



UNITED NATIONS  
VIET NAM



# MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ONE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

## BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM PERIOD 2022-2026

Session 2: Cooperation Framework Outcomes and  
the Theory of Change

### Outcome 1: Inclusive Social Development



# Overview

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- **This presentation will cover:**
  1. Summary problem analysis
  2. Theory of Change: Proposed UN Offering and Leave No One Behind (LNOB targets)
  3. Cross-cutting issues
  4. Assumptions, risks and partnerships (*WORK IN PROGRESS*)
  5. Guiding questions for discussion



## Summary Problem Analysis

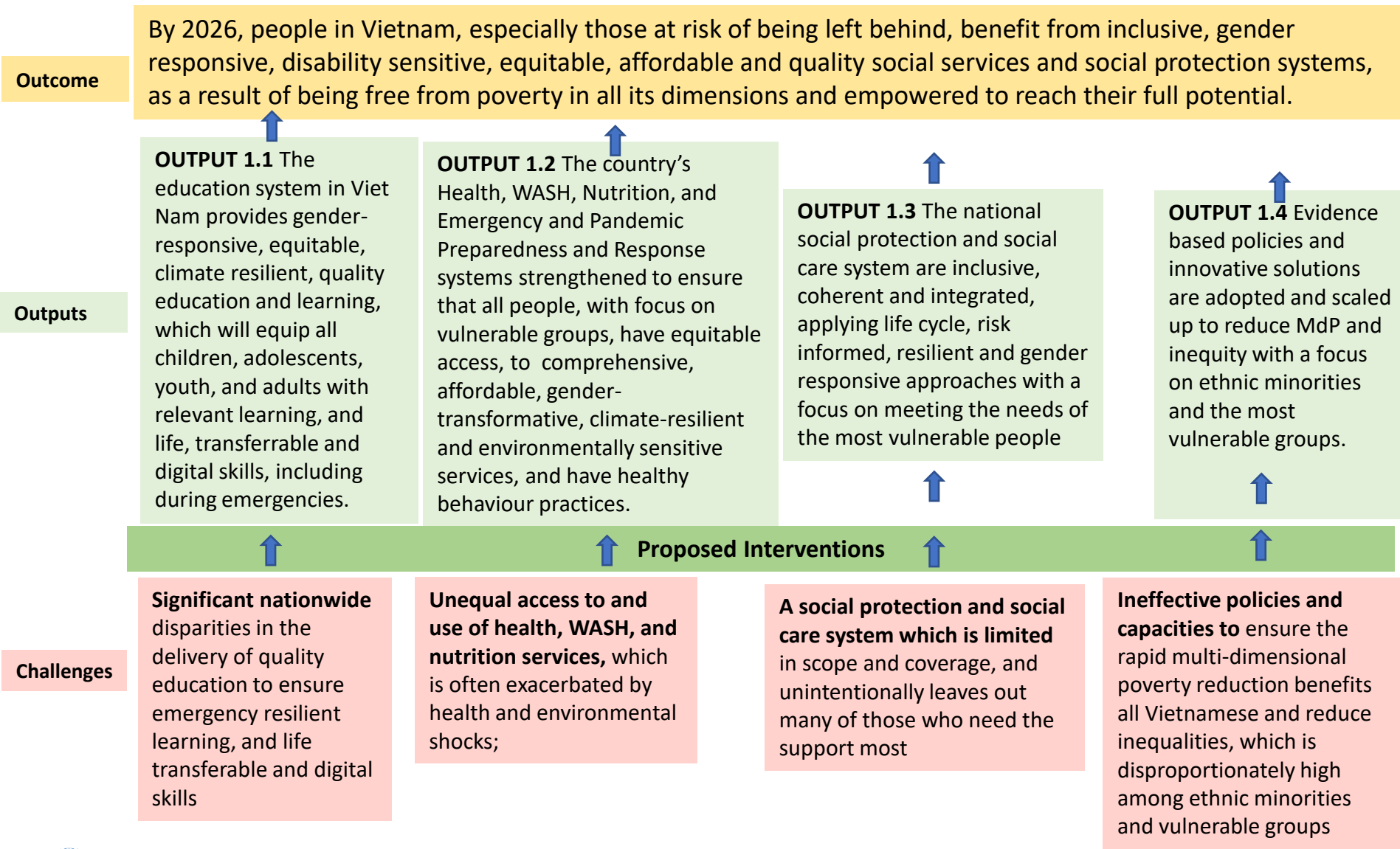
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- Impressive performance across numerous economics and social indicators.
- Multidimensional poverty rate fell from 9% in 2016 to 5.7% in 2019.
- Education and health indicators improved with higher access than ever before.
- Overall access to basic drinking water and sanitation has increased and almost 90 % of households across the country now use hygienic toilets.



- Overall analysis identifies four key challenges affecting the delivery of social services and social protection systems and the achievement of the SDGs: **i) Significant nationwide disparities** in the delivery of quality education to ensure emergency resilient learning, and life transferable and digital skills; **ii) unequal access to and use of** health, WASH, and nutrition services, which is often exacerbated by health and environmental shocks; **iii) A social protection and social care system which is limited in scope and coverage, and unintentionally leaves out many** of those who need the support most; and **iv) ineffective policies and capacities to ensure the rapid multi-dimensional poverty reduction benefits all** Vietnamese and reduces inequalities, which is disproportionately high among ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups.

# Theory of Change



### Challenge

i) Significant nationwide disparities in the delivery of quality education to ensure emergency resilient learning, and life transferable and digital skills

### Proposed Interventions

- Improve local and national capacity to strengthen gender responsive, climate-smart, innovative and inclusive policies, planning and financing for quality learning opportunities.
- Increase access to equitable, innovative emergency-resilient learning, transferable, life and digital skills, participation and engagement for all children, adolescents and young people especially the most vulnerable.
- Raise awareness and equip communities, families, parents, education professionals, caregivers, children, adolescents and young people with knowledge and skills to contribute to positively changing harmful gender and social norms.

### Challenge

ii) Unequal access to and use of health, WASH, and nutrition services, which is often exacerbated by health and environmental shocks

### Proposed Interventions

- Support evidence-based policy and decision-making including on health management information system, surveillance of diseases and monitoring of health trends.
- Strengthen governance systems, including legal frameworks and regulations especially for vulnerable populations.
- Provision of technical support and evidence-based advocacy for development of national and subnational policies and plans focused on reproductive, maternal, child, newborn, adolescent health, nutrition, integrated care for older people, non-communicable diseases, HIV, environmental health and migrant health.
- Facilitate innovative financing, private sector, and sub-national public financing and technologies.
- Pilot innovative interventions and capacity building to improve the access and utilisation of services by vulnerable populations.
- Respond to threats to global health security including COVID-19 through fostering partnerships across sectors, development partners and civil society and the private sector.

### Challenge

iii) A social protection and social care system which is limited in scope and coverage, and unintentionally leaves out many of those who need the support most

### Proposed Interventions

- Provision of policy advice and innovative solutions for a social protection framework responsive to COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and natural disaster emergencies.
- Promote and support evidence-based policy reform to expand coverage of social protection and social insurance mechanisms.
- Advocacy, evidence-based policy advice and technical support to increase care support by strengthening frameworks, improving social services workforce and response, and the reform of social assistance and social care policy and frameworks.
- Assist digital transformation for beneficiary self-regulation, management of social protection systems and service delivery to increase reach, quality and transparency.
- Improve access to information and available support mechanisms focusing on vulnerable groups.

### Challenge

iv) Ineffective policies and capacities to ensure the rapid multi-dimensional poverty reduction benefits all Vietnamese and reduce inequalities, which is disproportionately high among ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups

### Proposed Interventions

- Support for improvement of the national multi-dimensional poverty reduction framework, policy, programming and budgeting to enhance multi-dimensional poverty reduction efforts.
- Promote multi stakeholder platforms that lead to strengthening ethnic minority and women led businesses that lead to sustainable jobs and improved livelihoods.
- Provide policy advice and technical assistance for innovative solutions and strengthened regulatory frameworks to empower ethnic minorities and women to create and access sustainable livelihoods and access services.
- Advise and advocate for evidence-based policies on the socialisation of social services to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, equity and inclusiveness of social services provision.



# Theory of Change: Proposed UN Offering and Leave No One Behind (LNOB) targets

LNOB groups were highlighted as:

- a) Ethnic Minorities
- b) People living with Disabilities
- c) Migrants
- d) People living in disaster prone areas

- e) LGBTQI People;
- f) People affected by HIV/AIDS, and
- g) Demographic foci of Children, Youth, Women and the Elderly.

## WHY?

- Increasing wealth in Vietnam has **created deep inequalities underpinned by growing income gaps between social groups and regions**, as well as unequal access to inclusive social services, notably in health, nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), social protection, child protection, elderly care and education services.
- There remain pockets of MDP across the country **mainly among vulnerable groups**, those with intersecting LNOB identities, and even among **children from non-poor households**.
- The analysis identified a need for a concerted effort to address the **lack of opportunities for ethnic minorities and the rural poor**.



**Cross cutting priorities** to guide and focus the monitoring of the CF were confirmed as:

- (a) Human Rights;
- (b) Equity and inclusivity;
- (c) Gender equality;
- (d) Climate Change;
- (e) Humanitarian & Pandemic Response.



The TOC relies on the overall **assumptions** that:

- The most vulnerable communities will continue to be prioritised;
- National data systems will improve monitoring and evaluation of interventions;
- Development approaches will be rights based;
- Commitment to advance the HIV response remains high;
- Government's commitment to IR4.0 and digital transformation with evidence-based policymaking remains high;
- Investments in social capital development including social protection will remain a commitment of the government.

### Risks identified

- COVID-19 or other pandemics' prolonged negative socio-economic impacts to widen inequalities for people with existing vulnerabilities.
- Changes in financial landscape and the public funds to adequately invest in specific social development programs.
- Reduced ambitions for SDG financing from development partners and changing priorities.
- Changes in government leadership, widen socialisation challenges to equitability, affordability and accessibility of vulnerable groups to social services.

### Partnerships will need to include a variety of stakeholders following the whole-of-society approach

- Partnerships with International Financial Institutions and development partners to mobilize necessary resources to finance the SDGs and foster innovation.
- Open new dialogues to mobilize and engage the Vietnamese private sector in contributing to the SDGs implementation.
- Leveraging the UN's partnerships on climate change, clean energy, STEM policy, innovation, health systems, and innovative finance by fostering cooperation between government, business, academia and communities for business innovation and social impacts.
- Linking the public and private sector, employers-employees associations in nurturing a labour force and healthy industrial relations.
- Collaboration with public agencies, NGOs, civic and community-based networks to promote good governance, legal and justice reforms, and tackle social challenges.
- Collaboration with other global institutions and regional partners networks to support cross-boundary issues, particularly on climate change action, pollution, IFFs and cross-border trafficking.

## Guiding Questions

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- (i) Does the overall theory of change (ToC) and proposed UN offering reflect Viet Nam's reality, the UN's comparative advantage, and accelerant measures to support progress towards the achievement of the SDGs?
- (ii) Does the target LNOB groups correspond to those most at risk and does the UN offering sufficiently respond to the primary LNOB needs?
- (iii) Are the cross-cutting issues correctly identified and captured in the UN's approach?
- (iv) Are the assumptions for the TOC sufficiently realistic and comprehensive? Can any of these assumptions be sufficiently mitigated against through the UN's proposed interventions?
- (v) Are the risks adequately captured and reflect the potential impact of major events and crises e.g. COVID-19, natural disasters, worsening pollution etc?
- (vi) Which strategic partnerships would strengthen the proposed UN offering? Are there additional partnerships/collaborations that could have a transformative impact on achieving the ToC?



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