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Update on the context and situation of children

The Communist Party maintained strong action on anti-corruption in 2019, while screening for a new generation of party and government leadership and preparing strategic development plans for the 2021 Party Congress. Seventy senior officials were disciplined or removed from positions over the last three years as part of a crack-down on corruption. The Party is determined to pursue further civil service reforms and structural consolidation. This has translated into dissolving and merging government departments and agencies, and down-sizing civil servant numbers across all levels of government. While logical for larger cities and ministries, remote areas and selected sectors have witnessed reduced access of disadvantaged groups to social services. There have also been delays in programme activities due to uncertainty and staff changes in government agencies. **Viet Nam becomes a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and Chair of ASEAN in 2020.** It is expected to maximize these opportunities to strengthen its standing in the world, and to address territorial disputes and issues related to regional trade and cooperation.

Viet Nam remains one of the fastest-growing economies in the Asia-Pacific region. After peaking at 7.1 per cent in 2018, real GDP growth in 2019 is projected to decelerate slightly, led by continued tightening of credit and fiscal policies. The latter negatively affected governmental budget allocation and investment in social sectors. The country enjoyed stable macro-economic growth in 2019, with inflation stable at around 4 per cent. The external balance remains under control, with strong exports and high foreign direct investment at above 20 per cent of GDP. The private sector continues to play a strong role in public investment and job creation.

Viet Nam is experiencing rapid demographic and social change. Its population reached almost 96 million in 2019, and is expected to expand to 120 million, before 2050. Today, 70 per cent of the population is under 35 years of age, with a life expectancy of 76 years, the highest among countries of similar income levels in the region. But the population is rapidly aging. An emerging middle class, currently accounting for 13 per cent of the population, is expected to reach 26 per cent by 2026.

Viet Nam ranks 48th out of 157 countries on the Human Capital Index. A Vietnamese child born today will be 67 per cent as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health. Viet Nam's Human Capital Index is highest among middle-income countries, but there are some disparities within the country, especially for ethnic minorities. **Viet Nam performs well on general education and health.** Coverage and learning outcomes are high and equitably achieved in primary schools — evidenced by remarkably high scores in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2015, where the performance of Vietnamese students exceeded that of many OECD countries. Health outcomes have improved in tandem with rising living standards. Between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio fell from 139 to 54 deaths per 100,000 live births, and infant mortality dropped from 44 deaths per 1,000 live births to 16.7. Viet Nam's universal health coverage index is 73 – higher than regional and global averages – with 87 per cent of the population covered. However, troubling figures for ethnic minority populations in areas such as maternal mortality, early marriage, adolescent pregnancy, sex selection at birth, education outcomes, stunting and poor sanitation and hygiene practices indicate the need for heightened attention to disparities in access to quality health care and education by disadvantaged groups, doing better to reach the most vulnerable and left behind.

In Viet Nam, rapid growth, urbanization and industrialization are negatively impacting the environment. Energy consumption tripled over the past decade, with a growing reliance on coal imports. Demand for water continues to increase, while water productivity is low. Air, sea and land pollution have reached crisis levels, with Viet Nam ranked as a top plastics polluter globally, and air pollution in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City ranked among the worst in the world. Climate impacts pose a major risk to Viet Nam's population, especially children, and its sustainable development. Drought and salt-water intrusion are already having serious impact on the Mekong Delta, and is expected to become more severe in 2020, possibly requiring a UNICEF response.

Violence, sexual abuse and trafficking of boys and girls is increasingly recognized by the authorities as a major challenge and well reported in the media. Government at the highest levels is demonstrating its commitment to address these problems with decisive action.

Viet Nam has made considerable progress towards gender equality, including closing gender gaps in education, reducing maternal mortality and expanding economic opportunities for both men and women. However, inequalities remain in employment and access to resources, women's lower representation in decision making, rates of domestic violence and sex-selective abortion.

While technology brings tremendous opportunities, it also carries risks: technological changes are occurring at an unprecedented pace, with expanded social media, and the evolving Industrial Revolution 4.0. There are opportunities to support new partnerships to realize child rights to information in the digital age, and to build digital literacy and skills

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throughout childhood. In this regard, working with the private sector and the education system can bring breakthrough results.

UNICEF's Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme of Cooperation 2017-2021 confirmed that it is playing a major role in influencing the accelerated investment in human capital and strengthening the government's capacity and systems to deliver equitable and quality services for children across all sectors, including health, education and child protection. The MTR identified several issues, such as climate change, urbanization, gender and adolescents, which will be further developed over the remainder of the current Country Programme and inform the 2022-2026 Country Programme. The MTR included a market assessment process identifying future resource mobilization opportunities to support further implementation of agreed programme priorities.

Major contributions and drivers of results

Integrated early childhood development (IECD): In 2019, some 26,495 new-borns received early essential new-born care (EENC), while 9,398 pre-school children benefited from social emotional learning, and 6,021 pre-school (and primary school-aged children) benefited from the community-based, child-friendly library initiative. Some 4,500 children (6-23 months) received micronutrient powder supplements, 12,440 parents and caregivers gained knowledge on early child nurturing and care, and 37,963 out of 38,000 targeted parents and caregivers were reached with IECD knowledge and skills. This was a result of IECD services being maintained and provided in all project communes of three pilot provinces. The UNICEF programme strengthened local government systems to provide comprehensive ECD services, including health, nutrition, water, sanitation, education and child protection to targeted parents/caregivers and children every month through four key platforms: pre-schools; commune health clinics; community-based ECD clubs; and households.

Health: UNICEF's continued support to the Ministry of Health (MoH), in partnership with the World Health Organization, helped build institutional capacity and increase investment in EENC. This resulted in an increase in health facilities implementing EENC, from 88 per cent in 2017 to 96 per cent in 2019, benefiting 802,000 new-borns. UNICEF support resulted in MoH being able to supply enough vaccines, improve capacity in equity planning for immunization, and conduct integrated immunization sessions in 17 districts with low coverage. Approximately 1 million children were fully immunized through UNICEF support. Measles and rubella campaigns were conducted in 196 districts benefiting 1,583,711 children from 1-5 years old in Viet Nam. In addition, with UNICEF's technical support, the national EPI was able to finalize and start implementing the first cold chain optimization platform (CCEOP) and successfully apply and obtain Gavi's approval for a second CCEOP with an amount of about 2 million USD. GAVI also approved a post-transition engagement plan with a budget of 2 million USD for implementation in 2020.

Standard operating procedures on the implementation of triple elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B were institutionalized in the national maternal and child healthcare system.

Nutrition: The government is set to uphold a highly contested food fortification decree after sustained advocacy by UNICEF and various stakeholders convinced the Government to overturn a move to make fortification voluntary rather than mandatory. The business sector had strongly opposed the decree, citing difficulties with production and business operations.

MoH has agreed to prioritize maternal nutrition and complementary feeding in the National Nutrition Strategy 2021-2030, and to develop a framework of priority actions to improve nutrition for pregnant women and children. This is a result of UNICEF advocacy, based on solid evidence from a landscape analysis on complementary feeding and maternal nutrition practices and joint advocacy with the World Bank on the need to prioritize nutrition of ethnic minority children.

A breakthrough was MoH issuing a decision on the application of satisfaction assessments by health staff and patients on the quality of services. This included breastfeeding practices in all public and private hospitals. This necessitates that hospitals invest further and strengthen the quality of services to meet client demands and national quality criteria.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH): Thanks to UNICEF support, 16,400 people from 42 new open-defecation free villages have access to improved sanitation; 4,050 children from 20 schools have improved knowledge and skills in handwashing; and approximately 8,000 people have access to clean water in their communities. UNICEF continues to support the implementation of community-led total sanitation (CLTS); WASH in schools; and household water treatment and storage in some of the poorest provinces.

With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) approved and disseminated national guidelines for implementing the National Programme of Water Safety Plan in rural areas. Implementation by all water operators contributed to improving the quality of water they supply to their communities. UNICEF also supported analysis of WASH financing modalities, which will serve as a basis for further advocacy and technical assistance in 2020.

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Education: In June 2019, the National Assembly (NA) passed the revised Law on Education that was drafted with UNICEF support. 21 of UNICEF's 26 sets of recommendations were adopted and integrated into the law, including explicit mention of the right of children with disabilities to education. The Law on Education aims to ensure that all children are in school, are learning, and are safe. It raises compulsory schooling to a total of nine years, from age 5, which will achieve greater participation in education, particularly for the most vulnerable groups.

As of September 2019, 4.6 million pre-school children are benefitting from teachers able to facilitate learning through play, as a result of a gender-responsive social emotional learning curriculum. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) to roll out the curriculum, which was designed to promote gender socialization, learning to relate more harmoniously with others, and developing the ability to make responsible decisions. UNICEF supported the integration of the adapted 'East Asia Pacific ECD Scales' and the 'Global Guidelines Assessment' tool into the curriculum to monitor the programme's actual impact on children and their communities.

Comprehensive sexuality education has been incorporated into the newly approved national school curriculum, starting from pre-school to secondary, after collaborative support by UNICEF, UNESCO and UNFPA to MoET. Guidelines that include substantial content on gender, power dynamics and human rights, and which will empower children and young people to lead healthy, safe and productive lives were developed based on international guidance. The curriculum is a starting point for UNICEF and partners to continue advocating for the inclusion of specific content on respect for diversity in sexuality and LGBTIQI+ rights.

To inform policy making, UNICEF supported Viet Nam's participation in the South-East Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) survey. This ground-breaking assessment covers reading, writing, math and global citizenship of Grade 5 students in the ASEAN region.

Joint efforts by UNICEF, UNESCO and civil society organizations led the Global Partnership for Education to approve a grant to the Government of Viet Nam to develop the Education Sector Analysis and the 10-year Education Development Strategic Plan (EDSP). The grant will be used to ensure a rights-based, child-centred 10-year education strategy, aligned with the SDGs.

From the 2019 school year, Vietnamese students at all education levels are benefitting from a new curriculum, with increased Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) awareness and resilience. The curriculum, developed by UNICEF and Save the Children, is part of the Child-Centred DRR Safe School Programme, which was rolled out by MoET with UNICEF support. Building on this, UNICEF and MoET are introducing green habits and climate-smart school standards and developing sustainable environmental learning packages to limit the negative impact of climate change and (air) pollution on education and learning.

Child Protection: Viet Nam's labour law is better aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other international standards. UNICEF's strong advocacy and technical support to the government and the National Assembly has resulted in clearer legal provisions on preventing child labour, prohibiting all forms of hazardous and exploitative child labour, and protecting minor workers, especially those working in the informal economy. To improve national efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children, UNICEF supported the government to develop the National Plan on Preventing Violence and Abuse of Children with a multi-disciplinary approach to child protection service delivery.

2019 saw significant improvements in child justice with the roll out of Family and Juvenile Courts to 36 cities and provinces. Child-friendly and gender-sensitive adjudication procedures for cases of sexual violence against children have significantly improved, thanks to the enactment of the Judicial Resolution of the Supreme People's Court on child sexual violence. Inspired and influenced by international best practices introduced by UNICEF, the resolution provides detailed definitions of many forms of sexual abuse and ensures equal protection for girls and boys under the age of 18. It contributes to addressing the gap in the Child Law that defines children as under 16 and introduces protection measures to make adjudication procedures more responsive to the needs of child survivors of sexual abuse.

To strengthen and build the capacity of the child protection operational workforce of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA), MoH, MoET and mass organizations, in 2019 UNICEF embarked on critical 'whole-system' strategic planning process. UNICEF is supporting the standardization of the roles, competencies and training structure of the child protection workforce across the country. It will provide the foundation for the development of a child protection competency framework in Viet Nam and enable a training strategy for the whole child protection sector.

Some 3,000 children received specialized protection, care and support in UNICEF focus provinces, while more than 4,500 children whose parents took the holistic Parenting Programme are now receiving improved care, nurturing, positive stimulation and non-violent discipline. The Parenting Programme was rolled out in three focus provinces and two selected factories in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), reaching more than 1,800 parents.

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With UNICEF support, government published a Child Justice Situation Analysis, providing updated data and analysis on children in conflict with the law in Viet Nam and strategic recommendations for reform of the child justice system. In collaboration with the UK-based Children's Legal Centre, UNICEF released a study on child trafficking revealing an estimated 5.6 per cent of children in Viet Nam may have experiences indicative of, or consistent with, child trafficking. The study provides important evidence on the limited availability and use of support services for exploited or trafficked children.

Viet Nam is leading the development of an ASEAN Declaration on the Promotion of Social Work. This will contribute to the establishment of a national career development plan for social workers in the region. UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) and UNICEF Viet Nam cooperated with the ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASWC), and the Government of Viet Nam supported a regional workshop to develop the declaration. The declaration is expected to be submitted to ASEAN leaders for adoption in 2020.

Communications, advocacy and partnership: Partnerships for children across government, the private sector, media and non-government actors at national level and in HCMC were strengthened throughout 2019. Long-term collaboration frameworks to promote children's rights and business were established with the Viet Nam Chambers of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and the Human Rights Institute. Key results were VCCI's inclusion of child rights as a criterion for sustainable business and the launch of a practical guide on CRC General Comment 16.

Strong advocacy efforts resulted in the participation of high-level political leaders at the CRC@30 celebration, where they renewed their commitment to further realizing child rights. Viet Nam endorsed the UNICEF Global Pledge in which governments recommitted to implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the 21st century.

UNICEF Viet Nam's social media platforms reached 334,000 people, engaging 16,200, with messages on CRC@30 and child rights issues. Extensive media coverage and high-profile interviews put child rights issues high on the public agenda, especially on emerging issues such as air pollution, online safety and child sexual abuse. Thanks to renewed advocacy efforts, there was strong public attention and engagement in child rights issues, helped by the campaign 'Lighting up the Smiles of Viet Nam'. Iconic buildings in Hanoi and HCMC were lit up in blue. An outdoor event and edutainment activities in Hanoi, and child participation events in HCMC helped strengthen UNICEF's brand and raise public awareness of the importance of child rights.

UNICEF support enabled a total of 29,000 girls and boys (adolescents) to engage civically off line and on-line through U-Report and other platforms, at community, school and policy level on key concerns such as climate change, air pollution, safe living environments and violence against children. For example, 260 children, many with disabilities or other vulnerabilities, participated in the National Children's Forum and its follow-up National Solution Summit for the CRC30. This was an initiative where young people were encouraged to design their own projects addressing climate change (including air pollution and alternative green consumption), sexual abuse, safe living environments and pressure to perform in school. *U-Report* Viet Nam gradually extended its scope and grew its audience to 8,500 U-Reporters.

The engagement of Choi Siwon, a UNICEF Regional Goodwill Ambassador, together with 15 young Vietnamese celebrities, in the anti-bullying campaign helped amplify messages in traditional and new media. A powerful message calling on young people to take action against bullying went viral on social media. On UNICEF social media platforms, the campaign reached 753,500 people organically, and engaged 87,200.

Policy and influencing policy makers: Through its efforts to influence policy makers at the highest levels, UNICEF secured key commitments from the government, including: integrating child-related targets and indicators in the national, sectoral and sub-national Socio-Economic Development Strategy and Plan (SEDS/P); investing more state budget in children and strengthening oversight on investments in children; undertaking further law reform to expand the protection of rights of children aged 16 and 17 years, including through the amendment of the Youth Law; and organizing regular reviews on the implementation of the national scheme on IECD. These commitments were the product of a high-level conference to promote the comprehensive development of children, organized to mark the 30th anniversary of the CRC. Co-chaired by the Vice Chairperson of the NA and the Deputy Prime Minister and attended by 150 senior officials, it was the highest-level policy dialogue on children organized with UNICEF support in decades.

Building on a multi-agency analytical paper on human capital development, coordinated by UNICEF, government is keen to place greater emphasis on social development. The Prime Minister also issued a roadmap for achieving Viet Nam's child-related SDG targets which serves as the official guidance for formulating child-related targets in the SEDP.

Influencing the definition of childhood: After much advocacy by UNICEF, Viet Nam agreed to address the age of the child in law, ensuring equal protections for children from 16 to 18 years, to align with the CRC. UNICEF supported a study on the implications of changing the definition of the child age. This was disseminated widely through consultations that strengthened awareness of policy makers on issue. UNICEF persuaded the General Statistics Office to include, for the first time, data on children from 0-18 in the annual National Statistical Yearbook. Data of children under 18 from the 2019

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Census will also be included for the first time, in the Census report. The Viet Nam SDG list, approved by the Prime Minister in 2019, includes 55 indicators on children thanks to UNICEF's substantive support.

Public financial management: Evidence from the joint UNICEF and Ministry of Finance (MoF) research contributed to high-level policy dialogue with the NA, line ministries, cities and provinces. The research looked at child-focused budgeting and reviewed gaps in tracking and reporting of expenditure on children. This culminated in key commitments to: include children in the 2021-2030 Public Finance Strategy; increase the state budget on children; and improve the financial tracking and reporting system. UNICEF co-organized the 2019 Public Finance Forum with MoF and the Embassy of Germany, highlighting the importance of investing in human capital development, especially for vulnerable children. As a result, UNICEF, the World Bank and the ADB are advocating for the 2020 MoF-hosted public finance forum to focus on human capital investment as the key theme.

Disability: With UNICEF support, critical steps were taken to prepare stages for amending the Law on Persons with Disabilities in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UNICEF provided technical support for Viet Nam to conduct the first ever National Disability Survey, with the final report launched in 2019. UNICEF supported the National Committee on Disabilities to review the current Master Plan on Persons with Disabilities and develop a new plan. UNICEF also supported the General Statistics Office to generate further analysis and policy recommendations on the situation of children with disabilities, using data from the National Disability Survey.

Social protection and child poverty: UNICEF contributed to the formulation of the 2021-2030 National Social Protection Strategy in partnership with the World Bank, UN and other stakeholders. UNICEF analysis informed the long-term direction of social protection, especially on investing in human capital, expanding coverage of social assistance, and integrating natural disaster risks into the strategy. MoLISA approved the Action Plan of the Master Plan on Social Assistance Reform and Development 2017-2025, towards 2030, developed with UNICEF support. UNICEF is supporting MoLISA to expand social assistance coverage to children 0-3 years and the most vulnerable children, and to draft the national multi-dimensional child poverty measurement and standards, to be approved by the Prime Minister in 2020.

Urban: With UNICEF advocacy, the urban agenda was discussed and proposed for inclusion in the National Programme of Action for Children (PAC) and a roadmap with a strong focus on scaling up the Child-Friendly Cities Initiative was developed. HCMC and Da Nang reviewed their current PACs and began development of the 2021-2025 PAC, based on updated SitAns. This foundation work informed the strategic guidance of MoLISA for the development of PACs by all other provinces and cities throughout Viet Nam.

Disaster risk reduction: UNICEF provided technical support to amend the Law on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control. The NA reviewed the amended law, shifting towards stronger emphasis on DRR, resilience building and accountabilities on risk management at all administrative levels. This followed a comprehensive review of the law through a child lens, analysis of laws from other countries in the region, and a joint UN commentary led by UNICEF. In 2019, UNICEF entered into a new partnership framework with MARD on DRR. The framework seeks to strengthen coordination and experience-sharing on DRR domestically and with other countries.

Humanitarian assistance: This year the Mekong Delta region, Viet Nam's bread basket, experienced record water shortages. Building on lessons from the drought response in 2015-2016, a national dialogue on early action on drought and saltwater intrusion was organized in partnership with the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the ASEAN Secretariat. The workshop culminated in a government commitment to strengthen forecasting, define accountabilities based on different scenarios, improve community capacity on early action, and leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships, including within ASEAN countries.

Lessons Learned and Innovations

One of the objectives of UNICEF's 2019 MTR was to highlight lessons learnt and emerging opportunities to reach those children furthest behind and deliver results at scale.

The first lesson, achieving the planned outcomes of the CP, will require shifts in how UNICEF works. UNICEF will work to transform its programmes to be more strategic, relevant and impactful. **This means prioritizing fewer, more-focused results for children that lead to policy changes** the government can implement at scale. The key opportunity for this is the two-year rolling work plan 2020-2021. This shift aligns with Viet Nam's status as a lower-middle-income country, and UNICEF's resource environment.

For delivering at scale, improved planning of pilot projects will be introduced, with greater focus on evaluation, costing and securing government commitment up front to take pilots to scale. UNICEF looks to government to take increased ownership of and responsibility for service delivery and quality assurance in programme areas where major

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UNICEF assistance is no longer required. During the last two years of the CP, the Country Office will evaluate and consolidate pilots under the key programmes, including IECD, CFCI and child-friendly courts, to come up with optimum models and detailed guidance for further scale up.

Another lesson will see UNICEF and government enhance the equity focus of the programmes by making the case for increased public investment in human capital. This will be based on strong data, evidence and analysis of the root causes of ongoing challenges faced by children being left behind (e.g. ethnic minorities, children with disabilities, and children affected by internal migration) and human trafficking. UNICEF's strategic advocacy will target policy makers and the public with messages on the costs and major public and private returns of investing adequately and early in areas such as early childhood care, water quality and sanitation, especially for disadvantaged groups, and on how to expand partnerships, including working with the private sector for increased resources for children's programmes. A self-critical, independent gender assessment of UNICEF's programme and approaches indicated several areas for stronger, better targeted gender sensitive approaches. It also indicated that UNICEF has some excellent gender aware work – but is failing to reach donors and others with information and evidence of this work.

The MTR concluded that in the current context of Viet Nam, policy change and results at scale for children, especially for disadvantaged groups, will not be achieved without **addressing challenges of climate change and air pollution, urbanization, and adolescent development and participation.** These areas will get additional attention within the framework of the current CP. Emphasis will be on knowledge generation, testing new programme approaches and building new partnerships, leading to the development of the next CPD.

For more effective policy influencing and results at scale, the Office is reviewing and revamping its advocacy plan using lessons from the last three years. For example, in 2019, UNICEF successfully influenced the SPC Judicial Resolution on sexual violence and adjudication procedures for cases of sexual violence against children. One of the lessons that enabled the success was UNICEF's flexibility to seize opportunities aligned with its core advocacy. Leveraging the increased attention on child sexual abuse, the office re-focused planned policy dialogues and the online training, to the specific issue of handling child sexual abuse cases. As a result, UNICEF was able to attract the engagement of the Chief Justice of the SPC. UNICEF engaged the Family Court of Australia (FCA), pro-bono, to share expertise and experiences with the SPC and wider justice sector actors. In this way, UNICEF was able to demonstrate its value by securing high-level expertise and brokering an institution-to-institution relationship for more cost-effective capacity building.

To ensure UNICEF is fit for purpose and engaging in more dynamic and innovative partnerships, Technology for Development (T4D) emerged as a demand from several programmes that are improving their reach with apps, online tools, databases, etc. For example, the Disability Survey used apps to disseminate knowledge and data to much larger audiences, many of whom live in hard-to-reach areas. Online training has become the norm for many sectors, reaching tens of thousands of government officials in provinces, and providing flexibility and efficiency for large-scale capacity building. Online training has been done effectively under the Child Protection Programme, which was scaled up by the government using its own resources.

For expanded impact with limited resources, it is critical to invest in building UNICEF's influence and brand positioning. The following areas were identified as critical enablers for achieving equitable results for children: clear advocacy priorities, with a combination of planned campaigns and sharper focus on engagement and identification of influencers; targeted Communication for Development that addresses social norms and behaviours; the need to build brand; grow partner engagement, including actively partnering with media and corporate partners; strengthen knowledge management and enhance donor visibility; and plan for and increase digital capacity and outreach.

2020 is a pivotal year in Viet Nam, with the country leadership preparing for its new strategic planning cycle and the Party Congress in 2021. While there are delays in decision making and programme activities due to government personnel changes, the new planning cycle will benefit from UNICEF's in-depth analysis of child-related issues and evidence-based solutions and priorities to address them. Viet Nam will have to make great efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030, including on nutrition, quality of secondary education and child protection, ensuring no child is left behind.

Viet Nam will chair ASEAN in 2020, representing not only a major opportunity for Viet Nam to showcase its successes in poverty reduction and child rights implementation, but also to learn from other countries and promote joint approaches in the region. UNICEF will work closely with the EAPRO to seize this opportunity to advance its regional priorities on children, including addressing issues related to migration, children trafficking, urbanization, social welfare workforce strengthening, and education for the 21st Century.