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VIET NAM

CHILD PROTECTION THEMATIC REPORT

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BSW	Bachelor Social Work
CCCE	Central Committee for Communication and Education
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
COP	Child Online Protection
CPiE	Child Protection in Emergencies
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management System
CPP	Child Protection Programme
CPV	Communist Party of Viet Nam
CRBP	Child Rights and Business Principles
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CSEC	Commercial sexual exploitation of children
DAVA	Da Nang Association for Victims of Agent Orange
DaO	Delivering as One
DOLISA	Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EVAC	Ending Violence Against Children
F&JC	Family and Juvenile Court
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBVIMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
GDP	Gross domestic product
GSO	General Statistics Office
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome
HNUE	Ha Noi University of Education
HQ	Headquarters
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative (According to IATI grant numbers must be listed in reports. For a complete list of the grant numbers for the Thematic contributions received, look at the accompanying excel document 2018)
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IECD	Integrated Early Childhood Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation

IMS	Information Management System
INGO	International non-government organisation
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
MPS	Ministry of Public Security
MRMIMS	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Information Management System
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NPP	Nobody's Perfect Parenting
OR	Other resources
ORE	Other Resources - Emergency
ORR	Other Resources - Regular
OSP	One Strategic Plan
PA	Programme Area
RO	Regional Office
RR	Regular resources
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEDP	Socio-economic Development Plan
SPC	Supreme People's Court
SWSC	Social Work Service Centres
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	UN Office of Drugs and Crime
USA	United States of America
VAC	Violence against children
VAW	Violence against Women
VNCC	Vietnam Committee for Children
WHO	World Health Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Viet Nam continued to achieve positive economic and social progress in the year 2018. However, children in Viet Nam still face a wide range of persistent economic and social difficulties that are fuelled by inequalities, disparities, and vulnerabilities in ethnicity, disabilities and gender. There was an increase in the reported cases of child abuse and violence in homes, schools, and communities, both online and offline. The situation of violence against children triggered public awareness, leading to public demand and pressure as well as increased media coverage, especially via the social platforms. There was increased political acknowledgement and commitment to address violence against children. The government emphasized the importance of having local child protection officers.

Nonetheless, 2018 observed the paradox of a downsizing policy of the government executive structure by merging departments and social service delivery institutions at sub-national level. This poses a big challenge for the social welfare sector in general and the child protection system, which is in its nascent stage of development. The merging of many units of the social welfare sector at the local level resulted in a weaker social welfare workforce negatively affecting the ability to respond to increased demands on social welfare as well as violence against children.

The section below summarizes how UNICEF Viet Nam and its partners have worked to improve the prevention and responses to neglect, abuse, and exploitation of children in 2018, contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 8 and 16.2 on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children.

UNICEF uses evidence to inform policy development and improve the legal and regulatory framework for child protection. Several studies on under-researched child protection issues in Viet Nam were completed, with UNICEF support, providing evidence and policy recommendations to improve the child protection system. UNICEF and the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social affairs (MOLISA) finalised the “Study on mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of children and young people in Viet Nam” and a discussion paper on early child marriage. UNICEF and partners also finalised a Budget and Costing Analysis of the Child Protection System within the Social Welfare Sector. These studies were widely disseminated to increase government and public understanding of and attention to these critical issues. Many years of high-level advocacy on ending violence against children resulted in decisive government action on this issue in 2018.

UNICEF provided technical expertise to the national online conference on ending violence against children, chaired by the Prime Minister and attended by 18,000 parliamentarians, policy makers and government officials at national and local levels, in more than 500 locations nationwide. The conference led to concrete policy directions by the Prime Minister, including a Decision to assign child protection workers at the commune level. Following the government’s participation in the regional INSPIRE Workshop, UNICEF is also advocating for Viet Nam to become a Pathfinder Country under the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

As social work is critical to the development of the child protection system, UNICEF provided technical support for the draft Law on Social Work and advocated for its inclusion in the 2020 law-making agenda of the National Assembly (NA). In addition, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) to develop a circular

on Social Work Services in Schools that establishes the responsibilities and procedures to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children in schools.

Thanks to UNICEF's technical support and advocacy, the National Project led by the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) on prevention and combating crimes against children, juvenile delinquency, domestic violence, and human trafficking by law enforcement was approved. The Project creates an overarching framework for the law enforcement sector to strengthen prevention and promote community-based solutions to combat crimes against children.

UNICEF supported the improvement of national legislation and demonstrate innovative alternative care services for children without parental care and children with disabilities. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to develop a new decree to guide the implementation of child adoption.

130 social welfare managers from different provinces of Viet Nam were trained in a five-week social work administration course through UNICEF's continued support to MOLISA to improve the capacity of the existing social welfare workforce. To support the introduction of case management to address violence against children, UNICEF provided technical support to MOLISA to develop a training manual for the social welfare sectors. Two training courses using this manual were delivered to 103 key government staff from 63 cities/provinces. MOLISA is publishing a self-funded manual for use to train child protection staff.

UNICEF supported establishment of local child protection systems to provide prevention, case management and response services, especially for young children. 800 local child protection staff and collaborators received training on basic social work and child protection skills provided by UNICEF. These workers reached more than 2,900 children, including children who experienced violence/sexual abuse. The support from UNICEF has led to increasing local government leadership on child protection and improved coordination to prevent and respond to violence against children, including through the establishment of networks of village child protection collaborators.

As a centre piece of an Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) approach an innovative holistic parenting programme, which incorporates positive parenting, nurturing care and social cohesion was introduced. UNICEF worked with an array of partners to design and advocate for this programme, including the World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, INGOs and private sector partners. The programme has been piloted in three focus provinces. 1,582 parents participated in parenting education sessions to increase their knowledge and skills on health care, early stimulation, positive discipline and protection from violence. The holistic parenting programme and the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) approach in preschools, are being researched as part of a global partnership on social cohesion and peacebuilding with leading institutions in this field including the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Yale University's Early Childhood Peace Consortium, and Vietnamese academia.

With UNICEF's direct support, a Family and Juvenile Court was launched in Dong Thap Province- the second children specialist court in Viet Nam. The first one was launched in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) in 2016. Following the Dong Thap launch, the Supreme People's Court committed to expanding the model nationwide.

UNICEF also worked to institutionalise improved university education on child protection. This included child protection courses in the Bachelor of Social Work offered by the Ha Noi

University of Education, aiming to provide future social workers with specialised knowledge and skills to work with vulnerable children. The training materials developed were shared with 50 other universities to improve the quality of social work education programmes in Viet Nam. Likewise, on child justice, UNICEF provided technical support for the development of the first-ever undergraduate law subject on Justice for Children at Ha Noi Law University. This specialist course aims to build professional knowledge and skills on children's rights among future legal practitioners.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT OF 2018

Key child protection issues in Viet Nam

The year 2018 witnessed significant political developments and major economic and social progress in Viet Nam. Nonetheless, disparities between the rich and the poor and across ethnic groups were still observed to be on the rise. Rapid urbanisation and migration, unemployment, substance abuse, sexual exploitation, increased family breakdowns, cross-border human trafficking, the erosion of traditional values and support networks, increased economic stress, individual and inter-personal stress as well as increasing cases of crime were other challenges that increased children's vulnerability.

There were more and more high-profile cases of child abuse and violence in schools and communities that outraged the public and led to increased media coverage, public demand and pressure. This contributed to a clear shift in the political acknowledgement of, and commitment to, addressing violence against children in Viet Nam. A nationwide conference on the issue, with UNICEF's technical support, demonstrated a strong commitment from the government to tackle the issues.

2018 was also a year of rapid implementation of a downsizing policy of the government executive structure by merging departments at sub-national level and a number of ministries. This created a big challenge for the social welfare sector in general and the child protection system, which currently is at an incipient stage within the social welfare system. The merging of many units of the social welfare sector at the local level resulted in weaker workforces for responding to increased demand on social welfare, including on child protection issues.

Based on various UNICEF and Government studies and reports, as well as information from mass media, the following is a summary of key child protection issues in 2018:

Violence, abuse and neglect in different settings

There is an increasing public concern as Vietnamese children are experiencing different types of violence. It occurs in many settings, even in places that should be safe for children, such as in their schools and homes, and is usually by someone known to the child. Violent discipline is wide-spread with 68.4 per cent of children aged 1-14 reported as experiencing some forms of violence in the home by their parents, caregivers (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014). School violence is also prevalent. The most common types of school violence are bullying and corporal punishment by teachers (UNICEF, 2012). 20 per cent of girls and boys aged eight reported being physically punished in school (Young Lives). The number of reported cases of child abuse, especially child sexual abuse is increasing. 2,000 cases of child abuse of which 1,500 involved sexual abuse were reported in 2017 (MOLISA,

2018). However, it is just the tip of the iceberg as many cases of child abuse are not reported due to the weak reporting mechanism and weak child protection system.

The persistence of trafficking, child labour, commercial sexual exploitation of children and the increasing threat of online abuse

Child trafficking and exploitation are of great concern. Viet Nam is primarily a “source” country – with children trafficked abroad for sexual exploitation and forced labour. Many are misled by fraudulent labour opportunities and sold as wives or to brothel operators across the borders to China and other countries.

According to an estimate by the Ministry of Public Security, law enforcement authorities identify an annual average of 400 trafficking cases, involving over 600 alleged offenders and 1,000 victims. In 2016, Viet Nam was the second most popular country of origin for children victims of trafficking in the UK, just after the UK itself. Internal trafficking of children is increasingly reported. Children are forced into street hawking and begging in urban centres, while others are forced into labour in informal garment and brick factories, or privately run rural gold mines. Child trafficking is also interlinked with child sexual exploitation or child pornography. For many, sexual exploitation begins at young age, between 12 and 15 years of age.

The risk of sexual abuse and exploitation on the Internet and social networks is on the increase in Viet Nam. Child sex offenders increasingly use the Internet as a means of communicating with children and grooming them for sexual abuse through social media, and in many instances this online interaction leads to in-person meetings. There is also growing evidence through cases seen in the media and by professionals that Vietnamese children have been directly exploited through the production of child pornography or live streaming of child sexual abuse

One in every ten children aged between 5 to 17 years is engaged in child labour. According to the first National Survey on Child Labour¹ published in 2014, 1,754,000 children, accounting for about 10% of the national child population aged 5-17, were classified as child labourers. Notably, 75% of child labourers were reportedly doing work banned for minors and/or in an environment that negatively affects a child’s development.

High rates of imprisonment for child offenders

According to statistics from MOLISA and MPS, the number of juveniles in conflict with the law was 7,329 in 2016 – a decline of more than 37%, as compared to 2012. However, there is public perception of rising rates and seriousness of juvenile delinquency, and child offenders suffer from high levels of stigma. According to the draft Situation Analysis of the Juvenile Justice System conducted by UNICEF and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), despite the majority of crimes committed by children being minor property-related offences, and limitations in national law and policy on depriving children of their liberty, the number of children being sentenced to termed imprisonment remains very high. Between 2011 and 2015, approximately 70 per cent of child offenders sanctioned by the court were sentenced

¹ MOLISA, GSO, ILO, 2014: Viet Nam National Child Labour Survey 2012 – Main findings

to termed imprisonment, in addition to 27 per cent who had suspended termed imprisonment.

The impact of gender, disability and ethnicity and other factors on opportunities, child protection risks and vulnerabilities

Various factors, including gender, disability and ethnicity, have strong impacts on the risks of harm faced by different children, and on their ability to access appropriate services. The 2016 National Survey on People with Disabilities, with technical assistance from UNICEF, indicated that almost three per cent of children in Viet Nam have some form of disability. There are proportionately more children with disabilities living in rural areas than in urban settings (2.94% compared to 2.42%), and there is a higher proportion of children with disabilities among ethnic minority populations than among the Kinh majority (3.48% compared to 2.62%). Opportunities to access mainstream schooling for children with disabilities are much lower than for children without disabilities. Primary net enrolment rate for children with disabilities is 88.7%, while the rate for children without disabilities is 96.1%. The gap of this rate among children with disabilities and without disabilities increases at higher education levels. At the upper secondary level, only 1/3 of children with disabilities go to school at the right age (33.6%), compared with 2/3 of children without disabilities (88.6%). Only 16.8 per cent of children with disabilities from 2 to 15 years have a disability certificate. This indicates that more than 80 per cent of children with disabilities do not receive social assistance because only persons with disabilities with certificates are granted social assistance.

Children affected by migration

Currently close to 20 per cent of the urban population are internal migrants ². To keep up with the growth in major industries, such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT), footwear and apparel, the rural-to-urban migration rate is growing at 9 per cent annually. The General Statistics Office estimates that 11 per cent of the urban population will have migrated from the countryside by the end of 2019. The Government of Viet Nam identifies urban migrants, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities as the three most disadvantaged groups in the country, collectively making up one in four of Viet Nam's population. For most unskilled workers and their children, the reality of migrating to the city rarely meets the vision of improved livelihood. The immense migration phenomenon brings a complex range of challenges for children.

With a total estimated population of 13 million people and with 130,000 new internal migrants arriving every year, Ho Chi Minh City is Viet Nam's fastest growing and largest city and the commercial, political, cultural and technological center of the country. However, on-going and new challenges are on the rise due to rapid urbanization, increasingly stretching economic and human resources to meet the demand of the city's current and future social agenda.

Internal migrant children are among the most marginalized and vulnerable children in HCMC and an estimated 400,000 children are considered as temporary internal migrants who have moved to the city from other provinces either with their parents (350,000) or independently

² The 2015 National Migration Survey, Major Findings. Published by General Statistics Office and UNFPA in 2016

(50,000). Temporary internal migrants are challenged by the national household registration system (*ho khai*) that ties access to services (such as education) to the province of registered permanent residence. Some 36 per cent of the population in Ho Chi Minh City has temporary resident status, leading to reduced access to vital public services, including subsidized healthcare and education.

Natural disasters

Viet Nam is coping with visible challenges related to climate change and environmental protection. Viet Nam is one of 10 countries most affected by natural disasters and climate extreme events globally, with natural disasters costing an estimated 0.8 per cent of GDP annually. Viet Nam suffered from 13 typhoons, 14 flash floods, four extreme cold spells, 11 heat waves and 30 torrential rainstorms causing serious destruction to the country. Strengthening the child protection system to be able to respond to child protection needs in emergencies remains a critical unfinished agenda for the government.

The UNICEF Country Programme and Child Protection Programme

UNICEF's work in 2018 was governed by the framework of the UNICEF Country Programme 2017-2021, which aims to support the Government of Viet Nam to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme continued to support key government goals, priorities and programmes, including the Socio-Economic Development Strategy (2011-2020), and the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) (2016-2020).

In the UNICEF Viet Nam Country Programme 2017-2021, the Child Protection Programme (CPP) works towards achieving outputs 1.5 and 1.6 in Outcome 1; output 2.2 in Outcome 2; and output 3.3 in Outcome 3.

Outcome 1: By 2021, there is an inclusive and protective legal and policy environment and improved State accountability for the realization of children's rights

- Output 1.5: Strengthened capacity of key State actors to develop the legal and policy framework for establishing an operational child protection system and social work profession
- Output 1.6: Enhanced national capacity to improve access to justice and protection of children in contact with the law.

Outcome 2: By 2021, social protection measures are more equitable and inclusive and there is a functioning child protection system

- Output 2.2: Strengthened national capacity to develop an operational child protection system and child-friendly justice services

Outcome 3: By 2021, in selected areas of 3 provinces, all children and their families, especially the most vulnerable, utilize inclusive and quality IECD services

- Output 3.3 Enhanced local capacity in focus provinces to develop and operationalise local child protection systems and services, including positive parenting, non-violent discipline

The CPP aims to strengthen social welfare and justice systems to sustainably address child protection issues and their root causes and develop an adequate protective legislative and regulatory framework that protects children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation. This framework aims to protect all Vietnamese children, but especially the most vulnerable, such as abused and exploited children, orphans and abandoned children, children with disabilities, children in conflict with the law, children in emergencies, ethnic minority children, and internal rural-urban migrant children. Working closely with the Government of Viet Nam, the Programme supports the implementation of the National Programme on Child Protection (2016-2020), the National Programme on Social Work Development, the National Programme on Crime Prevention, the National Programme of Action against Human Trafficking, legal and judicial reforms, the National Programme on Care and Support for Children Affected by HIV/AIDS, the National Programme on Support for People with Disabilities and the National Plan of Action for Children, 2011-2020.

UNICEF's global Strategic Plan 2018-2021

The UNICEF Viet Nam CPP is guided by Outcome 3 of UNICEF's global Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

Three outputs contribute to achieve this outcome:

1. Countries have strengthened child protection systems for prevention and response services to address violence against children;
2. Countries have strengthened prevention and protection services to address harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage);
3. Countries have improved systems to protect children that come in contact with the law and to treat them in accordance with international standards

The results reported later in this report are organised under these outputs.

The CPP contribution is closely aligned to SDGs 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), 8 (Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all) and 16 (Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies). SDG 16 is the main goal that guides the work of the CPP.

UNICEF Viet Nam continued to collaborate with other UN agencies in Viet Nam to support the country to achieve its development objectives under the One Strategic Plan (OSP) 2017-2021 of the UN in Viet Nam.

Child Protection Programme Strategies

In order to achieve the UNICEF Viet Nam Country Programme Outcomes, and contribute to the OSP 2017-2021, the UNICEF Global Strategic Plan 2018-2021 Outcome 3, and the SDGs, UNICEF Viet Nam's CPP continued to apply the following seven strategies in 2018: knowledge management; evidence-based advocacy; policy and legal development; capacity development and systems strengthening; demonstration and innovations; and strengthening communication for development.

Alongside these strategies, UNICEF Viet Nam applies gender equality approaches throughout activities.

Partnerships

UNICEF continued to foster commitment and understanding among the key stakeholders in taking action to combat online child abuse and exploitation. UNICEF in collaboration with the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Viet Nam Internet Association organized “Children in the Digital World: Addressing Risks and Promoting Opportunities” workshop as an open forum for stakeholders to make contributions to protecting and promoting children’s rights in the digital age. It was the first time that UNICEF engaged the corporate sector on Child Online Protection. UNICEF deepened its partnership with the Viet Nam Internet Association in a surge of action to raise awareness for children and parents on the darker side of the internet. As a result, VNG – a leading ICT company in Viet Nam – offered to produce an animation on the importance of privacy in the digital space, on a pro-bono basis.

In 2018, UNICEF and the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPV)’s Central Committee for Communication and Education (CCCE) resumed their partnership to promote Child Rights. Besides offering UNICEF unique opportunities to influence CPV’s leadership on protection, care and education of children, this partnership supports CCCE’s role in advising CPV structures on the issuance, appraisal and implementation of policies and guidelines related to the care, education and protection of children.

The impact of strategic context on the work of 2018

The late approval from the Government of the 5-year Project Investment Proposals (corresponding to UNICEF’s Country Programme) and 2-year work plans, delayed the implementation of many planned activities of the CPP in 2018.

The Law on Children (approved in 2016) and the Vietnam Committee on Children (VNCC), (established in 2017), continue to drive the agenda for child related policies and actions including child protection. 2018 witnessed the approval of the National Project on Prevention and Combating Child Abuse Crimes, Juvenile Delinquency, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking by the Minister of Public Security, building on UNICEF’s support and cooperation over the past years.

The press and social media have become more vocal in reporting on child protection issues, especially on child sexual abuse and physical violence. High profile cases of child abuse and exploitation have gone viral on a massive scale and have led to further public pressure and demands for action, such as on-line petitions.

2018 saw the signing of the National IECD Scheme commissioned by the Prime Minister and supported by UNICEF, which paves way for the implementation of nationwide IECD programmes. Holistic parenting component is a crucial element of the IECD programme. In 2018 the CPP was successful in supporting MOLISA to design the first ever holistic parenting programme and piloted it in UNICEF supported provinces namely Dien Bien, Gia Lai and Kon Tum.

RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE SECTOR: CHILD PROTECTION

1. Strengthened child protection systems for prevention and response services to address violence against children.

1.1 Improved evidence for advocacy

Several studies on under-researched child protection issues in Viet Nam were completed, with UNICEF support, providing evidence and policy recommendations to improve the child protection system. These include a study on mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of children and young people in Viet Nam, a budget and costing analysis of the Child Protection System within the Social Welfare Sector. An article on physical violence was published internationally as a result of the study on Drivers of Violence against Children.

Following the research conducted in 2017 for the study on mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of children and young people in Viet Nam, in early 2018, UNICEF supported the consultation, finalization and dissemination of the study report and advocacy documents. The study had significant resonance, and throughout 2018 there were increased requests from national television and radio channels for interviews with UNICEF staff on issues of children's mental health which helped increase policy makers' and public understanding on the need to address children and young people's psychosocial wellbeing. Based on the evidence generated in the study, UNICEF advocated for more appropriate policy frameworks, budgetary allocations and collaboration among different sectors to better address the needs of children and young people with mental health and psychosocial issues.

UNICEF collaborated with MOLISA and the NGO Child Right Working Group to support the finalisation of a costing analysis of the child protection system within the social welfare sector, begun in 2017. The study reviews the current actual government budget and expenditures on the child protection system at national level and in five selected provinces. It also helps estimate the cost of providing basic child protection services within the social welfare system under different scenarios and develop a medium-term planning scenario for the roll-out of child protection services, aligned to Viet Nam's Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. The findings indicate that the budget for child protection in all study provinces has decreased annually, especially in poor provinces over the period 2013-2017. The report findings will be used to advocate for increased Government budget allocation for child protection.

The findings of the 2017 Multi-Country Study on the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children (VAC), have been used to advocate for development of a circular on social work in schools and as input to the development of a national report on child protection, which was disseminated at the 2018 national online conference on EVAC. An Article, "Applying the child-centred and integrated framework for violence prevention: A case study on physical violence in Viet Nam", was published by the Taylor & Francis Journal, drawing on the findings of the Study in Viet Nam. It analyzes the multi-factorial reasons why corporal punishment is widespread in Viet Nam that includes cultural norms to accept violence and gaps in social welfare system to address the violence against children.

1.2 Protection of children from violence

UNICEF provided advocacy and technical support to MOLISA and VNCC to organize a nationwide online conference on ending violence against children (EVAC) that was chaired by the Prime Minister and attended by 18,000 officials in 500 locations. Consequently, the

Prime Minister issued a Conclusion with concrete directions to address VAC in Viet Nam, including immediate actions to assign child protection workers at commune level.

The Nationwide Conference demonstrated Viet Nam's strong political will to address VAC in a systematic and comprehensive way. UNICEF was the only development partner consulted by MOLISA in its preparation for this important conference, with the Minister of MOLISA seeking UNICEF's recommendations on possible actions for prevention of and response to child abuse and violence, in addition to best practices from other countries in the region. UNICEF also provided substantial technical inputs to MOLISA in its preparation for a national report on the scope, magnitude, nature and drivers of child abuse and violence.

In the same spirit, UNICEF prepared and facilitated an inter-agency delegation from Viet Nam to participate in the Regional INSPIRE Workshop on Ending Violence Against Children. Following the Workshop, UNICEF continued to provide technical support and advocacy for Viet Nam to become a Pathfinder country of the Global Partnership to End Violence. Viet Nam has expressed its commitment to develop an Inter-Agency Plan on EVAC, which is expected to be completed in 2019.

On a separate note, 2018 also witnessed the approval of the National Project on Prevention and Combating Child Abuse crimes, Juvenile Delinquency, Domestic Violence, and Human Trafficking by the Minister of Public Security. UNICEF's consistent policy advocacy on child justice, child protection, and human trafficking and its support for child-friendly police investigation on child abuse & commercial sexual exploitation over the past decade have contributed to the approval of this project.

UNICEF continued to foster commitment and understanding among the key stakeholders in taking action to combat online child abuse and exploitation. UNICEF in collaboration with the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Viet Nam Internet Association organized "Children in the Digital World: Addressing Risks and Promoting Opportunities" workshop as an open forum for stakeholders to make contributions to protecting and promoting children's rights in the digital age. It was the first time that UNICEF engaged the corporate sector on Child Online Protection. UNICEF built on the momentum and commitment from the ICT industry by engaging the Viet Nam Internet Association in a surge of action to raise awareness for children and parents on the darker side of the internet. As a result, VNG – a leading ICT company in Viet Nam – offered to produce an animation on the importance of privacy in the digital space, on a pro-bono basis.

Together with another animation on cyber bullying, this animation was disseminated on Viet Nam Television's "For Children Programme", UNICEF's social media platforms such as YouTube and Facebook and launched during the 2018 Month of Action for Children whose theme was "For a safe and healthy life for children in the digital age".

For the third year in the row, UNICEF, MOLISA and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) organized a forum to commemorate the UN's World Day Against Child Labour whose theme focused on the need to end child labour and to improve the safety and health of young workers. This was a great opportunity for advocacy and awareness raising at high level to promote the universal ratification and application of key ILO Conventions on occupational safety and health and on child labour, including the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). The forum stressed the critical importance of removing children below the minimum age for work from all forms of child labour, including hazardous work and the worst forms of child labour, and ensuring they have access to

quality education and attend school at least until they complete compulsory education and reach the minimum legal age for work.

1.3 Strengthening Child Welfare Service System

Social Welfare Workforce Study

UNICEF Vietnam has been supporting MOLISA to participate in the EAPRO Multi-Country Assessment of the Social Welfare Workforce. The study was conducted at national level and in four selected provinces. The report has been drafted and will be finalized by national and regional consultants in early 2019 in consultation with MOLISA and concerned ministries and organizations. The assessment has provided an initial analysis of the existing social welfare human resource in terms of quantity and quality of staff capacity for child protection. The findings of the assessment help inform the planning of capacity building activities for the existing workforce and will be used to advocate for increased government investment in strengthening the human workforce.

Social work development

UNICEF continued to support the Government of Viet Nam in developing social work as a profession including through the legal framework, and strengthening of social workforce service in the welfare, health, and education sectors, with a focus on children.

UNICEF Viet Nam supported development of the draft Law on Social Work to define the role and functions of social workers and regulate registration and licensing of social work practice in different settings. Technical assistance and advocacy have supported the drafting of the law and conducting a Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Law, which will accompany its submission to the National Assembly. With UNICEF support, MOLISA organized advocacy and technical workshops that contributed to increased understanding of government officials, National Assembly members and civil organizations on the Law on Social Work.

UNICEF Viet Nam provided technical assistance to MOET for the development of a circular guiding the development of social work services in schools. The circular defines the responsibilities, procedures and activities to prevent and respond to violence against children in schools, including reporting and interventions on cases of corporal punishment, child abuse, bullying, psycho-social care, and mental health. It also regulates the responsibilities of stakeholders including school managers, teachers and staff in developing and implementing social work services in schools. The circular was approved by the Minister of MOET in December and has been used as a legal guideline for development of social work in schools.

UNICEF's efforts have also led to improvement of the training courses related to child protection in the Bachelor Social Work (BSW) education programme delivered by Ha Noi University of Education (HNUE). Six undergraduate child protection related courses were completed, providing future social workers with specialized knowledge and skills to effectively work with diverse groups of vulnerable boys and girls. Two other courses on social work with ethnic minority children and social work with children with disabilities are currently under development. The training materials developed by HNUE will be published in early 2019 and shared with 50 other universities and colleagues for their possible use to improve their social work education.

UNICEF Viet Nam supported improvement of the capacity of existing social welfare workforce in order to provide better prevention and response to violence against children. UNICEF supported MOLISA to develop and deliver a training programme on social work administration for 130 social welfare managers, the provincial Departments of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA), social work service centres, social protection centres, local Women Unions, and Youth Unions, including 64 female officers, selected from different provinces across the country. The participants were provided with training on basic social work theories, methodologies and skills to work with vulnerable people and children and social service delivery management. According to MOLISA's report, the managers, who received the training, have better skills enabling them to contribute to the improvement of service delivery for about 232,000 children at grass-root level.

1.4 Improving Alternative Care services for children without parental care and children with disabilities

The promulgation of the Law on Adoption in 2010, followed by the issuance of many sub-laws and the ratification of The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption in 2012, demonstrated the strong commitment of the Government of Viet Nam to the promotion of children's rights in the country. Nevertheless, Viet Nam still faces challenges related to the implementation of child adoption. In 2018 UNICEF supported the Ministry of Justice with technical inputs to review the decree guiding implementation of the Law on Adoption. The new Decree was submitted to the Government and is expected to contribute to improving child adoption in Viet Nam for the best interest of children.

Regarding community-based care services for children with disabilities, in collaboration with Da Nang Association for Victims of Agent Orange (DAVA), a local NGO, UNICEF supported a day care model for children with severe disabilities. The model aims to generate evidence to inform national policy and standards on day-care services for children with severe disabilities who are currently not able to access mainstream schools. UNICEF supported DAVA to provide and improve the quality of day care services to 90 children with severe, multiple disabilities through the development of its five-year strategic plan, and capacity building activities. In addition, another 30 children with severe disabilities in Kon Tum province also benefited from day care services through the Kon Tum Provincial Social Protection Centre. These children with disabilities enjoyed socialization activities, acquired life and literacy skills, and benefited from basic rehabilitation services on weekdays, while living at home. In this way, their parents have been able to engage in income-generating activities and ensure a nurturing home environment for their children.

1.5 Strengthening Child protection systems

Case management

With a view to standardize case management as an essential part of the child protection system, UNICEF supported MOLISA to develop a training manual on case management. The training manual provides concrete guidance for commune child protection, as well as child protection service providers at district and provincial levels to conduct multi-disciplinary case management. Two training courses on case management using the above manual were delivered to 103 key staff of MOLISA/DOLISA from 63 cities/provinces, that abled them to provide effective protection and support for more than 2,000 child victims of abuse and violence and children at risk per annum.

Community-based child protection system

UNICEF continued to advocate and provide technical support for the development of community-based child protection systems throughout the country to increase the access of children and families to comprehensive preventive and protective support and services. In 2018, UNICEF continued its support to strengthening community-based child protection systems in 53 communes in Dien Bien, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Da Nang, Dong Thap, and Ninh Thuan. In the 27 selected communes of three UNICEF focus provinces of Dien Bien, Gia Lai and Kon Tum, the community-based child protection system has a strong focus on integrated early childhood development (IECD). Child Protection Committees have been established in the project locations to increase inter-sectoral cooperation in addressing and monitoring child protection issues. The networks of village child protection collaborators have been gradually developed to increase detection and reporting of cases of child abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect. The support from UNICEF has led to increased local government leadership on child protection and improved coordination to prevent and respond to violence against children.

800 local child protection staff and collaborators in the above-mentioned provinces have increased their knowledge and skills on basic social work and child protection through UNICEF's supported training. As a result, more than 2,300 children, including children who experienced violence/sexual abuse received counselling and relevant support.

UNICEF support has increased capacity and performance of Social Work Service Centres (SWSC) in Ho Chi Minh City, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dong Thap and Da Nang. As a result, another 1,000 children, including children who have experienced violence/sexual abuse, have benefited from case management and received appropriate support from the SWSC and relevant sectors.

1.6 Piloted Integrated Early Childhood Development Holistic Parenting programme

In relation to improved protection of children using an integrating approach to early childhood development, a holistic parenting programme was developed by MOLISA with UNICEF's technical support. Following a thorough mapping and review of parenting programmes globally, Canadian's Nobody's Perfect Parenting (NPP) Programme was selected for adaptation to use in Viet Nam. After a rigorous process of technical discussions and consultations with various government sectors, non-governmental organisations, central and local agencies, the Viet Nam IECD Holistic Parenting programme was designed, based upon the NPP Programme. The Viet Nam IECD Holistic Parenting programme consists of three modules - Body (health and nutrition); Mind (early learning and stimulation); and Behaviour (positive behaviours/disciplines) - that aim at helping parents to effectively nurture, care, stimulate and protect their children. 32 qualified facilitators were trained to roll out the holistic parenting programme using adult-centred learning approaches and experiential learning cycles to facilitate parenting group sessions. The Viet Nam IECD Holistic Parenting programme was successfully piloted in three UNICEF supported provinces. As a result, 1,582 parents from nine communes have increased knowledge and skills to care, nurture, stimulate and protect their young children.

1.7 Strengthened Child Protection in Emergencies

In 2018, together with support from other UNICEF sectoral programmes, the CPP provided technical assistance to Ninh Thuan province - a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) focal province

for UNICEF, to develop a comprehensive provincial Disaster Prevention and Control plan for 2019 with a strong focus on children and the inclusion of child-centered DRR and preparedness activities including child protection in emergencies (CPiE). In addition, through UNICEF training support, 29 child protection officers of three project districts and two project communes in Ninh Thuan increased their understanding on child protection systems, case management and how to address child protection concerns in emergencies. Furthermore, Ninh Thuan DOLISA completed an intersectoral assessment on impacts of disasters on children. Findings of the assessment indicated the need to raise awareness of communities, local authorities and sectors on impacts of disasters on children such as increased number of children dropping from schools for work, being neglected or having psychosocial needs. The findings will be used to advocate for better planning and increased resource allocation for child-centered DRR including child protection in emergencies.

2. Strengthened prevention and protection services to address harmful practices (child marriage)

Literature review on child marriage

Based on a UNICEF and UNFPA joint literature review on child marriage in Viet Nam, in 2018, a discussion paper on Child Marriage was developed and widely disseminated to line-ministries, UN agencies, INGOs, organizations and universities to increase government and public understanding of the situation and key drivers of child marriage, as well as related cultural norms and practices. The government has recognised gaps in ensuring effective multi-sectoral prevention of child marriage, including those linked to gender equality, empowerment of girls and women, ending violence against children, addressing social norms and improving reproductive health. The discussion paper was also presented in the Regional Forum on Adolescent Pregnancy, Child Marriage and Early Union, organized by UNICEF, UN Women, UNPFA and international NGOs. As a part of the on-going advocacy work, the findings of the research have been used by UNICEF, UNFPA other UN agencies to advocate to the Government of Viet Nam to better address the issue of child marriage.

3. Improved systems to protect children that come in contact with the law and to treat them in accordance with international standards

The year 2018 saw important outcomes in improving national capacity for increased access to justice and protection of children in contact with the law. The Government Decree on Diversion, started in late 2017, was approved in March. The decree was influenced by lessons learned from the UNICEF supported model on community-based support for juveniles in conflict with the law in Dong Thap and Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC). The Decree adopts an inter-sectoral and case management approach to juvenile delinquency and establishes commune teams who will be trained and funded from the State budget to provide case management services to juvenile offenders. UNICEF supported the government to conduct a mapping exercise of child justice capacity at local level, hosted field visits to Dong Thap and HCMC to learn about the UNICEF model, and provided technical advice. With the enactment of the Decree, the UNICEF-supported diversion model has been institutionalized for nation-wide application to promote community-based rehabilitation in line with international standards.

In June 2018, the Dong Thap Family and Juvenile Court was launched as the second specialised court in Viet Nam. The first was launched in HCMC in 2016. With the application of child-friendly and gender-sensitive procedures, and its cadre of specialized judges, the

children's court will better protect and serve children, allowing them to participate more fully in judicial proceedings. UNICEF's support for both courts, including development and delivery of training for specialist judges, and equipment procurement, directly contributed to Viet Nam's announcement of national scale-up of specialized family and juvenile courts, starting in 36 other provinces.

With UNICEF's continued advocacy and substantial technical support, the first-ever undergraduate law subject on Justice for Children was launched in October 2018 at Ha Noi Law University. The new course aims to build awareness and essential knowledge and skills on child justice among future legal practitioners. UNICEF supported the development of training materials and training of trainers. 86 female and 21 male students successfully completed the first course. The university has committed to continuously offer the course.

RESULTS ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Status as of 31 December 2018
Outcome 1: By 2021, inclusive and protective legal and policy environment and State's accountability improved for the realisation of children's rights.				
Output 1.5: Strengthened capacity of key State actors to develop the legal and policy framework to establish an operational child protection system and the social work profession				
<i>Sex and age disaggregated data on violence, exploitation and abuse of children are routinely collected, analysed and published and used to inform national planning processes</i>	14 groups of children (2016)	14 groups of children	Children Indicators published by MOLISA	Child Protection Indicators were amended to be aligned with the Law on Children to include 14 groups of children, and has been used for data collection throughout country
<i>An alternative care policy in line with the 2009 Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children is available in the country</i>	No (2016)	Yes	Submitted document of MOLISA	Alternative care policy is reflected in the Law on Children and Decree to guide the implementation of the Law on Children
<i>A MOLISA proposal for a law on social work is submitted to government by 2019</i>	No	Yes	MOLISA reports	Outline of the law on social work and other relevant documents, e.g. report of regulatory impact assessment, were developed and submitted to the Minister of MOLISA for review

<i>Existence of a comprehensive national strategy or plan on prevention of all forms in violence against children</i>	In 2016 there were 3 separate thematic national strategies/plans (trafficking, child labour, draft child protection online)	Yes	Submitted document of MOLISA	Discussions between UNICEF and MOLISA on development of an Inter-sectoral Plan of EVAC, and a concrete plan of action was developed.
Output 1.6: Enhanced national capacity to improve access to justice and protection of children in contact with the law.				
<i>Existence of procedures and services for children in contact with law that are applied and delivered in line with international norms</i>	No	2018: Yes 2021: Yes	Submitted documentation of MOJ/MOLISA/MPS to the Government of Viet Nam	Decree on diversion was approved by the Government with concrete procedures and measures for community-based rehabilitation of juveniles in conflict with the law who are diverted away from the criminal justice system
<i>Number of child justice trainings institutionalised by relevant justice professional academies/universities</i>	0	2018: 01 2021: 02	MOJ report	01 With UNICEF' support, the first-ever undergraduate law subject on justice for children was launched by Ha Noi Law University. This specialist course aims to build professional knowledge and skills on children's rights among future legal practitioners.
<i>Number of functioning Family and Juvenile Courts</i>	1	2018: 05 2021: 63	SPC/MOJ report	01 The second Family and Juvenile Court was launched in Dong Thap. 36 others

				are under establishment as per recent decisions of the Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court.
<i>Availability of child-friendly, gender-sensitive victim support programmes (Govt. and civil society) for child victims and witnesses</i>	No	Yes	MOLISA/MOJ reports	Activity is planned for 2019-2021
Outcome 2: By 2021, social protection measures are more equitable and inclusive and there is a functioning child protection system				
<i>Number of provinces operating child protection system which has both preventative and responsive services with a framework for coordination</i>	43/63 (2016)	63/63 (2021)	MOLISA report	46 provinces
<i>Percentage of disadvantaged children (14 groups of disadvantaged children are identified in the Article 10, Child Law 2016) are supported and cared for recovery, community integration and development.</i>	86% (2014)	50% (2021)	MOLISA report	87%
Output 2.2: Strengthened national capacity to develop an operational child protection system and child-friendly justice services				
<i>Existence of different guidelines for tertiary, secondary, universal child protection services</i>	Does not exist for tertiary, secondary,	Guideline exists for tertiary level (2021)	Submitted report of MOLISA	With UNICEF's support, three guidelines including: i) guideline on case management to response to children

	universal level (2016)			affected by and/or at risks of abuse; ii) guideline of Helpline to provide telephone-based counselling and support on child protection; and iii) child protection manual to guide tertiary, secondary and universal child protection service delivery defined in the Child Law were developed and used by MOLISA to train 190 staff from DOLISA and social work service centres in 63 provinces.
<i>Availability of a national guideline on legal aid for children</i>	No	2018: Availability of the draft guidelines on legal aid for children 2021: Yes	MOJ report	With UNICEF's support, a draft handbook on legal aid delivery for vulnerable people, with a separate chapter containing practical guidelines on child friendly legal aid, is developed by the National Legal Aid Administration of MOJ for nation-wide application
<i>Existence of national guideline on inter-sectoral case management system for child protection</i>	No	Yes	Submitted report of MOLISA	Availability of case management guideline, which was used to train 103 key staff of MOLISA/DOLISA from 63 provinces
Outcome 3: By 2021, in selected areas of three provinces, all children and their families, especially the most vulnerable, utilise inclusive and quality IECD services.				
<i>Percentage of children receiving early stimulation and responsive care from their parents or</i>	Not available (2017)	Not available (2018)	DOLISA report	No update available

caregivers				
<i>Number of communes with functioning IECD services</i>	0 (2016)	9 (2018)	DOLISA report	IECD Programme Steering Committees were established in 27 communes in Gia Lai, Kon Tum and Dien Bien and the IECD Holistic Parenting programme was piloted in 9 communes among 27 communes.
<i>Number of child protection workers in UNICEF-supported communes who provide case management in line with national standards</i>	0	2018: At least 10/province x 3 IECD provinces	Submitted report of DOLISA	27 child protection workers
<i>Number of Social Work Service Centres applying national standards are established and functioning at provincial and district levels</i>	0	2019: 3 at provincial level & 9 at district level (NB: The total number of district SWSC will depend on the total districts of IECD programme)	Submitted report of MOLISA and DOLISA	05 provincial SWSCs in Gia Lai, Kon Tum, HCMC, Da Nang and Dong Thap 10 district SWSCs in Gia Lai, Kon Tum, HCMC, Da Nang and Dong Thap

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION/ANALYSIS

UNICEF Viet Nam planned more than 2.4 million US dollars for the CPP for 2018 with some unfunded activities. By the end of 2018 the expenditure of the CPP reached 80% of the planned amount. Thematic funds were very important and accounted for one third of the total expenses of the CPP. During 2018, thematic funds, funds from regular resources and other resources contributed significantly to improved child protection system in Viet Nam and addressing violence against children which contributed to the output 3a of the Global Strategic Plan (*Prevention and response services for violence against children*). Twenty per cent of all funding sources, including thematic funds, contributed to improved access to justice for children in contact with the law.

The CPP in UNICEF Viet Nam shows value for money in its expenditures for the following reasons: Firstly, with less than two million US dollars, the CPP has contributed to a range of achievements including strengthened child protection systems for prevention and response services to address violence against children, evidence generation and advocacy on child marriage, and an improved child-friendly justice system. Secondly, while there are numerous requests from the Government for UNICEF's support in child protection, the CPP has spent funding wisely for strategic interventions that are core to the seven strategies identified above. Last but not least, the funds used by the CPP have contributed to reduce disparities in the country by bringing child protection services to the most vulnerable and marginalised children.

In 2019, the CPP will need a similar planned amount of 2.4 million US dollars to strengthen capacity of key state actors to improve the legal and policy framework for a child protection system and the social work profession and enhance national capacity to develop and operationalize specialized child protection services for children in need of special protection which includes, amongst others, children in contact with the law, children without parental care, children victims of exploitation and children with disabilities.

Table 1: Planned Budget for the Thematic Sector

Pro-rated Goal Area 23: Protection from Violence and Exploitation

Viet Nam Planned and Funded for the Country Programme 2018 (in US Dollars)

Intermediate Results	Funding Type¹	Planned Budget²
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	RR	1,071,614
	ORR	966,856
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)	RR	0
	ORR	471
23-03 Access to justice	RR	74,623
	ORR	292,650
Total Budget		2,406,214

¹ RR: Regular Resources, ORR: Other Resources - Regular (*add ORE: Other Resources - Emergency, if applicable*)

² Planned budget for ORR (*and ORE, if applicable*) does not include estimated recovery cost.

³ ORR (*and ORE, if applicable*) funded amount exclude cost recovery (only programmable amounts).

Table 2: Country-level Thematic Contributions to Thematic Pool Received in 2018
Prorated Goal Area 23: Protection from Violence and Exploitation
Thematic Contributions Received for Goal 3 by UNICEF Viet Nam in 2018
(in US Dollars)

Donors	Grant Number*	Contribution Amount	Programmable amount
Finnish Committee for UNICEF	SC1899050002	826,087	786,749
Netherlands Committee for UNICEF	SC1899050004	62,112	59,154
United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	SC1899050030	24,042	22,897
TOTAL		912,241	868,801

**N.B. According to IATI grant numbers must be listed in reports. For a complete list of the grant numbers for the Thematic contributions received, look at the accompanying excel document 2018*

Table 3: Expenditures in the Thematic Sector by Results Area
Prorated Goal Area 23: Protection from Violence and Exploitation
Viet Nam 2018 Expenditures by Key-Results Areas (in US Dollars)

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount*			
	Resources- Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children		789,488	875,028	1,644,516
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)		384	0	384
23-03 Access to justice		238,964	60,934	299,898
Total		1,028,836	935,962	1,964,798

Table 4: Thematic Expenses by Results Area 2018
Prorated Goal Area 23: Protection from Violence and Exploitation
Viet Nam

Organizational Targets	Expenses		
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources – Regular	Total
23-01 Prevention and response services for		534,335	534,335

violence against children			
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)		384	384
23-03 Access to justice		99,015	99,015
Total		633,734	633,734

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes
Prorated Goal Area 23: Protection from Violence and Exploitation
Major Interventions Using Thematic Funds based on Specific Intervention Codes in 2018

Specific Intervention Codes	Total Utilized (US\$)
23-01-01 Legal and policy framework related to violence, exploitation and abuse	31,501
23-01-02 Services to prevent or respond to violence, exploitation and abuse	142,199
23-01-05 Social welfare workforce systems strengthening (accreditation, staffing and supervision)	149,987
23-01-06 Public finance management for child protection	177
23-01-07 Administrative data and Information Management System (IMS) including CPIMS+, GBVIMS+, MRMIMS+	10,423
23-01-09 Child labour	18,162
23-01-13 Child Protection - Emergency Preparedness	7,289
23-01-15 Parent/caregiver education and programmes on violence, exploitation and abuse - 0 to 7 years	1,404
23-01-18 Child protection focused on care and support for children with disabilities	18,219
23-01-19 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	15,349
23-01-21 Child road traffic injuries prevention	10,158
23-01-24 Violence, exploitation, and abuse - planning, co-ordination and programme monitoring	1,199
23-01-99 Technical assistance - Prevention and response services for violence against children	593,694
23-02-03 Social and behaviour change communication for child marriage	297
23-03-01 Promoting diversion and alternatives to deprivation of liberty	15,286
23-03-02 Justice sector workforce strengthening and capacity building (including police)	58,127
23-03-03 Access to child-friendly police and justice sector services	25,166
23-03-04 Birth Registration/Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems	40,390
23-03-06 Justice, birth registration/CRVS, and alternative care - surveys (e.g. KAP, VACS), data analysis/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	456
26-01-01 Country programme process (including UNDAF planning and CCA)	10,996
26-02-01 Situation Analysis or Update on women and children	3,010
26-02-02 MICS – General	4,529

26-02-08 Programme monitoring	96,200
26-03-99 Technical assistance - Cross - sectoral communication for development	109,806
26-04-01 CO/RO Supply - technical assistance and collaboration in supply chain, procurement of goods and services, and logistics	53,830
26-06-01 Parliamentary engagement for policy advocacy	7,979
26-06-04 Leading advocate	27,665
26-06-09 CRC, CEDAW or CRPD – reporting	38,475
26-07-01 Operations support to programme delivery	354,616
27-01-06 HQ and RO technical support to multiple Goal Areas	2,439
28-07-04 Management and Operations support at CO	90,644
30-02-07 Business – Staff	20,026
30-03-01 Child rights and businesses	2,900
30-03-02 Private sector advocacy	521
30-03-03 Private sector partnerships	1,677
Grand Total	1,964,798

Table 6: Planned Budget for 2019
Prorated Goal Area 23: Protection from Violence and Exploitation
Viet Nam - Planned Budget and Available Resources for 2019

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget ¹	Funded Budget ¹	Shortfall ²
23-01 Prevention and response services for violence against children	RR	1,075,924	867,237	208,687
	ORR	970,014	781,869	188,145
23-02 Harmful practices (FGM/C and child marriage)	RR	0	0	(0)
	ORR	472	380	92
23-03 Access to justice	RR	75,070	60,510	14,560
	ORR	293,606	236,658	56,948
Sub-total Regular Resources		1,150,994	927,747	223,247
Sub-total Other Resources - Regular		1,264,092	1,018,907	245,185
Total for 2019		2,415,086	1,946,654	468,432

¹ Planned and Funded budget for ORR (*and ORE, if applicable*) excludes recovery cost. RR plan is based on total RR approved for the Country Programme duration

² Other Resources shortfall represents ORR funding required for the achievements of results in 2019.

FUTURE WORK PLAN

Building upon achievements from 2018 and in alignment with the UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation 2017-2021, the CPP will focus on the following in 2019:

- Support strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks on child protection, including advocacy and technical support for amendment of the Labour Code and implementation of legal framework on child adoption;
- Support improvement of national commitments and inter-sectoral cooperation thorough the development of an Inter-Agency Plan on Violence against Children, sub-laws and inter-agency protocols on provision of child protection services.
- Support reviewing the implementation of Decree 136 and proposing policy options for expansion of social assistance/cash transfer for children in special circumstances and Child Protection in Emergency (CPIE).
- Develop social work professions and strengthen social welfare systems through the development of a draft Decree on Social Work; conduct the Study on social welfare workforce and social work service delivery with a focus on children; raise public awareness and advocacy among the key government agencies and National Assembly on social work.
- Support the enhancement of evidence for policy advocacy through finalization of the costing analysis of the Child Protection System, study on VAC and Violence against Women (VAW); dissemination of the study on the Drivers of Child Labour.
- Increase capacity of managers, child protection officers and frontline workers in Social Welfare, Education, Health, Law Enforcement and civil social organizations through the development/improvement of technical guidelines, training manuals and training on social work, case management, foster care, respite care, adoption, CSEC and child trafficking prevention.
- Strengthen local child protection systems in UNICEF focus provinces through improving case management, child protection services, alternative care and rehabilitation for abused children, children without parental care, and children with disabilities, and other vulnerable children.
- Increase knowledge, skill and behaviours of the public, policy makers, service providers, parents and other caregivers on prevention and protection of children from violence through development of a national communication strategy on ending violence against children (EVAC); and improved knowledge and skill of parents and caregivers on Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) through the development and implementation of a holistic parenting programme.

Regarding child justice, in 2019-2021, priorities include supporting increased capacity of MOJ, judicial, law enforcement and other relevant agencies and organisations to:

- Support effective operation of the Family and Juvenile Court (F&JC) in Dong Thap and HCMC and the roll-out of F&JC nationwide.
- Support evidence generation to inform policy reform for strengthened justice for children, including feasibility studies on child justice coordinating agency, the models and social work staffing structure in the justice system, and children and GBV specialist police unit/investigators

- Support development of child justice services and institutionalized capacity strengthening for law enforcement, justice and other actors, including development of a child victim support handbook, development and delivery of inter-sectoral and sector specific training programmes for investigators and prosecutors on child friendly and gender sensitive judicial procedures
- Support gender-and-child sensitive communication interventions to raise public awareness and improve capacity of child victims of violence and women and girls who are survivors of GBV
- Support capacity strengthening to promote inclusive access to justice and legal empowerment of children and women survivors of GBV, including development of training materials and a training of trainers for legal aid providers, and develop an inter-sectoral guideline for increased child-friendly legal aid

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

UNICEF Viet Nam would like to express our sincere appreciation to all donors who have provided contributions to the thematic funds for Goal 3, Child Protection. Our special thanks go to the Finnish National Committee, the Netherlands Committee and the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF for their strategic support in strengthening the child protection system in Viet Nam. This support has been instrumental in strengthening government systems, policies and capacity to protect children in Viet Nam from abuse, exploitation and violence in 2018.

These thematic funds have enabled UNICEF to provide flexible, timely and important support towards a stronger protective environment for children in Viet Nam. Over the course of 2018, thematic funds enabled UNICEF Viet Nam to make important progress in strengthening of a comprehensive national child protection system with local child protection services, and the establishment of a child-friendly and gender sensitive justice system. In enabling UNICEF Viet Nam to support the development of key pieces of legislation to prevent and respond to harm of children, such as child abuse, child labour, trafficking, and online dangers, thematic funds have contributed to the protection of girls and boys in Viet Nam from neglect, abuse, exploitation and discrimination. These solid achievements now lay the groundwork for scaling up both the reach and the quality of the protective environment for all children in Viet Nam.

We would also like to thank the Government of Viet Nam and public officers at the national, provincial, district and commune levels and civil society organisations, who are UNICEF's committed partners in our efforts to ensure protection for all children in Viet Nam, and the communities, families and children who worked to ensure that our joint efforts are sustainable. Our international partners, including Plan International, ChildFund, World Vision, Save the Children, UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP, UNODC, UNAIDS, and WHO have also played a critical role in our coordinated efforts for strengthened child protection systems and local services, an improved child justice system, and specialised protection for vulnerable and at-risk children.

HUMAN INTEREST STORY:

Working with the community to prevent and respond to juvenile offending in Ho Chi Minh City

From dropping out of school to delinquency

We first met Duong³ in June 2013. He was sitting in his family's small apartment in Ho Chi Minh City, waiting for his case manager and his lawyer, who were going to help him through his criminal trial. This was the only hope for the 17-year-old boy to avoid being sent to prison.

Duong lives in a small, six square meter apartment with his parents and two younger sisters aged 14 and 16. None of the three children attend school. Duong's mother is unemployed; his father, a motorbike taxi driver, makes about VND 6 million (US\$300) a month. This is the family's only source of income.

Duong dropped out of school in grade six when he was 12 years old, because his parents could not afford the out-of-pocket school fees. He also struggled academically and had trouble integrating with other children at school.

"At the time, I had no incentive to stay in school as I was teased and bullied a lot because my family was so poor," explained Duong.

Duong's younger sisters also dropped out of school in the following years.

With little to keep him busy, Duong began hanging out with older boys in the neighbourhood. He was apprehended twice by the police for using drugs and racing motorcycles on the streets of Ho Chi Minh City. One day, he and three of his friends got into a fight with two other boys, and Duong seriously injured one of them. Duong and his friends were arrested and charged with criminal assault. The victim's family demanded compensation of VND 70 million (US\$3,500).

The police investigated Duong's case and he was brought to trial. However, the trial was postponed for further investigation after the victim's family presented new evidence.

Duong was referred to UNICEF's project called 'Community-based Support for Juveniles in Conflict with the Law' in early 2013. A justice collaborator (volunteer), Ms Thoa,⁴ was assigned to manage his case.

Ms Thoa paid frequent visits to Duong's family and spent time discussing his case to identify his specific rehabilitation needs. *"Kids like Duong want to have opportunities to study and work but unfortunate family circumstances and poverty often drive them onto the streets and eventually into trouble. When given access to social assistance and life skills training, they begin to feel self-worth again,"* she said.

Through the UNICEF project Duong attended a life-skills training course. *"The course helped me a lot,"* said Duong, *"especially with managing my anger and helping me find solutions to my problems. I learnt to pay attention to others' feelings before reacting,"* he continued.

We visited Duong again in 2015. It had been two years since the incident and Duong's case was still not settled. Joining him in the tiny apartment was his new girlfriend, Tam,⁵ a 17-year-old girl, who was six months pregnant with Duong's child. Both Duong and Tam were too

³ Name changed to protect the child's identity

⁴ Name changed to protect her professional identity

⁵ Name also withheld to protect her identity

young to legally marry, so Duong's family took her in to support her and the baby. Duong was under pressure to find work and support his young family.

Through a referral from Ms Thoa, Duong started working in a small neighbourhood restaurant while waiting for his court case. *"The stable income helps me support my family, particularly my pregnant girlfriend. But most of all, I am hopeful that the lawyer who is working on my case will help find a way for me to stay home to take care for my wife and my child. Both need me, desperately,"* said Duong.

From trial to choosing a different path

In September 2015, after more than a two-year delay, the trial resumed. The local authorities of the commune where Duong resides prepared an official letter to the court about Duong's progress with the hope that it would positively influence his case. Under Vietnamese law, positive progress in rehabilitation can be considered in deciding how to respond to cases of juveniles in conflict with the law.

However, the victim's family insisted on VND 70 million as compensation, divided equally between Duong and the three other boys who were prosecuted for the assault. Because he could not afford to pay compensation, Duong was sentenced to 18 months in prison. The three other boys were also sentenced to prison for at least one year.

The one final chance to avoid prison under Vietnamese law is an appeal for a suspended sentence, which is possible if compensation is paid. Facing the prospect of their only son ending up in prison, Duong's family desperately scrambled to find some way to marshal VND17.5 million (US\$750), the equivalent of 2 ½ months of the family's total income.

Unlike most families in similar situations, they were lucky when a benefactor stepped forward and agreed to lend them the money on the condition that Duong enrolled in a vocational training program and paid the money back in small instalments once he found a stable job. With the compensation paid, the appeal court suspended Duong's sentence and he was put on probation for three years.

After the trial, Duong was referred to UNICEF-Wella pilot hairdressing vocational training programme at Nhan Dao Vocational Training School. In addition to professional hairdressing, Duong received basic life skills and engaged in recreational, volunteer and social activities through the programme. Duong enjoyed the programme a lot, gained substantial self-esteem and made a lot of friends. In April 2016, Duong graduated as the second-top student.

Following graduation, the Nhan Dao Vocational Training School offered to support Duong with a job placement. However, he found work in his cousin's hair salon, paying him a monthly income of approximately VND 4 million (US\$175).

The path is never easy nor straight

In the two years since his hairdressing training and new career, much has changed in Duong's life. Most significantly, he is now the father to a bubbly and boisterous 4-year-old girl. But he is also a single father. Soon after the birth of their daughter, Duong's girlfriend, Tam, left unexpectedly with very little contact since. Tam left without officially registering their daughter's birth, meaning the little girl could not attend school or legally access services. His daughter would walk past the schools in their neighbourhood, desperate to join the other children's playing and learning, and did not understand why she was not allowed to do so.

When Duong was at work, his mother would look after his daughter. However, when the hairdressing salon moved to a new location a few hours away from Duong's home, he had to quit his dream job as he needed to be close to home to take care of his daughter. Duong then worked as a kitchen assistant in a nearby local restaurant. He worked from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m., 7 days a week. It was demanding work and not what he wanted to be doing, but the income was stable.

He desperately wanted to go back to hairdressing. He was very enthusiastic when he talked about the training he received at the Nhan Dao vocational training school. *'I have only one word for it – wonderful!'* he said when he talked about the 4-month hairdressing course he did at the school two years ago. During that time, like many of his co-students, he dyed his hair every colour. *'I'd come home and even do it on my sisters and mothers. They loved it!'*

Whilst Duong told us his story, his daughter ran around, shy and excited in equal measure, about having guests. She soon started to exude confidence and singing pop songs at the top of her voice – she was the star of the family. *'There is no doubt she is the boss of the family'* laughed Duong. But he added in a serious tone, *'I just hope we can register her soon, so she can go to school and have a better future'*.

Where there is a will there is a way

The next time we met Duong was at Nhan Dao vocational training school, in October 2018, one month before his probation came to an end. He happily told us that his probation term was shortened by three months by the court due to satisfactory progress. He said with a gentle smile: *"my life's gonna be 'green' now."*

With the support and encouragement of his former teacher at the Nhan Dao vocational training school, Duong has recently returned to the school for advanced training in hairdressing. *"It feels so good holding the scissors in my hands again, but I am a bit clumsy now"*, Duong said. His teacher is helping him review all the fundamental hairdressing skills that he lost while working night shifts in the restaurant. *"He is a smart boy. It would not take him long until he gains back his confidence. We are discussing about finding him a part time job so he could earn a modest income to support the family while studying here"*, said the teacher.

The other good news he shared was that his daughter had finally been issued a birth certificate and is now enjoying her days at a local preschool. The case had been brought to the attention of the provincial child welfare department and he received a lot of support and guidance from the provincial legal officer. *"I am glad to return to hairdressing career. When I worked at the restaurant, I was away for the night shift. I had very little time with my daughter. Now I can pick her up from the school, and play with her in the evening"*, he shares with a bright smile.

"I have gone through many troubles and difficulties. From now on, nothing can stop me anymore", he says confidently while shaking hands with us as we say goodbye.



UNICEF Việt Nam

Add: Green One UN House, 304 Kim Mã, Ba Đình, Hà Nội

Tel: (+84 4) 3850 0100 / **Fax:** (+84 4) 3726 5520

Email: hanoi.registry@unicef.org

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