


Country Fact Sheet

The MDG-F in Vietnam	
Joint Programmes: 3	Total Budget: USD 12,329,641
National Steering Committee Members: MPI, UN Resident Coordinator, AECID	
Joint Programmes Information	
Joint Programme	<i>"Viet Nam Joint Programme on Gender Equality"</i>
Thematic Window	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
Budget	USD 4,484,031
Participating Agencies	IOM, UNIDO, ILO, UNODC, WHO, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNFPA.
Participating Government Agencies	<i>National Implementing Partners:</i> Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, General Statistics Office. <i>Co-Implementing Partners:</i> Ministry of Education and Training; Ministry of Information and Communication; Central Communist Party Committee for Education and Popularization; Parliamentary Committee for Social Affairs and Parliamentary Committee for Culture, Education, Youth and Children; National Committee For Advancement of Women (NCFAW); Vietnam Women's Union (VWU), Centre for Women and Development). <i>Other National Partners:</i> Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD); Ministry of Health (MOH); Ministry of Justice (MOJ); Ministry of Public Security (MPS); National Assembly: Parliamentary Women Group; Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) ; Some key media agencies; Some other related agencies, organizations when required; Selected national universities, research institutions ; selected NGOs in the Gender Community Network (Gencomnet)) which include civil society organizations.
Dates	27 April 2009 – 27 April 2012

Regions of Intervention	National level.
<p>Programme in Brief: One in three ever married Vietnamese women reports having suffered physical or sexual violence at the hands of her spouse. This Joint Programme worked with the government to build gender equality and combat gender-based violence. Despite a sound policy and legal framework supporting gender equality, Vietnam's institutional capacities in the area of reporting, gender analysis, data collection and monitoring remain weak and unsystematic. The Joint Programme sought to address these weaknesses through strategic, coordinated and multi-sectoral technical assistance. Specifically, the programme aimed to: i) Improve skills knowledge and practices for the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the Law on Gender Equality and the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control; ii) Enhance partnerships and coordination around gender equality within and outside of government; and iii) Strengthen evidence-based data and data systems for promoting gender equality.</p>	
<p>Main Achievements¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The joint programme in Vietnam focused primarily on building institutional capacity at the central government level in order to strengthen reporting, gender analysis, sex disaggregated data collection and monitoring, among other things. • A capacity assessment of government counterparts in the area of reporting, gender analysis, data collection and monitoring was carried out with support of the joint programme which noted that capacities could be strengthened. Support was provided to build national institutional capacity which succeeded in improving skills, knowledge and practices of the duty-bearers at the central, provincial and local levels. Thus, capacity for implementing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting processes regarding the Law on Gender Equality and the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention were all improved. • The JP contributed significantly to raising awareness and knowledge dissemination on GBV in the country. The National Study on Domestic Violence provided for the first time robust data of the problem and helped to clarify misconceptions about GBV as occurring mainly among the poor and marginalized groups. The study raised the issue to a new level of discussion and the evidence influenced a national policy dialogue on this subject. Consequently, some persistent discriminatory attitudes and behavior against women such as son preference as evidenced by the rising sex ratio at birth can now be more openly addressed in Vietnam. • Another notable result is the increased availability of evidence-based gender data and strengthened data systems. The Set of National Statistical Indicator on Gender Development, developed with support from the joint programme and approved by the Prime Minister in 2011, provides a legal framework for the regular collection of gender data in various sectors including economy, labour, education, culture, family, population and health. The first ever national study on domestic violence against women provides data on the prevalence of GBV in the country which is now acknowledged to be a serious problem. 	
More information	http://www.mdgfund.org/program/vietnamjointprogrammegenderequality

¹ Monika Zabel and Van Anh Phung Thi (2012), Independent Joint Programme Final Evaluation: *Viet Nam Joint Programme on Gender Equality*.

Joint Programme	<i>“Integrated Nutrition and Food Security Strategies for Children and Vulnerable Groups in Viet Nam”</i>
Thematic Window	Children, Food Security and Nutrition
Budget	USD 3,500,000
Participating Agencies	UNICEF, WHO, FAO.
Participating Government Agencies	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Dates	26 February 2010 – 30 June 2013
Regions of Intervention	Cao Bằng, Điện Biên, Đắk Lắk, Kon Tum, Ninh Thuận, and An Giang provinces.
<p>Programme in Brief: The programme focused on improving food security by increased production and consumption of safe quality food and targeted supplementation. This was both a short term strategy to address current issues of malnutrition through breast feeding, iron and vitamin A supplementation, and a long term strategy to provide a higher quality diet through improved food production systems, including animal (meat and milk) and aquaculture products. Specifically, the programme's goals were: i) Improving monitoring systems on food, health and nutrition status of mothers and children so that they can be used to guide food, health and nutrition-related policies, strategies and actions; ii) Improving infant and young child feeding practices, including increased compliance with the UNICEF/WHO guidelines on exclusive breastfeeding from 0-6 months and safe complementary feeding for children 6-24 months; iii) Reducing micronutrient deficiencies in targeted children and women; iv) Improving care and treatment for children with severe malnutrition and improving nutrition services for young children in emergency situations; and v) Improving the availability, access and consumption of a more diverse food supply in selected highland and mountainous regions in Viet Nam.</p>	
<p>Main achievements²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the duration of the JP, key national policy efforts were supported and fully completed in line with proposed plan, bringing Viet Nam in the forefront of the global effort to curb maternal and infant and young child malnutrition. Among the major national level results of the JP are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a) advertising Law, prohibiting the advertising of Breast milk Substitutes products for children up to 2 years of age; ○ b) Maternity Protection: the extension of the maternity leave from 4 to 6 months, the extension of maternity leave will provide all eligible women with the opportunity to sustain the recommended Infant and Young Child Feeding practices, specifically exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life of the child. Vietnam is the 	

² Iellamo A. (2013) Independent Joint Programme Final Evaluation: *Joint Programme on Integrated Nutrition and Food Security Strategies for Children and Vulnerable Groups in Viet Nam*.

	<p>only country in Asia that provides for six months paid maternity leave.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Nutrition Strategy 2011-2020: A third policy document developed thanks to the JP support is the National Nutrition Strategy 2011-2020, that integrates new recommendations related to 1) Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (community and hospital based), 2) Infant and Young Child Feeding Recommendations and 3) Anemia prevention and control. ○ National Plan of Action on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) 2012-2015. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme strengthened a Management Information System by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updating of the National Nutrition Surveillance System with the integration of global IYCF indicators and micronutrients indicators. ○ The installation, training and set up of Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) stations at the national and in the participating provinces • Provincial level modeling: Modeling of key interventions focused in six (6) provinces, 19 districts and 171 communes. Among the initial key results, it worth mentioning a recorded increased in early initiation of breastfeeding in the six (6) Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative hospitals, from a baseline of 70% to 97%, in one province, increased exclusive breastfeeding from 0% baseline to 12%, at the same time Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition is now being implemented in nine (9) hospitals and 28 Commune Health Centers, and helped detect and treat 741 severely malnourished children. • More than 1600 farmers have been supported in the implementation of the Rice Integrated Crop Management models (8), and others specific models were also supported beans (3) , sticky corn (2) fruits (2) , vegetables(1) as well as aquaculture models (3) and livestock (7). • For the Rice Integrated Crop Management, it was recorded between 30%-50% reduction of fertilizer used and an increased production between 15%-20%. The vegetable model, generated an additional income of 100,000 dong (US\$%) per day for the farmer, while the aquaculture model, recorded an additional US\$ 350/year income for the farmer as well.
More information	http://www.mdgfund.org/program/integratednutritionandfoodsecuritystrategieschildrenandvulnerablegroupsvietnam
Joint Programme	<i>“Green Production and Trade to Increase Income and Employment Opportunities for the Rural Poor”</i>
Thematic Window	Development and the Private Sector
Budget	USD 4,345,610
Participating Agencies	ITC, UNIDO, ILO, UNCTAD, FAO.
Participating Government Agencies	Ministry of Industry and Trade, Vietrade (Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency), Vietcraft (Vietnam Handicraft Exporters Association), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Department of Industry and Trade (DOIT), Handicraft Research and Promotion Centre (HRPC), Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development, Provincial Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, RUDEC (Rural Development Center), MARD, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vietnam Cleaner Production Center, Vietnam Cooperatives Alliance.

Dates	03 February 2010 – 30 June 2013
Regions of Intervention	At national level in Ha Noi and at provincial level in northern provinces of Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Hoa Binh, and Phu Tho.
Programme in Brief: The programme aimed to increase incomes and employment opportunities for crafts raw materials growers/collectors and for grassroots handicrafts, home products and furniture producers, in the four northern provinces of Vietnam, including families from ethnic minorities such as the Thai, Muong and H'mong. The approach was to develop better integrated, pro-poor, and environmentally sustainable "green" value chains, enabling poor growers, collectors and producers to improve their products and linking them to more profitable markets. To this end, farming households received support to increase their yield from the (re)planting, cultivation and harvesting of raw materials, whilst craft producing families will receive support to enhance productivity through technical skills training. Due attention was be given to creating safer and more comfortable working conditions, basic business skills, and making more efficient use of raw materials. The programme also created linkages with companies in the provinces and Hanoi, and assist these to clean up production, strengthen their entrepreneurial behaviour, find new buyers, including through trade fair participation, improve working conditions and compliance with labour and trade standards, and introduced improved 'green' technologies and sustainable designs.	
Main Achievements³	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JP intervened to address constraints and develop better integrated, pro-poor, and environmentally sustainable value chains. Moving along the value chain, craft producing households increased their productivity through healthier and safer working conditions, but also vocational skills training and equipment and tools needed for processing of raw material concerned. Producers were also supported to enhance their business skills and organization of the group or cooperative, which instilled better business planning and enabled access to microcredit. • The JP worked on 5 value chains, benefiting over 4,500 participants. Some 65-80 per cent of craft-workers are women. Craft producers were furthermore assisted to develop new products, linked to exporting companies and taken to domestic trade fairs to expand their client base. Similarly, export-oriented companies expanded their product range with new sustainable product designs to meet global market trends and were supported to attract new buyers through participating in national and international trade fairs. • The JP also supported LifeStyle Vietnam and annual trade fair organized by the Vietnam handicraft exporters association VIETCRAFT. The fair attracted in April 2012 some 1,500 visitors from key international markets. Companies supported by the JP reported orders with a combined value close to USD 200,000 following their participation in the Lifestyle fair. . • An endline survey indicated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of household income in total: The average annual household income of JP beneficiaries ("sample group") increased from 27.7 million VND in 2009 to 58.4 million VND in 2012 (nominal increase of 110.8%), which is equivalent to an inflation-adjusted real overall income increase of 52.4%. 	

³ Keller D.P (2013), Independent Joint Programme Final Evaluation: *Green Production and Trade to Increase Income and Employment Opportunities for the Rural Poor*

- Income from craft production: On average, craft producers supported by the JP increased their overall income from 31.1 million VND per household to 50.1 million VND per household. This means an inflation adjusted real income increase of 16.5% compared to 9.2% for the control group.
- Income increase female versus male beneficiaries: 70% of the main JP beneficiaries in the households were women, but the remaining 30% of male JP beneficiaries indicated a higher income increase.
- Income increase comparing different ethnic minorities: Out of the ethnic minorities, Muong people (47 people surveyed in three value chains) reported the highest income increase (243%).
- The number of households living below the national poverty line went down from 88 households in 2009 to 65 households in 2012 in the group of JP beneficiaries (decrease of 26.1%). This means that the poverty rate in the sample group decreased from 16.8% to 12.4%.
- The percentage of households claiming to apply “environmental regulations” went up from 1% to 52%.
- The 21 surveyed SMEs, which participated in the JP developed much better than the 10 SMEs surveyed in the control group. The average annual turnover of the surveyed SMEs supported by the JP more or less doubled from 18.0 billion VND in 2009 to 36.9 billion VND in 2012. This is equivalent to a real turnover increase of 47.9% which compares to a real turnover decrease in the control group of 46.3% in the same period. The turnover increase achieved by the SMEs supported by the JP suggests that the capacity building activities undertaken by the JP were successful and that the support indeed made a difference to the SMEs.
- The successful development of the SMEs supported by the JP led to a significant employment increase. In the SMEs in the sample group, the number of jobs on average more than doubled from 41.2 fulltime jobs/SME in 2009 to 87.2 fulltime jobs/SME in 2012. This means that 966 new fulltime jobs have been created in the surveyed 21 SMEs supported by the JP. Two-third of the newly created fulltime jobs benefit female employees (665 new fulltime jobs for women). Part-time employment also went up sharply, from 91.9 part-time employees per company in 2009 to 370.8 part-time employees in 2012. The total number of part-time jobs created in the 21 surveyed SMEs supported by the JP is 5,857.
- With regard to an increase in the average cultivation area per household, an impact can only be observed in the sericulture/silk value chain, where the average area per household doubled from 0.55 ha/household to 1.13 ha/household in the beneficiaries group, while the control group remained more or less at the same level as before. While there is no important change in the area under cultivation/harvesting per household (except in sericulture), the number of trees planted has significantly increased with support from the JP. Bamboo & rattan households planted on average 1,414 bamboo & rattan seedlings per household, which is nearly two times more than in the control group. For the 104 bamboo & rattan households surveyed in the sample group, this makes a total of 147,056 new plants. In sericulture, sea grass and handmade paper, the sample group planted a large number of high-quality and new hybrid variety seedlings as well (average of 2,156 mulberry trees per farmer, 1005 sea grass seedlings per farmer, 1,579 trees for handmade paper production per farmer), while no new planting activities were observed in the control group.
- The planting activities undertaken by the farmers are long-term investments and can be a

<p>stable source of income from which the households and communes can benefit in future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• With the start-up support to LifeStyle Vietnam, the JP contributed substantially to establishing an important international platform for business matchmaking which impacts the whole handicraft sector in Vietnam. 300 exhibitors at LifeStyle Vietnam 2013 saw 1,400 international business visitors and mostly reported good business from the fair. The impact reached with the start-up support to LifeStyle Vietnam is an important contribution to the overall development of the handicraft sector in Vietnam.	
More information	http://www.mdgfund.org/program/greenproductionandtradeincreaseincomeandemploymentopportunitiesruralpoor