

FINAL REPORT

FINAL EVALUATION OF SDG-F JOINT PROGRAMME ON “ACCELERATING VIETNAM’S TRANSITION TOWARD INCLUSIVE AND INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION”

BY

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Abbreviations

DOLISA	Department of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GOVN	The Government of Viet Nam
IDI	In-depth Interview
ILO	International Labour Organisation
LGBTIQ	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or questioning
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs
MPSARD	Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform and Development
MPSIR	Master Plan for Social Insurance Reform
MTS	multi-tiered social protection system
PLWD	People living with disabilities
PUNO	Participating UN Organization
SA	Social Assistance
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SI	Social Insurance
SP	Social Protection
UN	United Nations
(UN) JP	(UN) Joint Program
UNCESCR	UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

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The research team is fully responsible for the information provided in the report.

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Giang Thanh Long & Bui Dai Thu

PART I: INTRODUCTION OF THE EVALUATION

I. Introduction

The Joint Programme “Accelerating Viet Nam’s Transition Toward Inclusive and Integrated Social Protection” (hereafter in short, the JP) funded by the Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG-F) was launched on 1 January 2020 with the original duration of 24 months (until 31 December 2021) which was then extended to May 2022. Four UN agencies (i.e., ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNDP) were the participating UN organizations (PUNOs) of the JP.

The JP supported Viet Nam in accelerating its transition towards an inclusive and integrated social protection (SP) system by demonstrating the potential of an (i) integrated multi-tiered social protection system (MTS) using the life-cycle approach; (ii) an extended social care services system; and (iii) an innovative e-service delivery system. It aimed to accelerate the achievement of the targets established under the Government of Viet Nam (GOVN) related to the master plans on social insurance, social assistance and digitalizing social protection service delivery and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system. The focus of the JP was therefore on expanding the coverage and improving efficiency of delivery of the social insurance (SI) and the social assistance (SA) services to groups who have been insufficiently covered or at risk of being left behind. The JP was implemented under the framework of the One Strategic Plan (OSP) 2017-2021, which was committed to by the GOVN and UN agencies.

The JP outcomes included i) an integrated gender-sensitive multi-tiered expansion strategy for accelerating sustainable development goals (SDG) progress towards universal social protection coverage; ii) an inclusive social care system for the most vulnerable for accelerating SDG progress; and iii) an integrated e-system for delivering SP services and real-time M&E for accelerating SDG progress.

The expected long-term impacts of the JP’s integrated approach include, by 2030, having 100 per cent of the 20 million children in Viet Nam benefiting from social protection; an expansion from 30 per cent to 45 per cent of the workforce participating in social insurance; 100 per cent of women giving birth would be protected, as opposed to the 26 per cent who currently have access to paid maternity leave; and 60 per cent of older persons (those aged 60 and over) as targeted to be protected under a new multi-tiered social protection system, as opposed to around 30 per cent today; and an expansion to an additional one million people living with disabilities (PLWD) plus an additional 200,000 caregivers; and care services to be expanded to 100 per cent of older persons.

Details of this JP Theory of change is presented in **Annex 8**.

II. Objectives and Scope of the Evaluation

1. Overall objective

The overall objective of this final evaluation is to promote accountability (of the UN, GOVN and CSO partners), organizational learning, stocktaking of achievements, performance, impacts, good practices, lessons learnt and recommendations for future improvement and towards SDG acceleration.

2. Specific objectives

This final evaluation has the following specific objectives:

- i. Assess the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency of the JP in achieving its outcomes and outputs as originally planned in the JP document, specifically in the JP results framework, or subsequently officially revised. At the same time, assess the JP's responsiveness in coping with COVID-19's negative impacts;
- ii. Measure the impact of the JP on SDG acceleration;
- iii. Assess the sustainability of JP achieved results;
- iv. Assess the contribution of the JP to the UN Development System Reform (e.g., improved collaboration and coherence of the UN country teams).
- v. Identify and document substantive lessons learned and good practices toward inclusive and integrated social protection with the focus on supporting the JP's target groups (such as women, children, PLWD, and older persons); and
- vi. Provide actionable recommendations for the way forward.

3. Scope

This evaluation covered the period from May 2019 (when the JP design began) to May 2022 (when the JP evaluation was started) in order to cover the JP design phase to the JP implementation phase.

The JP evaluation accessed contributions to all JP outcomes and outputs by all 4 PUNOs (i.e. ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA) and examined the JP cross-cutting issues and with global UN programming principles (such as leaving no one behind - LNOB, human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, sustainability and resilience, shock-responsiveness, and accountability).

The JP evaluation also considered emerging issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic in both the evaluation contents (for instance, responsiveness, adaptation and reprioritization of the PUNOs) and operation (for example,

methods for managing stakeholders' participation and inclusiveness in the COVID context).

The JP evaluation also assessed the contribution and accountabilities of the JP key partners (such as MOLISA and the Viet Nam Women's Union) as well as other partners (such as community members, UNCT members, and other implementing partners) toward the JP implementation against the responsibilities identified in the JP document, particularly in JP design and approval, implementation, monitoring and reporting as well as in facilitating multi-stakeholder coordination and mechanism.

Annex 1 presents the Term of Reference (TOR) for this evaluation.

III. Methodology

This evaluation applied the OECD/DAC criteria (**Figure 1**), including relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. For each criterion, key questions were listed in detail as in **Table 1**, and answered using the mixed methods, i.e., qualitative and quantitative approaches.

The evaluation was primarily qualitative in nature, but incorporated the quantitative target values tracked and reported by the JP.

Figure 1. Evaluation criteria



Source: OECD (2021)¹

¹ OECD (2021). *Applying Evaluation Criteria Thoughtfully*. Paris: OECD

Table 1. Evaluation criteria and respective questions

Evaluation criteria	Questions
RELEVANCE - Extent to which the objectives of the development intervention are consistent with national needs and priorities , the country's international and regional commitments, and achieving the SDGs	<p>a) How has the JP contributed to solve the needs and problems identified in the design phase (including on SDGs, leaving no one behind, human rights, sustainable development, environment, disability, and gender equity)</p> <p>b) To what extent the JP is consistent with the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021 strategic areas and outcomes?</p> <p>c) To what extent the UN comparative advantages and unique mandates (that other stakeholders would not/cannot have) are relevant with the JP objectives and outcomes and help strengthen the UN position, credibility, and reliability of the UN as a partner for the GOVN and other actors in the JP areas?</p> <p>d) How resilient, responsive and strategic the JP was in addressing emerging and emergency needs? For example, in assessing the COVID-19 impacts and in reprioritizing/adapting its support to provide timely support to the country and to ensure the achievement of the JP outcomes</p>
COHERENCE - Extent to which the objectives of the development intervention are complementary, harmonised and co-ordinated with other interventions with the relevant international or national norms and standards to which UNCOs and GOVN adhere.	<p>a) To what extent the UNJP addressed the synergies and interlinkages between its intervention and other interventions carried out by the GOVN and its ministerial affiliates.</p> <p>b) To what extent the UNJP's interventions were consistent with the relevant international/national norms and standards to which UNCOs and GOVN adhere.</p> <p>c) To what extent the UNJP's interventions were consistent with the interventions with other actors, i.e. how they were complementary, harmonised, and co-ordinated with each other so as to add value while avoiding duplication of effort.</p>

Evaluation criteria	Questions
EFFECTIVENESS - Extent to which the objectives of the development intervention have been achieved	<p>a) To what extent did the JP attain the development outputs and outcomes described in the JP document? The evaluation should also note how the unintended results, if any, have affected national development positively or negatively and to what extent have they been foreseen and managed.</p> <p>b) What good practices, success stories, innovations, lessons learnt, and replicable experiences/key factors have been identified for the success of this JP? Please describe and document them.</p> <p>c) To what extent has the JP contributed to the advancement and the progress of fostering national ownership processes and outcomes (the design and implementation of national development plans, policies, OSP, etc.)</p> <p>d) To what extent did the JP help to increase stakeholder/citizen dialogue and or engagement of development issues and policies?</p> <p>e) How effective was the GOVN's roles in contributing to JP design and approval, implementation, monitoring and reporting as well as in facilitating multi-stakeholder coordination and mechanism and mobilizing resources for smooth and efficient JP implementation?</p>
EFFICIENCY - Extent to which resources/inputs (funds, time, human resources, etc.) have been turned into results	<p>a) To what extent was the JP management model (governance and implementation arrangements; monitoring and reporting tools; and accountability, financial management, and public disclosure models) efficient in comparison to the development results attained?</p> <p>b) To what extent were the JP outputs and outcomes synergistic and coherent to achieve better results when compared to singly-agency interventions? What efficiency gains/losses were there as a result?</p> <p>c) What type of work methodologies, financial instruments, and business practices have the implementing partners used to increase efficiency in delivering as one?</p> <p>d) What type of (administrative, financial and managerial) obstacles did the joint programme face and to what extent have this affected its efficiency?</p>

Evaluation criteria	Questions
IMPACT - Positive and negative effects of the intervention on the development outcomes and SDG acceleration	<p>a) To what extent and in what ways did the JP contribute to SDG acceleration?</p> <p>b) To what extent and in what ways did the JP contribute to the targeted cross-cutting issues: gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment, disability (also see below), and public private partnerships (PPPs) at the local and national levels?</p> <p>c) What impact did the matching funds have in the design, implementation and results of the JP?</p> <p>d) To what extent did the JP have an impact on the targeted beneficiaries? Were all targeted beneficiaries reached? Which were left out?</p> <p>e) What unexpected/unintended effects did the JP have, if any?</p>
SUSTAINABILITY	<p>a) Which mechanisms already existed, and which have been put in place by the JP to ensure results and impact, i.e. policy, policy coordination mechanisms, partnerships, networks?</p> <p>b) To what extent has the capacity of beneficiaries (institutional and/or individual) been strengthened such that they are resilient and sustainable to external shocks and/or do not need support in the long term?</p> <p>c) To what extent will the JP be replicable or scaled up at national or local levels</p>

For the quantitative evaluation, we collected all key results/outcomes of the JP during its implementation processes through periodical and mid-term reports in order to illustrate all the aforementioned OECD/DAC criteria.

For the qualitative approach, we did a desk review in order to gather key documents and the existing relevant evaluation reports for the JP during its implementation processes; and conducted qualitative surveys (IDIs – In-depth Interviews and FGDs – Focus Group Discussions) with key persons of the JP team and local authorities and some representative beneficiaries at a selected province in order to gather supporting information for the evaluation, particularly for quantitative evaluation. More specifically:

- **Desk review:** The evaluators reviewed all necessary documents, which included the JP programme documents, annual activities plan, annual progress reports, 6-month progress updates, as well as respective documents from PUNOs (i.e., ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA) such as publications and policy briefs, etc.
- **IDIs and/or FGDs with the JP teams:** The main purpose was to get a first-hand account of the nature, approach, progress and challenges of the JP, as well as to identify key stakeholders who should be interviewed as part of data collection. The evaluators then prepared interview guides that included a list of interview questions for each type of stakeholder. The interviews with stakeholders were scheduled by designated programme staff.
- **FGDs and IDIs with other stakeholders**
 - The evaluators held IDIs with a representative of the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids, and Social Affairs (MOLISA) who is in charge of social assistance, and a representative of the Viet Nam Women Union who was involved in some of the JP's activities.
 - The evaluators held a meeting with local government officials (those who were involved in the local intervention of the JP, i.e., e-registration and e-payment pilots of social assistance) from DOLISA, the Vietnam Post Office and the Viet Nam Women's Union of Bac Kan province.
 - The evaluators held a meeting with beneficiaries of the JP's intervention pilot from Tan Tu commune, Bach Thong district, Bac Kan province.

Annex 2 presents the interview guides in detail.

Annex 3 shows the Evaluation Mission Itinerary, while **Annex 4** lists the key persons and their organisations that the evaluators met for interviews.

Figure 2 shows the pictures for the meetings held in Bac Kan province.

Figure 2. FGDs with local authorities and beneficiaries



DOLISA Bac Kan province



FGD with local authorities



Tan Tu commune's public hall



FGD with local beneficiaries

IV. Ethical considerations and confidentiality

The final evaluation observed confidentiality related to sensitive information as well as feedback during the individual and group interviews. As such, in order to mitigate biases during the collection of data and information and facilitate free expression, the evaluators held separate meetings with the PUNO staff and other stakeholders (i.e., local authorities and local beneficiaries) for the qualitative approach. In regard to ensuring the quality of data/information (i.e., validity, reliability, consistency, and accuracy), the evaluators consulted with the JP coordinating team as well as the PUNOs for the final report. Throughout this evaluation report, evidence-based mode was applied, in which all observations, conclusions and recommendations were supported by evidence and analysis.

The identities of the interviewed persons were kept confidentially.

PART II: KEY FINDINGS

I. Relevance

As a middle-income country, Vietnam has gained impressive economic growth, poverty reduction, and stronger regional and international relations in the past three decades. At the same time, however, Vietnam has also faced various challenges in social protection, in which “the missing middle”, who are left out of the social protection system, still accounts for a large proportion. In particular, the social insurance system covered only about 16 million people (or around 37 per cent of the labour force), in which the voluntary social insurance covers only 2 per cent of the labour force. By 2021, among older persons (those aged 60 and over), merely 30 per cent of received retirement benefits, and about 30 per cent received social pension, and thus 40 per cent were left without any social protection benefits. Facing an expected rapidly-aging population as projected by GSO (2020)² and stronger migration flows has urged Vietnam to transform the current social protection system with low coverage and inadequate benefit level.

Finding 1 – The JP contributed to solve the needs and problems identified in the design phase

The overall aim of the JP was to accelerate Vietnam's transition towards an inclusive and integrated social protection system. More specifically, the JP brought together the expertise of the PUNOs, the GOVN's partners and other stakeholders in a multi-sectoral partnership that supports policy inclusiveness and integration. This approach has broken down “siloes” and transformed a fragmented social protection system into an integrated multi-tiered system supporting people throughout their lives.

Key highlights of the JP's approach included the development of:

- A *Policy Orientation for the Social Insurance Law Reform*, which followed the Master Plan on Social Insurance Reform (MPSIR), and was indicated in the Resolution 152/NQ-CP dated 03 December 2021 in order to introduce policies to reform the social insurance system, including an introduction of child benefits and a non-contributory social pension to be integrated with the contributory pension. This marked the first-ever integrated life-cycle approach to social protection policies in Viet Nam;

² GSO (General Statistics Office of Viet Nam). 2020. The population projections for Vietnam in 2019–2069. Hanoi: GSO

- New regulation on the Social Assistance Policies: the JP assisted in the development of Decree 20/ND-CP dated 15 March 2021 with some new groups of beneficiaries and an increased adequacy (VND 360,000 compared to VND 270,000 as in Decree 136/2013).
- *National Guidelines on Social Pension Extension*, which further implemented the Master Plan on Social Assistance Reform and Development (MPSARD) to ensure that, by 2030, at least 60 per cent of the pensionable population would be covered with at least one source of income.
- *A multi-sectoral protocol* to respond to cases of child abuse and violence based upon international standards and best practices. The protocol provides clear guidance for related sectors (such as education, health, justice and social work) to respond to the abuse of children;
- *A Draft Decree on Social Work* and the approval by the GOVN for the National Programme on Social Work in 2021-2030 that strengthens the legal framework for social work and develops the social care workforce to meet the needs of vulnerable people;
- *An Evaluation of the 10-Year Implementation of the Law for the Elderly*, in which expansion of the social pension to all older persons was recommended; and
- *An integrated social care model for older persons* in institutional and non-institutional care settings, including a computer-based care management system to be integrated with the comprehensive social protection database.

These documents are aimed to expand both horizontal coverage (beneficiaries) and vertical coverage (benefit level) to vulnerable groups of population, seeking pathways to get “the missing middle” into the social protection system.

“Social protection is particularly important under LMIC status, so I think the supports from UNJP in expanding the coverage of the social protection system is quite relevant to the Government’s policies and targets set in the Government’s resolutions” – a PUNCO staff

“Activities of UNJP are quite in line with the social protection strategies such as MPSARD, MPSIR as well as other laws” – a MOLISA representative

Linking social insurance and social assistance systems into a multi-tiered system, having greater integration of social care systems and e-delivery of benefits have facilitated accessibility of all beneficiaries, particularly PLWD. As an expected result, such integrated and inclusive social protection system would gradually extend its benefits to about 1.1 million more PLWD by 2030. By this way, the JP directly addressed Article 28 on the adequate standard of living and Article 31 on statistics and data collection of the

Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disability; contributed to the realization of Article 5 on equality and non-discrimination, Article 6 on women with disabilities, Article 7 on children with disabilities, Article 19 on living independently and being included in the community, Article 27 on work and employment, and Article 26 habilitation and rehabilitation of the Convention.

More particularly, the JP significantly contributed to improvements in the situation of vulnerable groups by improving the effectiveness of the social protection and care systems, which resulted in a more rights-based efficient use of state resources. These beneficial groups included: i) *People affected by the COVID-19*: Adjustments in eligibility criteria and simplifying procedures enabled 12 million people, including hard-to-reach populations, to benefit from the GOVN's second assistance package (i.e., Resolution 68); ii) *Ethnic minority people and their families*: The JP has introduced innovations to improve access to benefits through e-payments which have been piloted in remote mountainous ethnic minority areas; iii) *Vulnerable women*: The JP conducted significant assessments to identify gender gaps in the social protection system, which has informed all of the JP's activities and contributed to policy reform. The JP's activities would expand benefits to reach women in vulnerable employment and improve the position of working mothers through the provision of maternity payment. Improvements in social work would enhance the prevention and response to gender-based violence; iv) *Children at risk*: The JP has significantly improved the child protection system through support to the National Programme on the Child Protection 2021-2025 and the establishment of clear protocols informed by international best practices for preventing and responding to child abuse. The extension of child benefits will help lift deprived children out of poverty; and v) *Older people and PLWD*: The JP successfully advocated for extended coverage and benefits for older people, which were incorporated into Decree 20/2021 and has piloted an integrated care system for older people in 5 provinces with the potential to be rolled out nationally.

The estimated number of people reached through JP efforts in 2020-2021 was 32.72 million, of which about 48 per cent were women and girls.

The JP also contributed to developing the National Programme on Child Protection in the period 2021-2025 that sets out a national multi-sectoral framework to strengthen the child protection system, expand access to justice and combat discrimination against women, girls and LGBTIQ persons, as indicated in the Outcome 4 (Governance and Access to Justice) with Output 4.2 National institutions and systems are enhanced to strengthen the rule of law. For this Outcome, the JP also supported the finalisation of the actuarial assessment of the social insurance pension fund to support planning and budgeting for future pension needs, as mentioned in the Output 4.6 (Data and production, analysis and use are strengthened to inform evidence-based and rights-based policies, planning and budgeting) and also provided a strong evidence for gender inequality in accessing the social insurance system.

The successful pilots on e-payment for 2,542 ethnic minority persons in 5 aforementioned provinces provided persuasive evidence-based implementation of the Decision 708/QĐ-TTg dated 25 May 2017 on the Master Plan for the Development of the National Database of Social Protection and Application of Information Technology in Implementing Social Protection Policies (MNDSITA).

Finding 2 – The JP’s activities were consistent with strategic areas and outcomes of the One Strategic Plan between the UN and the GOVN

The JP supports the UN Viet Nam Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), 2017-2021, particularly Outcome 1.1 on inclusive and equitable social protection and poverty reduction and Outcome 4.1 on accountable institutions, with policies and implementation mechanisms that are responsive to all people.

The JP directly contributes to the One Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development Cooperation between the UN and GOVN (2022-2026). More specifically:

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

Along with these, the JP activities related to MPSARD and MPSIR were also relevant to the Outcome 3.2 (Inclusive labour market and expansion of opportunities for all) as the

master plans were designed to make sure that no one in the labour market – especially, the current “missing middle” – would be left behind in social protection system. The JP directly contributed to Vietnam's development goals as defined in the National Socio-Economic Plan (NSEDP) 2021 -2025; the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021-2030; and the Agenda 2030 for the Achievement of the SDGs.

Finding 3 – The JP has clearly presented the UN comparative advantage and unique mandates as a credible and reliable partner of the GOVN

The impartial, unbiased and evidence-based advice and support are key areas of the UN's comparative advantage. As such, the JP promoted multi-stakeholder *partnerships* for human rights, inclusion and equity, in which its key partner on behalf of the GOVN, i.e., MOLISA, played active leadership and coordination in nurturing collective actions in social protection with other line ministries (such as MOF, Viet Nam Post). In addition, through its activities, the JP also actively participated or held public policy dialogues with strong links to the interests and concerns of citizens along with lessons learned informing policies and improving dissemination which returned helped to validate the relevance of policies, laws and other instruments.

"With this support from the project [UNJP] it is relevant in pushing the Government goals toward those targets and also in accelerating the process..."
– a PUNCO staff

Also, the JP was clearly consistent with the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021's management and implementation structure in the way that it was designed to ensure national ownership and leadership, effective coordination of programme delivery and promotion of the Delivering as One Initiative. The four PUNOs worked closely together and everything was informed and delivered as One UN, rather than separate UNOs as before.

"... We now can have the common messages [to the Government]. Although we have different mandates, there are some core fundamental principles that we all agree on and we know we can move forward under the name of UN..." – a UNCO staff

"... with the UNJP, the information sharing within the participating agencies was more detailed. We worked out a workplan together and shared other details and had more chances to discuss and came up with shared recommendations to the Government. We worked more closely than before. In the UNJP, we also shared the joint budget and it could be flexible to the joint works..." – a PUNCO staff

"... The Government have really seen the ownership of the results. It is not just the ownership of the UN, but of the Government..." – a PUNCO staff

Finding 4 – The JP contributed to addressing emerging and emergency needs, particularly in unexpected catastrophic shocks like COVID-19, along with its reprioritisation in support Vietnam as well as in achieve its outcomes

In addition to the above systematic support, the activities of the JP were also responsive to the COVID-19 impacts on social and economic situation in Vietnam. Initially praised for its successful response to the pandemic, Viet Nam experienced the worst wave of the COVID-19 during April – December 2021, in which declining fiscal and current balance along with a economic contraction made serious reductions in jobs and income. Such impacts also exposed weaknesses in the current social protection system, including i) an inability to promptly identify people requiring assistance, thus excluding people such as internal migrants and those working in the informal sector; ii) insufficient coverage to meet the needs of the “missing middle” and the “new poor” (i.e. households that slid into deprivation as a result of the COVID-19); iii) the short duration of support in relation to the longer-lasting impacts of the crisis; iv) budget shortage that prevented poorer provinces from implementing social assistance policies; and iv) interrupted social services such as support for victims of violence, preventing people from getting support.

Given such an unexpected wide-range emergent event, the JP adapted its approach to support the GOVN in providing immediate assistance to those in need. For example, using rich evidence-based research and rapid monitoring and assessment work, the JP’s policy recommendations helped simplify the eligibility and access criteria to emergency assistance in order to include vulnerable, hard-to-reach populations (such as informal migrant labourers). More specifically, with evidence provided by the JP showing low coverage, scattered distribution, missing informal sector workers of the current emergency and regular social assistance system, the Resolution 42/NQ-CP dated 9 April 2020 and the Resolution 68/NQ-CP dated 1 July 2021 were issued to reach more vulnerable groups of people under the COVID-19. For example, in 2021, the COVID-19 support funds reached more than 32.7 million people. The JP also urged the GOVN to repurpose the social protection system in responding to variant shocks and acting as a stabiliser to prevent people from falling into poverty due to other large-scale crises (such as natural disasters).

In addition, the JP has accelerated the digital transformation of the social assistance system to make it more responsive and shock resilient through the Outcome 3 (Shared Prosperity through Economic Transformation) with output 3.5 on evidence-based options and mechanisms are promoted to expand public and private finance for achieving the

SDGs. Successful pilots in five provinces (i.e., Bac Kan, Ha Giang, Dak Nong, Bac Lieu, and Ca Mau) for digital self-registration, management and delivery of social assistance service/cash for people impacted by COVID-19 were persuasive evidence.

"... Right after the breakout of the pandemic, we revised the workplan and allocated some specific amount of budget to support the GOVN in responding to COVID-19... In addition, all activities of the project have been revised to include COVID-19 as an important factor..." – a PUNCO staff

"COVID-19 exposed the fragmentation of the current social assistance system, in which people in needs could not be fully reached. E-registration and e-payment are important tools to ensure the coverage for these people" – a MOLISA representative

II. Coherence

The JP was built upon the existing joint interventions between, for example, UNDP, UNICEF and ILO on the MPSARD; UNICEF and ILO on child benefits; UN Women and ILO on maternity benefits; and ILO and UNFPA on social pensions for older persons. The JP's work was strengthened through collaboration with the UN's Result Group on Inclusive Growth and Social Protection, and the UN's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Group.

Finding 1 – The JP addressed the synergies and interlinkages between its intervention and other interventions implemented by the GOVN and its line ministries

The JP's multi-sectoral and transdisciplinary approaches strengthened the coherence of the UN in Vietnam. On the one hand, facilitating multi-sector dialogues and cooperation in defining socio-economic issues and implementing integrated solutions to provide evidence which help address fragmented social protection programmes (such as weak linkages between social insurance and social assistance systems). Evidence-based studies along with pilots on e-registration and e-payment were examples of the JP's interventions that had strong linkages with MPSARD and MPSIR that the GOVN and its MOLISA have been implementing. The pilots also encouraged experimentation and innovation to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services to ensure no one is left behind, particularly under the catastrophic shocks like the COVID-19.

"One of the outcomes in MPSARD will be the Law on Social Protection. Although this Law is not realised yet, it has been gradually institutionalised by various sub-law documents, which have been supported by the [UNJP] project" – a MOLISA representative

"Pilots in electronic registration and e-payment under COVID-19 were really an important step that is relevant to the objectives of modernization and ICT application of the SP system" – a MOLISA representative

Finding 2 – The JP's interventions were consistent with the relevant international and national norms and standards

As mentioned, the overall aim of the JP was to accelerate Vietnam's transition towards an inclusive and integrated social protection system, and thus the JP contributed to re-designing the social protection in Vietnam by following key approaches such as human-rights and life-cycle. For instance, supports in implementing MPSARD and MPSIR were to promote both human rights (i.e., rights for all to access to social protection) and life-cycle (i.e., all stages of life of a person are counted – from maternity to death). Support for issuing Decree 20/2021 was to promote income adequacy and expand the coverage to vulnerable people, which are in line with ILO's Convention 102 (Social Security - Minimum Standards, 1952) and Convention 202 (Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012).

"... UNJP's support activities are closely linked to the goals of gender equality and women's rights in Vietnam as outlined in strategies related to social insurance, especially in the draft amendments to the 2014 Law on Social Insurance." – a central VWU representative

Finding 3 – The JP's interventions were consistent with the interventions of other actors

Along the time, the GOVN and its ministerial affiliates, particularly MOLISA and MOF, have received various technical support from different donors such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank. In recent years, these donors have provided technical supports in reforming social protection system, particularly in designing an aged care system for older persons (ADB), in designing the social insurance system with multi-layered income security. Rather than duplicating these activities, the JP's activities provided more clearly evidence-based studies and interventions for an inclusive and integrated social protection system in Vietnam. For instance, the work of ILO and UNFPA on social (non-contributory) pensions for older persons provided a persuasive link with the contributory pensions so as to build a multi-layered income security for the aged. Also, piloted aged care model and S-Health provided by UNFPA showed an appropriate integrated care system at communities and homes for older persons in Vietnam.

III. Effectiveness

The overall goal of the JP was to help the GOVN in accelerating Viet Nam's transition towards an inclusive and integrated social protection system, and thus it supported the GOVN in designing innovative solutions for social protection that adopt a transformative and systematic perspective and create pathways for faster, catalytic and more sustainable progress towards the SDGs with a focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of population.

Finding 1 – the JP could attain almost its outcomes as set in the JP document

According to the Progress Report for 2021, by 31 December 2021:

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

Given the fact that Viet Nam faced seriously negative impacts of the COVID-19 in its fourth wave (from 27 April 2021 to mid-February 2022), particularly during June-December 2021 when Directive 16 (strict social distancing, lockdowns) was applied in most provinces/cities, such rates of completion were fully acceptable.

Finding 2 - the JP was effective in innovation, learning and sharing, and innovative experiments throughout all its activities.

More particularly, **for communications**, the JP's activities, results and lessons learned were communicated to key audiences through consultations and workshops. Successful stories, important events and publications were highlighted through social media platforms (including those of the UN Viet Nam and Joint SDG Fund websites, Facebook, as well as print media and national TV). For **learning and sharing**, the JP's annual and quarterly reports, M&E reports, research studies, policy briefs and short videos, infographics and animations were used to share information and knowledge generated by the JP. And for **innovative experimentation**, application of small-scale pilots was a key

approach of the JP as it is cost-effective to test the feasibility of the proposed models. For example, the integrated care for older persons and the validation of the national guidelines for social extension were used this approach. Fast iterative experimentation was also used to test innovative e-solutions for service delivery (e.g., e-registration for beneficiaries and e-payment of benefits). This approach was used to select and refine the most effective solutions for national scale-up.

"... Previously our agency [name of Agency] was the only agency working in social insurance, but in the UNJP, we did promote lots of integration. The integration not only for government agencies, but also within the UN because we work together..." – a PUNCO staff

"Application of e-registration and e-payment was really an innovative way in reaching out potential beneficiaries and benefit delivery. Particularly, when we were locked down or socially distanced by the anti-COVID measures, such approaches helped reduce a heavy burden for local authorities in defining people in needs, which was totally different from the paper-based approach..." – a MOLISA representative

"Due to difficulties in ICT infrastructure as well as low IT skills of beneficiaries, it might be challenged to apply e-payment widely now, but I think it would be effective and safe way to deliver benefits to beneficiaries" – a local WVU representative

Under the COVID-19, various good practices, innovations, and replicable experiences in social protection proposed by the JP show effective ways in designing and implementing an inclusive and integrated social protection system that leaves no one behind. Along with the GOVN to combat the pandemic and provide supports to tens of millions of people suffering from the pandemic, the JP supported the GOVN to develop a shock-responsive social protection system that protected people affected by the COVID-19 and future crises alike. More specifically, the JP provided advice and technical consultancy on the formulation, implementation and extension of the Government's social protection programme to support millions of vulnerable people with cash/support to supplement their lost income caused by COVID-19 and sustain their livelihoods, thus preventing them from falling into poverty. In practice, the first package valued at US\$ 2.6 billion in 2020 (i.e., Resolution 42) provided cash transfers to supplement lost income caused by COVID-19 for more than 14 million most vulnerable people and workers. The second stimulus package valued at VND 26,000 billion (around US\$ 1.1 billion) in 2021 (i.e., Resolution 68) aimed at ensuring social protection and promoting economic recovery, production and business stabilisation. The JP conducted a rapid assessment on the social assistance needs of children and families in Viet Nam affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and it provided recommendations to strengthen the national social assistance system towards a more

shock-responsive one to enhance the resilience of children and families in Viet Nam to climate and economic shocks as well as disease outbreaks and pandemics like COVID-19.

"That UNJP changed the way we work was the biggest transformative result – on the one hand, it is the way we work together; and on the other hand it is the way we interacted with our stakeholders together" – a PUNCO staff

Finding 3 - The JP's activities have been translated into a number of policy strategy and formulation with various targeted groups, and they fostered national ownership processes

First, JP's activities accelerated the progress towards a multi-tiered social protection system using a life-cycle approach that includes child benefits, maternity/paternity benefits, old-age pensions and a social protection floor for PLWD, and expands the coverage to include families in the informal economy and other vulnerable groups. This idea on a multi-tiered social protection system was presented in the draft of the amended 2014 Social Insurance Law, in which the multi-tiered income security for the aged would be combined between social insurance (contributory) and social assistance (non-contributory) schemes. Such a system design also showed a great change in policy formulation of the GOVN.

- On contributory social protection, the policy orientation for revision of the Social Insurance Law 2014, developed by MOLISA with the JP's support, has been approved by the Government, which will guide the development of the new social insurance law to be finalized by 2023. The policies included changes in the Law on Social Insurance to make contributory social protection a main pillar of the social security system, gradually expanding the social insurance coverage, towards achieving the goal of universal social insurance.
- On non-contributory social protection, following of the provision of continued technical support since the beginning of the JP, the new regulation on extension of non-contributory social protection to implement MPSARD, prepared with technical support from the JP, has been endorsed by the Prime Minister on 15 March 2021 (Decree 20/ND-CP/2021). This Decree, effective from 1 July 2021, regulates the increase in social protection coverage for its vulnerable population, including groups of children, older persons and PLWD. With this Decree, the JP contributed to the achievements of targets specified in Viet Nam's MPSARD by extending coverage to include more older people (from 75 years old) and children (under 3 years old), increased benefits, and introduced e-registration and e-payment systems. The JP also developed a National Guideline for Social pension extension, using sub-national fiscal space. This guideline is an important tool for provinces to assess the situation

of income protection for old-age population and to design their own policies for expanding social protection coverage in the localities.

- The JP also supported the Government in conducting two actuarial analyses of long-term benefits (old-age pension and survivorship funds) and short-term benefits (maternity leave and sickness, unemployment insurance, and occupational accident benefit). These actuarial analyses provided the GOVN with a long-term vision of the sustainability of the contributory social protection system and act as the baseline for the coming proposed reform in the Law on Social Insurance and the Employment Law.

Second, the JP's activities also enhanced and improved child protection services, expanded the capacity of social work provision and developed and piloted integrated social care services for vulnerable children, older persons, and PLWD to provide evidence for further scaling up and at a national level. In particular:

- The JP piloted an integrated care model for older persons and developed specific guidelines for providing care services for older persons with disabilities.
- The JP conducted research on the unmet needs of older persons which with disabilities to identify care needs through adding a new survey module on care needs and disabilities of older persons in the Population Change Survey (PCS) in 2021.
- The JP supported the development and pilot of integrated care for older persons, which include both institutional and non-institutional care, improving quality of care and reducing the burden of domestic care work.
- The JP also supported to develop a computer-based and web-based aged care management system for use by social protection/social work centers to manage care services provided, and ensure uninterrupted care for older persons.
- The JP contributed to a draft Decree on Social Work and developed the capacity of the social care workforce.
- The JP conducted various communication activities on national TV and mass and social media.

Third, the JP's activities are expected to promote gender equality in social protection system. Gender analysis has been carried out in all steps of policy design (feasibility studies, impact analysis, etc.) to inform the selection and adoption of the most feasible options. The JP, Viet Nam Women's Union, completed a comprehensive Gender Impact Assessment of Social Insurance in Viet Nam which provided an overview of the gender gaps in social protection outcomes, particularly pensions, arising from labour market inequalities and suboptimal social insurance regulations. The JP developed a series of policy briefs to recommends the Government with concrete solution to address gender gaps in social protection system. The expansion of SP program coverage, as drafted in the new Decree on Social Assistance to support mothers/children, PLWD and social care

services will significantly contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment. Especially in the case of pension expansion, more women will be benefited from pension as they are more represented in old-age population. Also, the new social assistance decree benefited women who have the main share in care-giving work. In contributory social protection, the introduction of maternity benefits financially supported by the government budget, embedded in voluntary social insurance scheme, make 100 per cent of women in Vietnam legally covered by cash maternity benefits. This also have to encourage more women participation in the social insurance system.

Fourth, the JP's activities consolidated and modernized administrative processes and accelerated the digital transformation of the management and delivery of social protection services, including their monitoring and evaluation (M&E), to expand coverage, improve accessibility, and enhance transparency and accountability.

Finding 4 - The JP's activities helped increase stakeholder/citizen dialogues and engagement of development issues and policies

It is estimated that around 6.2 million people in Viet Nam live with some form of disability, accounting for around 7 per cent of the population. However, only 1.2 million persons with the most severe disabilities received some form of social assistance (or 19.3 per cent of the total PLWD). Measuring the multidimensional poverty indicators, data showed that the rate of PLWD living in households with multi-dimensional poverty was 17.8 per cent, while that of the non-disabled was 13.9 per cent. Whilst the GOVN has made great efforts to support PLWD, only 4 out of every 10 of them receive monthly allowances and only a third are exempted from medical expenses. The JP directly addressed these inequities through the greater integration of social insurance and social assistance programs and piloted models that improve both benefits and care assistance to older people with disabilities in some provinces (Thai Nguyen, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Da Nang, and Vinh Long). In addition, the JP's attention to the integration of national social insurance and social assistance databases and systems combined with the delivery of e-services made it easier for PLWD to register for benefits and receive social report. This helped PLWD, particularly women, children and older persons, to take a more active role in society, and for young people with disabilities to enter the labour markets. This greater inclusion and visibility of PLWD combined with their own increased empowerment help to advance disability rights in Viet Nam. The voices of beneficiaries, particularly PLWD, were heard, and as such the delivery of benefits was designed to meet their needs.

"It was safer for beneficiaries to have their money in account. It was also convenient for them to collect benefit at anytime they wanted because we transferred money to their accounts in a fixed date of a month" – a local Post Office authority

"For the people who had difficulties in mobility or transportation, they could collect money once at their convenience. It was also much safer than collecting cash" – a local Women Union authority

Greater integration between the social care system databases for older persons with disability with the social insurance databases and improvements generated through e-registration, e-payments, and e-monitoring and evaluation of the social protection would ensure more disaggregated data collection on persons with disabilities. Such a greater inclusion required increased local authorities' dialogues, collaboration, and engagements in providing services to beneficiaries.

"E-payment required us to work closely with local authorities in completing documents for beneficiaries [such as identity for opening an account]" – a local Post Office staff

"The project helped to change mindset of the social protection staff by improving their capacity [through workshops/meetings] and empowering them in both local policy making and implementation" – a MOLISA representative

"... I think the contribution [of the UNJP] is quite good if we look at the policy changes as the results of the project. The decree on the social assistance [Decree 20] replaced the previous one [Decree 136] and it has already expanded a good number of beneficiaries and also increased the benefit level..." – a PUNCO staff

Challenges for the effectiveness of the JP's piloted activities (i.e., e-registration and e-payment) to be replicable at wider places are low level of social protection system management along with poor infrastructure and limited human resources. These factors made it difficult to have advanced changes of the whole system in a short period of time. Lack of consistent information pieces for the current and potential beneficiaries due to limited social protection database and lack of service connection between financial institutions (in this case, local commercial banks and postal financial services) was also a big barrier to reach beneficiaries effectively (right persons at right times in right places).

"Many beneficiaries have insufficient documents for applying bank accounts... They prefer getting cash in order to consume for daily living conveniently. As such, it is quite challenging to apply e-payment widely now" – a DOLISA staff

"In order to have complete and accurate information, we [provincial post office] have to coordinate with local authorities, residential groups, commune heads, local justice office, etc. And this is the hardest and most complicated work in

this project's implementation. About 700 persons to participate in the e-payment pilot, no one had any bank or postal money account at the beginning"
– a local PO staff

"To date, there has been no connection between e-money [managed and paid by PO] and bank account" – a local PO staff

Finding 5 - The GOVN and its ministerial affiliates played important roles in contributing to JP's design, approval and implementation of activities

Since 2015 the GOVN has increasingly worked with the UN Team in Viet Nam on social protection issues, requesting UN technical advice in formulating policy and system strategies. The formulation of MPSARD and MPSIR was a result of this collaboration. Also, the GOVN endorsed the concept of multi-tiered systems to reach universal coverage through the Resolution 28, which was passed by the Communist Party on May 23, 2018. In addition, close collaboration between the GOVN and UN under the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021, particularly under the UNJP, made it convenient and smooth for the both sides to work together in all relevant issues. More importantly, along with UN, the JP was also committed to provide impartial, unbiased and evidence-based advice and support to the GOVN, and as such the GOVN and its ministerial affiliates played important roles in contributing to JP's design, approval and implementation of activities. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in limited fiscal space for reform, which in turn hindered the expansion of cash assistance and limits the scope of social protection reform, and MOLISA needed to know fiscal cost and space for expanding the assistance. In response to this, the JP conducted a number of costing studies which demonstrated the possibility of social protection extension/expansion without stressing public finances. This promoted discussion on the relation between social protection and public finance management, and extension of coverage as Viet Nam transitions to a formal economy. More specifically, the JP conducted an assessment on the implementation of social assistance (Decree 136/2013) and costing policy options for regular cash transfers for older persons including those with disabilities. This assessment provided evidence on the impact of social assistance in supporting the most vulnerable older persons both in regular and emergency/crisis situations. The JP also worked closely with the Ministry of Finance to understand the Government's concerns from the state budget perspective and support the evidence-based knowledge for mobilizing other resources (such as sub-local budget) as complementary for the central budget. Decree 20/2021 allows more autonomy for the local government in defining their people in needs to provide appropriate support level.

"The UNJP was effective in reaching out more appropriate beneficiaries. Its integrated approach would also help to reach millions of potential beneficiaries. The approach was shown effective under the COVID-19 when people in needs,

particularly those living in difficult and remote areas, were accessible to the government's support" – a MOLISA representative

"COVID-19 came and made living conditions for the poor and other beneficial groups here more difficult. With the pilot support from the [UNJP] project, many vulnerable people and their families could overcome income losses due to social distancing and other strict anti-COVID measures" – a DOLISA representative

"Women and children are always vulnerable to like COVID-19. Though the support was once off, it still helped our families overcome difficulties" – a local beneficiary

To make collaboration between the JP and the GOVN and its ministerial affiliates more effective, however, there were some barriers to be considered. First, there were some challenges in defining roles between the PUNOs and its partners. More specifically, administrative and professional roles should be defined clearly at the beginning of the project.

"When we develop this programme, there are some difficulties at the beginning to identify who was the focal point and which was the leading department to work with ... The International Cooperation Department [ICD] plays the coordination role but it is not working deeply on the [social protection] issue" – a PUNCO staff

Also, the reporting mechanisms between the UN organisations and the GOVN and its participating line ministries were not clear as equal-role partners, particularly in reporting related activities.

"There is an urgent need to have a co-consecutive mechanism between the UN and the GOVN in order to monitoring activities of the both sides... This mechanism may be the same as Decree 114/2021 on ODA fund management" – a MOLISA representative

IV. Efficiency

The budget allocation and expenditure of are as below

SDG Fund (USD)				Total UNJP, including PUNOs contribution (USD)		
	Allocated	Expenditure	%	Allocated	Expenditure	%
Outcome 1	982,119	969,131	98.7%	1,582,872	1,569,884	99.2%

Outcome 2	492,271	495,029	100.6%	592,321	595,079	100.5%
Outcome 3	525,610	515,636	98.1%	625,610	615,636	98.4%
Total	2,000,000	1,979,796	99.0%	2,800,803	2,780,599	99.3%

Finding 1 – The JP management model was quite efficient in comparison with the results and outcomes it achieved.

Based on the findings in this report in relation to the achievement of project activities, it would appear that resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise etc.) been allocated strategically to achieve outcomes and have been used efficiently. More specifically, the financial allocation for the JP to pursue 3 SDGs (i.e., SDG 1.3; SDG 5.4; and SDG 1.2) was quite reasonable (respectively accounted for 64.06%; 29.48%; and 6.46% of the total funding), given the primary aims of the JP and the unexpected emergence of COVID-19 (see **Annex 5**, section 5). Also, the JP's outcomes were generally cost-effective, since it could save financial resources for administration while spending more on technical support (such as evidence-based studies): 14 strategic documents developed or adapted by JP and 21 Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing), of which, 6 documents were related to COVID-19; 5 documents on vulnerable population groups; and pilots in electronic registration and e-payment for SP beneficiaries. In 2021, the JP reached more than 12 million people supporting those who the COVID-19 pandemic had most severely impacted. The reforms initiated by the JP also contributed to reaching more than 3 million children, 1.9 million older people and 1.1 million PWDs (see details in **Annexes 6 and 7**).

"The project [UNJP] was cost-efficient, since it could implement many activities with limited amount of money, particularly it saved a lot of costs for management [staff and other administrative costs] while spending was more for technical assistance" – a MOLISA representative

"... The UNJP is really important to make the use of resources more efficient so we can cover more... with more details probably with less money that would have needed..." – a PUNCO staff

Reviewing the financial proposal and final allocation through periodical and final reports by the JP, the evaluators found that no significant examples of wasted or misused resources.

Finding 2 – The JP outputs and outcomes were more synergistic and coherent than those to be conducted by a single agency

The JP showed efficient partnerships between and within PUNCOs and their partners. The JP's key implementing partners were MOLISA, the Vietnam Social Security Agency (VSS), the Viet Nam Women Union (VWU) and provincial authorities. The JP provided a model for collaborative work that contributed to UN Viet Nam's position as a trusted partner in securing a sustainable future for all Vietnamese people. In particular, through its activities, the JP partnered with MOLISA (to conduct a range of extensive evidence-based assessments and research to accelerate the transformation to a rights-based, inclusive, shock-resilient multi-tiered social protection system), Ministry of Finance - MOF (to conduct actuarial assessments and finance options for social protection, in which fiscal multiplier for a Vietnam Dong spent to social protection was calculated), Ministry of Education and Training - MOET (to develop guidelines for social work within the education sector to improve the social wellbeing of pupils), Ministry of Health - MOH (to examine the care needs of older people with disabilities), Ministry of Justice - MOJ (to improve the police and justice framework for child protection), National Assembly's Committee for Social Affairs - NACSA (to advocate for the incorporation of recommended changes into legislation and advance gender equality at a national level), provincial authorities of the piloted provinces (to test the feasibility of proposed options at the local level and use local resources and funds to expand the coverage of the social protection system), Viet Nam Women's Union (to undertake a comprehensive gender impact assessment to identify gender gaps within the social protection system and make recommendations to address them), Civil Society Organisations – CSOs such as the Viet Nam Association of the Elderly (VAE) (to engage the community and pilot community-based initiatives, such as an integrated care model for older persons), as well as Viet Nam Post, Viettel Pay and local IT companies (to accelerate the pilot of digital cash transfers to vulnerable ethnic minority women in five provinces).

"Since social protection targeted beneficiaries (such as children, older persons, PLWD) are diverse in their conditions, separated interventions by PUNCOs and their respective line ministries and local authorities would be less efficient than consolidated interventions done by the JP along with all partners" – a PUNCO staff

"Working with different UN organisations in designing social assistance programmes in consistent approaches for various types of beneficiaries required us to work closely with each other. The collaboration was indeed efficient in both time and resources" – a MOLISA representative

"Once all JP's members are consistent in approaches to social protection design, such as life-cycle-based system, the collaboration between us to planning, implementing and coordinating work has become more efficient" – a PUNCO staff

"Within the project, we must work with each other in order to define right beneficiaries, to deliver benefits at right time. At the beginning of the project, it was a bit difficult as we did not work with each other before. Now our collective work is quite efficient" – a local PO staff

"It was really facilitating mode in various joint activities and joint reports among us [the JP's PUNOs] once we understood very well the common core messages based on our mandates" – a PUNCO staff

Finding 3 – The JP's work modality has influenced to change its implementing partners and beneficiaries in improving their work efficiency

Since the PUNOs of the JP worked under one UN's modality, their implementing partners (i.e., different departments from MOLISA for policy strategy and formulation, and various provincial departments for the pilots) must work together, rather than working independently on specific areas as before.

"... To register for beneficiaries, we must work closely with commune authorities to get the list, and then with DOLISA authorities. Once all was finished, it was easy for all of us to get information of beneficiaries..." – a local Post-Office representative

The JP's pilots also helped to increase the potential beneficiaries, since e-registration showed an cost-effective way to define right beneficiaries at the right time.

"Through the project [UNJP] support, the number of beneficiaries is expected to increase by 5-10%" – a MOLISA representative

"... The pilots of electronic registration and e-payment showed a substantial improvement in reducing administrative cost, making a transparent selection of beneficiaries, smoothing payment process, and facilitating M&E report..." – a MOLISA representative

Evaluation of ILSSA and UNDP (2020) also showed that the MOLISA's National Guidelines on Social Pension Extension following Decree 20/2021 (on administrative procedures, profiles of the beneficiaries, empowerment of local authorities in expanding beneficiaries and benefit level) provided more zoom for provinces to arrange their local funding sources to expand social pension and other categories.

"There have been 16 provinces/cities to expand either beneficiaries or level of benefit, since the implementation of Decree 21" – a MOLISA representative

Finding 4 – There are obstacles, however, that need to be considered in order to improve efficiency of the JP’s interventions and their possible scaling-up at national level

Limited funding to be invested or spent for various work and diverse beneficiaries which belong to different mandates of PUNOs made it difficult to gather outputs. Also, it was not allowed to add more funding sources or partners during the JP’s implementation, so it was not really flexible to have related activities.

"As the resources were not concentrated deeply to provide comprehensive policy package for various beneficiaries (e.g., children, older persons, PLWD) at the same time, we finally needed an expert to gather all information as evidence for policy changes..." – a MOLISA representative

"There is a need to get supplementary funding sources or partners so as to create flexibility for the project in implementing activities" – a MOLISA representative

V. Impact

A simple theory of change (ToC) for the project approach is set out in **Annex 8**. This was based on the assumption that the provision of technical assistance by UNJP (advice, capacity building, etc.) would lead to improved social protection policies (such as new strategies, laws) and to improved implementation of social protection policies leading to improved social protection coverage (e.g. broader scope of social protection, higher level of coverage, and higher benefits) which would, in turn, result in better living standards and reduced poverty of the targeted beneficiaries in particular, and the Vietnamese people in general.

Finding 1 - The JP’s activities had various impacts on the development outcomes and SDG acceleration.

First, the JP went beyond "business as usual" to produce catalytic results at scale. The JP has built upon previous activities and continued to deliver technical support and policy advice to the GOVN in order to accelerate the transition towards an integrated multi-tiered social protection system. By promoting a rights-based social protection system based on a life-cycle approach, with a more effective service delivery, the JP helped to ensure that no one is left behind by advancing gender equality and ensuring that the vulnerable are considered first. More specifically, the JP has been an typical model for going beyond "business as usual", as it has:

- i) strengthened the linkages between social insurance and social assistance through a multi-tiered social protection system approach, in which child benefits,

maternity/paternity benefits, old-age pensions and disability benefits are in focus so as to make the whole system more inclusive for those at risk of being left behind;

- ii) developed the social care system along with the life-cycle approach, in addition to advocating for a more rights-based, progressive and efficient use of state resources;
- iii) promoted greater integration of the social care system by enhancing the links between SA and SI policies, with a focus on making the system more inclusive and accessible for the most vulnerable as complementary to income support;
- iv) rapidly iterated solutions for digitalising the social protection system on a national scale in order to facilitate and support the e-registration of beneficiaries, e-payments and services, as well as M&E; and
- v) developed shock-resilient mechanisms to deliver rapid assistance and absorb the impacts of unexpected large-scale crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters.

Second, the JP contributed to accelerate SDGs. The JP continued to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs, particularly SDG1 and SDG5. More specifically:

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

JP also contributed to these SDGs through, for example, evidence-based policy advocacy on gender inequality in accessing social insurance system.

Finding 2 - the JP contributed to the targeted cross-cutting issues by mainstreaming gender equality, women's empowerment, disability through its all activities.

The JP's gender equality work included i) A comprehensive study and its associated policy briefs on Gender Impact Assessment of the Social Insurance System in Viet Nam contributed to a global initiative and Gender Responsive and Age Sensitive Social Protection (GRASSP) research that examined social protection inequities in low-income and low-middle income countries; ii) A High-Level Dialogue on Gender Gaps in the Social Protection System was co-organised by Viet Nam Women's Union (VWU) and the National Assembly Committee for Social Affairs (NACSA) with the participation of more than 150 senior delegates and advocated for significant policy reform to advance gender equality; iii) The development of child protection protocols and support for the National Programme on Child Protection 2021-2026 to ensure young girls and boys are protected from abuse and violence; iv) A new Decree on Social Assistance (i.e., Decree 20/2021) expanded benefits for women in areas such as paid maternity/paternity leave, supporting women's employment and promoting shared responsibilities within the household; v) The digitalisation of social protection services, e.g. the e-payments of benefits, recognising the value of women's care roles and providing more financial independence and control; and vi) The digitalisation of the social protection M&E system and disaggregation of gender data quantified gender gaps, promoting reforms to advance gender equality.

The estimated percentage of the overall disbursed funds spent on the gender equality by the end of 2021 was 32%.

The JP applied a rights-based approach through all of its activities that support the realisation of the GOVN's international commitments on human rights. More particularly, the JP's activities were involved with i) International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action: The review of the Law on the Elderly; actuarial assessment of pensions and piloting of integrated care system for older people enhanced social security for older persons (R6.18); increased older people's self-reliance and recognised the importance of caregivers (R6.19); ii) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): An expanded social protection system has extended benefits to people working in the informal sector (R29c) and ethnic minority women (R39b); iii) Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC): Improved protocols for child protection and extension of child benefits have strengthened the framework for preventing and responding to child abuse and reduced child poverty. Especially, Decree 20/2021 extended the coverage of the social assistance system to more children; iv) Universal Periodic Review (UPR): An extended social protection system has enhanced access to services for vulnerable people (R38.107), reduced extreme poverty (R38.127),

recognised the contribution of the elderly (R38.201), increased the number of caregivers to support the elderly (R38.240), multiplied health care models for the elderly (R38.4) and improved access and quality of services for PLWD (R38.286); and v) The ILO Social Protection Floor Recommendation (R202): this has been used as the international standard to inform the multi-tiered approach as indicated in the GOVN's MPSARD and MPSIR, so as to extend access to social security (C102) and enhance social protection floors (R202).

"... I think in this UNJP, the RCO plays quite important role in coordinating and communicating with donors and outsiders... and I think it would be good if RCO can play this kind of role in UN reform..." – a PUNCO staff

"With the support from the project [UNJP], D20 was enacted to replace D136 and it [D20] changed administrative procedures, the mode of payment from cash to bank or post-office account, and [more importantly] assign and empower local governments in expanding beneficiaries and increasing benefit level" – a MOLISA representative

"... Now more provinces are willing to replicate the [care] model. If more provinces doing that, MOLISA is now thinking of developing a new Decree in this or next year on guiding the model..." – a PUNCO staff

"Our business partners are very interested in the [care] model and we are now having back-to-back dialogues with them, and MOLISA by end of this month [May 2022] would discuss possibilities to develop PPP [Public-Private Partnership]-based model..." – a PUNCO staff

Finding 3 – Matching funds played an important role in promoting key results of the JP

The project has also shared resources with other projects currently implemented by different agencies. The JP was also able to mobilise *additional funding and/or financing so as to* strengthen the social protection system and respond to the impacts of COVID-19 more efficiently. For example, the JP got a contribution of US\$ 350,000 from the Government of Japan to pilot inclusive social care services for older persons; a US\$ 250,000 contribution from CITI Fund for piloting e-cash transfers and e-commerce solutions for vulnerable ethnic minority people and women-led ethnic minority cooperatives in two remote provinces; and various contributions from the Irish Aid (EUR 400,000), the EU (EUR 190,000) and the ILO RBTC (US\$ 30,000) for the work focused on social protection reforms. Moreover, the UN core funds of USD 170,000 were mobilised to support the COVID-19 response and recovery for older persons in 12 high-risk provinces

and to develop a mobile app to provide e-health care for older persons (namely, S-Health).

Annex 4 presents financial disbursements of the JP, in which the sources from the SDG Fund and the contributions of the PUNOs are allocated in different categories in detail.

Finding 4 – The JP had impacts on the targeted beneficiaries, but various issues needed to be considered in order to improve the impacts

One-off cash transfer programme to people living in poor or ethnic minority households was piloted with e-registration and e-payment of benefit. The surveys with local authorities and beneficiaries of the pilots showed that the JP's intervention could reach the targeted beneficiaries and helped their households to overcome income difficulties resulting from harsh COVID-19. More specifically, with the comprehensive steps to register the beneficiaries, it was much more for local authorities to manage the list of beneficiaries and keep updated with their households' situations. Also, e-payment was convenient for those who had bank accounts or post-office money account since this way of payment was cost-saving, time-efficient and safe.

"... With e-registration, it is much easier for local authorities like us to manage the list of beneficiaries. It is also easy to update the list when having something changed..." – a DOLISA authority

"For young beneficiaries who have bank accounts or post-office money accounts, it is convenient for them to get supported money at anytime they want and it is much safer than getting cash at communal office as before" – a Bac Kan local authority

"With e-payment, people living in remote and difficult areas could get full benefit safely without being charged for money withdrawal, instead of spending time [and even money] to get cash as before" – a local PO staff

However, the impacts of the intervention might not be as high as expected due to the fact that beneficiaries, especially people at old ages, had low ICT skills and lack of financial knowledge and management, and this it was challenging for themselves to utilise a modern registration and delivery system.

"Our beneficiaries are mostly poor persons so they do not have any bank account, no businesses and almost no saving" – a local commune head

"Without appropriate payment infrastructure and people still prefer using cash since they have a little money for living and no saving, e-payment is quite challenging" – a local VWU representative

VI. Sustainability

Finding 1 – The JP has pushed further the implementation of MPSARD and MPSIR where the design of multi-layered income security has been highlighted.

The JP's activities, which were implemented within PUNOs and with the GOVN and its line ministries, could provide various evidence-based studies and practices to make social protection system in Vietnam and its related components sustainable in the future. Sustainability could be presented by a more integrated and inclusive social protection system based on human rights and life-cycle approaches along with changes in the system's human resources, infrastructure, and financing.

The JP contributed to build a more consolidated, integrated, and inclusive social protection system that ensure "no one is left behind". More specifically, using the ILO Social Protection Floor Recommendation (R202), the JP's Social Protection Legal Review recommended the integrated approach to address current high-level fragmentation between the different social protection pillars (i.e., social insurance and social assistance), and supported increase the level policy coherence across these pillars.

Also, with UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (UNCESCR)'s General Comment No. 19 on the right to social security and ILO Minimum Standards (Social Security) Convention 102 (C102), the JP's Policy brief on Potential of Multi-tiered Child Benefits urged the GOVN to introduce a multi-tiered child/family benefit as one of the most impactful and effective ways to improve the number and adequacy of benefits provided through the social security system.

Gender inequality and women's empowerment in social protection have also been in focused and promoted through persuasive Policy briefs on Gender Gaps of Social Insurance and Recommendations to improve gender equality in the Social Insurance Law, which followed Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). These briefs provided key recommendations for increasing adequacy and narrowing down gender gaps in coverage and benefits.

Finding 2 – The JP's activities have strengthened the capacity of beneficiaries so that they are resilient and sustainable to external shocks

The JP activities promoted various social protection and care for older persons to adapt with an expected rapidly aging population in Viet Nam in the coming decades through enhancing the care system to improve access to services for vulnerable people (R38.107) and reduce extreme poverty (R38.127), recognize the contribution of elderly (R38.201) and increase the number of social workers and care-givers to support the elderly (R38.240), provide multiplied health care models for the elderly (R38.4), and improve access and quality of services for PLWD (R38.286).

"It [UNJP] should be replicated as it is very effective and the Government has received clearer recommendations, especially in terms of policy development support..." – a PUNCO staff

"Policies facilitating young women to participate in labour markets and social insurance system will be sustainable, because they [policies] will help to realise gender equality in income security from both current work and future retirement" – a central VWU representative

More importantly, throughout its activities to work with line ministries and their local departments, the JP could change the mindsets and approaches of the policy makers in Vietnam in formulating and implementing social protection policies: i) the human-rights based approach, which shows that social protection is not a charity for some privileged group, but a right to all citizen; ii) the life-cycle approach, which helps expand social protection to cover all contingencies (i.e. 9 contingencies as proposed in ILO's Convention 102), and iii) social protection is an investment, rather than "giving-away" or "charity" money as traditionally thought. With diverse experiences of social protection in the past years, especially in the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been again confirmed that investment in social protection would become one of the key drivers of Vietnam's post pandemic economic recovery.

"... Changes in capacity of local authorities along with application of electronic registration and e-payment will require changes in policy formulation, implementation, and infrastructure... The mindset that spending for social protection is a human-centered investment will make these changes sustainable" – a MOLISA representative

Finding 3 – The JP's interventions are replicable or scaled up at local or national levels

Through the JP's pilots (such as aged care models, and e-registration and e-payment in social assistance), capacity of local human resources in social protection has been improved, and local authorities found appropriate models for their provinces' socio-economic and health conditions.

"... Now more provinces are willing to replicate the [care] model. If more provinces do that, MOLISA is now thinking of developing a new Decree in this or next year on guiding the model..." – a PUNCO staff

The JP has shown a good model for different organisations with different mandates – within UN and also the GOVN's line ministries and departments - to coordinate,

collaborate, and cooperate various works for different stakeholders. The JP showed that, even with different mandates, understanding and following common core messages would improve effectiveness and efficiency of joint works by various organisations.

PART III: LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Lessons learnt

Through the IDIs and FGDs with all stakeholders as well as reviewing reports of the JP, there are some key lessons learnt, as follows.

Lesson 1: Multi-sectoral approaches are essential to design and implement an integrated social protection system

"First, better understanding each other [within the UN] about the mandates, technical expertise, working experience, relationship with the Government; second, always talk with the Government about the support from UN - not from the single agency; and each agency learn how to work together as one to promote integration and cooperation each other during the implementation [of the UNJP]" – a PUNCO staff;

"Close collaboration and cooperation at the beginning of the [UNJP] project in order to discuss and select the most relevant issues in both short-term and long-term" – a MOLISA representative;

"All local stakeholders (such as DOLISA, PO, local authorities, and local CSOs) work closely together in order to identify beneficiaries and deliver benefits. This helped us to reach out the beneficiaries timely, and reduced work requirement for each of us" – a local VWU staff

Lesson 2: Recommendations must be accessible evidence-based in order to make a case for social protection reforms as well as transformative results

"... Open dialogues, joined planning, joined approach to the Government with one voice, share the common approaches working with the Government..." – a PUNCO staff;

"Close collaboration between GOVN, UN, coordinating units in monitoring the project's implementation as well as flexibly adjusting objectives, outputs, or outcomes when facing substantial changes/shocks such as COVID-19" – a MOLISA representative;

"Connection between payment systems of POs and financial institutions [banks, credit funds] will help expand e-payment system" – a local PO staff

"The UNJP has changed the working mode of the UN organisations, i.e., we worked closely together and we together work with other organisations" – a PUNCO staff;

... with transformative results

"The UNJP provided a "menu" of scenarios for the GOVN to decide design and implementation of the social pension scheme. Along with this, holding in-depth seminars on each issue in social protection system design (such as payment, identification of beneficiaries) also helped to change the mindset of ministries and sectors, especially MOLISA, about the system." – a PUNCO staff;

"Decree 20 provides more autonomy for local governments in defining additional beneficiaries and higher benefit level [than the regulated minimum level at VND 360,000], depending on provincial budget situation. This is clearly different from before when DOLISA just simply followed what set in the decrees" – a MOLISA representative;

"... For example, ILO could promote C102 very efficiently when working closely with other UN organisations as well as the GOVN and its line ministries" – a PUNCO staff;

Lesson 3: Policy reforms must be viewed through a gender lens to close gender gaps and advance gender equality. And social protection must be rooted in recognised human rights principles to ensure the dignity of all people. For these, social protection data should be disaggregated to include vulnerable population groups to ensure no one is left behind.

"To expand e-payment, all local stakeholders should jointly communicate its beneficiaries as well as provide different supports to different beneficiaries, such as PLWD, poor people" – a DOLISA staff;

Lesson 4: Digitalisation and other infrastructure provide significant opportunities for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of services. At the same time, rising awareness and changing financial behaviors of beneficiaries will be benefited in the long-term

"It might be difficult at the beginning when we applied e-payment system because our beneficiaries have low skills in financial transactions. However, this should not prevent us from introducing the system. Along with this, we should guide beneficiaries in particular and citizens in general to use financial tools" – a local PO staff;

"Infrastructure for SP policies (such as an e-payment system) should be developed along with changing financial behaviors [from cash to account] of beneficiaries" – a local VWU staff

"All local stakeholders need to work closely together to promote e-payment with good promotion to beneficiaries (such as rewarding points for those who use e-payment more frequently)" – a local VWU staff;

"To support beneficiaries timely, a comprehensive M&E system is really needed. Also, technical support [training, workshop] for local authorities working in SP should be continued and developed" – a MOLISA representative;

Lesson 5: Integrated and flexible finance options involving central and local resources are needed to extend coverage.

II. Recommendations

Based on the above analyses, this evaluation recommends the following work in order to promote the advantages and mitigate disadvantages/obstacles/challenges in reaching an integrated and inclusive social protection system in Viet Nam

First, all stakeholders should be involved in all stages of projects/interventions in social protection (from formulation to implementation and M&E processes). This is extremely important to make sure that all stakeholders are consistent with each other in methodologies, financial instruments, and business practices so as together attain the set targets

Second, further capacity building on integration approach in social protection is needed because policy makers and local practitioners need more time to well understand many new concepts brought by the JP, including a multi-tiered, integrated income security system.

Third, further evidence-based knowledge and studies on such important issues as expansion of the social protection for women and promotion of gender equality in social protection are needed.

Fourth, further evidence-based studies on fiscal space under integrated and flexible finance options involving central and local resources should be regularly conducted, so as to extend coverage to people in needs – both horizontally and vertically - for resilience in unexpected large-scale crises like the COVID-19.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: TOR of Eval



TERMS OF REFERENCE FINAL EVALUATION OF SDG-F JOINT PROGRAMME ON

Accelerating Viet Nam's Transition Toward Inclusive and Integrated Social Protection

2 National Consultants
(1 team leader, 1 team member)

March 2022

1. GENERAL CONTEXT

The Joint Programme “Accelerating Viet Nam’s Transition Toward Inclusive and Integrated Social Protection” funded by the Sustainable Development Goals Fund³ (SDGF) was launched on 1 January 2020 with the original duration of 24 months until 31 December 2021 which then has been extended to May 2022. Four UN agencies (including ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNDP) are the participating UN organizations (PUNOs) of the JP. *(See the detailed JP document in the Annex.)*

The Joint Programme (JP) supports Viet Nam in accelerating its transition towards an inclusive and integrated social protection (SP) system by demonstrating the potential of an (i) integrated multi-tiered social protection system (MTS) using the life-cycle approach; (ii) extended social care services system; and (iii) innovative e-service delivery system. It aims to accelerate the achievement of the targets established under the Government of Viet Nam (GOVN) SP related Master Plans on social insurance, social assistance and digitalizing SP service delivery and M&E system. The focus is therefore on expanding the coverage, and improving efficiency of delivery, of social insurance (SI) and social assistance (SA) services to groups insufficiently covered or at risk of being left behind. The JP has been implemented under the framework of the One Strategic Plan (OSP) 2017-2021, which has been committed by the GOVN and UN agencies.

The JP outcomes are:

- An integrated gender-sensitive multi-tiered expansion strategy for accelerating SDG progress towards universal social protection coverage
- Inclusive social care system for the most vulnerable for accelerating SDG progress
- Integrated e-system for delivering SP services and real-time M&E for accelerating SDG progress.

The long-term impact of the UNJP’s integrated approach could include, by 2030, having 100 per cent of the 20 million children in Vietnam benefiting from social protection. This would also represent an expansion from 30 per cent to 45 per cent of the workforce participating in social insurance. Likewise, 100 per cent of women giving birth would be protected, as opposed to the 26 per cent who currently have access to paid maternity leave. The new multi-tiered social protection system would also increase old-age protection to 60 per cent of the elderly, as per the Government’s targets, up from around 30 per cent today. Finally, while the current social assistance benefit for PLWD reaches around one million people, the project will promote an expansion to an additional one million people plus an additional 200,000 caregivers. The long-term impact of the intervention could expand care services to 100 per cent of the elderly by 2030, which would be an additional 2 million PLWD.

In line with the SDGF guidance, the JP plans to commission an independent final evaluation of this JP. The JP is seeking for two (02) high-qualified national consultants to conduct the final evaluation. The JP Secretariat (ILO), with technical support from the UNRCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP, assumes the role of guidance and oversight in the final evaluation.

2. OVERALL GOAL, SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND AUDIENCES

The **overall goal** of the evaluation is to promote accountability (of the UN, GOVN and

³ The Sustainable Development Goals Fund is a development cooperation mechanism created in 2014 to support sustainable development activities through integrated and multidimensional Joint Programmes.

CSO partners), organizational learning, stocktaking of achievements, performance, impacts, good practices, and lessons learnt and recommendations for future improvement and towards SDG acceleration.

This final evaluation has the following **specific objectives**:

1. Assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency of the JP in achieving its outcomes and outputs as originally planned in the JP document, specifically in the JP results framework, or subsequently officially revised; At the same time, assess the JP's responsiveness in coping with COVID-19's negative impacts;
2. Measure the impact of the JP on SDG acceleration;
3. Assess the sustainability of JP achieved results;
4. Assess the contribution of the JP to UN Development System Reform (e.g., improved collaboration and coherence of the UNCT, RC leadership, contribution to CF/UNDAF).
5. Identify and document substantive lessons learned and good practices toward inclusive and integrated social protection with the focus on supporting JP target groups including (i) women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons, and (ii) girls, youth, minorities, rural workers, and victims of violence (who would receive the JP's indirect influence); and
6. Provide actionable recommendations for the way forward.

Evaluation Scope

The JP evaluation cover the period is from May 2019 (when the JP design began) to March 2022 (when the JP evaluation is planned to take place) to cover the JP design phase to the JP implementation phase. The JP evaluation will assess contributions to all JP outcomes and outputs by all 4 PUNOs and examine the JP cross-cutting issues and with global UN programming principles (e.g. leaving no one behind LNOB, human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, sustainability and resilience, shock-responsiveness, and accountability).

The JP evaluation will take into account emerging issues related to serious droughts, typhoons, and the COVID-19 pandemic in both the evaluation contents (e.g. the PUNOs' responsiveness, adaptation and reprioritization) and operation (e.g. methods for managing stakeholder participation and inclusiveness in the COVID context).

The JP evaluation also assess the contribution and accountabilities of the JP key partners (including MOLISA and the Viet Nam Women's Union) and other partners (e.g., including government counterparts, donor community members, representatives of key civil society organizations, UNCT members, and other implementing partners) toward the JP implementation against the responsibilities identified in the JP document, specifically in JP design and approval, implementation, monitoring and reporting as well as in facilitating multi-stakeholder coordination and mechanism.

It is foreseen that this evaluation will take place from March to June 2022. The evaluation will be conducted in Hanoi and other JP provinces if necessary and possible (due to COVID) with maximum 2 field trips.

The primary audiences of this evaluation are the PUNOs who designed and implemented the programme. The report will benefit from key government partners' views as well as provide valuable recommendations for the policy making and future programmes.

Evaluation Questions

The JP evaluation will apply the OECD/DAC criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. The JP evaluation with its evaluation report aims to answer multiple questions primarily identified as follows:

Relevance: Extent to which the objectives of the development intervention are consistent with national needs and priorities, the country's international and regional commitments, and achieving the SDGs

- a) How has the JP contributed to solve the needs and problems identified in the design phase (including on SDGs, leaving no one behind, human rights, sustainable development, environment, disability, and gender equity)
- b) To what extent the JP is consistent with the One Strategic Plan 2017-2021 strategic areas and outcomes?
- c) To what extent the UN comparative advantages and unique mandates (that other stakeholders would not/cannot have) are relevant with the JP objectives and outcomes and help strengthen the UN position, credibility, and reliability of the UN as a partner for the GOVN and other actors in the JP areas?
- d) How resilient, responsive and strategic the JP was in addressing emerging and emergency needs? For example, in assessing the COVID-19 impacts and in reprioritizing/adapting its support to provide timely support to the country and to ensure the achievement of the JP outcomes.

Effectiveness: Extent to which the objectives of the development intervention have been achieved

- a) To what extent did the JP attain the development outputs and outcomes described in the JP document? The evaluation should also note how the unintended results, if any, have affected national development positively or negatively and to what extent have they been foreseen and managed.
- b) What good practices, success stories, innovations, lessons learnt, and replicable experiences/key factors have been identified for the success of this JP? Please describe and document them.
- c) To what extent has the HP contributed to the advancement and the progress of fostering national ownership processes and outcomes (the design and implementation of national development plans, policies, OSP, etc.)
- d) To what extent did the JP help to increase stakeholder/citizen dialogue and or engagement of development issues and policies?
- e) How effective was the GOVN's roles in contributing to JP design and approval, implementation, monitoring and reporting as well as in facilitating multi-stakeholder coordination and mechanism and mobilizing resources for smooth and efficient JP implementation?

Efficiency: Extent to which resources/inputs (funds, time, human resources, etc.) have been turned into results

- a) To what extent was the JP management model (governance and implementation arrangements; monitoring and reporting tools; and accountability, financial management, and public disclosure models) efficient in comparison to the development results attained?

- b) To what extent were the JP outputs and outcomes synergistic and coherent to achieve better results when compared to singly-agency interventions? What efficiency gains/losses were there as a result?
- c) What type of work methodologies, financial instruments, and business practices have the implementing partners used to increase efficiency in delivering as one?
- d) What type of (administrative, financial and managerial) obstacles did the joint programme face and to what extent have this affected its efficiency?

Impact: Positive and negative effects of the intervention on the development outcomes and SDG acceleration

- a) To what extent and in what ways did the JP contribute to SDG acceleration?
- b) To what extent and in what ways did the JP contribute to the targeted cross-cutting issues: gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, disability (also see below), and public private partnerships (PPPs) at the local and national levels?
- c) What impact did the matching funds have in the design, implementation and results of the JP?
- d) To what extent did the JP have an impact on the targeted beneficiaries? Were all targeted beneficiaries reached? Which were left out?
- e) What unexpected/unintended effects did the JP have, if any?

Sustainability: Probability of the benefits of the intervention continuing in the long term.

- a) Which mechanisms already existed, and which have been put in place by the JP to ensure results and impact, i.e. policy, policy coordination mechanisms, partnerships, networks?
- b) To what extent has the capacity of beneficiaries (institutional and/or individual) been strengthened such that they are resilient and sustainable to external shocks and/or do not need support in the long term?
- c) To what extent will the JP be replicable or scaled up at national or local levels?

As persons with disabilities are among the most vulnerable and marginalized groups across countries and considering the critical role that social protection can play in supporting their inclusion. This JP has identified them as a target group. In line with the Leaving No One Behind principle and the obligations stemming from the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, the JP should ensure that persons with disabilities within targeted population can access the program without discrimination. The evaluation will therefore also assess to what extent:

- The JP design, implementation, and monitoring have been inclusive of persons with disabilities (accessibility, non-discrimination, participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, data disaggregation); and
- The JP effectively contributed to the socio-economic inclusion of persons with disabilities by providing income security, coverage of health care, and disability-related costs across the life cycle.

See the detailed guiding questions on Persons with Disabilities and evaluation criteria in Annex I.

3. METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

The overall approach is participatory and theory-based (using the JP theory of

change).

The JP evaluation will be conducted in an inclusive manner and promote national ownership through the meaningful engagement of relevant national partners throughout the evaluation process. The JP evaluation is independent and adhere to and implement UNEG Norms and Standards.

In general, the methodology of this evaluation includes triangulation and mixed method of quantitative and qualitative data analysis. Followings are standards and considerations for data analysis and data collection:

Data Analysis

- Provide credible answers to the evaluation questions;
- Ensure that the information collected is valid, reliable and sufficient to meet the evaluation purposes, scope and approach and that the analysis is logically coherent and complete (and not speculative or opinion-based);
- Use a mixed method, employing the most appropriate qualitative and quantitative approaches, data types and methods of data analysis;
- Ensure triangulation of the various data sources to ensure maximum validity, reliability of data and promote use;
- Apply participatory and utilization-focused approach to involve key stakeholders and boost ownership of the evaluation should be adopted;
- Ensure a Leave No One Behind lens, particularly gender equality and human rights;
- Ensure the linkage with the SDGs.

Data Collection: The JP evaluation will draw on a variety of data collection methods including, but not limited to, the followings:

- Document review focusing on JP documents, progress reviews, mid-year and annual reports, strategy papers, national plans and policies and related programme and project documents. These should include reports on the progress against national and international commitments.
- Semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders including key government counterparts, donor community members, representatives of key civil society organisations, UNCT members, and implementing partners.
- Focus Group discussions involving groups and sub-groups of stakeholders, decision-makers.
- Other methods such as outcome mapping, observational visits, photo stories, etc.

An **evaluation matrix** will be prepared during the inception phase to present the links between data collection methods, evaluation questions, sources, etc. Additionally, a rapid evaluability assessment will be undertaken during the inception phase to determine the availability of documentation, the quality of the JP results framework and indicators, and gaps in information; this will inform the evaluation approach.

In addition, the precise data collection methods should be identified following:

- Analysis of availability of existing evaluative evidence and administrative data
- Logistical constraints (travel, costs, time, etc)
- Ethical considerations (especially when evaluating sensitive topics such as GBV or in sensitive settings such as post-conflict settings)

During the inception phase, the evaluation team will propose a detailed evaluation

methodology. The methodology should propose innovative options for data collection methods (including remote data collection if necessary) considering the COVID-19 pandemic and related coping measures which may not allow a smooth data collection process.

4. EVALUATION DELIVERABLES

The Evaluation Team is responsible for submitting the following deliverables (in both English and Vietnamese) to the commissioner and the managers of the evaluation:

Inception Report This report will be 10 to 15 pages in length and will propose the methods, sources and procedures to be used for data collection. It will also include a proposed timeline of activities and submission of deliverables. The desk study report will propose initial lines of inquiry about the JP. This report will be used as an initial point of agreement and understanding between the consultant and the evaluation managers. The report will follow the outline stated in Annex II.

Draft Final Report The draft final report will contain the same sections as the final report (described in the next paragraph) and will be 30 to 40 pages in length. This report will be shared among the evaluation reference group and the quality assurance member.

Final Evaluation Report: The final report will be 20 to 30 pages in length. It will also contain an executive summary of no more than 2 pages that includes a brief description of the joint programme, its context and current situation, the purpose of the evaluation, its methodology and its major findings, conclusions and recommendations. The final report will be sent to the evaluation reference group and the quality assurance member. This report will follow the template in Annex III.

Each report needs to be accompanied by an **Audit Trail** to list all comments to its draft versions and to show how the comments are addressed by the Evaluation Team.

5. KEY ROLES AND RESPONSABILITIES IN THE EVALUATION PROCESS

There will be 3 main actors involved in the implementation of the JP evaluation:

Evaluation Reference Group: The JP Joint GOVN-UN Steering Committee will function as the evaluation reference group. This group will comprise the representatives of the major stakeholders in the JP and will:

- Review the draft evaluation report and ensure final draft meets the required quality standards;
- Facilitate the participation of those involved in the evaluation design;
- Identifying information needs, defining objectives and delimiting the scope of the evaluation;
- Provide inputs and participating in finalizing the evaluation Terms of Reference;
- Facilitate the evaluation team's access to all information and documentation relevant to the intervention, as well as to key actors and informants who should participate in interviews, focus groups or other

- information-gathering methods;
- Oversee progress and conduct of the evaluation the quality of the process and the products;
- Endorse the action plan following the submission of the final evaluation report;
- Disseminating the results of the evaluation.

Evaluation managers: The JP Secretariat (ILO) and the programme coordinator as evaluation managers will have the following functions:

- Contribute to the finalization of the evaluation TOR;
- Provide executive and coordination support to the reference group;
- Provide the evaluators with administrative support and required data;
- Liaise with and respond to the commissioners of evaluation;
- Connect the evaluation team with the wider programme unit, senior management and key evaluation stakeholders, and ensure a fully inclusive and transparent approach to the evaluation;
- Provide comments to the JP evaluation's key deliverables including the inception report, draft reports, and the final report.
- Ensure that adequate funding and human resources are allocated for the evaluation.

Quality Assurance Member: The Joint SDG Fund Secretariat will play the role of quality assurance who review and provide advice on the quality the evaluation process as well as on the evaluation products (comments and suggestions on draft TOR, inception report, draft reports, final report of the evaluation) and options for improvement

Evaluation commissioner: The Resident Coordinator Office (led by the RCO Head with support from the RCO Data Officer) as commissioner of the final evaluation will have the following functions:

- Lead the evaluation process throughout the 3 main phases of a final evaluation (design, implementation and dissemination);
- Convene the evaluation reference group;
- Lead the finalization of the evaluation ToR;
- Coordinate the selection and recruitment of the evaluation team by making sure the lead agency undertakes the necessary procurement processes and contractual arrangements required to hire the evaluation team;
- Ensure the evaluation products meet quality standards (in collaboration with the MDG-F Secretariat);
- Provide clear specific advice and support to the evaluation managers and the evaluation team throughout the whole evaluation process;
- Safeguard the independence of the exercise, including the selection of the evaluation team.

Evaluation team: The evaluation team composed by two national consultants will conduct the evaluation study by fulfilling the contractual arrangements in line with the TOR, UNEG/OECD norms and standards and ethical guidelines; this includes developing an evaluation matrix as part of the inception report, drafting reports, and briefing the commissioner and stakeholders on the progress and key findings and recommendations, as needed

6. EVALUATION PROCESS: TIMELINE

The JP evaluation will be conducted in five main stages with key activities, deliverables, responsible entities, and timelines as follows:

(Note: The timeline will be probably adjusted due to COVID-19 and when the Evaluation Team is recruited.)

Phase	Activities	Deliverables	Responsibility	Completion Time
1. <u>Preparation (Three months before JP closure)</u>				
	1.1. Development of Evaluation Terms of Reference (TOR)	- Evaluation TOR (and TOR for hiring Evaluation Team based on the approved evaluation TOR)	- Commissioner RCO to draft and finalize the TOR - Eval. Managers, Reference Group, and MPTF Secretariat to review, comment on the TOR	January – Mid of March
	1.2. Preparatory desk work	- Initial collection of relevant documents and data (e.g. quarterly and annual financial and results reporting)	- Evaluation Managers	
	1.3. Recruitment the Evaluation Team	- Evaluation Team selected	- RCO in coordination with Evaluation Managers (in consultation with MPTF Secretariat) to organize the recruitment (including to form Recruitment Panels)	
2. <u>Inception</u>				
	2.1. Brief and support the Evaluation Team	- Briefings with the Evaluators (with Evaluation Managers, RCO, and JSP Refence Group if necessary) and sharing of all documents to be reviewed	- Evaluation Managers to organize - Evaluation Team to participate	Mid - End of March
	2.2. Development of Inception Report	- Inception Report	- Evaluation Team to prepare - Evaluation Managers and MPTF Secretariat to review - RCO to review and endorse	
3. <u>Data collection and Reporting</u>				
	3.1. Data collection and analysis		- Evaluation Team to implement - Evaluation Managers to facilitate evaluation activities, assist the Evaluation Team in gaining access to stakeholders and additional information, and arrange meetings and logistics	
	3.2. Development	- Draft Report	- Evaluation Team to	

	of Draft Evaluation Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPP Presentation on key preliminary findings 	implement	End of March – End of April
	3.3. Review and Validation of Draft Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation on preliminary findings to the Reference Group - Revised Draft Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation Team: to present key preliminary findings to the reference group, address comments and revise draft report - Reference Group and MPRF Secretariat: to comment on the draft report and participate in the meeting on presentation on preliminary findings - Evaluation Managers to: conduct a pro forma quality check; manage the validation process by circulating the draft for comment to relevant key stakeholders, ensuring all comments and responses are properly recorded, using an audit trail; send comments to the Evaluation Team for draft revision; make sure all comments are addressed by the Evaluation Team; and organize a meeting on presentation on preliminary findings 	
	3.4. Finalization of Evaluation Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Evaluation Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation Team to implement - RCO in consultation with Evaluation Managers to approve the final report 	
4. <u>Use the results</u>				
	4.1. Preparation of follow-up actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow-up actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - JP Steering Committee: (with Evaluation Managers and RCO support) to prepare a Follow-up Action Plan 	End of April – End of June
	4.2. Dissemination of Evaluation Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication and Dissemination Plan - Dissemination of the Evaluation Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steering Committee to implement with support by the UN Communication Team 	

7. USE AND UTILITY OF THE EVALUATION

The Evaluation Reference Group and any other stakeholders relevant for the JP will jointly design and implement a complete communication and dissemination plan to share the evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations with the aim to advocate for sustainability, replicability, scaling up or to share good practices and lessons learnt at local, national or/and international level.

8. ETHICAL PRINCIPLES AND PREMISES OF THE EVALUATION

The final evaluation of the joint programme is to be carried out according to ethical principles and standards established by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG).

- **Anonymity and confidentiality.** The evaluation must respect the rights of individuals who provide information, ensuring their anonymity and confidentiality.
- **Responsibility.** The report must mention any dispute or difference of opinion that may have arisen among the consultants or between the consultant and the heads of the Joint Programme in connection with the findings and/or recommendations. The team must corroborate all assertions, or disagreement with them noted.
- **Integrity.** The evaluator will be responsible for highlighting issues not specifically mentioned in the TOR, if this is needed to obtain a more complete analysis of the intervention.
- **Independence.** The consultant should ensure his or her independence from the intervention under review, and he or she must not be associated with its management or any element thereof.
- **Incidents.** If problems arise during the fieldwork, or at any other stage of the evaluation, they must be reported immediately to the Secretariat of the MDGF. If this is not done, the existence of such problems may in no case be used to justify the failure to obtain the results stipulated by the Secretariat of the MDGF in these terms of reference.
- **Validation of information.** The consultant will be responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the information collected while preparing the reports and will be ultimately responsible for the information presented in the evaluation report.
- **Intellectual property.** In handling information sources, the consultant shall respect the intellectual property rights of the institutions and communities that are under review.
- **Delivery of reports.** If delivery of the reports is delayed, or in the event that the quality of the reports delivered is clearly lower than what was agreed, the penalties stipulated in these terms of reference will be applicable.

9. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE EVALUATION TEAM

The composition and selection of the JP Evaluation Team follow the UNEG Norms and Standards for Evaluation. The Commissioner (RCO) opts to select 2 national evaluators (1 team leader and 1 team member) to conduct the evaluation. The selected team should have past experience with carrying out similar evaluations and collective knowledge of the national context in the JP areas. The evaluators should be impartial, i.e. not have been (and not expected to be) involved in the design or implementation of the JP.

Both the evaluation Team Leader (TL) and Team Member (TM) will equally share responsibilities in data collection and analysis. The TL will lead the entire

evaluation process, develop a workplan including task division for the whole exercise (in agreement with the TM). The TL will be responsible for conducting the evaluation process in a timely manner, communicating with the Evaluation Managers on a regular basis, and highlighting progress made/challenges encountered. The TL will be responsible for producing the inception, draft, and final evaluation reports, with inputs from the TM.

Qualification of Evaluation Team:

- Advanced University Degree (Masters or PhD) in political science, public administration, development studies, law, human rights or other relevant fields;
- Minimum ten years of relevant professional experience;
- Extensive knowledge of, and experience in applying qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods;
- In-depth knowledge and strong research record of Viet Nam socio-economic development, particularly on the Vietnamese social protection systems and vulnerable/LNOB groups;
- Technical competence in undertaking complex evaluations which involve use of mixed methods;
- Strong data collection and analysis skills;
- Process management skills such as facilitation skills and ability to negotiate with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Prior experience in working with multilateral agencies;
- Knowledge of UN role, UN reform process and UN programming at the country level, particularly UN Joint Programme;
- Strong experience and knowledge of the UN programming principles including leaving no one behind LNOB, human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, disability inclusion, sustainability and resilience, and accountability; and
- Fluency in English, excellent oral, written, communication and reporting skills.
- Experience in conducting evaluation of a UN Joint Programme especially the one of the similar country context is considered a strong asset;

In addition to the above qualifications, the TL needs to possess the followings:

- A strong record in designing and leading evaluations;
- Demonstrated managerial competence and experience in organizing, leading and coordinating evaluation teams at the international level;

The RCO and Evaluation Managers will facilitate to form a Recruitment Panel with participation of relevant stakeholders.

The OSP Evaluation Team will work under the direct supervision of the Evaluation Managers. All key deliverables will be validated and approved by the Commissioner (RCO). The evaluation team members must be committed to respecting deadlines of delivery outputs with the agreed timeframe and must be able to work with a multidisciplinary team and in a multicultural environment.

10. BUDGET

Estimated Cost for 2022 JP Evaluation

(Actual budget will be the lumpsum proposed by selected firm bidder)

Description	Units
Evaluation Team	
National Evaluation Expert (Team Leader)	40 days

30% of the total consultancy fee shall be paid upon receipt and acceptance of the inception report, with 70% paid upon receipt and acceptance of the Final Evaluation Report.

11. ANNEXES

ANNEX I: GUIDING QUESTIONS ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

To what extent did the program target persons with disabilities?

- Not specifically targeted
- One of the groups of direct beneficiaries targeted
- main target group for the program

To what extent did the design and implementation of activities of the joint program supported include disability-related accessibility and non-discrimination requirement?

- No requirements
- General reference
- Specific requirements

To what extent have persons with disabilities, in particular children and women with disabilities, been consulted through their representative organizations?

- Not invited
- Invited
- Specific outreach

To what extent did support to data collection and analysis, registries, and information system feature disability?

- No reference to disability
- Disability included via Washington group short set or similar but no analysis
- Disability included via Washington group short set or similar
 - ✓ Part of general analysis
 - ✓ With specific analysis

To which extent did the program contribute to support inclusion of persons with disabilities via:

- Ensuring basic income security
- Coverage of health care costs, including rehabilitation and assistive devices
- Coverage of disability-related costs, including community support services
- Facilitate access to inclusive early childhood development, education, and work/livelihood

ANNEX II: DOCUMENTS TO BE REVIEWED

The Evaluation Team needs to collect the followings documents from the Evaluation Managers and other sources as reference materials for the evaluation:

- Joint SDG Fund Context
- SDG Fund TOR and Guidance for JP Formulation
- SDG Fund M&E Strategy

- Communications and Advocacy Strategy
- Knowledge Management Strategy
- Programme-Specific Documents
- JP document and its annexes (annual WP and budget, theory of change, integrated M&E research framework, performance monitoring framework, risk analysis matrix)
- Baseline and end line study (if any)
- Mid-term review report (if any)
- NSC and PMC minutes
- Exit strategy
- Biannual monitoring reports
- Financial information (MPTF)
- Other in-country documents or information
- All assessments, reports and/or evaluations directly conducted/commissioned by the JP
- Relevant documents or reports on the SDGs, social protection, and LNOB at the local and national levels
- Relevant documents or reports on the implementation of relevant international commitments in the country.

ANNEX III: INCEPTION REPORT OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Background to the evaluation: objectives and overall approach
- Identification of main units and dimensions for analysis and possible areas for research
- Main substantive and financial achievements of the joint programme
- Methodology for the compilation and analysis of the information, including an Evaluation Matrix
- Criteria to define the mission agenda, including “field visits”

Sample evaluation matrix

Relevant evaluation criteria	Key questions	Specific sub-questions	Data sources	Data collection methods/tools	Indicators/success standards	Methods for data analysis

ANNEX IV: DRAFT & FINAL REPORT OUTLINE

- Cover Page: Including JP title, thematic window, report date, name of the evaluator/s.
- Table of contents: Including page references for all chapters & annexes.
- Acronyms page
- Executive Summary: No more than 2 pages. Summarize substantive elements of the report, including a brief description of the joint programme, purpose and objectives of the evaluation, evaluation methodological approach, key findings and conclusions, main recommendations.
- Introduction: Explain why the evaluation is being conducted, including the following content:
 - Background: MDG-F, thematic window, joint programme.
 - Purpose of the evaluation
 - Methodology of the evaluation
 - Constraints and limitations on the study conducted.
 - Description of the development interventions carried out:
 - Detailed description of the development interventions undertaken: description and judgement on implementation of outputs delivered (or not) and outcomes attained as well as how the programme worked in comparison to the theory of change developed for the programme.
- Levels of Analysis: Evaluation criteria and questions (all questions included in the TOR must be addressed and answered).
- Conclusions
- Lessons Learned: Define the scope of each lesson (joint programme, national policy, local intervention, etc.)
- Recommendations
- Annexes

Annex 2. Questionnaires

I. IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PUNOs

PUNOs (ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF)

I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1. The facilitator introduces himself/herself

Good morning/afternoon. First of all, I would like to thank you so much for participating in the discussion today.

My name is, I am now a member of Evaluation Team for the Final evaluation of SDG-F Joint Programme on Accelerating Vietnam's Transition Toward Inclusive Integrated Social Protection.

2. Our expectation on this discussion

Our expectation today is to hear your ideas and opinions about the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the JP, then the contribution of the JP to UN Reform. We would also like to have your recommendations for the way forward. You can say whatever you want to share. All your information and personal opinions will be kept secretly during data processing, analysis and report writing.

3. Ask for recording

The discussion will last about 2 hours. If you do not mind, we would like to record the discussion to reconstruct exactly what you shared. The records will be only used for evaluation purposes. All information about your identity will be kept in secret. Only the 2 team members have the right to access to information and records. Your name and other information that can be identified who you are will not appear when we present or publish the results of this evaluation.

FACILITATOR SWITCHES THE RECORD MACHINE ON AND START THE IDI

General information

Could you please, introduce your current position in the Agency and in the JP?

How long have you been in this position?

(Note: The facilitator writes down fully information)

II. DISCUSSION CONTENTS

RELEVANCE: Extent to which the objectives of the development intervention are consistent with national needs and priorities, the country's international and regional commitments, and achieving the SDGs

1. *In your opinions, was the JP designed to contribute to solve the needs and problems? Explain and give illustrative examples? How did your agency play a role and contribute?*
2. *Kindly explain how JP contributed to solve the needs and problems identified in the design*
3. *Can you share LRs that facilitate the contribution of JP to solve the identified needs and problems?*
4. *In your opinion, was the JP consistent with One Strategic Plan 2017-2021? Kindly provide illustrative examples? How did your agency play a role and contribute?*
5. *Can you share LRs that made the JP to be consistent with One Strategic Plan 2017-2021*
6. *To what extent the UN comparative advantages and unique mandates (that other stakeholders would not/cannot have) are relevant with the JP objectives and outcomes and help strengthen the UN position, credibility, and reliability of the UN as a partner for the GOVN and other actors in the JP areas?*
7. *Having taken into consideration emerging issues related to serious droughts, typhoons, COVID-19 pandemic, can you share with us how did the JP respond, adapt and re-prioritise during its implementation? How risks and mitigation measures designed and implemented*

EFFECTIVENESS: Extent to which the objectives of the development intervention have been achieved

8. *What transformative results has this UNJP created so it is not just another project and business-as-usual in social protection area?*
9. *In your opinions, have any unintended results attained? How have those results affected national development positively or negatively and to what extent have they been foreseen and managed?*
10. *In your opinions, what good practices, success stories, innovations, lessons learnt, and replicable experiences/key factors have been identified for the success of this JP? Pls., kindly describe one or two that you want to share with us most?*
11. *To what extent has the JP contributed to the advancement and the progress of fostering national ownership processes and outcomes (the design and implementation of national development plans, policies...)*
12. *To what extent did the JP help to increase stakeholder/citizen dialogue and or engagement of development issues and policies?*
13. *In your opinions, how GOVN's partners (MOLISA, WU and other) play their role to JP design and approval, implementation, monitoring and reporting as*

well as in facilitating multi-stakeholder coordination and mechanism and mobilizing resources for smooth and efficient JP implementation?

14.Can you share LLS that can promote their roles?

EFFICIENCY: Extent to which resources/inputs (funds, time, human resources, etc.) have been turned into results

15.In you opinion, was the JP management model (governance and implementation arrangements; monitoring and reporting tools; and accountability, financial management, and public disclosure models) efficient in comparison to the development results attained? Explain why?

16.In your opinions, were the JP outputs and outcomes synergistic and coherent to achieve better results when compared to singly-agency interventions? Explain why?

17.According to you, what type of work methodologies, financial instruments, and business practices have the implementing partners used to increase efficiency in delivering as one? Give 1-2 concrete examples

18.Can you share with us 1-2 administrative, financial and managerial obstacles did the JP face and to what extent have those obstacles affected the JP efficiency?

IMPACT: Positive and negative effects of the intervention on the development outcomes and SDG acceleration

19.In your opinion, did the JP contribute to SDG acceleration? Explain why?

20.From your own perspective, explain how did JP contribute to the targeted cross-cutting issues: gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, disability and public private partnerships (PPPs) at the local and national levels?

21.In your opinion, what impact did the matching funds have in the design, implementation and results of the JP? Please describe

22.Please share with us what did the JP have an impact on the targeted beneficiaries? Were targeted beneficiaries reached? How? Explain why and why not?

23.Has the JP contributed to the UNDS reform (RC leadership, collaboration across UN agencies to work more coherent with whole government approach to support national stakeholders, and multi-sectoral coherent/more integrated approach of government with more coherent policies that help accelerate the achievements of the SDGs (what has been achieved through this UNJP for 2-3 years instead of 5-6 years)?

SUSTAINABILITY: Probability of the benefits of the intervention continuing in the long term.

24. *Has this UNJP created catalytic effects for more policy change/institutional change across sectors and priorities of social protection and LNOB? Has the UNJP created/is creating new projects, collaboration and partnerships beyond this UNJP?*
25. *Could you kindly tell us which working mechanisms (i.e. policy, policy coordination mechanisms, partnerships, networks) have been put in place by the JP to ensure results and impact? How did those mechanisms work? Why and why not?*
26. *In your opinion, what capacity of beneficiaries (institutional and/or individual) been strengthened such that they are resilient and sustainable to external shocks and/or do not need support in the long term? Please describe*
27. *In your opinion, will the JP be replicable or scaled up at national or local levels? Explain why and why not?*
28. *In your opinion, if having another JP, What could have done differently and what could be improved?*

Thank you for your participation!

II. IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR GOVERNMENT'S AGENCIES (MOLISA, VWU AND OTHER)

I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1. The facilitator introduces himself/herself

Good morning/afternoon. First of all, I would like to thank you so much for participating in the discussion today.

My name is, I am now a member of Evaluation Team for the Final evaluation of SDG-F Joint Programme on Accelerating Vietnam's Transition Toward Inclusive Integrated Social Protection.

2. Our expectation on this discussion

Our expectation today is to hear your ideas and opinions about the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the JP, then the contribution of the JP to Social Protection Sector. We would also like to have your recommendations for the way forward. You can say whatever you want to share. All your information and personal opinions will be kept secretly during data processing, analysis and report writing.

3. Ask for recording

The discussion will last about 2 hours. If you do not mind, we would like to record the discussion to reconstruct exactly what you shared. The records will be only used for evaluation purposes. All information about your identity will be kept in secret. Only the 2 team members have the right to access to information and records. Your name and other information that can be identified who you are will not appear when we present or publish the results of this evaluation.

FACILITATOR SWITCHES THE RECORD MACHINE ON AND START THE IDI

General information

Could you please, introduce your current position in the Agency and in the JP?

How long have you been in this position?

(Note: The facilitator writes down fully information)

II. DISCUSSION CONTENTS

RELEVANCE: Extent to which the objectives of the development intervention are consistent with national needs and priorities, the country's international and regional commitments, and achieving the SDGs

1. *In your opinions, was the JP designed to contribute to solve the needs and problems? Explain and give illustrative examples? How did your agency play a role and contribute?*
2. *Kindly explain how JP contributed to solve the needs and problems identified in the design*
3. *Can you share LRs that to facilitate the contribution of JP to solve the identified needs and problems?*
4. *In your opinion, was the JP consistent with Government's Plan 2017-2021? Kindly provide illustrative examples? How did your agency play a role and contribute?*
5. *Can you share LRs that made the JP to be consistent with Government's Plan 2017-2021*
6. *To what extent the UN comparative advantages and unique mandates (that other stakeholders would not/cannot have) are relevant with the JP objectives and outcomes and help strengthen the UN position, credibility, and reliability of the UN as a partner for the GOVN and other actors in the JP areas?*
7. *Having taken into consideration emerging issues related to serious droughts, typhoons, COVID-19 pandemic, can you share with us how did the JP respond, adapt and re-prioritise during its implementation? How risks and mitigation measures designed and implemented*

EFFECTIVENESS: Extent to which the objectives of the development intervention have been achieved

8. *What transformative results has this UNJP created so it is not just another project and business-as-usual in social protection area?*
9. *In your opinions, have any unintended results attained? How have those results affected national development positively or negatively and to what extent have they been foreseen and managed?*
10. *In your opinions, what good practices, success stories, innovations, lessons learnt, and replicable experiences/key factors have been identified for the success of this JP? Pls., kindly describe one or two that you want to share with us most?*
11. *To what extent has the JP contributed to the advancement and the progress of fostering national ownership processes and outcomes (the design and implementation of national development plans, policies...)*
12. *To what extent did the JP help to increase stakeholder/citizen dialogue and or engagement of development issues and policies?*
13. *In your opinions, how Government's agencies (MOLISA, WU and other) play their role to JP design and approval, implementation, monitoring and reporting as well as in facilitating multi-stakeholder coordination and mechanism and mobilizing resources for smooth and efficient JP implementation?*
14. *Can you share LLs that can promote their roles?*

EFFICIENCY: Extent to which resources/inputs (funds, time, human resources, etc.) have been turned into results

15. *In your opinion, was the JP management model (governance and implementation arrangements; monitoring and reporting tools; and accountability, financial management, and public disclosure models) efficient in comparison to the development results attained? Explain why?*
16. *In your opinions, were the JP outputs and outcomes synergistic and coherent to achieve better results when compared to singly-agency interventions? Explain why?*
17. *According to you, what type of work methodologies, financial instruments, and business practices have the implementing partners used to increase efficiency in delivering as one? Give 1-2 concrete examples*
18. *Can you share with us 1-2 administrative, financial and managerial obstacles did the JP face and to what extent have those obstacles affected the JP efficiency?*

IMPACT: Positive and negative effects of the intervention on the development outcomes and SDG acceleration

19. *From your own perspective, explain how did JP contribute to the targeted cross-cutting issues: gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, disability and public private partnerships (PPPs) at the local and national levels?*

20. *Please share with us what did the JP have an impact on the targeted beneficiaries? Were targeted beneficiaries reached? How? Explain why and why not?*

SUSTAINABILITY: Probability of the benefits of the intervention continuing in the long term.

21. *Has this UNJP created catalytic effects for more policy change/institutional change across sectors and priorities of social protection and LNOB? Has the UNJP created/is creating new projects, collaboration and partnerships beyond this UNJP? Explain why and why not*

22. *Could you kindly tell us which working mechanisms (i.e. policy, policy coordination mechanisms, partnerships, networks) have been put in place by the JP to ensure results and impact? How did those mechanisms work? Why and why not?*

23. *In your opinion, what capacity of beneficiaries (institutional and/or individual) been strengthened such that they are resilient and sustainable to external shocks and/or do not need support in the long term? Please describe*

24. *In your opinion, will the JP be replicable or scaled up at national or local levels? Explain why and why not?*

25. *In your opinion, if the JP be replicable or scaled up at national or local levels, what could have done differently and what could be improved?*

Thank you for your participation!

III. FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH BENEFICIARIES

I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1. The facilitator introduces himself/herself

Good morning/afternoon. First of all, I would like to thank you so much for participating in the discussion today.

My name is, I am now a member of Evaluation Team for the Final evaluation of SDG-F Joint Programme on Accelerating Vietnam's Transition Toward Inclusive Integrated Social Protection.

2. Our expectation on this discussion

Our expectation today is to hear your ideas and opinions about the pilot of the JP in which you are the beneficiaries. We would also like to have your recommendations. You can say whatever you want to share. All your information and personal opinions will be kept secretly during data processing, analysis and report writing.

3. Ask for recording

The discussion will last about 1 hours. If you do not mind, we would like to record the discussion to reconstruct exactly what you shared. The records will be only used for evaluation purposes. All information about your identity will be kept in secret. Only the 2 team members have the right to access to information and records. Your name and other information that can be identified who you are will not appear when we present or publish the results of this evaluation.

FACILITATOR SWITCHES THE RECORD MACHINE ON AND START THE CONVERSATION

General information

Could you please, introduce yourselves?

(Note: The facilitator writes down fully information)

II. DISCUSSION CONTENTS

- 1. Could you tell us about how you were defined as beneficiaries of the programme? What kind of work (e.g., procedures, required documents) you needed for the application?*
- 2. What were the advantages and disadvantages in the application processes? How were the disadvantages solved?*
- 3. How was your benefit delivered (i.e., through PO or bank account)? What were the advantages and disadvantages for this?*
- 4. What did you/your family use the supported money for?*
- 5. In your opinion, was the level of support sufficient for your family to cope with COVID-19? If not, what was your family's coping work?*
- 6. Please share your opinions or ideas about making support better for those in needs (e.g., identification and validation of beneficiaries; level of support; support delivery mode, etc.)*

Thank you for your participation!

Annex 3. Evaluation Mission Itinerary

No.	Place	Date & Time
1	International Labour Organisation (ILO)	9 May 2022
2	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	9 May 2022
3	United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)	10 May 2022
4	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	10 May 2022
5	Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs	9 May 2022
6	Viet Nam Women's Union	13 May 2022
7	Bac Kan - DOLISA	11 May 2022
8	Bac Kan - VWU	
9	Bac Kan – Provincial Committee on Education and Popularisation	
10	Bac Kan – Post	
11	Bac Kan – Bach Thong district's Labor and Social Affairs bureau	12 May 2022
12	Bac Kan – Tan Tu commune	
13	Bac Kan – Bach Thong district, Tan Tu commune	

Annex 4. List of persons interviewed

No.	Organisation	Person(s) to meet
1	International Labour Organisation (ILO)	Andre Gama Nguyen Hai Dat
2	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Doan Huu Minh
3	United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)	Le Hong Loan
4	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Nguyen Ngoc Quynh
5	Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs	Nguyen Ngoc Toan
6	Viet Nam Women's Union	Dam Van Thoa
7	Bac Kan - DOLISA	Dinh Thi Cham Nguyen Thi Thu
8	Bac Kan - VWU	Nguyen Thi Tuyet Thanh
9	Bac Kan – Provincial Committee on Education and Popularisation	Duong Thi Kim Chi
10	Bac Kan – Post	Duong Van Duy Vi Thi Mai Lan
11	Bac Kan – Bach Thong district's Labor and Social Affairs bureau	Mr. Son
12	Bac Kan – Tan Tu commune	Mr. Khanh
13	Bac Kan – Bach Thong district, Tan Tu commune	Beneficiaries (anonymous)

Annex 5. Financial disbursement

1. Final allocation

	Requested	Share	Relative share	Agreed adjustment	Final activity allocation	Monitoring	Additional allocation	Total allocation	PSC	Total allocation
ILO	750,000.00	0.31	526,530.61	-20,000.00	506,530.61	30,000.00		536,530.61	37,557.14	574,087.76
UNICEF	600,000.00	0.24	421,224.49	-10,000.00	411,224.49	15,000.00		426,224.49	29,835.71	456,060.20
UNFPA	500,000.00	0.20	351,020.41	40,000.00	391,020.41	15,000.00	9,158.88	415,179.29	29,062.55	444,241.84
UNDP	600,000.00	0.24	421,224.49	-10,000.00	411,224.49	15,000.00		426,224.49	29,835.71	456,060.20
UNDP/RCO						65,000.00		65,000.00	4,550.00	69,550.00
	2,450,000.00		1,720,000.00		1,720,000.00	140,000.00	9,158.88	1,869,158.88	130,841.12	2,000,000.00

Source: UNJP financial report

2. Allocation by activities and outcomes - 2020

Joint SDG Fund													PUNO Contribution	Final Costs
Output	Activity	UN Agency	1. Staff and other personnel	2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	4. Contractual services	5. Travel	6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	Subtotal	Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	Total Costs		
OUTCOME 1			104,251.00	7,800.00	17,000.00	214,959.75	26,000.00	0.00	7,748.60	377,759.35	26,443.15	404,202.50	400,753.00	804,955.50
1.1	Activity 1.1.1 - Analysis of legal and governance fragmentation and feasibility for increased coherence of legal framework.	ILO	7,425.10	400.00	1,700.00		1,500.00	0.00		11,025.10	771.76	11,796.86	34,575.30	46,372.16

1.2		UNICEF			0.00					0.00			0.00		
		UNFPA	2,000.00	300.00		5,000.00	1,000.00		500.00	8,800.00	616.00	9,416.00	3,125.00	12,541.00	
											0.00			0.00	
	Activity 1.1.2 – Review of Social Insurance Law	ILO	7,425.10	400.00	1,700.00	25,000.00	1,500.00	0.00		36,025.10	2,521.76	38,546.86	34,575.30	73,122.16	
		UNICEF			0.00						0.00			0.00	
		UNFPA								0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	
											0.00			0.00	
	Activity 1.1.3- Support review of benefit regulations	ILO	7,425.10	400.00	1,700.00	5,000.00	1,500.00	0.00		16,025.10	1,121.76	17,146.86	34,575.30	51,722.16	
		UNICEF	2,000.00	200.00	0.00	14,000.00	1,000.00		534.40	17,734.40	1,241.41	18,975.81	4,285.71	23,261.52	
		UNFPA	2,000.00	300.00		3,000.00	1,000.00		500.00	6,800.00	476.00	7,276.00	3,125.00	10,401.00	
											0.00				
	SUBTOTAL - OUTPUT 1.1			28,275.30	2,000.00	5,100.00	52,000.00	7,500.00	0.00	1,534.40	96,409.70	6,748.68	103,158.38	114,261.61	217,419.99
		Activity 1.2.1 – Actuarial valuation of the full contributory system	ILO	7,425.10	400.00	1,700.00	30,000.00	1,500.00	0.00		41,025.10	2,871.76	43,896.86	34,575.30	78,472.16
			UNICEF			0.00						0.00	0.00		0.00
			UNFPA								0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
												0.00	0.00		0.00
		Activity 1.2.2 - Costing of tax-based benefits policy proposal	ILO	7,425.10	400.00	1,700.00	8,000.00	1,500.00	0.00		19,025.10	1,331.76	20,356.86	34,575.30	54,932.16
			UNICEF	2,000.00	200.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00		535.70	12,735.70	891.50	13,627.20	4,285.71	17,912.91
			UNFPA	2,000.00	300.00			1,000.00		500.00	3,800.00	266.00	4,066.00	3,125.00	7,191.00
												0.00	0.00		0.00
		Activity 1.2.3 - Develop fiscal space options	ILO	7,425.10	400.00	1,700.00	7,000.00	1,500.00	0.00		18,025.10	1,261.76	19,286.86	34,575.30	53,862.16
			UNICEF	2,000.00	200.00	0.00	12,000.00	1,000.00		535.70	15,735.70	1,101.50	16,837.20	4,285.71	21,122.91
			UNFPA	2,000.00	300.00		5,000.00	1,000.00		500.00	8,800.00	616.00	9,416.00	3,125.00	12,541.00
											0.00	0.00		0.00	
Activity 1.2.4 - Technical assessments to feed evidence-based design of integrated social protection policies	ILO	7,425.10	400.00	1,700.00	5,000.00	1,500.00	0.00		16,025.10	1,121.76	17,146.86	34,575.30	51,722.16		
	UNICEF	2,000.00	200.00	0.00	24,000.00	1,000.00		535.70	27,735.70	1,941.50	29,677.20	4,285.71	33,962.91		
	UNFPA	2,000.00	300.00		6,600.00	1,000.00		500.00	10,400.00	728.00	11,128.00	3,125.00	14,253.00		

											0.00	0.00		
SUBTOTAL - OUTPUT 1.2			41,700.40	3,100.00	6,800.00	#####	11,000.00	0.00	3,107.10	#####	12,131.53	185,439.03	160,533.34	345,972.37
1.3	Activity 1.3.1 – Social dialogue for legal reform	ILO	7,425.10	400.00	1,700.00	5,000.00	1,500.00	0.00		16,025.10	1,121.76	17,146.86	34,575.30	51,722.16
		UNICEF	2,000.00	200.00	0.00	3,000.00			535.70	5,735.70	401.50	6,137.20	4,285.71	10,422.91
		UNFPA	2,000.00	300.00			1,000.00		500.00	3,800.00	266.00	4,066.00	3,125.00	7,191.00
											0.00	0.00		0.00
	Activity 1.3.2 - National social protection forums including high-level advocacy events	ILO	7,425.10	400.00	1,700.00	5,000.00	1,500.00	0.00		16,025.10	1,121.76	17,146.86	34,575.30	51,722.16
		UNICEF	2,000.00	200.00	0.00	19,250.00	0.00		535.70	21,985.70	1,539.00	23,524.70	4,285.71	27,810.41
		UNFPA	2,000.00	300.00		5,000.00	1,000.00		500.00	8,800.00	616.00	9,416.00	3,125.00	12,541.00
											0.00	0.00		0.00
	Activity 1.3.3 - Engagement with National Assembly	ILO	7,425.10	400.00	1,700.00	3,109.75	1,500.00	0.00		14,134.85	989.44	15,124.29	34,575.30	49,699.59
		UNICEF	2,000.00	200.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00		535.70	12,735.70	891.50	13,627.20	4,285.71	17,912.91
		UNFPA	2,000.00	300.00		5,000.00	1,000.00		500.00	8,800.00	616.00	9,416.00	3,125.00	12,541.00
											0.00	0.00		
SUBTOTAL - OUTPUT 1.3			34,275.30	2,700.00	5,100.00	55,359.75	7,500.00	0.00	3,107.10	#####	7,562.95	115,605.10	125,958.04	241,563.14
1.4	Monitoring and Reporting for Outcome 1													
		ILO								15,000.00	1,050.00	16,050.00		16,050.00
		UNICEF	3,750.00							3,750.00	262.50	4,012.50		4,012.50
		UNFPA	3,000.00							3,000.00	210.00	3,210.00		3,210.00
Subtotal Outcome 1														
ILO COSTS			74,251.00	4,000.00	17,000.00	93,109.75	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	203,360.75	14,235.25	233,646.00	345,753.00	579,399.00
UNICEF COSTS			17,750.00	1,400.00	0.00	92,250.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,748.60	118,148.60	8,270.40	126,419.00	30,000.00	156,419.00
UNFPA COSTS			19,000.00	2,400.00	0.00	29,600.00	8,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	63,000.00	4,410.00	67,410.00	25,000.00	92,410.00
TOTAL COSTS			#####	7,800.00	17,000.00	#####	26,000.00	0.00	7,748.60	#####	26,915.65	427,475.00	400,753.00	828,228.00
OUTCOME 2			111,650.00	7,600.00	0.00	145,000.00	12,500.00	0.00	3,500.00	280,250.00	19,617.50	299,867.50	50,025.00	349,892.50

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Subtotal Outcome 2													
UNICEF COSTS		59,000.00	5,500.00	0.00	40,000.00	5,500.00	0.00	0.00	110,000.00	7,700.00	117,700.00	25,000.00	142,700.00
UNFPA COSTS		60,900.00	2,100.00	0.00	105,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	3,500.00	178,500.00	12,495.00	190,995.00	25,025.00	216,020.00
TOTAL COSTS		119,900.00	7,600.00	0.00	145,000.00	12,500.00	0.00	3,500.00	288,500.00	20,195.00	308,695.00	50,025.00	358,720.00

OUTCOME 3			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.1	3.1.1 - Multi-stakeholder reviewing (sense making) current actors' efforts in e-service delivery and e-management/e-M&E	UNDP	6,000.00			8,500.00	1,000.00		500.00	16,000.00	1,120.00	17,120.00	1,000.00	18,120.00
	3.1.2 - Multi-stakeholder (i) mapping collective intelligence-sourced innovative e-solutions, (ii) defining feasible solutions for experimentation and (iii) desining experimentation	UNDP	27,000.00			73,500.00	5,000.00		6,500.00	112,000.00	7,840.00	119,840.00	27,000.00	146,840.00
	3.1.3 - Implementing experimentations for stakeholders to refine the solutions	UNDP	18,000.00			39,000.00	5,000.00		6,000.00	68,000.00	4,760.00	72,760.00	18,000.00	90,760.00
SUBTOTAL - OUTPUT 3.1														
3.2	3.2.1 - Disseminating the results and lessons of the exprimentations and conducting wide consultation on directions for scaling up.	UNDP												
	3.2.2 - Support stakeholders in developing plan for scaling up, inclduing costing, financing staregy, scaling up roadmap	UNDP												
	3.2.3 - Policy advocacy and public consultation on the scaling up plan.	UNDP												
SUBTOTAL - OUTPUT 3.2														
3.3	Monitoring and Reporting of Component 3	UNDP	7,500.00							7,500.00	525.00	8,025.00		8,025.00
	Subtotal Outcome 3													
	UNDP COSTS		58,500.00	0.00	0.00	121,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	13,000.00	203,500.00	14,245.00	217,745.00	46,000.00	263,745.00
	TOTAL COSTS		58,500.00	0.00	0.00	121,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	13,000.00	203,500.00	14,245.00	217,745.00	46,000.00	263,745.00

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4.2														

Subtotal Joint Programme Management													
UNDP/RCO COSTS		0.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.00	875.00	13,375.00	0.00	13,375.00
TOTAL COSTS		0.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.00	875.00	13,375.00	0.00	13,375.00

TOTAL COSTS UNJP 2020													
BY PUNOs	ILO	74,251.00	4,000.00	17,000.00	93,109.75	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	203,360.75	14,235.25	233,646.00	345,753.00	579,399.00
	UNICEF	76,750.00	6,900.00	0.00	132,250.00	8,500.00	0.00	3,748.60	228,148.60	15,970.40	244,119.00	55,000.00	299,119.00
	UNPFA	79,900.00	4,500.00	0.00	134,600.00	15,000.00	0.00	7,500.00	241,500.00	16,905.00	258,405.00	50,025.00	308,430.00
	UNDP	58,500.00	0.00	0.00	121,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	13,000.00	203,500.00	14,245.00	217,745.00	46,000.00	263,745.00
	Total	289,401.00	15,400.00	17,000.00	480,959.75	49,500.00	0.00	24,248.60	876,509.35	61,355.65	953,915.00	496,778.00	1,450,693.00

BY OUTCOMES	Outcome 1	111,001.00	7,800.00	17,000.00	214,959.75	26,000.00	0.00	7,748.60	384,509.35	26,915.65	427,475.00	400,753.00	828,228.00
	Outcome 2	119,900.00	7,600.00	0.00	145,000.00	12,500.00	0.00	3,500.00	288,500.00	20,195.00	308,695.00	50,025.00	358,720.00
	Outcome 3	58,500.00	0.00	0.00	121,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	13,000.00	203,500.00	14,245.00	217,745.00	46,000.00	263,745.00
	Pro.Man	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.00	875.00	13,375.00	0.00	13,375.00
	Total	289,401.00	15,400.00	17,000.00	480,959.75	49,500.00	0.00	24,248.60	876,509.35	61,355.65	953,915.00	496,778.00	1,450,693.00

Source: UNJP financial report

3. Allocation by activities and outcomes - 2021

Joint SDG Fund	PUNO Contribution	Final Costs
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Output	Activity	UN Agency	1. Staff and other personnel	2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	4. Contractual services	5.Travel	6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	Subtotal	Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	Total Costs			
OUTCOME 1				192,270.00	4,112.00	15,000.00	191,250.09	24,000.00	0.00	7,752.70	434,384.79	30,406.94	464,791.73	200,000.00	664,791.73
1.1	Activity 1.1.1 - Analysis of legal and governance fragmentation and feasibility for increased coherence of legal framework.	ILO	17,317.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00		20,817.00	1,457.19	22,274.19	14,800.00	37,074.19	
		UNICEF									0.00	0.00		0.00	
		UNFPA	1,500.00	300.00		3,000.00	500.00		500.00	5,800.00	406.00	6,206.00	3,125.00	9,331.00	
											0.00	0.00		0.00	
	Activity 1.1.2 – Review of Social Insurance Law	ILO	17,317.00	0.00	1,500.00	20,000.00	2,000.00	0.00		40,817.00	2,857.19	43,674.19	14,800.00	58,474.19	
		UNICEF									0.00	0.00		0.00	
		UNFPA								0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	
											0.00	0.00		0.00	
	Activity 1.1.3- Support review of benefit regulations	ILO	17,317.00	0.00	1,500.00	15,500.00	2,000.00	0.00		36,317.00	2,542.19	38,859.19	14,800.00	53,659.19	
		UNICEF	1,000.00	212.00		7,000.00	0.00	0.00	535.50	8,747.50	612.33	9,359.83	2,857.14	12,216.97	
		UNFPA	1,500.00	300.00			500.00		500.00	2,800.00	196.00	2,996.00	3,125.00	6,121.00	
											0.00	0.00		0.00	
SUBTOTAL - OUTPUT 1.1				55,951.00	812.00	4,500.00	45,500.00	7,000.00	0.00	1,535.50	115,298.50	8,070.90	123,369.40	53,507.14	176,876.54
1.2	Activity 1.2.1 – Actuarial valuation of the full contributory system	ILO	17,317.00	0.00	1,500.00	20,000.00	2,000.00	0.00		40,817.00	2,857.19	43,674.19	14,800.00	58,474.19	
		UNICEF									0.00	0.00		0.00	
		UNFPA									0.00	0.00		0.00	
											0.00	0.00		0.00	
	Activity 1.2.2 - Costing of tax-based benefits policy proposal	ILO	17,317.00	0.00	1,500.00	10,000.00	2,000.00	0.00		30,817.00	2,157.19	32,974.19	21,800.00	54,774.19	
		UNICEF	1,000.00	300.00		9,000.00	0.00	0.00	535.70	10,835.70	758.50	11,594.20	2,857.14	14,451.34	
		UNFPA	1,500.00	300.00			500.00		500.00	2,800.00	196.00	2,996.00	3,125.00	6,121.00	
											0.00	0.00		0.00	

Subtotal Outcome 1													
ILO COSTS	173,170.00	0.00	15,000.00	95,000.09	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	303,170.09	21,221.91	340,442.00	155,000.00	495,442.00	
UNICEF COSTS	10,750.00	1,712.00	0.00	78,250.00	500.00	0.00	3,752.70	94,964.70	6,647.53	101,612.23	20,000.00	121,612.23	
UNFPA COSTS	15,100.00	2,400.00	0.00	18,000.00	3,500.00	0.00	4,000.00	43,000.00	3,010.00	46,010.00	25,000.00	71,010.00	
TOTAL COSTS	199,020.00	4,112.00	15,000.00	191,250.09	24,000.00	0.00	7,752.70	441,134.79	30,879.44	488,064.23	200,000.00	688,064.23	

OUTCOME 2			94,801.44	7,600.00	0.00	108,272.00	11,367.00	0.00	3,500.00	225,540.44	15,787.83	241,328.27	50,025.00	291,353.27
2.1	2.1.1 Support evidence for social care policy development (financing, social services, wokforce and costing including care for the elderly and victims of violence, social work and child protection, social care network)	UNICEF	15,000.00	1,500.00		11,000.00	1,500.00			29,000.00	2,030.00	31,030.00	10,000.00	41,030.00
		UNFPA	5,000.00	300.00		11,400.00	1,000.00		500.00	18,200.00	1,274.00	19,474.00	3,575.00	23,049.00
	2.1.2 Support policy advocacy and strategic communication activities to use evidence for policy development	UNICEF								0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		UNFPA	5,000.00	300.00		10,000.00	1,000.00		500.00	16,800.00	1,176.00	17,976.00	3,575.00	21,551.00
	2.1.3 Provide technical assistance (financing, social services and costing including care for children, the elderly, PWD, victims of violence, social work and child protection) for development of policies and national programs	UNICEF	16,000.00	1,500.00		10,000.00	1,500.00			29,000.00	2,030.00	31,030.00	5,000.00	36,030.00
		UNFPA	7,679.44	300.00		10,000.00	1,000.00		500.00	19,479.44	1,363.56	20,843.00	3,575.00	24,418.00
	2.1.4 Technical support for design social care model (including standards and guidelines for carers) for GoV to test on providing social care services	UNICEF								0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNFPA		7,500.00	300.00		10,000.00	1,000.00		500.00	19,300.00	1,351.00	20,651.00	3,575.00	24,226.00	
SUBTOTAL - OUTPUT 2.1			56,179.44	4,200.00	0.00	62,400.00	7,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	131,779.44	9,224.56	141,004.00	29,300.00	170,304.00
2.2	2.2.1 Capacity building for policy makers at national level	UNICEF								0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		UNFPA	6,000.00	300.00		10,000.00	1,000.00		500.00	17,800.00	1,246.00	19,046.00	3,575.00	22,621.00
	2.2.2 Technical support to development of professional standards (including multi-sectoral coordination mechanism) for social workers, child protection workers, and elderly carers	UNICEF	5,622.00	1,000.00		4,872.00	867.00			12,361.00	865.27	13,226.27	5,000.00	18,226.27
		UNFPA	6,000.00	300.00		10,000.00			500.00	16,800.00	1,176.00	17,976.00	3,575.00	21,551.00
	2.2.3. Support for development and implementation of training programs and training courses to improve social care services, and workforce	UNICEF	15,000.00	1,500.00		11,000.00	1,500.00			29,000.00	2,030.00	31,030.00	5,000.00	36,030.00
		UNFPA	6,000.00	300.00		10,000.00	1,000.00		500.00	17,800.00	1,246.00	19,046.00	3,575.00	22,621.00
SUBTOTAL - OUTPUT 2.2			38,622.00	3,400.00	0.00	45,872.00	4,367.00	0.00	1,500.00	93,761.00	6,563.27	100,324.27	20,725.00	121,049.27
2.3	Monitoring and Reporting for Outcome 2	UNICEF	3,750.00							3,750.00	262.50	4,012.50		4,012.50

		UNFPA	4,500.00							4,500.00	315.00	4,815.00		4,815.00

Subtotal Outcome 2													
UNICEF COSTS		55,372.00	5,500.00	0.00	36,872.00	5,367.00	0.00	0.00	103,111.00	7,217.77	110,328.77	25,000.00	135,328.77
UNFPA COSTS		47,679.44	2,100.00	0.00	71,400.00	6,000.00	0.00	3,500.00	130,679.44	9,147.56	139,827.00	25,025.00	164,852.00
TOTAL COSTS		103,051.44	7,600.00	0.00	108,272.00	11,367.00	0.00	3,500.00	233,790.44	16,365.33	250,155.77	50,025.00	300,180.77

OUTCOME 3			16,000.00	0.00	0.00	45,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	66,000.00	4,620.00	70,620.00	9,000.00	79,620.00
3.1	3.1.1 - Multi-stakeholder reviewing (sense making) current actors' efforts in e-service delivery and e-management/e-M&E	UNDP												
	3.1.2 - Multi-stakeholder (i) mapping collective intelligence-sourced innovative e-solutions, (ii) defining feasible solutions for experimentation and (iii) desining experimentation	UNDP												
	3.1.3 - Implementing experimentations for stakeholders to refine the solutions	UNDP	16,000.00			45,000.00	3,000.00		2,000.00	66,000.00	4,620.00	70,620.00	9,000.00	79,620.00
SUBTOTAL - OUTPUT 3.1			16,000.00			45,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	66,000.00	4,620.00	70,620.00	9,000.00	79,620.00
3.2	3.2.1 - Disseminating the results and lessons of the exprimentations and conducting wide consultation on directions for scaling up.	UNDP	23,000.00			10,224.30			1,000.00	34,224.30	2,395.70	36,620.00	5,000.00	41,620.00
	3.2.2 - Support stakeholders in developing plan for scaling up, inclduing costing, financing staregy, scaling up roadmap	UNDP	25,000.00			52,000.00	1,000.00		2,000.00	80,000.00	5,600.00	85,600.00	25,000.00	110,600.00
	3.2.3 - Policy advocacy and public consultation on the scaleing up plan.	UNDP	15,000.00			19,000.00			1,000.00	35,000.00	2,450.00	37,450.00	15,000.00	52,450.00
SUBTOTAL - OUTPUT 3.2														
3.3	Monitoring and Reporting of Component 3	UNDP	7,500.00							7,500.00	525.00	8,025.00		8,025.00
Subtotal Outcome 3														
UNDP COSTS			86,500.00	0.00	0.00	126,224.30	4,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	222,724.30	15,590.70	238,315.00	54,000.00	292,315.00
TOTAL COSTS			86,500.00	0.00	0.00	126,224.30	4,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	222,724.30	15,590.70	238,315.00	54,000.00	292,315.00

JOINT PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT														
4.1	4.1.1. Advocacy by RCO	UNDP/RCO				5,000.00				5,000.00	350.00	5,350.00		5,350.00
	4.1.2. Monitoring and Reporting by RCO	UNDP/RCO				7,500.00				7,500.00	525.00	8,025.00		8,025.00
	4.1.3. Avaluation by RCO	UNDP/RCO				40,000.00				40,000.00	2,800.00	42,800.00		42,800.00
4.2		UNDP/RCO												
		UNDP/RCO												
		UNDP/RCO												

Subtotal Joint Programme Management														
UNDP/RCO COSTS			0.00	0.00	0.00	52,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52,500.00	3,675.00	56,175.00	0.00	56,175.00
TOTAL COSTS			0.00	0.00	0.00	52,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52,500.00	3,675.00	56,175.00	0.00	56,175.00

TOTAL COSTS UNJP 2021													
BY PUNOs	ILO	173,170.00	0.00	15,000.00	95,000.09	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	303,170.09	21,221.91	340,442.00	155,000.00	495,442.00
	UNICEF	66,122.00	7,212.00	0.00	115,122.00	5,867.00	0.00	3,752.70	198,075.70	13,865.30	211,941.00	45,000.00	256,941.00
	UNPFA	62,779.44	4,500.00	0.00	89,400.00	9,500.00	0.00	7,500.00	173,679.44	12,157.56	185,837.00	50,025.00	235,862.00
	UNDP	86,500.00	0.00	0.00	178,724.30	4,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	275,224.30	19,265.70	294,490.00	54,000.00	348,490.00
	Total	388,571.44	11,712.00	15,000.00	478,246.39	39,367.00	0.00	17,252.70	950,149.53	66,510.47	1,032,710.00	304,025.00	1,336,735.00

BY OUTCOMES	Outcome 1	199,020.00	4,112.00	15,000.00	191,250.09	24,000.00	0.00	7,752.70	441,134.79	30,879.44	488,064.23	200,000.00	688,064.23
	Outcome 2	103,051.44	7,600.00	0.00	108,272.00	11,367.00	0.00	3,500.00	233,790.44	16,365.33	250,155.77	50,025.00	300,180.77
	Outcome 3	86,500.00	0.00	0.00	126,224.30	4,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	222,724.30	15,590.70	238,315.00	54,000.00	292,315.00
	Pro. Man	0.00	0.00	0.00	52,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52,500.00	3,675.00	56,175.00	0.00	56,175.00
	Total	388,571.44	11,712.00	15,000.00	425,746.39	39,367.00	0.00	17,252.70	897,649.53	62,835.47	976,535.00	304,025.00	1,280,560.00

Source: UNJP financial report

4. Budget allocation by UNDG categories

UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	ILO		UNICEF		UNFPA		UNDP		TOTAL	
	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)
1. Staff and other personnel	247,421.00	500,753.00	142,872.00	100,000.00	142,679.44	100,050.00	145,000.00	100,000.00	677,972.44	800,803.00
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	4,000.00		14,112.00		9,000.00		0.00		27,112.00	
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	32,000.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		32,000.00	
4. Contractual services	188,109.84		247,372.00		224,000.00		312,224.30		971,706.14	
5.Travel	35,000.00		14,367.00		24,500.00		15,000.00		88,867.00	
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	30,000.00		7,501.30		15,000.00		19,000.00		71,501.30	
Total Direct Costs	536,530.84		426,224.30		415,179.44		491,224.30		1,869,158.88	
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	37,557.16		29,835.70		29,062.56		34,385.70		130,841.12	
TOTAL Costs	574,088.00	500,753.00	456,060.00	100,000.00	444,242.00	100,050.00	525,610.00	100,000.00	2,000,000.00	800,803.00
1st year	233,646.00	345,753.00	244,119.00	55,000.00	258,405.00	50,025.00	231,120.00	46,000.00	967,290.00	496,778.00
2nd year	340,442.00	155,000.00	211,941.00	45,000.00	185,837.00	50,025.00	294,490.00	54,000.00	1,032,710.00	304,025.00

Source: UNJP financial report

5. Budget per SDG Targets

SDG TARGETS		% of total	US\$
1	1.3 - Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	64.06%	1,794,322
2	5.4 - Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	29.48%	825,719
3	1.2 - By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	6.46%	180,762
TOTAL		100%	2,800,803*

* of which, \$US 2,000,000 were from the Joint SDG Fund, and \$US 800,803 were from contributions of the PUNOs

Source: UNJP financial report

Annex 6. Consolidated Annual Results

1. JP contribution to global Fund's programmatic results

Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

- SDG1: T1.2 (Reduce poverty by half)
- SDG1: T1.3 (Implement national social protection systems for all)
- SDG5: T5.4(*Recognise and value unpaid work through the provision of social protection policies and promotion of shared responsibilities*)

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

Outcome indicators	Expected 2021 target	2021 result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
1.1: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope ⁴	2	3	N/A: +variance	2
<i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decree 20/ND-CP/2020 on expansion of social assistance • Government Resolution 152/NQ-CP on Policy Orientation to revise the Social Insurance Law • Resolution 68/NQ-CP dated 1 July 2021 on policies to support people impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic 				
1.2: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale ⁵	2	3	N/A: +variance	2
<i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decree 20/ND-CP/2020 on expansion of social assistance • Government Resolution 152/NQ-CP on Policy Orientation to revise the Social Insurance Law • Resolution 68/NQ-CP dated 1 July 2021 on policies to support people impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic • 				

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

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

⁴ Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

⁵ Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

implemented with the national partners in lead				
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The Joint Programme contributed to strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators in 2020-2021. In particular, the JP supported Viet Nam's much-needed transition towards an inclusive, rights-based, shock-resilient, multi-tiered social protection system that increased the coherence between social protection. This expansion and deepening of the social protection system accelerates the achievement of the SDGs to the benefit of all Vietnamese citizens. The JP exceeded most of the original targets specified in the Programmatic Results Framework.

2. Results as per JP Programmatic Results Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2021 target	2021 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
Outcome 1: Gender-sensitive multi-tiered coverage expansion strategies for accelerating SDG progress towards universal social protection coverage					
Outcome 1 indicator: Number of evidence-based, gender-sensitive policies on multi-tiered coverage expansion for accelerating SDG progress.	1	1	1	N/A: +variance	2
Output 1.1- Legal review and drafting support to facilitate the development of a rights-based, coherent SP framework in line with MOLISA's legal review schedule					
Output 1.1 indicator: Number of legal instruments reviewed	1	2	2	N/A: +variance	3
Output 1.1 indicator: Number technical reports providing gender-sensitive policy options for reform of benefit regulations	1	1	1	N/A: +variance	2
Output 1.2 - Output 1.2 Support evidence-based policy options aimed at improving tax-based floors and contributory schemes and the links between them, in line with MPSARD and MPSIR objectives					
Output 1.2 indicator: Number of gender-sensitive costing models and financing analysis available for Government to test.	2	2	3	N/A: +variance	5
Output 1.2 indicator: Number of impact assessments conducted to feed government discussions, including dedicated gender impact assessments.	1	1	1	N/A: +variance	2
Output 1.3 - Advocacy and communications support to Govt and other partners to facilitate evidence-based decision-making on existing and new multi-tiered schemes					
Output 1.3 indicator: Number of high-level policy dialogues to advocate for the MTS	0	2	3	N/A: +variance	4
Output 1.3 indicator: Number of advocacy and communication products to support policy discussions	2	2	4	N/A: +variance	6
Outcome 2: Inclusive social care system for the most vulnerable for accelerating SDG progress					
Outcome 2 indicator: Number of legal frameworks (including targeted/master programmes, strategies/laws and sub-laws) on inclusive social care for the most vulnerable and adults developed	0	2	3	N/A: on target	3
Output 2.1 – Evidence-based, gender-sensitive policies on social care (including care for the elderly, victims of violence, social welfare workforce, social work, child protection, community-based service delivery, financing) adopted for implementation of inclusive social protection system					
Output 2.1 indicator: Number of analysis (studies, reviews, technical	0	8	8	N/A: on target	8

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2021 target	2021 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
reports) and policy dialogues conducted for policy advocacy					
Output 2.1 indicator: Number of new gender-sensitive national programmes/plans social care (social work, child protection, and elderly care) developed	0	3	5	N/A: on target	5
Output 2.2 - National Capacity strengthened for development and implementation of policies on social care					
Output 2.2 indicator: Number of training programmes, workshops, and knowledge exchange with ASEAN and other countries in the region (social work, child protection, elderly care)	1	6	4	N/A: +variance	6
Output 2.2 indicator: Number of new gender-sensitive policy/protocols/standards/guidelines on social work, child protection, and elderly care developed	0	1	1	N/A: on target	1
Outcome 3: Integrated e-system for delivering SP services and real-time M&E for accelerating SDG progress and gender equity					
Number of innovative solutions included within an improved implementation plan for national scale-up.	0	2	3	N/A: +variance	3
Output 3.1 – Innovative solutions for the development of an integrated e-system of delivering SP services and real-time M&E experimented					
Number of innovative and gender-sensitive solutions experimented for accelerating the application of an integrated e-system for SP service delivery and real-time M&E with sex-disaggregated data	0	1	2	N/A: on target	2
Number of scaling up plans approved by Government with a gender-sensitive roadmap of actions prioritising gender-equity	0	1	1	N/A: on target	1

Source: UNJP's project document

Annex 7. Studies and reports

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

1.1. Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
Report on "Rapid assessment of design and implementation of Government's 2nd support package for the affected by Covid-19" (according to Resolution No. 68/NQ-CP) by the Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour – Invalids and Social Affairs (ILSSA/MOLISA)	9/21	Informed the Government of Vietnam's policy actions and Development partners' support interventions to mitigate the four waves of COVID-19's negative impacts on Vietnamese people, especially the vulnerable groups and SMEs and households with household business. "Rapid assessment of design and implementation of Government's 2nd support package for the affected by Covid-19" (according to Resolution No. 68/NQ-CP): https://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/library/Assessment2package.html?fbclid=IwAR18QRgOgR8qfw2refQR3u0AduLN_xnPp_xrWqChNjodwvdjaSEUV1WPSbw
Report on "Rapid Assessment of the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact on Vulnerable Households in Viet Nam" by the Centre for Analysis and Forecasting, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (CAF/VASS)	9/21	Informed the Government of Vietnam about economic impacts of the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable households and workers, their coping strategies with a focus on the impediments to their responses, access to the Government's newly introduced support package with a view to making recommendations on how to improve policy actions to help them to rise to the big challenges of the time. "Rapid Assessment of the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact on Vulnerable Households in Viet Nam" (RIM 3): https://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home/library/RIM3.html?fbclid=IwAR3b3NCAqBAYKx2RtepVxd2Zx-CFBf1N-9H3mbJa4Zt1oPQMGY4-KFNiTSQ
Evaluation of 10-year implementation of the Law on Older Persons	12/2021	UNJP provided technical support to the evaluation and review of the law on older persons, especially on the social protection issues of older persons to provide recommendation for law revision on expansion social protection coverage for older persons, aiming toward universal social protection https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1oVgyYC93oHIDk_5BfAfAod0JZJQIA13C
Report and Guidelines on the integrated care model for older persons	12/21	UNJP provided technical support to develop guidelines on (1) Model framework and design; (2) Standards of Procedure for model implementation; (3) Provision of uninterrupted care for older persons in COVID-19 context; (4) Case management for care staff; (5) Handbooks for caregivers https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1oVgyYC93oHIDk_5BfAfAod0JZJQIA13C
Gender gaps in the social insurance system; Policy Brief	07/21	This policy brief is number 1 in a series of technical notes based on the report Adapting social insurance to women's life courses: A gender impact assessment of Viet Nam. It was prepared by the ILO Social Protection team in Viet Nam as an input to the revision of the 2014 Social

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

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
		https://ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_825083/lang--en/index.htm
Multi-tiered Social Security for Universal Coverage – A focus on Families in Viet Nam	04/21	This policy brief introduces the multi-tiered social security systems to enable universal coverage with a focus on families. A coherent and well-designed family support system within the emerging social security system is truly rights-based, fair and equitable proposal; it has a high potential to attract workers to the social insurance system; and it is the most likely to be politically – and therefore financially- sustainable over time. https://ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_781651/lang--en/index.htm
Vietnamese Women Union, Joint Press Release	07/21	joint press release to promote gender equality in social insurance and ensure social protection rights in Viet Nam. The PR calls for the policy actions to transform the Viet Nam's social insurance system needs to become more gender sensitive and responsive to address inequalities experienced by women throughout their life courses, both at work and at home. One of the recommended policy measures is the introduction of a multi-tiered child benefit to provide support to all children in Viet Nam, while simultaneously promoting an increase in social insurance coverage. https://ilo.org/hanoi/Informationresources/Publicinformation/newsitems/WCMS_814503/lang--en/index.htm

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

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

Title of the document	Date when finalised (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
Government's social assistance package to COVID-19							441047.aspx
Resolution No. 154 on expansion of Resolution No. 42 on Government's social assistance package to COVID-19	10/20	Y	Y	Y			https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/The-thao-Y-te/Nghi-quyet-154-NQ-CP-2020-sua-doi-Nghi-quyet-42-NQ-CP-ho-tro-nguoi-dan-gap-kho-khan-do-Covid-19-455702.aspx
Decision No. 32 by Prime Minister on expanding/replacing the Decision 15 on implementation of Government's social assistance package to COVID19	10/20	Y	Y	Y			https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/The-thao-Y-te/Quyết-dinh-32-2020-QĐ-TTg-sua-doi-Quyết-dinh-15-2020-QĐ-TTg-ho-tro-nguoi-dan-do-Covid-19-455790.aspx
Resolution 68/NQ-CP dated 1 July, 2021 on policies to support people impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic	7/2021	Y	Y	Y			https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Lao-dong-Tien-luong/Nghi-quyet-68-NQ-CP-2021-chinh-sach-ho-tro-nguoi-lao-dong-su-dung-lao-dong-gap-kho-khan-dich-COVID19-479816.aspx
MOLISA's letter on the endorsement of UNDP's support to COVID-19 package and requesting technical assistance for development of e-reporting system of entire MOLISA.	06/20				Y		
Social protection expansion							
Decree 20/ND-CP/2021 on social assistance policy	03/21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Van-hoa-Xa-hoi/Nghi-dinh-20-2021-ND-CP-chinh-sach-

Title of the document	Date when finalised (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
(replacing Decree No.136)							tro-giup-xa-hoi-doi-voi-doi-tuong-bao-tro-xa-hoi-467723.aspx
Government Resolution 152/NQ-CP on Policy Orientation to revise the Social Insurance Law	12/21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Bo-may-hanh-chinh/Nghi-quyet-152-NQ-CP-2021-phien-hop-chuyen-de-ve-xay-dung-phap-luat-thang-11-496455.aspx
Draft national program on social work development 2021-2030	12/20	Y	Y	Y			
Decision 2156/QĐ-TTg on National program on older persons 2021-2030	12/21	Y	Y	Y			https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Van-hoa-Xa-hoi/Quyết-dinh-2156-QĐ-TTg-2021-phe-duyet-Chuong-trình-hành-dong-quoc-gia-nguoi-cao-tuoi-498264.aspx
Official Dispatch No 526/BTXH-CSBTXH to DOLISA re instruction in developing decree on expanding target groups for social assistance and increasing monthly social assistance benefits	10/21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Communication on social protection							
Official Document No 1194/LDTBXH-BHXX to provinces and cities re communication work on social security in 2021	04/21	x			x		
Official Document No 1195/LDTBXH-BHXX to Vietnam Social Security re communication work on	04/21	X			x		

Title of the document	Date when finalised (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
social security in 2021							
Plan for Social Work Development in Education Sector 2021 - 2025							
Social protection Services and delivery							
Decision No. 877 on approval of Action-plan for implementation of Master-plan "building management information system (MIS) and database on social assistance in period 2021 – 2025"	7/21				Y		
Decision No. 878/QD-LDTBXH, dated 28/7/2021 by Minister of MOLISA on approval of investment project on development of electric/online self-registration, management and improvement of integrated information system and data base of social assistance beneficiaries	7/21				Y		

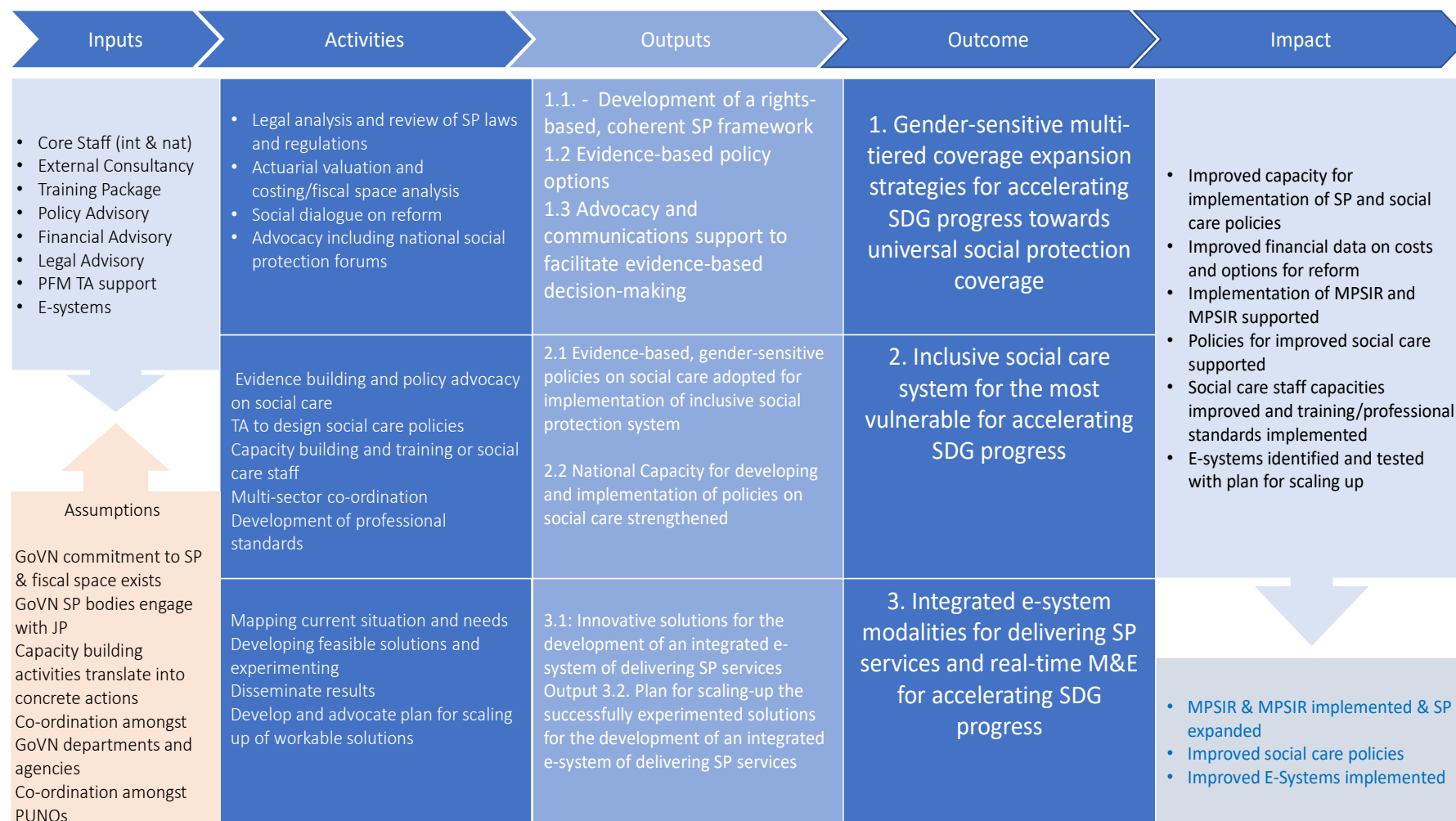
Title of the document	Date when finalised (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
Draft Government's Decree on digitalization of Social assistance self-registration, management and delivery	7/21				Y		
Social work, social care							
National program on social work development 2021-2030	1/21				Y		https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Van-hoa-Xa-hoi/Quyet-dinh-112-QD-TTq-2021-Chuong-trinh-phat-trien-cong-tac-xa-hoi-giai-doan-2021-2030-463552.aspx
National Plan of Action for Children 2021-2030 (with a component on Child Protection)	1/21	Y		Y	Y		https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Van-hoa-Xa-hoi/Quyet-dinh-23-QD-TTq-2021-phe-duyet-Chuong-trinh-hanh-dong-quoc-gia-vi-tre-em-2021-2030-461602.aspx
Decision to endorse the Plan for Social Work Development in Education Sector 2021 - 2025	12/21				Y		https://moet.gov.vn/qiaoducquocdan/qiao-duc-dai-hoc/Pages/chi-tiet-van-ban-chi-dao-dieu-hanh.aspx?ItemID=3091

2. Focus on vulnerable populations

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

Source: UNJP final report (Dec. 2021)

Annex 8. Theory of Change



Source: UNJP's project document