. In preparation for the Global Shared Service Centre, UNICEF reduces its finance team by one assistant, while creating a HACT focal point to improve accountability and oversight in this delicate, high-risk area. Once moving to common premises, the cost savings for UNICEF Viet Nam will amount to almost US$300,000 annually. However, uncertainties still remain about the exact timing of the move and its ultimate impact on cost savings. While waiting for this move to take place, UNICEF Viet Nam was able to reduce rental costs significantly by reducing its office space by 25 per cent in June 2014. All colleagues had to move closer together and the available space was used in a more efficient manner. One meeting room was converted to an office for four colleagues to make this change possible.
Supply Management

The 2014 total supply value of US$1,692,100 marked a fruitful year for UNICEF Viet Nam with high supply volume due to the procurement of ICT equipment and services for GOUNH, representing 68 per cent of the annual total supply volume. Not counting procurement for the GOUNH, US$470,180 was for institutional services and high-value procurement of goods plus US$69,920 for low-value procurement contributed to a total supply value of US$540,100 for UNICEF Viet Nam.

UNICEF Viet Nam’s Supply Unit played a consultancy role in evaluating vendors and quotations for some supplies-in-kind to partners through DCT. The unit also: coordinated with UNICEF Supply Division, vendors, programme staff and partners to deliver supplies directly to partners’ warehouses; supported forecasting, planning and shipment of vaccines to the Government, as part of UNICEF Supply Division’s professional procurement services and supply chain. In addition to Pentaxim vaccines, UNICEF supported and committed for the Government to receive 27,052,100 doses of Measles/Rubella (MR) vaccines and 28,504,150 MR vaccine devices by the end of the year.

With the planned move to the GOUNH in 2015, UNICEF took the lead in procurement of all ICT equipment for the GOUNH’s Data Centre. In 2014, 24 contracts with a total value of US$1,152,000 were placed, representing 90 per cent of the planned supply schedule for the GOUNH in Viet Nam.

UNICEF Viet Nam will continue current supply activities, including programme supplies, shipment of vaccines to the country’s Government, GOUNH’s procurement of remaining ICT equipment/services as well as other procurement to be planned by UNICEF Viet Nam with partners.

Security for Staff and Premises

Viet Nam is rated as a low-risk location, and security is much less of an issue than in most other countries. However, UNICEF increased the security of its premises by changing the company in charge of guards. The new private sector company has a better management structure and regular inspections by supervisors. As one of the highest risks is road accidents, UNICEF reduced the use of old vehicles and more frequently use outsourced services for staff transport. All staff continued to be briefed regularly on security issues; no work-related security incidents occurred in 2014.

Human Resources

UNICEF underwent a long and rigorous process to look at the staffing structure during the MTR. The human resource capacity was evaluated based on programme priorities and the existing staffing structure. Revisions to the staffing structure were based on the required level of staff, both in terms of professional and technical competencies. A careful analysis was carried out to determine what was required in terms of human resources to achieve the results outlined in the Country Programme. Posts were created or abolished based on programme needs, and refocusing priorities in a context of limited funding availability in a middle-income country. The programme budget review submission was approved based on a consultative process with the Regional Office. Staff were kept fully briefed on the changes. UNICEF Viet Nam reached 100 per cent compliance for meeting performance evaluation submission timelines. Staff were proactive in having timely and open discussions regarding their performance throughout the year. Human resources provided one-to-one guidance where necessary, both to staff or and supervisors. The recently conducted staff survey results are not yet available, but all the action
points of the previous staff survey were fully incorporated, in close consultation with the Staff Association.

A training for all staff and their dependents on HIV/AIDS was organised successfully under the leadership of UNAIDS. UN CARES was part of the process and ensured that global guidelines are respected. UNICEF Viet Nam follows the 10 minimum standards on HIV in the workplace and has had focal points for emergency planning with Regional Office and deployed staff to emergency locations as required, including for Ebola. Staff were trained for emergencies from the WASH and Nutrition sectors. No RR funds were used to fund OR posts.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

The ICT infrastructure was improved to ensure reliable and stable ICT services for users. All email accounts were migrated from Lotus Notes to Outlook successfully in May 2014. Follow-up trainings on Outlook, Lync and One Drive were arranged to enable staff to use Office 365 services effectively. A LIGHT Service Centre was setup in Hanoi that facilitated access to corporate resources more easily for staff by using new Direct Access technology on Windows 8.1. The server room at the HCMC office was closed completely, which saved on power costs, network connectivity, backup and monitoring. In addition, the HCMC office can use the old server room space for other business purposes. New video conference devices were set up for Hanoi and HCMC that facilitated communication between the two offices. Thirty-two new laptops were procured to replace desktops and old laptops, to ensure that 100 per cent of staff used laptops with docking stations, improving their mobility.

IT management was reviewed to ensure that all IT impacts will be evaluated and potential risks reduced. The IT system at the BCP location is checked and tested every quarter. UNICEF Viet Nam’s BCP plan was updated and approved by the Representative.

UNICEF Viet Nam also actively contributed to the One UN Viet Nam ICT working group. As the lead agency, UNICEF Viet Nam procured about US$1.2 million worth of IT goods and services for the One UN ICT project in 2014. It actively coordinated with local, regional and HQ IT staff from other UN agencies and IT reference groups to ensure successful implementation of the ICT infrastructure and a smooth transition to the GOUNH.

**Programme Components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1 Effective and efficient programme management and operations support**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Programme support was maintained at a high level in 2014. Preparation for GSSC creation was accomplished by changing the job description of one finance assistant, who is now an OR-funded HACT implementation assistant. The preparations for the move to GOUNH are still ongoing as the move was delayed to 2015. Human Resource played an active role in the recruitment of common service staff, and ICT had the lead in implementing common ICT systems for all agencies. Supply was in charge of procuring US$1.4 million in ICT goods and services for GOUNH ICT systems. The Chief of Operations, as OMT chair, actively coordinated common services, together with the CS manager, the Change Management working group, the working group on functional clusters and the GOUNH management committee. Finance led the working group on the update of the ‘Viet Nam – UN Harmonised Programme and Project
Management Guideline’, in collaboration with other agencies, a process that proved to be difficult as Government counterparts were not always in agreement with the UN on the modalities of implementation.

In preparation for the move to GOUNH, Administration and Supply were restructured in early 2014 so that UNICEF became leaner and more efficient before the actual move.

OUTPUT 1 Office results are proficiently managed and systems efficiently applied that ensured maximum efficient resources.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Viet Nam implemented an updated and more exhaustive Table of Authorities to clearly define the delegation of authority to respective staff members in the office.

In light of the new HACT policy and procedures issued in 2014, Finance had closer collaboration with PME unit in the management and coordination of HACT implementation, particularly with the increased focus on follow-up actions for assurance activities through monthly briefings at Programme Coordination Meetings.

The procurement of ICT goods and services for GOUNH was much more complex than expected, as the services needed for implementation and integration could not be sourced locally. Good cooperation between ICT and Supply staff enabled UNICEF to maintain the target date of 1 December 2014.

The BCP was updated and testing was carried out in December 2014.

OUTPUT 2 Effective and Efficient management and stewardship of financial resources to support realisation of results.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
As of 31 December 2014, financial resources were being managed effectively and efficiently to support Programme implementation to achieve expected results. The cash flow forecast was realistic and monthly cash balances were maintained within the set target. Outstanding Direct Cash Transfers were closely monitored and, on average, remained within the target, except in March (13 per cent) and June (22 per cent). Micro-assessment of all implementing partners was completed by the 2nd quarter of 2014. An Action Plan to address recommendations of the micro-assessment was prepared, together with UNDP, UNFPA and is being finalised for implementation. Spot checks were done as per plan. As of 31 December 2014, 19 out of 22 planned spot checks had been completed and the three remaining checks will be completed in January 2015. Procurement for Phase I of the Harmonized Programme and Project Management Guidelines (HPPMG) revision was delayed due to a number of unforeseen emerging issues; it is expected to be complete in 2015.

OUTPUT 3 The office and staff members benefited from timely and effective recruitment process and Performance Appraisal System as well as learning and development opportunities

Analytical Statement of Progress:
There was a delay in the recruitment of a Child Survival and Development (CSD) Chief due to some urgent priorities related to the PBR. Also the NOC Partnerships and P4 Communication Specialist post will remain vacant for the time being, due to funding constraints (RR and OR). This was explained in the MTR PBR submission. Gaps were filled by creating temporary
positions: 1 P3 Communication Specialist, 1 NOA Partnerships Officer and 1 P5 TA as gap filler for Chief CSD.

Phase two of EPAS/PAS was completed at 100 per cent.

The training plan was implemented according to plan. Staff career counselling and CBI training were completed, representing an important commitment given the changes in staffing due to MTR programme shifts and funding status.

**OUTPUT 4** The Communication function effectively supports the advocacy, external/donor relations, fundraising and partnership efforts of the Country Office with a high level of quality assurance and technical expertise, also contributing to One-UN Communication.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Efforts were made to call increased public attention to issues related to children, especially those related to UNICEF’s policy advocacy priorities, CSR and private sector partnership. UNICEF’s global campaigns, such as #Imagine and CRC@25, were also promoted in Viet Nam and received significant media coverage. It was estimated that 400 articles, 20 TV programmes and interviews reflecting UNICEF’s messages were published and broadcast on local and international media. UNICEF Viet Nam’s webpage received nearly 100,000 views since the beginning of the year and the Facebook page gained more than 50,000 additional fans (3.5 times higher than the target for 2014). Regarding communication support to donor relations and fundraising, UNICEF Viet Nam continued building partnerships with National Committees and other sources of funds, to ensure that its work remained visible and attractive for either fundraising or advocacy purposes. UNICEF Viet Nam successfully hosted the visit of the Japanese and Korean NatComs, the Luxemburg Embassy, Global Chief of Marketing and Communications Officer for Aon (donor of Manchester United), Unilever and local private sectors. UNICEF continued to work with Goodwill Ambassador Xuan Bac, Youth Ambassador Nguyen Phuong Anh and other celebrities to raise awareness on various issues related to children, especially children with disabilities, violence against children and Zeroworkplace. A resource mobilisation strategy was initiated with the support of HQ donor relations staff, and a fundraising action plan will be implemented in early 2015. Within the framework of the Delivering as One initiative, UNICEF Viet Nam’s Communications team also provided support through media outreach and generating awareness-raising activities around inclusive education and MR campaigns.

**OUTCOME 2 By 2016, key national institutions formulate and monitor people-centred, green and evidence-based socio-economic development policies to ensure quality of growth as a Middle Income Country**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF has been advocating for child sensitive socio-economic development plans (SEDP) at both the national and sub-national levels, in collaboration with Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI). During 2014 the focus was especially on the development and finalisation of a guideline to be approved by the Government for dissemination in 2015. Based on the past successful experience, UNICEF rolled out the social audits to other provinces. The advocacy for the a child-sensitive SEDP resulted successfully in an agreed road-map with a list of child-related indicators that will be integrated into 2016-2020 SEDP at both the national and sub-national levels.
UNICEF promoted evidence-based policy advocacy and monitoring of children’s rights. MICS5 key findings were released to provide child-related data and evidence to monitor and report on progress towards the achievement of national goals and global commitments related to the child rights. A summary report on multidimensional child poverty (MdCP) was drafted and is being finalised for continual efforts in policy advocacy and formulation in Viet Nam. Additionally, UNICEF provided technical support for finalisation of an analysis of MdCP and vulnerability among ethnic minority children.

After the launching of the Social Assistance System Strengthening Project (SASSP), UNICEF and the World Bank continued to support implementation. UNICEF’s support focused on: (i) development/finalisation of an inter-ministerial circular to guide implementation of SASSP; (ii) the high-level launch of the SASSP and development of a C4D package, including key information materials and a draft C4D strategy; and (iii) draft guidance for selecting village collaborators, provincial consultations on C4D. UNICEF was invited to serve as a member of the SASSP Steering Committee and attended the first meeting, chaired by MOLISA’s Vice Minister. An MOU was signed with MOLISA on UNICEF’s support to the implementation of SASSP, and three joint missions were undertaken between WB/UNICEF/MOLISA to review progress. UNICEF also played a significant leadership role as a convener of the Joint Programme Group of Social Protection under the One UN system.

In the Parliament, UNICEF advocated for child’s rights to be considered in legal reforms and worked on capacity building of elected officials on monitoring children’s rights. Bi-annual, pre-National Assembly sessions – which are official platforms through which to generate technical discussions among elected officials and partners on particular child-related themes – were created with UNICEF support. Significant achievement was seen in inclusion of the principle of best interest of the child in the approved Law on Environmental Protection. In addition, debates were generated with parliamentarians to promote child rights issues in relation to amendments of the Law on Children, Local Governance Law and State Budget Law. As a follow-up to the Prime Minister’s Decision 535 on implementation of CRC recommendations, strong commitment by the National Assembly to oversee the implementation of international treaties on child rights and human rights was achieved.

OUTPUT 1 By 2016, strengthened child-sensitive planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of socio-economic development outcomes, plans and programmes

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF continued to support planning, monitoring and evaluation reforms to socio-economic development plans, with a stronger focus on children rights at both national and sub-national levels. Technical support was provided to Dien Bien province to roll out for the first time the Child Rights-based Social Audits and implement the Citizen Report Card, to assess commune health services in Kon Tum province. National guidelines and checklists on child-sensitive SEDP were developed and finalised with relevant governmental stakeholders (line ministries and provinces). To influence the inclusion of social aspects in the SEDP (2016-20), UNICEF successfully provided the Ministry of Planning and Investment with technical advice on the development of the Prime Minister’s Directive on planning for SEDP. A consultation workshop on how to better address children issues in the SEDP was organised jointly with the MPI, MOLISA and the National Assembly, through UNICEF support, with over 100 participants from all relevant line ministries, eight project provinces and the National Assembly. As a result, a specific road-map with an agreed list of child-related indicators was agreed upon to integrate children issues into the 2016-2020 SEDP at both national and sub-national levels. At the same time, the report on MICS 5 key findings was released to generate child-related data and
evidence in a timely manner, to enable monitoring and reporting on progress towards the achievement of national goals and global commitments related to child rights. Consensus was reached on the development of national SitAn’s to update data on the situation of children, to be incorporated into 2016-2020 SEDP and sector plans. Finally, the summary report on multidimensional child poverty was drafted to support continual efforts in policy advocacy and formulation in Viet Nam.

OUTPUT 2 By 2016, expanded coverage of child-sensitive social assistance for poor, ethnic minority, and other vulnerable children

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The report on ‘Real Impact Monitoring round 4’ (RIM 4) by Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs (ILSSA) was finalised; design and desktop publication by UNICEF and UNDP was pending by year’s-end. Results were disseminated with national stakeholders, and recommendations for institutionalisation were being considered by the Social Protection Department of MOLISA. A policy dialogue workshop was organised to discuss different options for integrating the RIM approach into regular social protection monitoring mechanisms.

MOLISA completed field work for the study of climate change and children in Viet Nam, analysed in the provinces of Quang Nam, Kon Tum and An Giang, and analysed the results. The report is expected to be finalised and presented by the first quarter of 2015.

UNICEF, in collaboration with the World Bank, continued the support for the implementation of the “Social Assistance System Strengthening Project”. In particular, UNICEF supported (i) development/finalisation of an inter-ministerial circular to guide implementation of SASSP; (ii) the high-level launch of the SASSP and development of a C4D package, including key information materials and a draft C4D strategy; (iii) draft guidance for selecting village collaborators; provincial consultations on C4D; and the Post Office. UNICEF was invited to serve as a member of the SASSP Steering Committee and attended the first meeting, chaired by MOLISA’s Vice Minister. An MOU was signed with MOLISA on UNICEF’s support to the implementation of SASSP, and three joint missions were undertaken between WB/UNICEF/MOLISA to review progress.

With technical support from UNICEF, an analysis of multidimensional child poverty and vulnerability among ethnic minority (EM) children was finalised, publication is forthcoming. Key results were presented at high-level policy fora on sustainable poverty reduction and EM policies, including an international conference on EM development. UNICEF supported the Committee for Ethnic Minority on integration of ethnic minority children perspectives into the Master Plan of EM Human Resource Development 2020. Finally, terms of reference (ToR) for a study on socio-economic and cultural factors affecting child care practices of children under five from ethnic minority groups was developed. The study begin in early January 2015; ToR on impact assessment and micro-simulations of different policy options for child benefits in Viet Nam was developed and is ready for recruitment of consultants.

OUTPUT 3 By 2016, enhanced capacity of elected officials in the National Assembly and in selected Provincial People’s Councils to oversee the realisation of child rights, policy formulation and implementation, and the performance of State agencies in delivering services to children and their caregivers
Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014 UNICEF continued to make efforts in the area of legal reform, child participation and child rights monitoring.

Legal reform: Bi-annual, pre-National Assembly sessions – which are official platforms through which to generate technical discussions among elected officials and partners on particular child-related themes – were created with UNICEF support. Significant achievement was seen in inclusion of the principle of best interest of the child in the approved Law on Environmental Protection. In addition, key child rights issues regarding local governance and public finance were shared and discussed with parliamentarians to inform the on-going amendment of the Local Governance Law and State Budget Law. Through systematic, evidence-based advocacy efforts, two specific chapters (on child participation and an independent child rights monitoring agency) were suggested for the draft. In addition, questions and concerns raised by parliamentarians during the first-round consultation on the Child Law were addressed and documented to inform further revision of the law.

Child participation: Systematic documentation and dissemination of children's climate change experience and concerns resulted in stronger political commitment to speed up the implementation of climate change action plans in selected provinces. In addition, these processes also contributed to successful advocacy on the Law on Environmental Protection. A comprehensive analysis on child participation was undertaken to inform development of the National Child Participation Programme and revisions to the Child’s Law.

Child rights reporting and monitoring: As a follow up to the Prime Minister's Decision 535 on implementation of CRC recommendations, a workshop with parliamentarian was organised and resulted in a strong commitment by the National Assembly to oversee implementation of international treaties on child rights and human rights that Viet Nam has ratified. Additionally, through extensive technical support, guidance for planning and monitoring the implementation of decision 535 was developed and used by all provinces.

OUTPUT 4 By 2016, enhanced citizen and child feedback-based monitoring of the quality and relevance of Ho Chi Minh City’s budgets, plans, and public services for all children, including those living in migrant families

OUTPUT 5 By 2016, the An Giang provincial socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans and budgets reflect provincial commitment to promote equitable realisation of child rights

Analytical Statement of Progress:
As planned, to promote evidence-based policy advocacy and planning for children, the list of key child indicators was consolidated and officially disseminated through annual provincial statistical reports. Furthermore, in order to carry out the SitAn in HCMC in 2015, draft ToR were completed and available for approval by HCMC stakeholders.

OUTPUT 5 By 2016, the An Giang provincial socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans and budgets reflect provincial commitment to promote equitable realisation of child rights

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF continued to support planning, monitoring and evaluation reforms for the socio-economic development plans, with a stronger focus on children’s issues in An Giang Province. As a result, the logical framework continues to be applied for planning of 2015 provincial SEDP. More importantly, the Citizen Report Card to assess district health services was completed and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders in the province. Local leaders (especially from the health sector) committed to follow up on Citizen Report Card findings and recommendations.
Provincial representatives participated in national and provincial fora to identify and agree on key issues related to children for the development of 2016-2020 SEDP.

**OUTPUT 6** By 2016, the Dong Thap provincial socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans and budgets reflect provincial commitment to promote equitable realisation of child rights

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Due to funding limitations, interventions in Dong Thap province were kept to a minimum, following the MTR of the Country Programme for 2012-2016. Key issues related to children were discussed and agreement was reached to integrate them into the 2015 SEDP and 2016-2020 SEDP.

**OUTPUT 7** By 2016, enhanced capacity for child-sensitive planning, budgeting, monitoring, and oversight of the Ninh Thuan socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF continued to support planning, monitoring and evaluation reforms for the socio-economic development plans with a stronger focus on children issues in Ninh Thuan province. As a result, an improved list of children indicators was disseminated through the annual provincial statistic book, as part of evidence-based policy advocacy and planning. Additionally, technical support was provided for the finalisation and dissemination of a report mapping all programmes/projects on poverty reduction for ethnic minority children. Technical support was provided for validation and finalisation of a training manual on SEDP procedures.

**OUTPUT 8** By 2016, enhanced capacity for child-sensitive planning, budgeting, monitoring, and oversight of the Kon Tum socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
As planned, UNICEF inputs on children’s issues such as nutrition, child protection and education were incorporated in the draft of 2015 Kon Tum SEDP and provincial MDG report. The draft SitAn report was approved by provincial stakeholders with in-depth analysis of institutional capacity gaps. The final report was disseminated to provide evidence for development of the 2016-2020 SEDP and sectoral plans. In collaboration with CSD, implementation of the Citizen Report Card for assessing the quality of health and nutrition services was on track in Kon Tum. The orientation and roadmap for assessing the current SEDP cycle and development of the new SEDP programme 2016-2020 with a focus on children was discussed with provincial authorities.

**OUTPUT 9** By 2016, enhanced capacity for child-sensitive planning, budgeting, monitoring, and oversight of the Dien Bien socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF continued to support planning, monitoring and evaluation reforms for the SEDP, with a stronger focus on children issues in the province. The Citizen Report Card Report on assessment of commune maternal and child health services, the report on mapping of provincial poverty reduction and development programmes, and the child rights-based social audit to assess children’s main issues were addressed in SEDPs, and sectoral plans were completed and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders. Local leaders committed to use the key findings and recommendations of these surveys for policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation.
Importantly, the Provincial People’s Committee promulgated an official decision for institutionalisation of key children indicators, disseminated through provincial an annual statistical book. Key issues related to children were discussed and it was agreed that they would be integrated into 2015 and 2016-2020 SEDPs.

OUTPUT 10 By 2016, enhanced capacity for child-sensitive planning, budgeting, monitoring, and oversight of the Gia Lai socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans

Analytical Statement of Progress:
For promotion of the equity agenda, reports on mapping of all programmes and projects on poverty reduction among ethnic minority children were finalised and will be disseminated in the coming months. Despite some delays, the draft SitAn report was discussed for finalisation. The orientation and roadmap for assessing the current SEDP cycle and development of new SEDP for 2016-2020, with a focus on children, was discussed with provincial authorities. In addition, necessary arrangements were made to commence the Citizen Report Card, focused on assessing the quality of health services in Gia Lai province.

OUTPUT 11 By 2016, enhanced capacity for child-sensitive planning, budgeting, monitoring, and oversight of the Lao Cai socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Provincial procedure for planning, monitoring and evaluation of annual SEDPs was developed and available for review and approval by the provincial People’s Committee. In addition, implementation of the provincial SitAn commenced and the first inception report was completed. Province leaders also indicated commitment to implementing one of the social audit tools – Citizen Report Card – to assess services for the provision of birth certificates for children under five; necessary arrangements were made for implementation of the Citizen Report Card.

OUTPUT 12 The SPG programme is effectively and efficiently managed and implemented, through quality assurance, technical expertise and results monitoring for children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Quality technical assistance for the social policy and governance programme is being effectively and efficiently managed and implemented.

OUTCOME 3 By 2016, a more effective national social protection system provides increased coverage, quality, and equitable access for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014, the Child Protection programme continued to make substantial contributions to building child protection systems in Viet Nam through: (i) strengthening the legal and regulatory framework on child protection, (ii) improving child protection structures and services at national and sub-national levels, and (iii) supporting the establishment of a child-friendly justice system. Policy advocacy efforts contributed to the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the amended Law on People’s Court Organisation, to allow the creation of the first-ever specialised court for children; and the amended Law on Civil Status, legally recognising the right to birth registration and a birth certificate for all children; the on-going amendment of the Law on Protection, Care and Education into the Child’s Law, to strengthen the rights of children, especially their right to protection from neglect, abuse and exploitation; and the approval of national policies and various sub-laws to guide the implementation of the

Child welfare systems were strengthened through development of the social work profession and in-service training for 90 social welfare managers. Ten short-term training programmes on basic social work skills for frontline workers were finalised, providing them with appropriate knowledge and skills to work with vulnerable families and children. Access to social and child protection services for the most vulnerable groups of children were increased through the: establishment of community-based child protection systems in 1,170 communes in 40 of 63 provinces; establishment of two new provincial Social Work Service Centres in Ninh Thuan, Kon Tum and models of services for children with disabilities, child victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, street and working children and children affected by HIV/AIDS. A circular to guide the implementation of the new decree on cash transfer/social assistance for social protection beneficiaries (decree 136) was developed and approved by the Government. The implementation of decree 136 will be effective as of 1st January 2015, expanding the total number of child beneficiaries to around 220,000 and nearly doubling the minimum monthly assistance per child from US$7.5 to US$13.

A national campaign “End violence against children” was launched in June-August 2014 with the participation of MOLISA, concerned government agencies, civil society organisations, media and celebrities. Widespread media coverage across radio, television and newspapers reached millions of people, including children.

Significant progress was made toward strengthening recognition of the legal rights of children. Child-friendly procedures for investigation and prosecution were expanded. At the sub-national level UNICEF continued to support a pilot project on ‘Community-based Support for Children in Conflict with the Law’ in Dong Thap and HCMC.

**OUTPUT 1** Child protection human resource and service structures better able to prevent and respond to child neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2014, with UNICEF’s technical support and advocacy, the Child’s Law was finalised with input and feedback from various Government agencies, the National Assembly and civil society organisations. The draft law includes concrete provisions to address all aspects of the CRC and has four new chapters covering: child protection, child justice, participation and a Children’s Ombudsman. Under the current draft, children are defined as persons under 18. A national “End violence against children” campaign was launched June-August 2014, with participation by MOLISA, concerned government agencies, civil society organisations, media and celebrities. Widespread media coverage across radio, television and newspapers reached millions of people, including children.

The National Programme on Child Protection 2011-2015 was implemented throughout the country with a focus on strengthening community-based child protection systems, improving state management structures on child protection, and capacity building. As reported by the MOLISA, the replication of community-based child protection system took place in 40 of 63 provinces, 186 districts and 1,170 communes. Provincial and district social work service centres were established in 32 provinces. MOLISA developed a plan to evaluate the current National Programme on Child Protection to inform the development of a new national programme for 2016-2020.
MOLISA submitted to the Government its two-year technical/vocational social work training programme to improve the capacity of front line workers to work with vulnerable groups of population. With concrete recommendations from the legal review on social work and the assessment of four-years of implementation of the National Programme on Social Work Development (2010-2020), MOLISA is working with the concerned line-ministries on the development of a strategic plan to achieve the objectives of the National Programme on Social Work Development by 2020. During 2014, training in social work administration was provided to 90 social welfare managers; training on social work practice will also be provided to 50 university teachers and trained social welfare managers in the northern provinces, who will then conduct re-training for front-line workers. Ten short-term training programmes on basic social work skills were finalised.

OUTPUT 2 Special protection measures developed and implemented to provide care, support and protection for the most vulnerable children, including exploited and trafficked children, children without parental care, children affected by HIV/AIDS and children with disabilities

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF supported the training of 40 key Government officers on monitoring of the implementation of the National Plan of Action on Prevention and Combating of Human Trafficking. A workshop to review of 10 years of implementation of the Ordinance on Prostitution was organised, with support from UNICEF and UNFPA. It was proposed that a Law on Prostitution should be developed to include prevention and protection of child victims of sexual exploitation.

Further efforts were made regarding implementation of the Law on Adoption and the Hague Convention for further improvement of the child adoption system in Viet Nam. A Government Decision on an inter-agency coordination mechanism on adoption and a Circular on finding alternative families for children with special needs were both approved by Ministry of Justice, in February and May 2014, respectively. An inter-agency circular on the follow-up and monitoring of children after adoption was drafted. Some 320 key officers in related sectors were trained to provide better care for children without parental care and other vulnerable children. Two training manuals on adoption legislation and child psycho-social care skills were developed, and 1,000 copies were distributed to all Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISAs) and care facilities. Alternative families, through inter-country adoption, were found for 197 children with disabilities and serious illnesses.

An inter-ministerial circular was approved in October 2014 providing detailed instructions on implementation of Decree 136, on social assistance for social protection beneficiaries, including vulnerable children. A software programme was developed to improve information and reporting data on social protection beneficiaries. The Guidelines on Foster Care for children are being finalised.

The National Assembly approved the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 28 November 2014, with UNICEF playing a pivotal role in the ratification process. As part of the implementation of the Convention, a communication framework to reduce stigma and increase social inclusion of adults and children with disabilities is being finalised. Guidelines on case management of children with a disability and guidelines for Respite Day Care model are being developed by MOLISA.
OUTPUT 3 Child-friendly Justice System established in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other key international standards to protect the rights of children in contact with the justice system

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF, in cooperation with UNAIDS and UNODC, supported the development of a Judge’s Bench Book for effective enforcement of the Law on Handling of Administrative Violations, followed by the roll-out of a training programme for judges beginning in December. A joint training programme for law enforcement, justice and welfare officers was also developed to ensure that children are diverted away from detention, pre-tests in Dong Thap province and HCMC were scheduled for December.

The Law on People’s Court Organisation was passed by the National Assembly, creating Viet Nam’s first-ever specialised children’s court. With this new court, children will no longer have to attend adult courts, and their matters will be handled by specialised judges and court officers that apply child- and gender-sensitive procedures and processes. This is the result of over 10 years of work by UNICEF, which intensified over the past two years, involving high-level advocacy, study visits to leading children’s courts, research and study, capacity-building on child-friendly processes and procedures and significant legal reform.

The draft Penal Code and Penal Procedure Code are now available on the Ministry of Justice and Supreme People’s Procuracy websites, respectively, for public comments. The draft laws, informed and influenced by UNICEF’s technical assistance, contain specific provisions to protect the rights of children in contact with the justice system, including diversion, alternatives to detention, child-friendly investigation, prosecution and adjudication.

At the subnational level UNICEF continued to support a pilot project on ‘Community-based Support for Children in Conflict with the Law’ in Dong Thap province and HCMC. Inter-agency protocols on community-based support for children in conflict with the law were developed by the two provinces, based on the model protocol provided by UNICEF, specifying roles and responsibility of different stakeholders and a coordination and cooperation mechanism for provision of support to children.

OUTPUT 4 HCMC - Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF continued its support for strengthening local child protection systems, particularly operation of community-based child protection systems in 20 communes to provide prevention and protection services for neglected, abused and exploited children and other vulnerable children. Some 110 local child protection workers and collaborators were trained on child protection and case management, enabling them to work more effectively with children and their families. As a result, more than 450 children in need of special protection received improved quality protection and support services. The provincial social work service and child protection centre provided interventions and support, particularly psycho-social support, legal aid and referrals to other relevant services for 115 children. Local child protection committees and the social work centre conducted regular review meetings and case conferences to improve inter-sectoral cooperation in service delivery and referrals.
A provincial campaign on violence against children (VAC) was organised with the participation of local authority leaders, line departments, community members and children, who all joined efforts to end violence in their own communities. Special thematic programmes and sessions on fighting VAC were broadcast through radio, television and newspapers, reaching approximately 1 million people. Forty local staff were trained on VAC-related communication, and then conducted community communication sessions to raise awareness of around 1,200 people in the project sites. The HCMC communication work plan on prevention of child abuse and violence was also developed, with inputs from concerned Government agencies, the media and local NGOs. The proposal for strengthening the respite care model was finalised; it includes a work plan with initial activities, including staff training, to be undertaken in the last quarter 2014. As part of the pilot project on ‘Community-based Support for Juveniles in Conflict with the Law’, an inter-agency protocol on community-based support for children in conflict with the law was developed, based on the model protocol provided by UNICEF, specifying roles and responsibility of different stakeholders and a coordination and cooperation mechanism for provision of support to children.

OUTPUT 5 An Giang - Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF continued to support the operation of community-based child protection systems in 15 communes, to provide a prevention and protection response for neglected, abused, exploited and other vulnerable children. Refresher training on child protection and case management was conducted for 75 local child protection officers and commune collaborators, who then provided preventive and protection services for more than 1,050 vulnerable children.

The two social work service and child protection centres at provincial and district levels reached and provided support services for 102 vulnerable children, several of whom were suffering from abuse, violence, neglect or exploitation. In addition, more than 500 children and families in need received counselling and referral services from social workers at these centres.

The campaign on violence against children was organised at the provincial and district levels attracting nearly 6,000 participants, half of whom were young people and children. Six articles in local newspapers and eight television programme were broadcast over the three-month campaign period, providing information for approximately 50,000 people. Prior to the campaign, two trainings were conducted to enhance knowledge and skills on prevention of violence against children for 30 teachers and school managers and 30 core children, who then played a critical role in implementation of the campaign.

With technical support and advocacy from UNICEF, one social work office was established in Tinh Bien district to provide services. Some difficulties were encountered in relation to facilities and personnel, and as a result, alternative care activities for children without adequate parental care and children with disabilities will be integrated into the community-based child protection system, with involvement of related sectors such as health, education and other service providers.

OUTPUT 6 Dong Thap - Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law
Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014 UNICEF supported the operation of community-based child protection systems in 23 communes, to provide prevention and protection response for neglected, abused and exploited children and other vulnerable children. The local child protection human resource structure and service systems were strengthened through regular exchange meetings and field monitoring and supervision. Refresher training on child protection and case management was conducted for 166 local child protection officers and commune collaborators, who then provided prevention and protection services for more than 2,060 vulnerable children. UNICEF supported the operation of three social work service centres, one at the provincial level and two at the district level. These centres provided support services for 286 children in need of special protection, including child victims of abuse and violence, child labour and children with disabilities.

The VAC campaign was organised at both provincial and district levels, attracting more than 12,000 participants, of whom a large proportion were young people and children. During the campaign over 260 articles, news and TV spots were broadcast in provincial newspapers, television and radio, as well as local loudspeaker systems, in districts and communes. A total of 432 community communication sessions were also conducted at 144 communes, providing useful preventive information for around 17,000 people. Prior to the campaign, two trainings were conducted to enhance knowledge and skills on prevention of violence against children for 30 mass organisation officers and 30 core children, who then played critical roles in implementation of the campaign.

Some difficulties were encountered in relation to facilities and personnel, and as a result, alternative care activities for children without adequate parental care and children with disabilities will be integrated into the community-based child protection system, with involvement of related sectors such as health, education and other service providers.

As part of the pilot project on ‘Community-based Support for Juveniles in Conflict with the Law’, an inter-agency protocol on community-based support for children in conflict with the law was developed, based on the model protocol provided by UNICEF, explicitly specifying roles and responsibility of different stakeholders, coordination and cooperation mechanism for provision of support to this group of children.

OUTPUT 7 Ninh Thuan - Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF continued to provide technical support to enhance local child protection systems through training, field monitoring and supervision, and review and planning meeting with the involvement of local authorities, line departments and the network of community collaborators. Community-based child protection systems were strengthened in 10 communes, providing prevention and protection services for 870 vulnerable children and their families. The provincial social work service centre was established, including a respite care function for children without parental care, children with disabilities and other vulnerable children. Activities, including training of social workers and collaborators and service provision, began in the last quarter of 2014.

With regard to capacity building, 42 heads of commune child protection committees and case managers, and 65 community collaborators were trained and received coaching on case
management that helped to enhance their capacity to use this technique to provide more holistic assessments and intervention plans for the children in need of support and protection.

Approximately 30 children and 40 education officials and teachers were trained on communication skills for the prevention of child abuse and violence, and then actively engaged in a provincial campaign to end VAC as part of the national campaign supported by UNICEF. Various communication activities through many channels were conducted from June to August 2014, reaching around 10,000 people. Some 180 banners and four sets of billboards with key messages in both Vietnamese and Cham (ethnic minority) languages were placed in public areas and in the project communes. Seventeen articles in local newspapers and eight short documentary films were broadcast on the provincial television and 5,000 leaflets were distributed in communities.

OUTPUT 8 Kon Tum - Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014, the community-based child protection system (CBCPS) was expanded to four new communes, bringing the total number to 14 communes operating this system. The CBCPS provided support to a further 4,000 vulnerable children, of whom 638 received case management and were referred to necessary services. Capacities of 106 collaborators, welfare and child protection officers from 14 project communes, 15 communes of Kon Tum City, and the Social Work Centre were improved in the areas of social work and counselling for children in special circumstances, which led to overall enhancement of social work services for children.

Approximately 25 children with disabilities received daily respite day care service at the Kon Tum Social Protection Centre. The Kon Tum City Social Work Centre provided case management and emergency support to 20 vulnerable children and their families in Kon Tum City. A child-friendly interview room was established at the police station and in operation for interviewing child victims/witnesses of crime and alleged offenders. Seven child victims, witnesses and alleged offenders benefited from the service.

OUTPUT 9 Dien Bien - Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Due to resource limitations, the establishment of a provincial social work service centre was not approved by the local authority. UNICEF will continue its advocacy efforts for development of social work profession in general and establishment of a social work service centre in Dien Bien.

The community-based child protection systems were expanded to three new communes, increasing the number of communes with community-based child protection system to seven. In these communes, case management was implemented to increase the access of children in special circumstances to relevant social services, including birth registration, social assistance, health care, education and legal assistance. More than 200 children in these communes were assessed and referred to relevant services each year, through case management. Child Protection Committees at commune and district levels have been playing an important role in coordinating human resource and services delivery to children. They have also made great efforts to monitor and evaluate implementation of the child protection programme at the local
The child-friendly interview room was in operation to support juveniles in conflict with the law and child victims or witness of crime. About 40 police officers at the provincial and district levels received further training on skills of child-friendly investigation in 2014.

**OUTPUT 10** Gia Lai - Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Community-based child protection systems are operating in four communes. Six new communes recently established child protection systems, bringing the total to 10 communes with local child protection systems in place, with support from UNICEF in Gia Lai province. Twelve new child protection workers and 57 child protection collaborators were recruited and trained on child protection, social work and case management to identify, assess, and refer child abuse cases to relevant services.

A campaign on violence against children was organised as part of the National Campaign to End Violence against Children. Five radio and television programmes were broadcast, and nine articles on making VAC visible and preventing of and responding to VAC were published in local newspapers, with 72,000 copies distributed. A VAC communication contest was organised, with participation of 8,000 children.

The plan for establishing a social work service centre for children was finalised and submitted to People’s Committee for approval by end-December 2014, to provide services to vulnerable children and families.

The target for development of a foster care model for children with disability will be discontinued as result of the MTR process.

**OUTPUT 11** Lao Cai - Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Community-based child protection systems were expanded to three new communes, increasing the number of communes with community-based child protection systems to eight. In these communes, case management was implemented to increase access for children in special circumstances to relevant social services, including birth registration, social assistance, health care, education and legal assistance. More than 200 children in these communes were assessed and referred to these services each year through case management. The expansion increased the number to four communes that offer specialised services for child victims of trafficking.

The provincial social work service centre was approved and is operational, increasing child protection service delivery, including social-psychological support, care and support for victims of trafficking, emergency support and residential support for orphans.
The child-friendly interview room has been in operation to support juveniles in conflict with the law and child victims and witness of crime. UNICEF phased out its support for the model from June 2014, handing it over to the Department of Public Security.

OUTPUT 12 Technical Assistance for CP is effectively and efficiently managed and implemented, through quality assurance, technical expertise and results monitoring for children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Quality technical assistance for the child protection programme is being effectively and efficiently managed and implemented.

OUTCOME 4 By 2016, increased quality and effective management of a comprehensive national health system, including health promotion and health protection, with a focus on ensuring more equitable access for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014, with support from the UN JPGs in Health HIV and WASH, the Government has worked on various policies, strategies and plans and developed approaches for strengthening the health system. As a key member of the JGGs, UNICEF actively participated in all consultation meetings and workshops and provided financial support and technical advice for development and finalisation of key healthcare policies, such as the Revised Health Insurance Law, the National Pharmaceutical Strategy, and the Prime Minister’s Resolution on MDG Acceleration on maternal and child health, nutrition, and water and hygienic sanitation. The Government’s approval of these documents creates an enabling environment for further planning and implementation of action plans that contribute to improving equitable access to healthcare services.

With UNICEF’s support, a number of advocacy events, policy dialogues and consultation meetings and workshops were conducted with the National Assembly, the Communist Party, Ministry of Health and other relevant stakeholders to develop laws, policies and programmes aligned with international standards, guidelines and best practices. These include the National Guideline on Skilled Birth Attendance competencies, National Guidelines for Intensive Care in Emergency Obstetric Care, a national communication action plan for immunisation and operation guideline for implementation of a national wide Measles and Rubella campaign, national guidelines on Early Essential New-born Care, Kangaroo Mother Care, core requirements to ensure quality of midwifery training, a circular on classification of contraceptives and a new Government Decree 100/2014 on marketing of breast milk substitutes for young children.

Hospital quality assessment criteria embraced standards on nutrition and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI). The BFHI was considered to be an innovative success story beyond Viet Nam. UNICEF supported its implementation with the aim of identifying good practices and drawing important lessons that can be used globally.

UNICEF and UN teams supported capacity building for healthcare providers and managers in selected provinces through TOT training, monitoring and technical backstopping on maternal-child health care, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), child nutrition and water quality, hygiene and sanitation.

2014 witnessed the commitment by the Government of Viet Nam to eliminate open defecation by 2025 and to ensure safe drinking water for all by 2030 at the Sanitation and Water for All
(SWA) partnership forum. UNICEF’s advocacy and strategic partnership with the World Bank is expected to leverage significant resources to support Viet Nam in its efforts to scale up sanitation in 19 low-performing provinces. Technical assistance from UNICEF has demonstrated the use of open defecation-free verification and certification process in selected provinces. The guideline is undergoing improvement based on the lessons learnt, prior to its nation application, which aside from improving health will reduce environmental pollution and contribute to sustainable development.

UNICEF also worked actively with other development partners to support the Health Partnership Group (HPG) by providing direct support to three technical working groups. The HPG is a forum for strengthening partnership and coordination for more effective use of international aid to Viet Nam’s health sector.

OUTPUT 1 By 2016, identified beneficiaries are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable, quality and integrated basic MNCH services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
With UNICEF’s support, the health insurance department has worked with different departments of the Ministry of Health to finalise a benefit package for Maternal, New-born and Child Health (MNCH) services; and the Maternal and Child Health Department has finalised national guidelines to implement Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), supporting preterm and low birth-weight new-borns, a national guideline to implement four essential new-born care practices (active management of the third stage of labour, delay cord clamping, immediate skin-to-skin contact, and early initiation of breastfeeding), and a Directive to strengthen maternal and child healthcare. The KMC and new-born care guidelines were approved by the MOH, while the Directive was submitted and awaits approval. With UNICEF’s contribution, national Measles and Rubella strategies, operational guidelines and action plans for implementation of a nation-wide MR campaign benefiting 23 million children aged 1-14 were developed and implemented. In addition, UNICEF provided support to finalise MR vaccine registration and licencing to ensure sufficient and timely supply of MR vaccine and devices for the campaign. The national MR campaign is in its second phase of implementation, and had reached 13 million children aged 1-18 by year’s end. The campaign will be finished on February 2015. A national C4D plan to restore trust in childhood immunisation, including routine and new vaccine introduction, was approved by the MOH in October 2014. Following which, communication interventions targeting hard-to-reach communities and migrant parents in and around Ho Chi Minh City were implemented to further support the national MR campaign. An application to GAVI for support of the introduction of Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) was developed and approved by the Minister of Health and GAVI for implementation in 2015.

The Government of Viet Nam committed to eliminate open defecation by 2025 and to ensure safe drinking water for all by 2030 at the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership forum. Three of 63 provinces piloted application of open defecation-free (ODF) verification and certification processes to come up with suggestions for improving the guideline prior to nationwide application. The WASH bottleneck analysis tool was used to carry out analysis of the rural water supply and sanitation sub-sectors, to identify factors hindering sector development, including proposed activities into the work plans of line Ministries. UNICEF’s advocacy and strategic partnership with the World Bank is expected to leverage significant resources to support Viet Nam in its efforts to scale-up sanitation in 19 low-performing provinces.
Technical assistance was provided to MOH counterparts for the establishment of a multi-sectoral C4D working group and development of an integrated C4D framework for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH). The formative research on neo-natal care practices, care seeking and treatment of pneumonia and diarrhoea, hand-washing and water treatment and storage practices in Viet Nam is being carried out. The findings will strengthen evidence-driven hygiene promotion efforts to support prevention and treatment of pneumonia and diarrhoea, as well contributing to the development of a sector C4D framework.

OUTPUT 2 By 2016, identified beneficiaries benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable, quality, and integrated nutrition services

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The BFHI and provision of clinical nutrition services became standard for all public and private health facilities with the MOH’s ‘Decision on Hospital Quality Criteria’. The Medical Service Administration was supported to carry out an assessment of application of the criteria by maternity and paediatric hospitals. The assessment was available to support planning for capacity support and for the revision of criteria on nutrition and breast-feeding.

A new Government Decree (100/2014/NDCP) on the ‘Marketing and Use of Nutrition Products for Young Children’ was approved on 6th December 2014. Decree 100, replacing decree 21. This was a critical milestone for Viet Nam to ensure that children have access to the best possible nutrition in their first two years of life. Three dissemination meetings on the new decrees for relevant stakeholders were conducted.

The extension of maternity leave to six months was also implemented with the promulgation of the Labour Code amendment. With UNICEF’s support, the legislation department of MOLISA and Viet Nam’s General Confederation of Labour are developing guidance for implementing the chapter to promote the rights of female workers in the Labour Code. This includes equal employment rights of female workers; working regime of female workers; plans and measures for establishing day care centres and kindergartens in enterprises; responsibility of employers in supporting the establishment of day care centres and kindergartens or partial support of child care cost and job security for female employees on maternity leave. The second draft of the decree is available.

Scientific evidence and advocacy tools were available and used for advocacy with policy-makers and National Assembly members for the inclusion of nutrition examination, counselling and therapeutic products for IMAM in the health insurance law. Support for such inclusion was obtained from a majority of policy-makers and National Assembly members, but not amongst UN agencies. The expected result has not yet been obtained. Further advocacy work is required.

To improve infant feeding practices, under the Joint UNICEF/WHO/A&T Exclusive Breastfeeding communication programme, UNICEF invested in implementing and documenting two community models in the Mekong River Delta and Northern mountainous area, which the Government will scale-up.

OUTPUT 3 By 2016, identified beneficiaries benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and hygienic sanitation
**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
An enabling environment for scaling-up Community Approaches to Total Sanitation was successfully accomplished with trained human resources across seven focus provinces. A training manual on CATS was developed to use for training staff/facilitators in 30 provinces for the implementation of community mobilisation approaches. The guideline for Open Defecation-Free (ODF) verification/certification was piloted in three provinces.

Viet Nam became an official member of the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Partnership, with a commitment to eliminate open defecation by 2025 and achieve safe drinking water for all by 2030.

UNICEF supported WASH Bottleneck Analysis for rural water supply and sanitation sub-sectors, to define activities and estimate corresponding investment costs. The activities defined aimed at creating an enabling environment for sector development.

At the subnational level, five of six WASH Disaster Risk Management/Climate Change Adaptation plans were approved by the provincial People’s Committees. Approximately 1,000 and 700 local people were trained in household water treatment and storage (HWTS) and CATS/Sanitation Marketing, respectively. This has benefited a cumulative 9,000 households that built and used latrines, 93 villages with self-declared ODF status of which 50 have been certified and provided with certification of ODF. Knowledge levels of 340,000 people about drinking water safety were enhanced. For hygiene promotion UNICEF and partners, including Goodwill Ambassadors and a large network of Women’s Union staff and volunteers, actively promoted hand-washing with soap and use of latrines. UNICEF provided technical and financial resources to improve HWTS communication, targeting ethnic minority groups. In particular, 17 high-risk provinces for HWTS developed C4D action plans focussing on drinking water safety and hygiene behaviours. More than 11,000 children and 1,000 women participated in Global Hand-Washing Day activities in 2014. The provincial network of Women’s Union in 63 provinces committed to integrate hand-washing with soap into their regular communication plans.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2016, identified beneficiaries benefit equitably from increased access to PMTCT services and paediatric treatment of HIV

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
With UNICEF support, a capacity assessment of health staff working on PMTCT in the MCH system was conducted. A workshop was organised to disseminate the assessment results and discuss practical actions to integrate PMTCT into the reproductive healthcare system. A follow-up discussion with the Maternal and Child Health Department was held to reach agreement on development of an operational guideline for integrating PMTCT. At year’s end, a national guideline on implementation of PMTCT in the reproductive healthcare system was being developed for further review and approval by Ministry of Health.

**OUTPUT 5** By 2016, identified beneficiaries in HCMC are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic CSD (nutrition, WASH & MNCH) services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Late approval of the 2014 annual work plan for HCMC and funding constraints delayed planned child survival and development package implementation.

A cross-sectoral Child Survival and Development communication for development (C4D) plan
was developed with the Centre for Health Education (CHE), assigned as the coordinator to ensure cost-effective, quality and measurable outputs of the plan. Major C4D issues identified to inform effective interventions were in the areas of exclusive breast feeding, social health insurance, hygiene practices and MNCH practices.

A Measles and Rubella campaign was organised with a shoe manufacturing company in Ho Chi Minh city as an entry-point for introduction of the ZEROworkplace, and also helped to increase awareness of workers on the MR campaign. Through ZEROworkplace’s platform, messages of other key issues related to neo-natal care, exclusive breastfeeding, and hand-washing with soap, education and child protection will be provided to workers.

Following the TOT, 11 hospitals carried out training on compliance with the Protocol on breastfeeding practices for 565 health staff.

A check-list for monitoring compliance with the Protocol on breastfeeding practices was developed, and training for monitors was conducted.

OUTPUT 6  By 2016, identified beneficiaries in An Giang province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic CSD (nutrition, WASH & MNCH) services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Provincial Plan of Action 2013-2016 on Integrated MNCH and Nutrition was developed. As part of the plan, iron folic supplementation for reduction of anaemia among women of reproductive age was maintained in 18 communes of Phu Tan district, using the Public/Private Partnership (PPP) approach. The first year implementation review of social marketing was conducted, with participation by local health sectors and related private companies to identify good practices and lessons learnt for scaling-up the approach to the whole province.

Communication interventions were strengthened through provincial mass media and interpersonal communication activities on exclusive breastfeeding. In addition, advocacy to expand the community-based model, supporting exclusive breastfeeding, to cover the whole province was carried out.

To promote sanitation, triggering sessions were carried out by 60 facilitators with support from UNICEF. One thousand new hygienic latrines were built and are in use. Ten communes with a total of 45,000 people have stopped open defecation.

Promotional sessions, with focus on hand-washing and household water treatment, were carried out in An Phu and Tinh Bien districts.

Activities of the three-year plan on promotion of positive behaviours among Khmer communities on neo-natal care, exclusive breastfeeding, hand-washing and water treatment and storage behaviours were carried out at women’s clubs and communication corners at health centres. In total, 70 per cent of the Khmer families were reached. Communication via loudspeakers, radio and TV was also supported to reach caregivers with children under five years of age, local authorities and decision-makers.

OUTPUT 7 By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Dong Thap province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic CSD (nutrition, WASH & MNCH) services
Analytical Statement of Progress:
The provincial plan of action 2013-2016 on integrated MNCH and nutrition was developed. Under that plan, iron folate supplementation for reduction of anaemia among women of reproductive age was maintained in 73 communes of five districts, using the PPP approach. A first-year review on the use of social marketing was conducted for the local health sector, and the expansion of the approach is now planned for entire province. BFHI practices were maintained in Dong Thap and Sa Dec hospitals.

Community-led total sanitation triggering sessions were continued, leading to an additional 1,080 new hygienic latrines built. Promotional sessions, with a focus on hand-washing and household water treatment, were carried out in Tan Hong and Hong Ngu districts. Open Defecation-Free (ODF) verification and certification processes are ongoing in two communes of Tan Hong district.

Technical support was provided to provincial counterparts to implement mass media and interpersonal communication activities, focusing on exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding. The support included mass media activities conducted via provincial communication channels such as TV, radio and newspapers, district radio broadcast and broadcast through commune loudspeaker systems, as well as interpersonal communication activities in project communes.

OUTPUT 8 By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Ninh Thuan province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic CSD (nutrition, WASH & MNCH) services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Provincial Plan of Action 2013-2016 on Integrated Nutrition and Maternal and Child Health was prepared with a focus on new services of Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM). IMAM interventions are being implemented in nine communes of Bac Ai districts. Routine maternal and child health data has been collected and used to define appropriate interventions. A consolidated data analysis was finalised with support from Ha Noi School of Public Health. The data analysis will be used for development of annual provincial health plan focusing on health equity.

Community-led Total Sanitation triggering sessions resulted in an additional 780 new hygienic latrines built. Three villages with 1,800 people have declared themselves open defecation-free. Promotional sessions and community mobilisation efforts, with a focus on hand-washing and household water treatment, were taken up within in Thuan Bac and Bac Ai districts. The rural water supply and sanitation monitoring system was updated with the latest data to support provincial action planning.

UNICEF supported the Centre of Health Education and Provincial Centre of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation of Ninh Thuan to develop a communication action plan focusing on interventions to prevent diarrhoea and pneumonia. Interpersonal communication activities were conducted via “No Malnourished Child” clubs to raise awareness, share knowledge, and promote behaviour change on MNCH, early breast feeding, nutrition and WASH among Raglay groups. This platform of communication will be expanded in 2015 and 2016 in collaboration with the provincial Women’s Union.
OUTPUT 9  By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Kon Tum province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic CSD (nutrition, WASH & MNCH) services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Provincial Plan of Action 2013-2016 on integrated Nutrition and Maternal and Child Health was prepared, with a focus on IMAM services; interventions are being implemented in Dac Ha; Tu-Mo-Rong and Dak Ley districts. In addition, key communal health workers from all other non-IMAM districts were trained on early detection of severe acute malnutrition and feeding care practices provided under the Government programme.

Routine maternal and child health data was collected and used for planning interventions in maternal and child health care. A consolidated data analysis was finalised with support from Ha Noi School of Public Health, to be used for development of the annual provincial health plan focusing on health equity.

Provincial and district health staff are capable of integrating key new-born care interventions such as Kangaroo Mother Care into standard procedures, as exemplified by the integration of KMC at provincial hospital. The provincial hospital is now implementing KMC to support premature and underweight new-borns. Training in immunisation, nutrition, water and hygienic sanitation was conducted for provincial, district and commune health staff. In addition, a survey on client satisfaction with healthcare services was conducted and will contribute to the introduction and implementation of the Citizen Report Card. A report on the Citizen Report Card was finalised and the results were disseminated in the last quarter of 2014.

Community-led Total Sanitation triggering sessions were held in three communes in Dak Ha District, supporting 143 households to build and use latrines. Twenty villages with 5,000 people in Tu Mo Rong District have become open defecation-free. Promotional sessions and community mobilisation efforts, focused on hand-washing and HWTS continued in all communes of Tu Mo Rong District. The rural water supply and sanitation monitoring system was updated to support provincial action planning.

UNICEF supported the Centre of Health Education and line departments (DOET, DOH, DOLISA and Youth Union and Women’s Union to develop and disseminate a cross-sectoral CSD C4D plan, focussing on social mobilisation and behaviour change, to be implemented during 2014-2015. To ensure equity approaches for ethnic minorities (Xe Dang, Ba Na etc.) in Kon Tum, UNICEF collaborated with UNFPA to conduct local advocacy with community leaders and religious leaders and interpersonal communication through development of “No Malnourished Child” clubs to raise awareness, share knowledge and promote behaviour change on MNCH, EBF, Nutrition and WASH among ethnic minority groups. This platform of communication will be expanded in 2015 and 2016, in collaboration with the provincial Women’s Union.

OUTPUT 10  By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Dien Bien province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic CSD (nutrition, WASH & MNCH) services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Provincial Plan of Action 2013-2016 was developed on integrated Nutrition and Maternal and Child Health, with a focus on IMAM; interventions were implemented in seven communes of Muong Cha and both hospitals of Dien Bien and Muong Cha districts.
Routine maternal and child health data was collected and used for analyses on coverage and disparities in maternal and child health care interventions. A consolidated data analysis was finalised with support from Ha Noi School of Public Health. The data analysis will be used for the development of an annual provincial health plan focusing on health equity. A provincial planning workshop provided health care staff with improved knowledge and skills in equity-based planning.

In partnership with World Vision, in Dien Bien UNICEF supported capacity building and placement of midwives in hard-to-reach ethnic minority villages. Two training courses were completed for 39 ethnic minority midwives and one training session for 19 ethnic minority midwives was ongoing. Provincial and district health staff were trained on key new-born care interventions including KMC, which is initially being conducted at the provincial hospital. Training in immunisation, nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation was conducted for health staff.

A survey on client satisfaction with healthcare services was completed and the results were disseminated. This will contribute to introduction and implementation of the Citizen Report Card in Dien Bien province.

CLTS triggering sessions reached 1,390 households that built and used hygienic latrines. Twenty villages with 3,600 people have become open defecation-free. A study on implementation of CLTS in H’Mong ethnic minority groups was conducted, resulting in recommendations to focus more on cultural and language aspects of this ethnic group. Promotional sessions and community mobilisation efforts on hand-washing, household water treatment and storage were conducted in two districts. The rural water supply and sanitation monitoring system was updated to support provincial action planning.

UNICEF supported the Centre of Health Education and line departments (DOET, DOH, DOLISA and Youth Union and Women’s Union to develop and disseminate a cross-sectoral C4D plan focusing on social mobilisation and behaviour change in relation to MNCH, EBF, Nutrition and WASH among ethnic minorities, to be implemented during 2014-2015. To ensure equity approaches for ethnic minority groups (H’Mong, Thai, Dao etc.) in Dien Bien, interpersonal communication, via development of “No Malnourished Child” clubs was initiated in Dien Bien by the end of 2014. This communication platform will be reviewed and expanded in 2015-2016, with collaboration from the Women’s Union and other mass organisations.

OUTPUT 11 By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Gia Lai province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic CSD (nutrition, WASH & MNCH) services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Training courses on tetanus vaccination at birth, CATS and HWTS were conducted for 600 commune volunteers in all 28 communes of Krong-pa and K’Bang districts (CATS) in five communes of K’Bang district (HWTS) and in three communes of K’Bang district, along with C4D activities in five communes of Krong-pa district. Promotional sessions and community mobilisation exercises, with a focus on hand-washing and HWTS, were undertaken within 11 communes and two schools in K’Bang. HWTS implementation is now closely supported and monitored by the Provincial Centre of Water Supply in the three most-needy communes. Sanitation promotion through CATS resulted in 869 newly built household latrines.
The provincial Rural Water Supply and Sanitation monitoring system was updated with the latest data analysis, to support provincial action planning. Data collection and analysis on MNCH was also carried out for eight communes in four focus districts of Krong-pa, K'Bang, Mang Yang and Kongchro.

A cross-sectoral C4D plan was developed with inputs from all relevant centres in the Department of Health. Major C4D issues were identified through a study to inform effective interventions in the areas of exclusive breast feeding, water storage, nutrition, and MNCH practices.

**OUTPUT 12** By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Lao Cai province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic CSD (nutrition, WASH & MNCH) services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Provincial Plan of Action 2013-2016 on integrated Nutrition and Maternal and Child Health was implemented, with a focus on new IMAM services; interventions were carried out in eight communes of Bac Ha district, and in both hospitals of Bac Ha and Lao Cai.

Routine maternal and child health data was analysed to define appropriate health care interventions. A consolidated data analysis was finalised, with support from Ha Noi School of Public Health. The analysis will be used for development of the annual provincial health plan, focusing on health equity.

A provincial planning workshop was held with health care staff, resulting in improved knowledge and skills in planning and increased capacity to identify districts and communes with low intervention coverage.

A baseline assessment and planning workshop for the development of community based promotion of Infant and Young Child Feeding practices was completed, with participation and support from the National Child Nutrition programme, the Health Education Centre and C4D UNICEF.

Community-led total sanitation triggering sessions in three communes of three districts resulted in motivating an additional 56 households to build and use hygienic latrines. Community mobilisation around hand-washing and HWTS was also carried out in four communes of two districts. The rural water supply and sanitation monitoring system was updated with the latest data collected and analysis to support provincial action planning.

UNICEF invested in implementing the community-based model on exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding for ethnic minority groups, which the Government will scale-up.

**OUTPUT 13** Technical assistance for CSD programme is effectively and efficiently managed and implemented, through quality assurance, technical expertise and results monitoring for children.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Quality technical assistance for CSD has been ensured through regular meetings with counterparts for planning and implementation, and monitoring and supervision. Technical expertise from relevant HQ and RO programmes has been utilised for advocacy and implementation of CSD activities.
OUTCOME 5  By 2016, increased quality and effective management of education and training systems, and increased access to pre-primary, primary and non-formal education, particularly for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014 significant results were achieved in policy and system development for inclusive education for the most disadvantaged children in Viet Nam.

New knowledge was generated, with rigorous attention to the disparities faced by ethnic minority children, migrant children and children with disabilities who remain out of school, as well as the major barriers concerning the system and its readiness to include children with disabilities. This evidence triggered significant momentum for policy dialogue and informed a strengthened equity focus in education sector planning to reduce barriers and accelerate school access. At the same time, further evidence of the correlation between the removal of language barriers and improved learning outcomes has substantiated advocacy for Mother Tongue-based Bilingual Education.

Early learning and development has gained an elevated policy focus in Viet Nam, especially through UNICEF’s advocacy and networking to address gaps in quality and equity in early childhood education for disadvantaged children under three.

The UNICEF-supported Inter-Ministerial Circular on inclusive education for children with disabilities has translated into more systematic child tracking, speedy certification of their disabilities and more positive parental attitudes, all contributing to enhance the mainstreaming of children with disabilities in schools.

Strategic partnerships were strengthened, for example with the Ministry of Planning and Investment and Ministry of Finance, to leverage support for the education sector. The South-South cooperation through a recent high-level visit by the Timor Leste Ministry of Education, facilitated by UNICEF, promoted experience exchange and served as a strong incentive for Viet Nam to improve standards in education to remain exemplary to peer countries.

Institutional capacity has increased for coordinated sector response to emergencies, disaster risk reduction and climate change education, especially with the endorsed curriculum framework specifying key learning competencies guiding the scope and sequencing of DRR and Climate Change contents across the formal education system.

OUTPUT 1  By 2016, disadvantaged children benefit from an education system that provides quality and relevant inclusive education

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During 2014, MTBBE continued to yield important results for policy advocacy. The 1st cohort group of 247 Grade 5 students (132 girls) from the Mong, Jrai and Khmer ethnic minority groups involved in the Action Research on MTTBE (a reflective process that helps address learning issues) have successfully completed their primary schooling and transited to the 6th Grade, in lower secondary. Annual assessments showed that MTBBE children demonstrated better learning outcomes compared to non-MTBBE children. With strong ownership from the Government and participation by stakeholders at all levels, the on-going evaluation is generating evidence to inform the national policy on the use of mother-tongue in school as well as potential replication and expansion of the approach. A concept note on language policy,
developed by Council of the National Assembly in close consultation with like-minded partners, was a major advocacy paper likely to influence language policy in education in Viet Nam.

Robust evidence was generated around inclusive education for children with disabilities, with new knowledge on school and community readiness and recommendations for policy advocacy and child rights-based planning.

With UNICEF support, 195 officials now have improved capacity in the area of inclusive education. Of these, 150 have improved understanding of Early Childhood Care and Education through their engagement in the ECE Policy Forum, particularly on gaps in policies, quality and equity in early childhood education for children under three. Forty-five officials have enhanced knowledge and skills for improving the quality of education for children with disabilities and removing barriers that hinder full development of these children.

Finally, the Ministry of Education and Training, with UNICEF support, issued a circular for assessment of primary student’s learning outcomes on the basis of competencies. The application of the circular has gradually transformed the teaching/learning process, reducing pressure for academic marks and leaning instead towards promoting and recognising students’ incremental progress towards core competencies.

OUTPUT 2 By 2016, education managers undertake child-focused national education planning, monitoring and evaluation, and provide response to emergencies and climate change

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During 2014, significant results were achieved in strengthening the education system to address equity for disadvantaged children.

MOET further strengthened the national guidelines for education sector planning for 2015 and 2016-2020, particularly with an M&E framework, and improved consultation with key stakeholders, including children. As a result the quality of the plans has improved with more equity-focused targets and interventions to ensure inclusive education for disadvantaged children.

With UNICEF’s support, Viet Nam’s OOSC study generated rich evidence of disparities in education, with disaggregated analysis concerning ethnic minority children, children with disabilities and migrant children. The findings helped to further political commitment towards policies and targeted interventions to remove barriers faced by out-of-school children.

Situation monitoring of inclusive education of disadvantaged groups of children was strengthened, improving the quality of the 2013-2014 Education Statistical Yearbook, particularly in relation to the availability of disaggregated data and age-group population.

With UNICEF support, the education system has increased its institutional capacity for coordinated response to emergencies and DRR and climate change education, evidenced through (i) enhanced coordination and leveraging partnerships through the Coordination Mechanism/Education Cluster; (ii) curriculum framework approved by the MOET, which identified key competencies around DRR and climate change and resilience-building for integration in curriculum subjects and extra-curricular activities; (iii) emergency assessment tools finalised for incorporation into an emergency information management system; (iv) Provincial Action Plan on DRR and climate change in education developed and 320 education managers trained with enhanced capacity to guide the implementation of these plans, with a
focus on comprehensive school safety. At the same time, the Government has started to integrate DRR and climate change into formal education sector planning, creating an opportunity for disaster and climate change issues to be sustainably addressed through the Government’s formal planning and budgeting process.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2016, disadvantaged children in HCMC benefit from relevant and quality preschool and basic education supported by the provincial Education Sector Plan

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2014 UNICEF’s support significantly elevated the equity agenda in Ho Chi Minh City’s education system.

Some 250 education managers were trained on inclusive education for children with autism and intellectual delays and on early learning and development standards. Regular programme monitoring showed improved teaching and learning processes, which better responded to the specific needs of these children.

UNICEF’s support has strengthened the provision of services by the HCMC’s Inclusive Education Resource Centre for Persons with Disabilities, particularly the synergy between its services and schools. Following an expert diagnosis of children’s learning difficulties in Cu Chi and Binh Chanh districts, training was provided for teachers in adjusting teaching methodology and developing flexible and tailored learning strategies. As a result, 500 children received more targeted support during the 2013-2014 school year and class-room monitoring showed significant improvement in their learning achievements.

HCMC’s Action Plan on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change in education was approved and is being implemented. The process galvanised strong commitment to institutionalise this agenda in education sector planning to leverage resources for disaster risk management and climate change education.

A communication event was conducted with active participation by children affected by HIV/AIDS in the city. Awareness of education managers, teachers and local authorities on the right to education was enhanced, which in turn contributed to the reduction of stigma and discrimination against these children.

With increased evidence and analysis of stark disparities in access to education, especially for migrant children, through the HCMC’s report on Out-of-School Children, the Department of Education and Training (DOET) identified key issues facing disadvantaged groups for inclusion in the City’s 2015 and 2016-2020 education sector plan. The DOET also strengthened situation monitoring through improved guidance for disaggregated routine data collection and management.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2016, disadvantaged children in An Giang province benefit from relevant and quality preschool and basic education supported by the provincial Education Sector Plan

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2014, UNICEF’s support has significantly elevated the equity agenda in education in An Giang Province.
With UNICEF support, 160 education managers in An Giang enhanced their capacity to ensure quality inclusive education. Of these, 44 were trained on early learning standards while 116 representatives of local authorities, leaders and education staff and managers at the provincial and district levels were trained on MTBBE. The baseline survey was conducted in Tinh Bien and Tri Ton districts, and Khmer literacy training was provided to selected pre-primary and primary education managers and teachers. Further advocacy on MTBBE is required to ensure commitment and mobilise resources for MTBBE application in the province to improve quality education for Khmer children in Tinh Bien and Tri Ton districts.

With the availability of increased evidence and analysis of stark disparities in access to education, especially among poor rural Khmer children, children with disabilities and children affected by natural disasters, as reflected in An Giang’s provincial report on out-of-school children, the DOET was able to identify key issues facing disadvantaged groups of children for inclusion in provincial sector education plans for 2015. The stronger engagement with other stakeholders generated increased consensus and political buy-in for the equity agenda in An Giang, allowing it to target investments to key issues, such as addressing high drop-out rates. At the same time, the DOET has become more committed to strengthening monitoring through improved guidance for disaggregated routine data collection and management. This exercise has furthered the evidence base for education management and advocacy to improve equity in access to quality education for disadvantaged children.

OUTPUT 5 By 2016, disadvantaged children in Dong Thap province benefit from relevant and quality preschool and basic education supported by the provincial Education Sector Plan

Analytical Statement of Progress:

With UNICEF support, 148 provincial and district education managers gained enhanced capacity to apply emergency and education needs assessment tools for strengthening the provincial education response to emergencies and disasters. In addition, they gained understanding of key approaches to DRR and climate change education, and have applied them in the implementation of the selected aspects of the Provincial Action Plan.

The availability of increased evidence of stark disparities in access to education, especially among poor rural children living in border areas, children with disabilities and migrant children, as reflected in Dong Thap’s provincial report on out-of-school children, allowed the DOET to identify key issues facing disadvantaged groups of children, for inclusion in the provincial 2015 education plan. The DOET has also developed objectives and indicators and targeted management and policy interventions with an increased focus on disadvantaged children.

At the same time, DOET completed the review of current statistical data management practices and identified key areas for improvement. The exercise has furthered the institutional capacity of provincial and district DOETs for monitoring the situation of inclusive education for disadvantaged and out-of-school children and provided a stronger evidence base for education management and advocacy, to improve equity in access to quality education for these children.

The Dong Thap DOET also completed a documentary with key messages related to the right to education for disadvantaged and out-of-school children, which was widely disseminated to schools and communities in the province. Monitoring and community interviews suggest that the documentary has helped to raise awareness related to key barriers concerning the provision of
education, such as schools and teachers, but also barriers related to the family, such as parental support and commitment to sending children to school.

**OUTPUT 6** By 2016, disadvantaged children in Ninh Thuan province benefit from relevant and quality preschool and basic education supported by the provincial Education Sector Plan

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
During 2014 UNICEF support significantly elevated the equity agenda in education in Ninh Thuan Province

With UNICEF support, 124 provincial and district education managers and teachers gained enhanced capacity on inclusive education. Of these, 38 were trained on multi-age preschool classes teaching; 56 were trained on life skills education for ethnic minority children in semi-boarding schools, as well as HIV prevention and vocational orientation; and 30 were trained on management and operation of provincial Inclusive Education Resource Centres for persons with disabilities.

A module on inclusive education for children with disabilities at the primary education level was developed and institutionalised into the pre-service teacher training curriculum. It is expected that this upgrade will benefit roughly 2,000 children with disabilities in the province. A baseline survey of the education situation for children with disabilities and rigorous advocacy dialogue with provincial authorities resulted in the decision and concrete plan to establish the Inclusive Education Resource Centre for persons with disabilities in the province.

With the availability of increased evidence and analysis of disparities in education especially among poor, rural Raglay children, children with disabilities and children affected by drought and other natural disasters, as reflected in Ninh Thuan’s provincial report on out-of-school children, the DOET was able to identify key equity issues for inclusion in provincial education sector plans for 2015. The evidence has furthered advocacy for improved education policy and management to reduce barriers and accelerate access to quality education for disadvantaged children. At the same time, the DOET has strengthened situation monitoring through improved guidance for disaggregated routine data collection and management.

The Provincial ‘Action Plan on Disaster Preparedness, Control and Mitigation’ was approved and disseminated, and implementation is underway with support from the provincial budget.

**OUTPUT 7** By 2016, disadvantaged children, particularly ethnic minority children, in Kon Tum province benefit from relevant and quality preschool and basic education supported by the provincial Education Sector Plan

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2014, UNICEF continued to support the improvement of equity and quality in education in Kon Tum.

Sixty-five pre-school education managers and teachers now have enhanced capacity on inclusive education for children with disabilities (26) and multi-age preschool education (39). As a result, the quality of learning and teaching activities in classrooms has improved.

The final module on inclusive education for children with disabilities for primary schools was developed and incorporated into the pre-service teacher training curriculum of the Provincial
Teacher Training College, which has benefited more than 2,000 children with disabilities.

The availability of increased evidence and analysis of stark disparities in access to education especially among ethnic minority children, as reflected in Kon Tum’s provincial OOSC report, allowed the DOET to identify key issues facing ethnic minority children and children with disabilities for inclusion in the provincial education sector plan for 2015, with targeted management and policy interventions. At the same time, the DOET is committed to strengthening situation monitoring through improved guidance for disaggregated routine data collection and management. The actions resulting from this improved guidance have improved the evidence base for education management and advocacy to ensure access to quality education for disadvantaged children.

The Provincial action plan on disaster preparedness, control and mitigation was approved and disseminated, and implementation is underway, including leveraging of local resources.

OUTPUT 8 By 2016, disadvantaged children, particularly ethnic minority children, in Dien Bien province benefit from relevant and quality preschool and basic education supported by the provincial Education Sector Plan

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014, UNICEF’s support significantly elevated the equity agenda in education in Dien Bien Province.

With UNICEF support, 80 core teachers and managers now have enhanced capacity on key issues concerning equity in education. Forty-four were trained on inclusive education for children with disabilities and 36 on multi-age preschool education. As result, the quality of learning and teaching activities in classrooms improved.

With enhanced institutional capacity to apply a rights-based approach to education planning, the Dien Bien DOET was able to identify key issues facing disadvantaged groups for inclusion in the 2015 provincial education sector plan.

The evidence and analysis of stark disparities in access to education, especially among ethnic minority children and children with disabilities, as featured in Dien Bien’s provincial report on OOSC, generated strong debates about the differences in figures compared to the sector’s routine data. As a result, the DOET has taken steps to review current statistical data management practices to identify areas for improvement and ensure systematic tracking of out-of-school children.

The Provincial Action Plan on Disaster Preparedness, Control and Mitigation was approved and disseminated and implementation is underway, including leveraging of local resources.

Analysis of findings from the primary classes mapping study contributed to ensuring that the current teacher deployment plan is more responsive to the need of ethnic minority children and to supporting the development of a provincial draft plan on MTTBE. The Provincial Plan on Ethnic Minority Semi-Boarding School is being refined. A manual on managing ethnic minority semi-boarding schools was formalised in the provincial education system, contributing to improved daily management practices and quality of education for ethnic minority children.
OUTPUT 9 By 2016, disadvantaged children, particularly ethnic minority children, in Gia Lai province benefit from relevant and quality preschool and basic education supported by the provincial Education Sector Plan

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2014, UNICEF’s support significantly elevated the equity agenda in education in Gia Lai Province.

Some 234 education managers and core teachers from pre-primary to lower secondary education levels have enhanced capacity in inclusive education; of these, (i) 30 were trained on MTBBE teaching and learning methodologies; (ii) 132 were trained and are able to apply life skills education methodologies in organising learning and teaching activities; (iii) 72 were trained on disaster risk reduction, especially school preparedness and response plans, to strengthen provincial education capacity to respond to disasters.

With facilitation from central experts for consultations to develop the provincial action plan for MTBBE expansion, local authorities, provincial and district education managers and selected teachers have increased capacity on MTBBE advocacy and planning. Key education managers and selected teachers also improved their understanding through an exposure visit to Lao Cai province, where they learnt from experiences on MTBBE expansion – especially mobilisation of local Government resources for continuation and scale-up. As a result, the DOET has become committed to developing a provincial plan on MTBBE implementation.

With increased capacity through the training in key principles of rights-based approaches to education planning, the Gia Lai DOET continued to strengthen its education sector planning process in 2014. As a result, the quality of the 2015 education plan has improved, with more equity-focused targets and interventions to ensure inclusive education for disadvantaged children in Gia Lai. In particular, MTBBE was included in the provincial education development plan as one of the key measures to address barriers to equity in education for ethnic minority children. At the same time, DOET has strengthened situation monitoring through improved guidance for disaggregated routine data collection and management.

OUTPUT 10 By 2016, disadvantaged children, particularly ethnic minority children, in Lao Cai province benefit from relevant and quality preschool and basic education supported by the provincial Education Sector Plan

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2014, UNICEF continued to elevate the equity agenda in education for disadvantaged children in Lao Cai Province.

More than 100 (113) provincial and district education managers and teachers in Lao Cai gained enhanced capacity in inclusive education. Of these, 59 were trained on inclusive education for children with disabilities, and 54 education managers and master preschool teachers were trained on multi-age preschool education. This contributed to a change in mind-set of education managers, teachers and the community towards maximising the ability of children with disabilities and reducing stigma and discrimination against them.

With increased capacity for applying key principles of the rights-based approach in education sector planning, the Lao Cai DOET continued to strengthen its planning processes in 2015. As a
result, the quality of the 2015 education plan has improved, with more equity-focused targets and interventions to ensure inclusive education for disadvantaged children in Lao Cai. At the same time, DOET is committed to strengthening situation monitoring through improved guidance for routine collection of disaggregated data and its management. This exercise furthered the evidence base for education management and advocacy, to improve equity in access to education for disadvantaged children.

Around 850 Mong ethnic minority children are enrolled in bilingual learning in mother tongue and Vietnamese from pre-primary to Grade 4 in four districts within the provincial MTBBE expansion plan. They continue to demonstrate improved learning outcomes, which serve as important evidence for national advocacy for the MTBBE approach.

The Province’s action plan on disaster preparedness, control and mitigation was approved and disseminated and implementation is underway, with provincial budget funding.

**OUTPUT 11** Technical assistance for education programme is effectively and efficiently managed and implemented, through quality assurance, technical expertise and results monitoring for children.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2014, quality technical assistance and results-monitoring was effectively and efficiently managed and implemented to improve policymaking and systems capacity for inclusive education in Viet Nam.

**OUTCOME 6** The Country Office is able to deliver programmatic results effectively through enhanced coordination, communication and partnership

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
During 2014, the Sub-national Coordination Unit (SCU) continued active sub-national engagement by maintaining strategic partnerships with provincial counterparts through field trips and high-level meetings organised between UNICEF senior management and local leaders, to engage in strategic discussions around child rights implementation. The SCU also continued to provide support to programme implementation, ensure timely liquidation of funds transferred to counterparts, follow-up on spot-check recommendations and organise donor visits to provinces. During the Mid-Term Review process, the SCU contributed actively to internal and external programme review related to sub-national engagement and facilitated discussion with programmes and local counterparts on 2015-2016 work plans.

Major outcomes for the Communication for Development Unit included: ministerial approval of the national immunisation communication plan until 2016; support for the national launch of the social assistance strengthening project with the World Bank – through an advocacy and informational film and the related development of the C4D strategy to promote the uptake of the consolidated cash assistance to eligible families in the four project provinces; jointly launching the national campaign to end violence against children through multi-layered communication interventions and developing a communication strategy for people living with disabilities. Hygiene promotion and improved IYCF practices in communities were supported through both local media and outreach and community-based approaches, respectively.

Major progress was made in corporate engagement, especially in the areas of corporate social responsibility, advocacy and innovation. Two new CSR platforms – ZEROtalks and ZEROworkplace – with 14 partnerships were established to promote CSR and using the
workplace as a way to increase access to information and services, respectively. Children’s Rights and Business Principles was launched in collaboration with eight Chambers of Commerce and the Saigon Business Club. As part of the national campaign to end VAC, a multimedia partner supported the creation of 16 films to raise awareness on the topic. In the area of innovation, the prototype of the Hero for ZERO mobile app was completed. Fundraising efforts, however, were constrained this year.

**OUTPUT 1** The communication for development function is strengthened and efficiently managed across all programme components, with a high level of quality assurance and technical expertise

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
An evidence-based C4D plan, informed by a national KAP study to restore trust in childhood immunisation was approved by the Minister of Health in October 2014. Following this step, communication interventions targeting hard-to-reach communities and migrant parents in and around Ho Chi Minh City were implemented during the introduction of Measles-Rubella vaccine. To improve infant feeding practices, under the Joint UNICEF/WHO/A&T Exclusive Breastfeeding communication programme, UNICEF invested in implementing and documenting two community models in the Mekong River Delta and northern mountainous area, which the Government will scale-up.

For hygiene promotion, UNICEF and partners, including Goodwill Ambassadors and a large network of Women’s Union staff and volunteers, actively promoted hand-washing with soap and use of latrines. UNICEF provided technical and financial resources to improve household water treatment and storage communication, targeting priority ethnic minority groups.

UNICEF continues to support MOLISA and the World Bank in conceptualising and developing a C4D strategy to support implementation of SASSP, 2015-2019. The draft strategy, currently being vetted by provincial counterparts, will be finalised in early 2015. Simultaneously, UNICEF continues to provide technical advice to the Government in relation to procuring SASSP C4D promotional materials and a training package.

A national Communication Strategy for People with Disabilities was developed and disseminated across all sectors for implementation. A child-friendly CRC booklet developed by children was disseminated nation-wide, with children promoting child rights through available platforms.

From June to August 2014, a national communication campaign on Violence against Children was initiated, building upon the global #ENDViolence against Children initiative, to raise awareness about physical, sexual and emotional abuse to which Vietnamese children are subjected. Based on the outcomes, the second phase prioritised community engagement and dialogue as a way to modify behaviour and achieve social change.

**OUTPUT 2** The sub-national programme components of all four programmes are effectively coordinated to deliver results for the most disadvantaged children in Viet Nam.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Over the last year SCU provided support for maintaining strategic partnership with Provincial People’s Committees and Project Management Units of eight focus provinces in order to ensure a conducive enabling environment for implementation of programmes. The SCU utilised programmatic events to organise high-level meetings for the Representative and Deputy
Representative to engage with local leaders to advocate for programmatic support in Kon Tum (ZEROAwards), Ho Chi Minh city (round table discussion), as well as courtesy meetings with PPCs in other provinces.

The SCU continued to provide support to ensure timely liquidation of funds, follow-up on spot-check recommendations and organise donor visits to various provinces. It also provided proactive support to begin joint monitoring in Kon Tum, in an effort to coordinate use of Gala funds in an integrated manner.

During the MTR process, the SCU contributed actively to the internal programme review related to sub-national engagement, as well as the external programme review with the MPI and provincial counterparts.

The SCU used MTR results to guide mid-year work plans (2015-2016) at the provincial level through both on-site and off-site discussions with counterparts. Prior to actual discussions with counterparts, SCU helped to facilitate in-house discussions on key priorities for 2015-2016, which served as a basis for on-site discussions in Kon Tum, Gia Lai and Dien Bien, as well as off-site discussion in other provinces. This exercise proved effective in identifying new priorities in the post-MTR context, as well as ensuring better national/sub-national linkages in work plans for 2015-2016.

OUTPUT 3 Resources and partners, in particular the corporate sector, are leveraged and the Ho Chi Minh City Office is maintained to efficiently achieve results for children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Overall much progress was made and is on track for mobilising the private sector toward results for children. In the area of financial resource mobilisation however, results were impeded by the lack of formal government permission, although much progress was made in areas such as CSR, advocacy and innovation. Baseline research on Corporate Social Responsibility and Children was completed by Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS), a market research and market information group. Promotion of private sector engagement among new partners, such as Chambers of Commerce, were explored and/or established with eight Chambers of Commerce and Saigon Business Club to join a new executive series of speakers called ZEROtalks. A new CSR initiative promoting child-friendly workplaces (ZEROworkplace) was launched. A new CSR platform for workplaces was launched in collaboration with two partners: Mobivi and Pouyuen. Supplementary websites and videos were also created for ZEROworkplace. New advocacy plans in relation to the VAC campaign resulted in 16 short films created on the topic by young filmmakers. Three private-sector donor visits took place in An Giang and in Kon Tum. Existing partnerships were maintained and expanded, especially with Unilever, Melia and Starwood Hotels. Three additional CSR tools were translated and available on the web, and communication tools (such as newsletters, corporate videos, webpages) were created to support private sector engagement.
## Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sequence Number</th>
<th>Type of Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of Bottlenecks in Rural Water Supply Enabling Environment to develop an investment plan</td>
<td>2014/015</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizen Report Card of Commune Public Health Services in KonTum</td>
<td>2014/003</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dien Bien Social Audit Report</td>
<td>2014/002</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Other Publication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A package of communication materials on Measles-Rubella vaccination for HCMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zeroworkplace programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production of educational video programme on Measles-Rubella vaccination</td>
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<tr>
<td>A PSA video on Measles-Rubella vaccination campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Training manual on communication skill for immunisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A package of communication materials for the launch of the Social Assistance System Strengthening Project (SASSP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-minute film of HCMC Junior Reporters Club on the impacts of Climate Change in the urban setting the lenses of children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 PSAs to raise awareness of Violence against Children on national and local mass media as part of the VAC campaign featuring celebrities Xuan Bac and Quyen Linh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZEROtalks press package</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZEROnewsletters (Issue 1 and 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measles-Rubella Vaccine Campaign Communication Toolkit</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZERoworkplace promotional video</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZERoworkplace website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZEROawards Donor Video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation of Corporate Social Responsibility publications into Vietnamese.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child-Focused Corporate Social Responsibility market research study</td>
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## Lessons Learned

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Type/Category</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Innovation</td>
<td>ZERoworkplace: an innovative approach of using workplace to increase access to critical information having an impact on children, such as MR vaccination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Learned</td>
<td>The creation of a specialised children's court in Viet Nam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>