

UNICEF Executive Board - 2022 First Regular Session

10 February 2022

**Statement by Mr. Dang Hoa Nam, Director General of Department of Children's Affairs, Viet Nam
Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs**

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the last 30 years, Viet Nam has achieved remarkable socio-economic progress and become a lower-middle income country. Like in other countries, COVID-19 has pushed the most vulnerable groups, including women, informal workers and children, into a potential situation of long-term deprivation.

As of June 2021, 12.8 million people have lost their jobs or their income.¹ Many children are at risk of falling into multidimensional deprivation, including income poverty and lack access to essential support and services.

Viet Nam 2021's Survey on the SDG indicators on children and women indicated that almost half of children living in the poorest households did not receive any social transfers or benefits. While the Vietnamese government provided 2 social assistance packages in 2021 (currently at 2% of GDP), further effort will be made by the government and other key stakeholders to meet the urgent needs of vulnerable families.

Viet Nam has been pursuing a reform process aimed at strengthening its social protection system towards a more child-sensitive, gender transformative and shock-responsive system. UNICEF is a key partner in this reform and has brought valuable international evidence and expertise to assist the Government.

The Government of Viet Nam and its partners recognize that social protection is key to supporting human capital development and protecting child rights and well-being. This has become even more important today, as we have seen regression in the indicators for almost every right in the convention in those areas suffering the double burden of COVID-19 and natural disasters.

UNICEF's Country Programme of Cooperation 2022-2026 recognizes these challenges. The Program prioritizes strengthening the social protection system. We warmly welcome the CPD and the strategic partnership with UNICEF in Viet Nam.

¹ GSO (2021). Report on impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on labour and employment of the second quarter of 2021.