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FINAL REVIEW REPORT

**The project “Support to the implementation of the
Resolution 80 on directions of sustainable poverty
reduction 2011-2020 and the National Targeted Program
on Sustainable Poverty Reduction 2012-2015”
(PRPP)**

HA NOI, JUNE 2017

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SUMMARY REPORT

I. GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT RESULTS

The project "**Support to the implementation of the Resolution 80 on directions of sustainable poverty reduction 2011-2020 and the National Targeted Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction 2012-2015**", co-funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Irish Aid (IA), supports Ministry of Labour – Invalids and Social Affairs – as the national implementing partner (NIP) and 09 co-implementing partners (CIPs), including Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) and 08 selected provinces (Cao Bang, Ha Giang, Dien Bien, Bac Kan, Thanh Hoa, Quang Ngai, Kon Tum and Tra Vinh). In addition, PRPP project cooperates and provides technical assistance to more than 10 line ministries, including the National Assembly's agencies (Committee for Social Affairs and Ethnic Council) and line ministries: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Construction, General Statistics Office, etc.

Its contributions to the GOVN's targets on accelerated poverty reduction in the poorest ethnic minority, mountainous and coastal areas and primarily to the UN One Plan output 1.1.3 and outcome 1.1. will be realized through achievement of the project specific outputs: **Output 1:** Poverty reduction policies under the responsibility of line ministries are streamlined, and poverty reduction is mainstreamed into line ministries' plans and policies; **Output 2:** National Targeted Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction (NTP-SPR) is designed and implemented effectively, contributing to rapid poverty reduction in poorest districts, communes and villages and of ethnic minority people through the application of innovative and gender sensitive modalities and approaches; **Output 3:** System for monitoring and analysis of multi-dimensional poverty and vulnerability and high level policy dialogues on poverty and vulnerability contribute to inclusive, equitable and pro-poor development outcomes. PRPP project is implemented from September 2012 to June 2017.

In the 08 selected provinces, PRPP focused on its support to NTP-SPR 2012-2015 implementation through capacity building activities for local officers at provincial, district, commune and village levels; communication and awareness raising for local people, particularly the poor; piloting and replication of innovative models, block grant mechanism in poverty reduction, promotion of the community's role, self-help and self-reliance in poverty reduction activities under

NTP-SPR as well as local socio-economic development activities; development and integration of poverty reduction plans into participatory socio-economic development plans. Building on its support, PRPP will consolidate good practices, draw out lessons learned from implementation process for institutionalization and replication in these provinces and in nationwide scope, and particularly for providing hands-on evidences to the central level's policy review, assessment, development and effective development and implementation of NTP-SPR.

This PRPP review report is based on the project's annual progress reports from 2012 to 2016 and 6 months report of 2017, which include the annual progress report of NIP/MOLISA and 09 co-implementing partners (CIPs). According to the Mid-term review report and the draft independent end-project evaluation report, PRPP has excellently achieved its outputs and event gone above the outputs in the Project Document approved by the Prime Minister. The project's implementation results have been evidenced by specific products (see details in Annex 1: PRPP-supported documents issued in the 2012-2016 period), recognized and well complemented by beneficiary agencies and partners at central level and local levels. These results have significantly contributed to achieving the rapid (4%/year) and sustainable poverty reduction target in the poorest areas in Vietnam nationwide.

Over more than past 4 years, the national project management unit/office (located at MOLISA) cooperated closely with the donors (UNDP and IA) and beneficiary agencies, including Poverty Reduction Coordination Office (PRCO), line ministries, National Assembly's agencies and 08 selected provinces to implement the project in an orderly and effective manner. Every project activity was carefully discussed and built on beneficiaries' demand for technical assistance in order to improve the quality and the effectiveness of GOVN's activities and keep up with the innovative directions of the donors and international community.

PRPP project's assistance covered a heavy workload with complicated components that required high quality technical capacity. Its support aimed at improving poverty reduction (and related) policies and programs at macro level relevant to the context in Vietnam and global scope as well as diversified conditions in local areas in order to achieve practical results for local government and people.

Based on consolidated number, PRPP has implemented totally 574 groups of activities from central level to provincial, district, commune and village levels; completed 82 research reports and publications (Annex 2: List of PRPP's products

2012-2016); organized 197 workshops, dialogues, consultation meetings, capacity building activities; reviewed 168 policies and documents related poverty reduction; and researched, piloted, consulted, consolidated and proposed central level/provincial level to newly issue 52 documents, including 28 documents issued at central level, 24 documents issued at provincial level and 08 documents waiting for approval (Annex 1: PRPP-supported documents issued in the 2012-2016 period). PRPP project supported printing and release of 128 publications, articles at national level and local levels; connected and coordinated the activities with 158 national/local partners and consultants. Totally 48,031 people (22,566 men and 25,475 women) directly benefited from PRPP's publications and millions of people indirectly benefited from PRPP's supports/products.

A number of above listed documents have clearly proved PRPP's contribution to fundamental and great reform, such as evidenced by Resolution 76/2014/QH13 dated 24/6/2014 of the National Assembly on accelerating sustainable poverty reduction goal by 2020, Decision 2324/QD-TTg dated 19/12/2014 of the Prime Minister on issuing an Action Plan for implementing Resolution 76/2014/QH13 of the National Assembly sustainable poverty reduction goal by 2020, Decision 1557/QD-TTg dated 10/9/2015 on approving ethnic minority-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in line with post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Decision 1722/QD-TTg dated 02/9/2016 of the Prime Minister on approving the National Targeted Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction in the 2016-2020 period, Decision 1614/QD-TTg dated 15/09/2015 of the Prime Minister of approving a Master Plan on transition from one-dimensional poverty approach to multidimensional poverty approach for application in the 2016-2020 period, Decree 116/2016/ND-CP dated 18/7/2016 of the Prime Minister on regulating policies to support students and high schools in extremely disadvantaged communes and villages.

The issuance of PRPP-supported legal documents is the evidence for effective technical assistance at high/national levels as the contents have been researched, piloted, consulted and agreed before being submitted to the relevant authorities for approval. The institutionalization of these contents in legal documents will ensure sustainability and replication of good practices nationwide instead of limiting them in the scope supported by PRPP. Based on this achievements, it can be said that PRPP project provided positive contribution to the One UN Plan, made fundamental improvements relevant to the GOVN's priorities (including inclusion of poverty reduction in regular activities of line

ministries and localities; poverty reduction policy review and integration; promotion of community's participation, potential and self-reliance; gender mainstreaming and ethnic minority prioritization in poverty reduction; successful introduction and development of a Master Plan on transition from one-dimensional poverty approach to multidimensional poverty approach for application in the 2016-2020 period. These achievements have built up a solid foundation for Vietnam in its implementation of sustainable poverty reduction goal, equitable and inclusive socio-economic development, and contribution to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Comparing the resource allocated to the project and its expected outcomes, up to present, PRPP project has excellently achieved its outputs and even gone above the outputs in the Project Document approved by the Prime Minister, while allocated resource has not been used up. In addition to its assistance to the GOVN and provinces in development and implementation of NTP-SPR 2012-2015, the project also supported development and implementation of the very first key activities under NTP-SPR 2016-2020, highlighting noticeable innovation in the new context of Vietnam and international environment, facilitating Vietnam on the way to achieve all of the planned poverty reduction targets.

PRPP results can be summarized by the following 8 points:

- The process of researching and developing the project-supported documents optimized the involvement of all stakeholders, including line ministries, local government, grassroots level, local people, international and national organizations (NGOs and donors) and independent development experts. Through this process, lessons learned from poverty reduction, multidimensional viewpoints and different approaches to poverty reduction were analyzed, discussed, shared and learned. The process significantly contributed to policy review and integration, and supporting line ministries in effective integration of poverty reduction into their strategies and activities.

- The issued policy documents were integrated to a maximum level within the current context of Vietnam, which helped to limit the overlaps and the lack of consistency in related documents, ensured better use of funding and human resource, and improved the effectiveness and the impact of poverty reduction work at grassroots level.

- The issued documents, particularly poverty reduction strategies and policies developed during the 2014-2017 period, including those directly related to NTP-SPR and line ministries' integrated policies, targeted promotion of key principles in poverty reduction such as decentralization, empowerment to local levels, promotion of people's involvement, improvement of transparency, poverty reduction policy dialogues, limitation of subsidies, promotion of poor communities'/ethnic minorities' potential and incentive.

- For the first time, block grant support for communes and communities was piloted and institutionalized into national poverty reduction policies and strategies. Innovative models in poverty reduction, including ISNC, anthropological approach, women empowerment, public employment for poor people, were documented and officially approved in NTP-SPR 2016-2020 design framework.

- For the first time, communes and communities were provided medium-term (3-5 years) budget and medium-term (3-5 years) planning in poverty reduction (2016-2020).

- For the first time, the principles of anthropological approach in sustainable development (including promotion of indigenous knowledge, relevance between poverty reduction and local activities, local customs, EM communities and cultural sensitivity etc.) were introduced, guided and integrated into national poverty reduction policies and strategies.

- For the first time, gender and women development were specifically integrated into poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies for EM communities: women were recognized as the beneficiaries of NTP-SPR 2016-2020 for the first time, the target "promote the women's position" was included in the MDGs for EM in connection to SDGs by 2025.

- For the first time, "multidimensional poverty" was introduced; multidimensional poverty methodology was finalized and institutionalized into an official measurement. This has been the foundation for making of specific strategies and policies at national level with high consensus of both the National Assembly and the GOVN (Decision 1614).

The aforementioned innovations greatly contributed to effective implementation of Resolution 80, particularly to effective design and implementation of NTP-SPR (in the 2012-2015 period and 2016-2020 period), and

rapid and sustainable poverty reduction in Vietnam, which has been recognized and well complemented by international community.

PRPP project's success factors include close and effective cooperation of all stakeholders, including national implementing partner (MOLISA), co-implementing partners, beneficiary agencies and the donors (UNDP, IA). In addition, PRPP project is also designed with a number of advantages. The project's management mechanism is put in parallel with and close to the state management mechanism from central level to local levels. This explains why its technical assistance is closely connected to the state management mandates and requirements, which is more convenient for advocacy and application of innovative contents into state management system of poverty reduction interventions.

II. CHALLENGES

1. Decentralization and empowerment on poverty reduction activities have seen a lot of improvement, however they need further communication and awareness raising supports for local people and some groups of local staff, in order to avoid dependency on poverty reduction policies from the State; some emerging issues at localities have not been timely solved effectively, such as environmental, nutrition, health care and transportation accidental issues, etc.

2. Currently, poverty reduction work mainly depends on administrative system of the State, while commune officers have been overloaded by work, with limitation of professional capacity, etc.

3. MDP and anthropological approaches in poverty reduction and EM development poverty... are new not only in Vietnam, but also in the world, therefore, they need continued TA for capacity improvement and common understanding among people and practitioners, while addressing the pocket of poverty becomes more and more expensive and time consuming.

4. Because, PRPP has been closely linked to the State management system, and performing in parallel with the NTP-SPR, its implementation progress has to depend on prioritized TA needs and implementation progress of the NTP-SPR. This requires PRPP management should be highly flexible, while well complying with ODA management regulation of the Government and donor agencies (in terms of procedures, quality and progress) is a big challenge.

5. As Vietnam has become a MIC, mobilization of TA funding from development partners for poverty reduction and new rural development in period of 2017-2020 meets more challenges.

III. PROPOSALS

1. Continue TA supports in assessing, integrating poverty reduction policies, so as to make them neater, and closely linked to the social assistance policy system;

2. Continue working with DPs to provide TA supports in MDP and case management based poverty reduction which targets individual needs and finds out solutions for each case;

3. Pay attention to development of service system for poverty reduction, development of social work services for poverty reduction, considering each poor household as a support case, establishing hotlines to connect poor households to social work centers around the clock;

4. Pilot and expand the community development fund;

5. Increase capacity of officers at all levels and people, aimed at maintaining sustainable poverty reduction results, developing new innovative models, effectively addressing issues of communities, such as: environmental sanitation, traffic accidents, drown children, market information, agricultural product consumption of poor households, etc.

DETAILED REPORT

A. PROJECT'S BACKGROUND

PRPP project, co-funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Irish Aid (IA), provides technical support to Ministry of Labour – Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), as national implementing partner (NIP), line ministries and 08 selected provinces: Cao Bang, Bac Kan, Ha Giang, Dien Bien, Thanh Hoa, Quang Ngai, Kon Tum and Tra Vinh, as co-implementing partners (CIPs), to implement Resolution 80/NQ-CP on directions of sustainable poverty reduction (2011-2020) and the National Targeted Program, on Sustainable Poverty Reduction (2012 – 2015).

PRPP contributes to accelerating poverty reduction targets in ethnic minority (EM) areas, mountainous areas and coastal areas with the highest poverty rates; and the project is implemented in close coordination and collaboration with the United Nations (UN) and development partners (DPs) under One UN Plan and GOVN-DPs' Joint Partnership to “support the implementation of Resolution 80 and NTP-SPR”.

In order to achieve the aforementioned objectives, over the last 4.5 years, at central level, PRPP project has provided technical assistance to more than 10 central agencies: the National Assembly's Committee for Social Affairs (CSA) and Ethnic Council (EC), line ministries: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Ministry of Construction (MOC), General Statistics Office (GSO), etc. to (i) review, mainstream and integrate poverty reduction policies, (ii) effectively

design and implement NTP-SPR 2012-2015, (iii) develop and implement MDP Master Plan.

In 08 selected provinces, PRPP project has focused on supporting NTP-SPR 2012-2015 implementation through capacity building for officers at provincial, district, commune and village levels; communication, awareness raising for local people, particularly the poor; piloting and replication of innovative models, block grant in poverty reduction, promotion of community's role and self-help in NTP-SPR and local socio-economic development activities; development and integration of poverty reduction plans into participatory socio-economic development plans (SEDP). Building on these activities, the project consolidated and documented good practices for institutionalization and replication in these provinces and in nationwide scope, and particularly for providing hands-on evidences to central level's policy review, assessment, integration and effective development and implementation of NTP-SPR.

In 2011 when PRPP project was designed, Vietnam was one of very few countries in the world with the highest poverty reduction speed. Based on common poverty rate (applied since 2006), poverty rate reduced from 18.1% in 2006 to 9.45% in 2010; the poor had better access to economic resources and basic social services (health care, education, housing, etc). However, poverty reduction results were not sustainable due to high rate of "poverty relapsing" (about 7% - 10% in total number of households that had escaped from poverty). In addition, many households, particularly EM households and/or the households in mountainous areas, were vulnerable to the shocks like economic crisis, climate change and health hazards, etc.

Slow issuance of documents guiding the implementation of poverty reduction policies and programs, a huge number of poverty reduction-related policies led to overlaps, fragmentation and isolation. The implementation of NTP-PR 2005-2010 was top-down; poverty reduction was not linked to regular work of line ministries and provinces; the effectiveness and the level of decentralization at local levels were still limited; a number of localities and local people were dependent on others' support, etc.

Moreover, when PRPP was designed, Vietnam used to apply income-based (one-dimensional) poverty line in monitoring and making poverty reduction policies and programs. Based on one-dimensional poverty line, Vietnam reduced income poverty rate to low levels. However, in fact, and according to research results, many households (poor households and households that "escape" from

income poverty), particularly those in urban areas, and children in these households were still facing a lot of difficulties. For instance, increasing spending on basic needs, unstable employment, environmental pollution, unsafe and poorly equipped accommodation, limited access to qualified public services (health care, education, infrastructures, information, etc), and the low percentage of poor people in mountainous areas and coastal areas having access to education.

Realizing the abovementioned limitations and targeting better poverty reduction, on May 19th, 2011, the GOVN issued Resolution 80/NQ-CP on directions of sustainable poverty reduction in the 2011-2020 period (Resolution 80). Resolution 80 is a framework program, focusing on investments into poor areas under Decision 1489/QD-TTg on approving the National Targeted Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction in the 2012-2015 period.

For effective implementation of Resolution 80 and NTP-SPR 2012-2015, UNDP and IA provided technical assistance to GOVN via PRPP project (2013 – 2016), highlighting the following 03 outputs:

Output 1: Poverty reduction policies under the responsibility of line ministries are streamlined, and poverty reduction is mainstreamed into line ministries' plans and policies, in which activities and investment resources for poor districts and poor communes are prioritized to accelerate poverty reduction in these areas (*hereafter referred to as the support to poverty reduction assessment and integration*).

Output 2: National Targeted Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction (NTP-SPR) is designed and implemented effectively, contributing to rapid poverty reduction in poorest districts, communes and villages and of ethnic minority people through the application of innovative modalities and approaches in terms of (i) promoting empowerment and participation of local authorities and people in formulation, implementation and management of the program at local level; (ii) anthropological approaches and modalities relevant to the particular features, cultures, traditions and knowledge of local ethnic minority people/ target groups of the program; (iii) strengthening accessibility/linkage to the market, promoting gender equality, environmental sustainability and addressing poverty from a multi-dimensional perspective (*hereafter referred to as the support to effective implementation of NTP-SPR*).

Output 3: System for monitoring and analysis of multi-dimensional poverty and vulnerability situation and trends is operational and institutionalized; policy discussions on poverty and vulnerability contribute to improved policies and development programs for inclusive, pro-poor development better equality outcomes (*hereafter referred to as the support to MDP Master Plan development*).

PRPP project's review report is based on progress reports in the 2012-2016 period, first 6 months 2017 report and project review reports developed by MOLISA (NIP) and 09 CIPs, including CEMA, 08 selected provinces (Cao Bang, Ha Giang, Dien Bien, Bac Kan, Thanh Hoa, Quang Ngai, Kon Tum, Tra Vinh), line ministries and the National Assembly's committees – as collaborating agencies.

B. PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

I. OUTPUT 1: SUPPORT TO POVERTY REDUCTION POLICY ASSESSMENT AND INTEGRATION

After 4 years, PRPP project has achieved its target in supporting line ministries in arranging, mainstreaming and integrating poverty reduction policies under line ministries' responsibilities into their plans and regular policies, focusing on poor district and communes to accelerate poverty reduction in these areas. The project supported experts and consultants in researching, surveying and consulting NA-CSA and line ministries (MOLISA, MPI, MOF, MOET, MOH, MOC, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, State Bank of Vietnam, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, etc) for policy review and integration. The project's support was recognized by the National Assembly and the GOVN in Decision 1200/QD-TTg dated 31/8/2012 of the Prime Minister on approving a plan framework for implementing Resolution 80/NQ-CP on directions of sustainable poverty reduction in the 2011-2020 period; Resolution 76/2014/QH13 dated 24/6/2014 of the National Assembly on accelerating sustainable poverty reduction goal by 2020; Decision 2324/QD-TTg dated 19/12/2014 of the Prime Minister on issuing an Action Plan for implementing Resolution 76/2014/QH13 of the National Assembly sustainable poverty reduction goal by 2020 and Decision 1557/QD-TTg dated 10/9/2015 on approving ethnic minority-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in line with post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Building on the documents issued by the National Assembly and the Prime Minister, a number of related policies and guidelines were assessed, analyzed and integrated for systematic arrangement. PRPP also helped to strengthen MOLISA's and CEMA's coordination role and policy advisory role in the implementation of Resolution 80 (Decision 2324 and Decision 1557).

1. SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 80

To support MOLISA – the GOVN's standing committee in coordinating effective implementation of Resolution 80, PRPP project cooperated with Poverty Reduction Coordination Office (PRCO), MOLISA to develop and reach agreement upon a technical assistance plan with line ministries (including MPI, MOF, MOET, MOH, MOC, MoCST, State Bank of Vietnam, MOD and MONRE, etc) to propose priorities in the implementation of Resolution 80.

Based on proposals from line ministries and provinces, PRPP's consultancy teams researched, consolidated and widely consulted line ministries, provinces, international development organizations and NGOs to reach agreement upon the proposed contents in the Action plan for implementing Resolution 80 before submission to the Prime Minister for approval.

MOLISA proposed the Prime Minister to approve the plan framework, resulting in the issuance of Decision 1200/QD-TTg dated 31/8/2012 on approving a plan framework for implementing Resolution 80/NQ-CP on directions of sustainable poverty reduction in the 2011-2020 period. Decision 1200 specified responsibilities of line ministries and provinces for implementing Resolution 80; decided leading ministry and collaborating ministries, and specific deadlines and collaborating mechanisms for different mandates. This has been a tool for line ministries and provinces in rolling out Resolution 80, avoiding overlaps, facilitating stakeholders' cooperation to fulfill the mandates assigned by the Prime Minister.

Decision 1200 is a useful tool that helps MOLISA coordinate line ministries and provinces in implementation of Resolution 80. PRPP project helped state management agencies realize and accept their responsibilities, contents, timeline, directions and collaborating mechanisms in implementation of Resolution 80 to roll it out in a synchronized manner.

2. SUPPORT FOR LINE MINISTRIES IN ASSESSMENT, INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF POVERTY REDUCTION POLICIES

2.1. Support in strengthening the effectiveness of National Assembly's supreme oversight on poverty reduction

After the issuance of Decision 1200/QD-TTg dated 31/8/2012 on approving a plan framework for implementing Resolution 80/NQ-CP on directions of sustainable poverty reduction in the 2011-2020 period, PRPP worked with NA-CSA to review and consolidate results from studies on poverty reduction resources, people mobilization in design and implementation of poverty reduction policies, organize forums to discuss and exchange information of new approaches (for example, MDP) among NA's members and line ministries in policy making.

PRPP provided information and evidences for the existing status of poverty reduction policy system and socio-economic development to NA's members at their 5th conference (2013), as the foundation for development of a supreme oversight plan on poverty reduction policy implementation, In addition, PRPP supported NA-CSA in conducting overview research, thematic studies, case studies; provided technical assistance to oversight teams; agenda, questionnaire, report outline and final report for NA's Supreme Oversight on poverty reduction policy implementation 2006-2013.

With PRPP's support, the 13th National Assembly issued Resolution 76/NQ2014/QH13 dated 24/6/2014 of the National Assembly on accelerating sustainable poverty reduction goal by 2020. Resolution 76 specified key innovations: complete the review of legal documents related poverty reduction policies and arrangement, revision of policies and resources to avoid overlaps; develop new poverty line based on multidimensional approach to ensure people's access to basic social services; reform the mechanism for administration, leadership, decentralization, collaboration in poverty reduction. The resolution also pointed the existing status of poverty reduction, assigned specific mandates to the GOVN in the 2016-2020 period.

Its support to the issuance of Resolution 76 of the NA has been a key milestone for PRPP's technical assistance.

2.2. Support in reviewing, mainstreaming and integrating poverty reduction policies into basic social services

After the issuance of 1200/QD-TTg and Resolution 76, PRPP worked with PRCO/MOLISA and UNDP to plan for necessary technical assistance to line ministries and provinces for their review and assessment of poverty reduction policies under their ministries and other ministries (MOET, MOH, MPI), and identification of policy gaps for adequate revision, integration to a more systematic policy mechanism and better effectiveness for beneficiaries.

Totally 168 poverty reduction-related policies and EM-related policies were reviewed, as foundation for EM policy framework 2016-2020. Totally 11 policies were reviewed and integrated into line ministries' regular policies. Totally 10 poverty reduction and EM development policies were advocated and institutionalized, including 06 issued policies and 04 consulted policies (waiting for approval in 2017).

a) Review and integration of EM support policies

PRPP supported CEMA in 09 main groups of activities under Output 1, focusing on (i) developing guidelines for planning, policy implementation and project 2 under NTP-SPR, targeting integration of poverty reduction policies into line ministries' plans and policy frameworks, (ii) revising, updating CRC tool for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of GOVN's support, (iii) reviewing, assessing and proposing specific ethnic policies assigned in Resolution 80 (Decision 102/2009/QD-TTg), and (iv) preparing for the support to an internationally standardized Master Course on public administration and development of a Master Plan on EM human resource development until 2020.

PRPP also supported CEMA in effectively (i) reviewing, arranging and integrating poverty reduction policy system, (ii) strengthening policy advocacy role. By the end of 2014, CEMA reviewed, supplemented and newly issued 09 legal documents (01 CRC toolkit to assess their satisfaction with P135 in the 2012-2016 period and NTP-SPR under Resolution 80; 01 Master Plan on EM human resource development until 2020, directions towards 2030 approved in December 2014, Circular 06/2014/TT-UBDT dated 10/12/2014 of the Minister, Head of CEMA on ethnic affairs statistics developed, consulted and approved).

PRPP's technical support to CEMA has been recognized as "greatly effective", resulting added value for policy making and implementation of R80. Specifically, policies and guidelines for EM policy implementation were typical for EM areas and connected with NTP-SPR guidelines; policies and programs were widely consulted with line ministries, provinces and DPs to strengthen participation, quality and practical application. PRPP's supported contributed to directing and accelerating new approaches in project 2 NTP-SPR on directions of commune investment ownership, anthropological-driven EM policy making (introduced and applied for the first time in Vietnam).

b) Review and integration of education support policies

Education is also connected to poverty reduction policy system. Based on Decision 1200 and MOET's technical proposal, PRPP supported MOET in reviewing and integrating the policies to support semi-boarding students in extremely disadvantaged areas under Decision 85/2010/QD-Ttg, Decision 12/2013/QD-Ttg and Decision 36/2013/QD-Ttg of the Prime Minister. These Decisions integrated target beneficiaries, supporting levels to simplify administrative procedure, limit overlaps for piloting, documentation and sharing with other ministries. By the end of 2014, draft Prime Ministerial Decision and Guiding Circular were consulted with line ministries for issuance at the beginning of 2015.

To avoid overlaps and ensure effective policy implementation, MOET proposed PRPP to support review, analysis and integration of the existing related legal documents: Decision 60/2011/QD-TTg dated 26/10/2011 of the Prime Minister on policies for developing pre-school education 2011-2015; Joint Circular 09/TTLT-BGDDT-BTC-BNV dated 11/3/2013 guiding the support to lunch allowance for children and policies for pre-school teachers under Decision 60/2011/QD-TTg; Decision 239/QD-TTg dated 9/2/2010 of the Prime Minister on approving Master Plan on disseminating pre-school education for children under 5 in the 2010-2015 period; Joint Circular 29/2011/TTLT-BGDDT-BTC dated 15/7/2011 guiding the support to lunch allowance for children of 5 years old in pre-schools under Decision 239/QD-TTg dated 9/2/2010; Decision 1121/1997/QD-TTg dated 23/12/1997 on scholarships and social subsidies for students in public schools; Decision 194/2001/QD-TTg dated 21/12/2001 on revising levels of scholarships and social subsidies for EM students in public schools under Decision 1121/1997/QD-TTg dated 23/12/1997 of the Prime Minister; Decision 66/2013/QD-TTg dated 11/11/2013 on policies to support tuition fee for EM students from poor households; Decision 53/2015/QD-TTg dated 20/10/2015 on semi-boarding policies for college students.

MOET proposed integration of the policies supporting tuition fee for students: (i) Pre-school level; (ii) Secondary level; and (iii) University and professional training level. This ensured more effective monitoring and management.

The research results and proposal of MOET, supported by PRPP, were highly appreciated by line ministries and provinces. This was proved by Decree 116/2016/ND-CP dated 18/7/2016 on policies to support students and high schools in extremely disadvantaged communes and villages. This Decree was integrated from 03 Decisions: Decision 85/2010/QD-TTg dated 21/12/2010 on

policies for semi-boarded students and EM high schools; Decision 12/2013/QD-TTg dated 24/1/2013 on policies for high school students in extremely disadvantaged areas; Decision 36/2013/QD-TTg dated 18/6/2013 on rice support for students in extremely disadvantaged areas.

c) Review and integration of health care support policies

Based on MOH's proposal, PRPP supported development of a research report on "Overview on health care policies and programs related to sustainable poverty reduction", focusing on recommendations for investments into infrastructures in medical care units in disadvantaged areas, improvement of medical staffing in remote areas, EM areas, health insurance for poor people, near-poor people and EM areas. The report has been a foundation made of practical evidences for MOH's development of more adequate health care strategies in the 2016-2020 period.

d) Review and reform of resource integrating mechanism in poverty reduction

In addition to health care and education, PRPP provided technical support to MPI to review, consult, revise and improve the mechanism for integrating resources in Rapid and sustainable poverty reduction program under Resolution 30a/2008/NQ-CP dated 27/12/2008 of the GOVN (in Joint Circular 10/2009/TTLT-BKH-BTC dated 30/10/2009). PRPP helped MPI and line ministries review limitation in the existing policy system (for example, difficulties in integrating resources at local levels), assess guiding documents for management and use of resources under Joint Circular 10, propose revision of Joint Circular 10 for relevance to changes in poverty reduction policies and programs.

2.3. Support in reviewing, mainstreaming and integrating health insurance support policies for poor people in provinces

Cao Bang has been recognized as a highlighted point in advocacy and institutionalization of PRPP-supported success lessons. PRPP Cao Bang worked with line departments and district level to consolidate and propose replication of PRPP-supported successful models in the whole province. One of key achievements is the PPC's issuance of Decision 15/QD-UBND dated 26/6/2015 on health insurance for poor households and EM people living disadvantaged areas, people from poor households and near-poor households, monthly allowance beneficiaries and children under 6, people with cancers, heart operation or other types of illness having no affordability. PRPP worked with DARD to issue Guideline

574/HD-SNN-PTNT dated 12/6/2015 guiding production development component under Circular 52/2014/TT-BNN dated 29/12/2014 of MARD and Document 1291/HD-SNNPTNT dated 21/10/2015 on guiding production development component under Circular 46 dated 5/12/2014 of MARD and Decision 11/2016/QD-UBND dated 27/6/2016 of Cao Bang PPC on operation and maintenance of infrastructure works under P135, R30a/2008/NQ-CP in Cao Bang.

Ha Giang is a flagship in reviewing and integrating poverty reduction policies, specifically health insurance provision to the poor. By using innovative method connected to people's demand, PRPP Ha Giang assessed, consolidated results from health insurance provision to local budget-supported beneficiaries in Ha Giang. On February 10th, 2015, Guideline 05/HDLN-LDTBXH-TC-YT-BHXH on health insurance provision to local budget-supported beneficiaries in Ha Giang was issued. This guideline helped to avoid overlaps, missing-provision and double-provision of health insurance cards; proved decentralization; strengthened transparency during implementation process.

3. SUPPORT IN STRENGTHENING MOLISA'S ADVISORY AND COORDINATION ROLE IN RESOLUTION 80 IMPLEMENTATION

Over more than past 4 years, key legal documents were issued by the GOVN and the Prime Minister: Decision 1200/QD-TTg dated 31/8/2012 of the Prime Minister on approving a plan framework for implementing Resolution 80/NQ-CP on directions of sustainable poverty reduction in the 2011-2020 period; Resolution 76/2014/QH13 dated 24/6/2014 of the National Assembly on accelerating sustainable poverty reduction goal by 2020; Decision 2324/QD-TTg dated 19/12/2014 of the Prime Minister on issuing an Action Plan for implementing Resolution 76/2014/QH13 of the National Assembly sustainable poverty reduction goal by 2020, etc. These have become useful tools for strengthening MOLISA's focal role and coordination in the implementation of Resolution 80 and NTP-SPR in the 2012-2015 period and in the 2016-2020 period.

In order to address all limitations of PR policy system, the first 6 months 2017, PRPP continued supporting PRCO/MOLISA in reviewing the integration of PR policies of line ministries and provinces, based on that consolidated a report submitted to Chairman of Central PR Steering Committee, so he can further direct the line ministries and provinces in mainstreaming and integrating PR policies in period of 2017-2020 and vision for 2025. Thanks to this direction document by Chairman of Central PR Steering Committee, it has strengthened coordination roles of MOLISA and clearly identify tasks of related agencies.

4. SUPPORT IN STRENGTHENING CEMA'S ADVISORY AND COORDINATION ROLE IN RESOLUTION 80 IMPLEMENTATION

PRPP supported to strengthen CEMA's role in issuance of EM-relevant policies, implementation of Resolution 80 and integration of poverty reduction policies in line ministries' plans and programs:

- Coordinated and shared results from evaluation on EM poverty 2007-2012; assessment of the socio-economic impact of hydro-power resettlement projects on EM people; effectiveness of land provision policies for EM people, etc. as inputs for line ministries' and NA's discussions at EM-relevant poverty reduction policy forum;

- Delivered 01 material on procedure of developing and implementing ethnic policies to CEMA's officers and DEMAs' officers from 03 EM provinces and mountainous provinces; 01 manual on policies for poor EM people reviewed, consolidated, consulted, finalized, published and delivered to line ministries, provinces, DPs and poor EM households; 01 research on mechanism and effectiveness of communication for strengthening transparency in mobilizing and using social investments into poverty reduction in EM areas and mountainous areas for application in development projects in EM areas and mountainous areas;

- Supported policy advocacy for issuance of Decision 1557/QD-TTg dated 10/9/2015 on approving ethnic minority-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in line with post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). CEMA has been leading communication for implementing Decision 1557 during development of medium-term plans (5-year plans) 2016-2020 in line ministries and provinces. Decision 1557 has been used by NA as a tool for monitoring and evaluating the development, implementation and integration of EM criteria by line ministries and provinces. This is an important milestone for the integration of EM criteria into medium-term plans. Decision 1557 is a great achievement of CEMA, supported by PRPP/UNDP in 2015.

- Supported research and application of anthropological approach into EM policies. PRPP worked with UNESCO and iSEE to support CEMA in conducting anthropological training need assessment. The research report has been completed, widely consulted and agreed by line ministries and provinces. Key innovations in anthropological approaches: recognition of differences – every voice has its own value; understand local people's (insiders') perspectives – positively listen to them and no prejudice; local people are the center of

creativity, policy implementers are coordinators; strengthened empowerment will make sustainable development; no simple differentiation between ‘us’ – policy makers and ‘them’ EM people in policy design and implementation.

On August 18th, 2015, Minister, Head of CEMA issued Decision 466/QD-UBDT on approving a plan for sending CEMA’s officers to learn hands-on experience in provinces. This is an evidence for CEMA’s political will that promotes partnership of policy makers and local people.

II. OUTPUT 2: SUPPORT IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE NTP-SPR 2012 – 2015

PRPP supported CEMA in applying innovative approaches: (i) strengthen empowerment and involvement of local levels and local people in developing, implementing and managing poverty reduction programs and projects; (ii) anthropological approach relevant to EM/beneficiaries’ indigenous knowledge, culture and customs; (iii) strengthen market linkage, gender equity, environmental sustainability, MDP. PRPP supported line ministries in finalizing guiding documents for NTP-SPR.

Under Output 2, PRPP supported 08 provinces in piloting and documenting innovative models in socio-economic development, as foundation for replication. Communication and capacity building are also key contents that contribute to rapid and sustainable poverty reduction in these provinces.

1. SUPPORT IN DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM DOCUMENT AND GUIDELINES FOR NTP-SPR 2012-2015

1.1. Support to central agencies

1.1.1. Development of guidelines for NTP-SPR

PRPP supported MOLISA, CEMA, MARD, MOF and MPI in developing guiding documents for NTP-SPR. Project documents of component projects under NTP-SPR were finalized, based on lessons learned from previous phase, complemented by innovations relevant to existing context, particularly highlighting block grant for strengthening pro-activeness and flexibility, facilitating the poor to propose poverty reduction activities.

a) Support development of a circular on guiding management and use of funding in NTP-SPR

PRPP supported MOF in consolidating and documenting lessons learned from poverty reduction programs 2006-2010 (P135-II, NTP-PR), conducting wide

consultation and reaching agreement with line ministries and provinces upon decentralization and empowerment to localities, people ownership and decision making for higher responsibilities.

Joint Circular 68/2013/TTLT-BTC-BLDTBXH dated 21/5/2013 of MOLISA and MOF on regulations for managing and using budget in project 3 and 4 NTP-SPR 2012-2015 has been one of technical support results of PRPP. This Circular recognized “block grant” for the first time in NTP-SPR, contributing to better transparency and accountability in Program management and implementation.

b) Support the reform of NTP-SPR management mechanism

PRPP supported MPI and MOF in developing and issuing Joint Circular 02/2014/TTLT-BKHDT-BTC on guiding the integration of budget in rapid and sustainable poverty reduction program in poor districts. This takes effect from March 28th, 2014 and replaces Joint Circular 10/2009/TTLT-BKH-BTC dated 30/10/2009. Joint Circular 02 facilitates clearer resource integration and better decentralization to provincial level so it helps to avoid overlaps and promotes better transparency.

PRPP, in collaboration with FAO and Oxfam, provided consultants to support MPI and MOLISA in revising Decision 135 to finalize legal basis for NTPs implementations and strengthen decentralization and accountability in using budget in NTPs for all levels. Revision of Decision 135 was widely consulted with line ministries, provinces, DPs, NGOs to reach agreement on innovative contents, meeting new requirements of NTPs in the new phase.

On October 10th, 2016, the Prime Minister signed Decision 41/2016/QD-TTg on regulations for management and administration of NTPs. Decision 41 replaces Decision 135 and specifies ultimate empowerment to local government and local people. The Decision also harmonizes the existing NTPs while covering the 14 integrated NTPs, mobilizing stakeholders’ contribution and monitoring in NTPs 2016-2020.

PRPP worked with MARD and EMWG-NGO to support the development of a Circular guiding production development component under P135 (Circular 46/2014/TT-BNNPTNT) and Circular 52/2014/TT-BNNPTNT on guiding the implementation of production development component in project 01 (P 30a).

Based on PRPP’s support to PRCO in developing implementation guidelines for project 3, 4 under Decision 1500/QD-LDTBXH dated 04/10/2013 on approving

project 3 and 4 under NTP-SPR 2012 – 2015. Decision 1500 is the legal basis for timely and effective implementation of NTP-SPR by line ministries and provinces.

PRPP supported CEMA in developing an official document to request DEMAs (districts, communes and villages under P135) to integrate database of 03 regions for importing data into P135 monitoring system. This process was piloted in 02 provinces, along with consultation and TOTs on using P135 monitoring system integrated with database of 03 regions. This system strengthened P135 implementation capacity, reduced workload for local officers, supported CEMA in consolidating and analyzing data at a macro level for effective monitoring.

c) Support design of policies and programs related to poverty reduction and new rural development

For comprehensive assessment on key production development models in sustainable poverty reduction, PRPP supported MARD in conduct a research on “Assessment on production development models in sustainable poverty reduction and development of a mechanism for developing and scaling up these models” to collect evidences for good practices, recommend good procedure for planning, verifying, approving and implementing production development models in sustainable poverty reduction under NTP-SPR (2012 -2015).

PRPP helped MARD finalize a guideline for planning, verifying, approving, implementing and replicating production development models in sustainable poverty reduction under NTP-SPR. This has changed the thinking and the awareness of development and replication of planning, verifying, approving and implementing production development models in sustainable poverty reduction under NTP-SPR among local officers, changed implementation method to a participatory method in implementing and replicating production development models in sustainable poverty reduction.

PRPP’s support resulted in Circular 52/2014/TT-BNNPTNT dated 29/12/2014 of MARD on guiding production component under Decision 2621/QD-TTg dated 31/12/2013 of the Prime Minister on revising and adding some levels of production support according to Resolution 30a/2008/NQ-CP dated 27/12/2008. Circular 52 regulates innovations such as project-based supporting mechanism, demand-based approach, better democracy, transparency and people’s involvement.

1.1.2. Support in NTP-SPR implementation

a) Support to strengthen local officers' capacity in NTP-SPR implementation

PRPP supported MOJ and line ministries in finalizing draft 'Master Plan on poverty reduction volunteers and collaborators', specifying the role of volunteers and collaborators has been recognized by local people in poor districts and communes. After the issuance and implementation of this Master Plan, social resources will be mobilized for sustainable poverty reduction, highly qualified human resource will be strengthened to support local government in sustainable poverty reduction program implementation.

1.2. Support provinces

1.2.1. Support in implementation of central level's guiding documents

PRPP supported Cao Bang, Ha Giang, Dien Bien, Bac Can, Thanh Hoa, Quang Ngai, Kon Tum and Tra Vinh in strengthening Poverty Reduction Steering Committees at provincial, district and commune levels through capacity building for local officers and people, trainings and workshops, study tours, policy dialogues, communication activities, review/development/piloting of innovative models to improve material life and spiritual life. There have been positive changes in local people's and local officers' awareness. PRPP-supported pilot models proved effectiveness and innovations compared to traditional models. These models are based on several principles: commune ownership, mobilization of beneficiaries' contribution and involvement, coaching and capacity building, synchronized regulations for managing models for good documentation and replication.

PRPP supported some selected provinces in institutionalizing participatory planning (Kon Tum and Cao Bang), proved by Document 99/HD-SLDTBXH dated 09/12/2015 of DOLISA on guiding integration of funding or production support for poor households in Kon Tum and Decision 2815/QD-UBND dated 30/9/2016 of Cao Bang PPC on an action plan for implementing Decision 1557/QD-TTg dated 10/9/2015 of the Prime Minister.

PRPP supported effective coordination among central agencies and local agencies, NGOs (Chia se, RUDEP, WB, ISP, IMPP, GIZ, Oxfam, SDC, Helvetas, PSARD...) and CSOs for improving success stories, replicating and institutionalizing good practices in local programs and NTP-SPR, ensuring sustainability of these models.

PRPP's efforts resulted in significant changes in local people's lives in 08 selected provinces:

- Changes in poor people's awareness: commitment, active involvement and contribution.

- Community connection – replication: strengthen community ownership that has impact on community development and agreement, maintain and strengthen community institution, particularly in EM areas.

- Project/program implementation and management capacity at local level (commune level in particular) has been developed through capacity building activities. Quarterly/monthly plans and reports were well complemented by central level. Decentralized activities attracted the participation of local people and communities. Participatory poverty reduction plans were integrated into SEDPs. Resource integration in PRPP, NTP-SPR and other projects and programs.

- DOLISA's and DEMA's coordination role and policy advisory role have been strengthened through their mobilization of line ministries and provinces in reviewing, researching programs and activities and issuance of 24 documented at provincial level in the last 4 years.

1.2.2. Support for provinces' initiatives and innovative practices

a) Block grant and innovative poverty reduction models

PRPP-supported research on block grant mechanism matches well with Decision 1489/QD-TTg on approving NTP-SPR (2012-2015), mentioning block grant for project 1 and 2 "financial block grant and empowerment to communes". PRPP helped to specifying the nature and encouraged common understanding of block grant: commune level is informed about annual and 4-year budget allocation, based on local demand for infrastructure completion, commune level proposes and identifies their investment demand, implements and manages infrastructure works in an effective manner while ensuring transparency and people's involvement during implementation process.

Circular 68/TTLT-BTC-BLDTBXH was issued on 21/05/2013 on approving regulations for management and use of funding in project 3 and 4 NTP-SPR 2012-2015, specifying: block grant mechanism: depending on specific models, poor households are supported by one-off budget for implementing their model. The use of budget is decided by the household.

According to Circular 68 and Decision 1489, totally 20 models were selected and implemented in 08 selected provinces (Annex 9: A list of PRPP-supported models):

- Block grant: Commune level is empowered with “block grant” to support local communities making decisions and minimizing financial binding mechanism.
- Decentralization, empowerment: Empower CPCs and local people. Local people are allowed to have transparent and democratic discussions, make decisions on appropriate livelihood models, make decisions on development of implementation plans, selection of service providers, make technical proposals to support their models.
- Learn and develop indigenous knowledge in local communities: utilize available knowledge, experience and resources (labour force, materials, food, etc.) and minimize outside supports (government, projects).
- Establish local teams: members participate in their activities in the form of teams with operating regulations that ensure connection and responsibilities among all members. This will help to maintain and develop their livelihood models.

Realizing decentralization and empowerment for CPCs as investment ownership is the key to rapid and sustainable poverty reduction. Decentralization and empowerment for CPCs in implementing P135 and P30a are still limited. In Dien Bien, by 2015, totally 12/101 communes have been the investment owners of infrastructure construction project under P135. This has been a main cause to the lack of sustainability in poverty reduction and high rate of poverty relapsing. Therefore, PRPP supported Dien Bien in developing and issuing Document 3835/UBND - VX dated 10/10/2015 on strengthening decentralization and empowerment for CPCs and investment ownership in production projects under P135 and P30a in Dien Bien province. The document helped local agencies realize their responsibilities for strengthening decentralization for commune level in P135 and P30a within a roadmap towards 2020. In 2017 it is expected that 101 communes will be investment owners of production support projects under P135 and 59 communes and 03 towns will be investment owners of animal raising and plantation restructuring project under P30a; 101 communes will be investment owners of infrastructure construction project under P135.

Financial block grant for communes and communities proved its innovation: ISNC, anthropological approach, women empowerment, public work

for the poor. These models were documented and officially approved in NTP-SPR 2016-2020.

In selected provinces, integration of PRPP's technical support and IA-funded infrastructure works under P135 and other resources has been their focus. PRPP worked with line departments to review and integrate resources for achieving prioritized targets while ensuring quality and sustainability of all investments. In Bac Kan, PRPP helped PPC document and issue Document 895/HD-SNN dated 21/10/2015 of DARD on guiding production development support under P30a according to Circular 52/2014/TT-BNN dated 29/12/2014 of MARD. The document specified production development support: forest protection and development, restructuring of animal raising and plantation, vaccination for poultry and cattle, integration of production development-related policies under P30a. Document 895/HD-SNN is expected to improve the impact of production development support on nearly 4,000 poor households/2 districts.

After 4 years, each selected province has documented their life stories and success stories (Annex 7: A list of PRPP-supported life stories). For instance, in Cao Bang: empowerment in economic development for generating income for the poor; piloted public employment for the poor; in Tra Vinh: diversified livelihoods in poverty reduction; in Ha Giang: village development fund; in Bac Kan: Just like the other, we can take actions to escape from poverty; in Kon Tum: commitment to escape from poverty; in Quang Ngai – local people listen to local officers and vice versa. These are hands-on evidences for PRPP's interventions in 08 selected provinces.

b) ISNC models

Vietnam is one of six countries (Bolivia, Laos, Myanmar, Rwanda, Uganda and Vietnam) receiving the support to implement 'inclusive and sustainable new community' (ISNC) component via PRPP project from June 2015 to December 2016. PRPP supported MOLISA and MARD in policy advocacy and institutionalization of ISNC into NTP-SPR and NTP-NRD 2016-2020.

ISNC was introduced to Vietnam in the context of the number of NTPs reduced from 16 to only 02 and consolidated efforts and resources within these two NTPs. However, real local empowerment has been limited within these two. Progress on consulting on plans and budgets might be enhanced by mandating the local sign-off of plans and the allocation of a dedicated portion of funds via a block grant system to constituted communities (based on a fixed percentage of

overall funds or on a multidimensional poverty - MDP- based needs assessment). There are also a number of examples of participatory economic regeneration models which can be drawn on to build community spirit. These specifically include the Saemaul Undong model employed in South Korea, which has been implemented within Viet Nam, and PRPP examined its further potential of Inclusive and Sustainable New Community (ISNC) development models and advocating for this to be applied in the two NTPs 2016-2020.

Design and implementation of NTP-SPR and NTP-NRD requires a mechanism for motivating the involvement of local communities and people, particularly the poor, and their awareness of responsibilities in poverty reduction. With KOICA's financial support through UNDP, PRPP worked with line ministries (particularly MOLISA, CEMA, MARD, NA agencies and the Central Office of the Communist Party) to build up a plan including a number of activities such as review and assessment on international (Korea) and national models, development of ideas and key messages for ISNC and socio-economic development.

After 03 years of implementation (from June 2015 to June 2017), the ISNC component has achieved on-track progress as per the agreed plan. ISNC activities are well blended with other components and outputs of PRPP. Support activities are embedded in terms of content for awareness raising and in implementation and add value into on-going PRPP supported work with national partners, particularly two active ministries of MOLISA and MARD, and three pilot provinces under PRPP (Dien Bien, Cao Bang and Tra Vinh). Most of activities under the approved work-plans 2015-2016 have been completed successfully, particularly in raising the awareness of leaders of MOLISA, MARD and selected provinces on ISNC approaches and know-how, on how to integrate this agenda in development plans for the coming 2016 - 2020 period and enable the replicability of ISNC approaches in the changing Vietnamese context.

As a result, the concept of ISNC has been placed high in the policy agendas of GOVN agencies and the National Assembly. This concept has been supported and complemented by contributions from development partners and I/VNGOs, and particularly academia working on poverty reduction and rural development issues. This was evidenced in the commitment of President Truong Tan Sang during his participation in the General Assembly side event on ISNC in September 2015, and follow up directives from the National Steering Committees for Poverty

Reduction and New Rural Development to emphasize self-help and community spirit in the design of the two NTPs.

Additionally, self-help spirit and community empowerment was demonstrated by EMs themselves at the PRPP/ UNDP supported national high level Policy Forum with the theme of “EM development – we care, we respect, we start from the community”. The policy forum was co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, the Irish Ambassador, the Vice Chairman of CEMA and the Ethnic Council of the National Assembly held on 9th December 2015. Two hundred representatives - including NA deputies, policymakers, development partners, NGOs - and EM men and women from 8 EM groups from many provinces in Vietnam, participated. Discussions focused on acceleration of MDG achievement among the EMs and tapping the potentials of the communities via empowering them to participate and contribute to national policy and program design and implementation.

Specifically, PRPP has facilitated a wide consultation process with the line ministries, development partners and the Ethnic Minority Working Group (EMWG) on design of the NTP-SRP 2016 - 2020 framework which has resulted in a common consensus, and enabled MOLISA to design a community empowerment component under the NTP-SPR based on ISNC approaches. This spirit has also been well reflected in the detailed design of other component projects (particularly on production support and capacity building), circulars, the M&E framework and handbooks for implementing the NTPSPR 2016 – 2020. Furthermore, the budget allocation of the two NTPs has seen major change, from a short (single year) term to a three year (medium) term for fund allocation, which will allow local authorities and communities to foresee the potential support and make better action-plans/projects for sustainable poverty reduction and rural development.

The design of the NTP-SPR has seen significant changes in giving poor people/ communities more ownership, more room to participate in and decide what and how to best deliver interests. This has included setting-up facilitation mechanisms where the community strengthen self-help spirits and harness internal strengths and community linkages to overcome poverty and achieve sustainable development.

In order to facilitate the smooth roll out of ISNC approaches under the two NTPs, PRPP has supported MOLISA, MARD and CEMA to develop a training curriculum for trainers on community leadership skills and ISNC. These training

materials have been drafted, with wide consultation and peer reviews with line ministries, especially the end-user agencies MOLISA, MARD CEMA at the central level, and community leaders at the local level. It once finalized, these will be transferred to the GoV for training local authorities and community leaders nationwide under the two NTPs.

According to ISNC implementation workshop in Bolivia in August 2016 and South-South Cooperation Forum 2016 in Dubai in October 2016, PRPP's ISNC implementation results were recognized and well complemented by UNDP Global Programme, KOICA and member countries. Therefore, UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific sent an ISNC research team to Vietnam for conducting their case study from November 14th to 18th, 2018. The visit aimed at collecting ISNC implementation results in Vietnam for sharing with regional countries as well as others, for discussions on maintaining and scaling up this model. The team visited and worked with line ministries and 02 selected provinces (Cao Bang and Ha Giang). At the debriefing meeting with MOLISA's leaders, the team showed their high appreciation of Vietnam's ISNC implementation and committed to join hands to develop ISNC in the coming years.

According to TA proposal by MOLISA in 2017, PRPP continued supporting consolidation of ISNC approach and lessons learned to draft the handbook on communication and promotion of ISNC spirits via festivals at local levels. The handbook becomes a manual for local PR officers to replicate and promote ISNC in poverty reduction activities and socioeconomic development interventions in coming period.

In conclusion, ISNC and self-help spirits in Vietnam is not only recognized by international partners as a best practice, but also reflected in the design of two NTPs, circulars, M&E framework and handbook of the two NTPs. This is a clear evidence of Vietnam on political commitment of GoV in promoting ISNC spirits in PR and new rural development. TOT training curriculum, communication strategy, handbook on communication and promotion of ISNC spirits via festivals at local levels, and movements at community levels are remarkable achievements of ISNC component in poverty reduction programs in period of 2016-2020.

1.3. Strengthen Program implementation capacity

1.3.1. Strengthen Program implementation capacity

PRPP supported 195 workshops, trainings and conferences (Annex 3: A list of trainings, workshops and conferences). Participatory methodology was applied, theory was in parallel with practice. These events receive positive comments from the participants and knowledge, skills were also applied in reality.

Capacity building has been a focus of PRPP project at all level. At central level, PRPP supported line ministries in developing their policy making and awareness changing. At local levels, trainings focused on commune ownership, participatory planning, community monitoring, gender equity, market linkage, etc.

1.3.2. Develop and operate NTP-SPR monitoring and evaluation system

Based on directive documents of the National Assembly and the Prime Minister, PRPP facilitated line ministries and 08 selected provinces in reviewing, assessing and proposing the arrangement and integration of poverty reduction policies in their plans and policy frameworks. PRPP supported MOLISA in develop a participatory M&E system highlighting gender and EM sensitivity for application in NTP-SPR 2012-2015. However, the use of M&E system is still limited within administrative reports and periodical monitoring visits. The use of M&E system only focuses on main indicators in poverty reduction and does not assess the Program's impact or its contribution to poverty reduction and socio-economic development in the 2012-2015 period.

To facilitate M&E in NTP-SPR, PRPP supported MOLISA in mid-term review of poverty reduction targets in 2011 – 2015 period in nationwide scope. The review focused on 04 main groups of activities: (i) mid-term review framework design; (ii) support Oxfam, ILSSA/VASS – independent review agencies, in reviewing the implementation of poverty reduction policies at local levels; (iii) support inter-ministerial monitoring teams in the implementation of Resolution 80 and (iv) consolidation of Mid-term review report. PRPP's support helped to collect hands-on evidences and logical analysis, as important inputs for policy making agencies.

PRPP supported NA's Supreme oversight on Poverty reduction. This resulted in Resolution 76 with fundamental and great innovations in poverty reduction 2016-2020. PRPP's supported contributed to significant changes in poverty reduction policies through its assistance to GOVN/NA agencies to research, review and integrate poverty reduction policies.

Based on NA-CSA's proposal, PRPP also supported the NA in issuing Resolution 112/2015/NQ-QH13 dated 27/11/2015 on strengthening management

of land from farms, organizations and individuals. Key contents in this resolution include the promotion of withdrawal of ineffective land for returning to local households, particularly EM households; development of mechanisms and policies for forest protection in connection to sustainable poverty reduction; promotion of democracy and transparency in policy implementation.

Regarding monitoring and evaluation, PRPP also supported the establishment of self-reliance teams in selected provinces. To strengthen mutual connection and support, ISNC, innovative ideas and solidarity, PRPP supported Dak Rve town, Kon Ray district in setting up 04 self-reliance teams at village level. Innovative operation of self-reliance teams contributed to internal monitoring, better community connection and democracy in poverty reduction.

1.3.3. Document lessons learned

One of the project's priorities is documentation of successful practices and failure to recommend application in NTP-SPR implementation and local community development activities. Project's documentation resulted in totally 128 publications at all levels after 4 years. This is a huge database which is valuable for project implementing partners and beneficiaries. These publications are built up on successful practices and failure, as a good foundation for development and implementation of poverty reduction activities in the next phase.

PRPP also supported the review and development of training hubs for (i) poverty reduction policy dialogues in Quang Ngai; (ii) communication for poverty reduction in Tra Vinh; (iii) revolving resources in production support in Kon Tum as highlighted lessons for other provinces, and replication in NTP-SPR 2016-2020. The training hubs are in operation and available to share experience for replication in nationwide scope.

2. SUPPORT IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTATING NTP-SPR 2016-2020

2.1. Support in designing the NTP-SPR Program Document 2016-2020, building on lessons learned from the previous phase

PRPP focused on technical support to design NTP-SPR 2016-2020 on directions of focused and integrated resources, strengthened decentralization and empowerment, improved people's and local government's involvement, promoted community's synergy within the context of a middle income country and only 02 NTPs left (NTP-SPR and NTP-NRD).

PRPP supported MOLISA and MARD, the focal points in two NTPs, in researching and organizing workshops to design NTP-SPR and NTP-NRD (2016-2020), while avoiding overlaps and complementing each other during implementation process, ensuring synchronization and promotion of local empowerment, community ownership, inclusive development and sustainable livelihoods for the poor, highlighted in NTP-SPR and SEDP 2016-2020.

This design contributed to enabling a good environment for more effective empowerment for the poor, particularly EM women and their communities. The most expected change is the poor's capacity and EM women's capacity so that they will become the center and the motivation of development. From 2016 onwards, NTPs and EM policies must focus on innovative mechanism and solutions to realize actual empowerment to the poor through community activities.

PRPP has been coordinating, connecting and providing technical support to MOLISA, MARD and CEMA to finalize Program Documents of the two NTPs, and integrate ISNC model. PRPP's supported resulted in the issuance of Decision 1722/QD-TTg dated 02/9/2016 of the Prime Minister on approving NTP-SPR 2016-2020. Decision 1722 integrated success lessons from poverty reduction programs and projects in the 2012-2015 period:

- Promote self-help, self-resilience and supportive/ISNC so that the poor can escape from poverty by relying on themselves; minimize dependence and unconditional support; the poor and EM people are the Program's partners but not inactive beneficiaries.

- Strengthen decentralization and empowerment to local levels; financial block grant in medium term and long term; inclusive decentralization to communes and communities; strengthen community's involvement in targeting, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; results-based M&E framework; harmonize mechanisms and procedures for application in all projects and sub-projects under NTP-SPR.

- Participatory Program planning in connection to SEDP; integrate resources and market linkage, gender equity, mitigation of natural risks and adaptation to climate changes during planning process, relevant to local culture and customs.

- Strengthen communication for poverty reduction; emphasize capacity building for local officers and communities; focus on building capacity for commune leaders in villages.

2.2. Support in implementing the NTP-SPR 2016-2020

a) Develop criteria for extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands under NTP-SPR 2016-2020 and guideline for reviewing extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands under NTP-SPR 2016-2020

On April 16th, 2009, the Prime Minister issued 491/QD-TTg on criteria for new rural development, including 19 criteria for NRD communes in terms of planning, socio-economic infrastructures, production arrangement, social – cultural – environmental conditions, and political system.

These criteria are in line with Decision 1614/QD-TTg on approving a Master Plan on transition from one-dimensional poverty to multidimensional poverty, highlighting criteria for poverty measurement in the 2016 – 2020 period: (i) income, (ii) deprivations of access to basic social services like education, health care, housing, clean water and sanitation, information access, to ensure more inclusive and globally appropriate targeting.

A list of extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands was reviewed, using MOLISA-issued criteria (Decision 587/QD-LDTBXH dated 15/5/2012 of MOLISA's Minister of criteria for extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands 2012-2015; Decision 539/QD-TTg dated 01/4/2013 of the Prime Minister on approving a list of extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands 2013-2015).

By the end of 2015, at the ending point of NTP-SPR 2012-2015, MOLISA was assigned to develop NTP-SPR 2016-2020 by the GOVN. It was necessary to develop criteria for targeting prioritized beneficiaries in component projects, particularly criteria for targeting areas (criteria for extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands; criteria for poor districts).

PRCO proposed PRPP project to support consultation and development of criteria for extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands under NTP-SPR 2016-2020, aiming at assessing the implementation of criteria for extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands under NTP-SPR 2011-2015 and developing, proposing criteria for extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands 2016-2020 (criteria for selecting extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands; criteria for graduating beneficiary communes under Decision 587/QD-LDTBXH dated 15/5/2012 of MOLISA on approving criteria for extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal

areas and islands 2011-2015). This process supported targeting of beneficiaries within NTP-SPR framework and realization of its connection to NTP-NRD.

The proposed criteria must be compatible and connected to NRD criteria, particularly those graduating communes from extremely disadvantaged condition and poverty status (middle developing communes), before reaching NRD criteria.

PRPP recruited a senior consultant to research and propose criteria for selecting and graduating communes under NTP-SPR 2016-2020. The proposal was widely consulted with line ministries and provinces targeted by the Program. PRPP's proposal was the input for MOLISA's submission to the Prime Minister for approval. As a result, Decision 1559/QD-TTg dated 5/8/2016 was signed by the Prime Minister to launch criteria for extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands under NTP-SPR 2016-2020. Decision 1559 satisfied requirements for improvement: specific criteria for selecting and graduating the communes, ensure transparency in targeting process, avoid dependence in many areas.

For successful implementation of NTP-SPR 2016-2020 and effective implementation of Decision 1559, Minister of MOLISA issued Document 3027/LDTBXH-VPQGGN dated 12/8/2016 on guiding the review on extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands under NTP-SPR 2016-2020. Document 3027 once again *specified criteria in Decision 1559, and clear implementation steps and timeline, clear templates for monitoring and management by local government and officers.*

b) Support MOLISA in assessing the implementation of criteria for poor districts in the 2011-2015 period, and developing criteria for poor districts in NTP-SPR 2016-2020

In 2011-2015, NTP-SPR focused on poor districts and communes, extremely disadvantaged villages. These areas were identified by specific criteria decided by the GOVN, the Prime Minister or relevant authorities. For example, a list of poor districts was mentioned in Resolution 30a/2008/NQ-CP of the Prime Minister on Rapid and sustainable poverty reduction program in 62 poor districts; Decision 1791/QD-TTg on adding Nam Nhun district, Lai Chau province and Nam Po district, Dien Bien province to the list of beneficiary districts under Resolution 30a/2008/NQ-CP; Decision 615/QD-TTg; Decision 293/QD-TTg on approving the list of poor districts receiving 70% of infrastructure support under Resolution 30a.

A list of extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands was reviewed and verified, using the MOLISA-issued criteria (Decision 587/QD-LDTBXH dated 15/5/2012 of MOLISA's Minister on issuing criteria for extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands in the 2012-2015 period; Decision 539/QD-TTg dated 01/4/2013 of the Prime Minister on approving a list of extremely disadvantaged communes in coastal areas and islands in the 2013-2015 period).

For effective implementation of poverty reduction policies in general and poverty reduction policies under Resolution 80/NQ-CP and NTP-SPR 2016 – 2020 in particular, PRPP provided technical support to MOLISA to (i) assess the implementation of criteria for poor districts in 2011-2015, and (ii) develop, propose criteria for poor districts in 2016-2020 (including criteria for selecting poor districts under the Program and criteria for graduating the poor districts in the existing list). This process supported to targeting of beneficiaries within NTP-SPR framework and realization of its connection to NTP-NRD 2016 – 2020.

Results from assessment and recommendation for criteria for poor districts were widely consulted with line ministries, consultants and provinces for agreement and submission to the Prime Minister for approval. On November 7th, 2016 the Prime Minister signed Decision 2115/QD-TTg on issuing criteria for poor districts for application in the 2016-2020 period. Key innovations in Decision 2115 include specific criteria and marking method which are in line with NTP-NRD, and logical in targeting the right beneficiaries. And this will help to avoid mis-targeting or overlapped targeting and this will be linked to multidimensional measurement. These criteria will also improve transparency in reviewing and targeting beneficiary areas, avoid dependency and ensure the balance in selection and graduation of the poor districts.

c) Support to development of a Decree on regulations and policies supporting production development for sustainable poverty reduction in the 2016-2020 period

To avoid overlaps and disagreement in levels of support in production development component under project 2 NTP-SPR (project 30a, 135, 102), PRPP supported MARD, MOLISA and CEMA in researching and reviewing existing policies and providing evidences to development of a Decree on regulations and policies supporting production development for sustainable poverty reduction in the 2016-2020 period. Up to present, the draft Decree is being consulted and key reformed contents have been agreed, including decentralization and

empowerment to grassroots level (commune level) through project-based support; community ownership, community's participation and potential promotion; focus on poor people in the 2016-2020 period; revision of expenditure based on wide consultation with local communities, consultants and line sectors; binding mechanisms in production support in connection to loans, After being issued by the GOVN (Quarter IV, 2016), the Decree will be a legal basis for synchronized implementation of production support policies and components under poverty reduction programs 2016-2020.

d) Capacity building for NTP-SPR implementation

PRPP supported MOLISA and MARD (NIPs of NTP-SPR and NTP-NRD) in developing, piloting and finalizing training materials for “community leadership and development skills” for local officers (particularly village level) and selecting national trainers to deliver trainings for local officers.

PRPP also supported the ministries in developing manuals for the two NTPs, including poverty reduction planning integrated with participatory SEDP, implementation of infrastructure component while ensuring public employment and decentralization, using simplified mechanism, procedure of organizing poverty reduction policy dialogues for local people under project 4 NTP-SPR, M&E guideline.

These documents are the directions for NTPs implementation, contributing to awareness raising at all level for their adaptation to innovations in both NTPs with higher requirements.

3. OUTPUT 3: SUPPORT IN DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY MEASUREMENT MASTER PLAN

1. SUPPORT IN INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND APPLICATION OF MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY MONITORING AND ANALYZING SYSTEM

1.1. Support in development of MDP Master plan

2013 was the first year that MDP was introduced and applied in Vietnam, directly supported by PRPP, and up to present MDP has been institutionalized and applied in nationwide scope. Building lessons learned from Mexico, PRPP support wide sharing and discussion among policy makers, implementers, scientists, consultants and provinces. MDP methodology has been agreed and applied in Vietnam as a middle income country. The GOVN assigned MOLISA to be focal point and lead the development of MDP Master Plan in Vietnam.

PRPP coordinated international experts (from OPHI – Oxford University, UNDP, UNICEF) and national experts (ILSSA, GSO) to support MOLISA and line ministries in developing MDP methodology in Vietnam, focusing on identifying the criteria for determining dimensions, indicators, weights, poverty thresholds (using Alkire-Foster methodology, OPHI). The achievements in 2013 were a solid foundation for development and approval of MDP Master Plan in 2014, 2015.

PRPP supported application of MDP in poverty reduction policy monitoring, measurement and making. With PRPP's support, input reports for NA's Supreme Oversight teams were developed and widely communicated. This supported the NA in issuing Resolution 76/NQ2014/QH13 on decentralization, empowerment and strengthen MDP application, specifying that "development of new poverty line to ensure minimum living standard and access to basic social services".

With PRPP's support, MOLISA issued Decision 311/QD-LDTBXH dated 20/03/2014 on approving a plan for developing a Master Plan on transition from one-dimensional poverty approach to multidimensional poverty approach. 03 objectives of this transition: (i) Measurement of poverty scope and intensity; (ii) Targeting policy beneficiaries; (iii) Poverty reduction policy design.

On September 15th, 2015, the Prime Minister signed Decision 1614/QD-TTg on approving MDP Master Plan on transition from one-dimensional poverty approach to multidimensional poverty approach for application in 2016-2020. This has been a significant milestone highlighting 03 objectives: (i) Measurement of poverty scope and intensity; (ii) Targeting policy beneficiaries; (iii) Poverty reduction policy design. This also proved GOVN's strong commitment in poverty reduction, targeting no vulnerable people lagging behind and ensuring people's access to basic social services. This innovation has received strong support from Vietnamese people and international communities.

1.2. Support MDP Master plan implementation

PRPP supported GOVN and line ministries in developing and issuing legal documents related to Decision 1614: Decision 59/2015/QD-TTg dated 19/11/2015 on MDP-based criteria and poverty line for application in 2016 – 2020; Circular 17/2016/TT-BLDTBXH dated 28/6/2016 of MOLISA's Minister on annual poverty survey procedure, using multidimensional approach in 2016-2020; Decision 1095/QD-LDTBXH dated 22/8/2016 of MOLISA's Minister on approving 2015 nationwide poverty survey results, using multidimensional approach in 2016-2020. These documents have been solid foundation for effective implementation

of MDP Master Plan at local levels, right targeting of poverty list, and adequate policy making.

PRPP also supported GSO in developing a Guideline for VHLSS 2016, using multidimensional approach. This document was finalized and applied in December 2015, aiming at supplementing and integrating multidimensional method into VHLSS 2016.

2. SUPPORT DISCUSSIONS ON POLICY REFORM FOR INCLUSIVE, PRO-POOR DEVELOPMENT AND BETTER EQUALITY OUTCOMES

2.1. Develop input reports for policy advocacy

Targeting technical assistance for the GOVN in finalizing poverty reduction policy system at national level through policy advocacy, based on research and practical evidences, PRPP has focused on developing, collecting implementation methods, tools and evidences as inputs to high-level policy forums.

Specifically, PRPP supported MOLISA in accepting and applying RIM toolkit and procedure, aiming at collecting qualitative information to complement quantitative information and providing RIM results to all stakeholders for their policy making and development of measurements that contributed to minimizing negative impact of economic downturn on vulnerable groups. PRPP project handed over and supported ILSSA/MOLISA in accepting and applying RIM. Up to present, ILSSA has been successful in applying this toolkit and completed RIM 2013 report. Building on this success, PRPP continued making RIM become a better toolkit for MOLISA's application in to making annual rapid impact monitoring reports. This will contribute to the ministry's timely and effective solutions to management and administration of labour and social affairs in nationwide scope.

In addition, PRPP also supported NA's agencies in their Supreme Oversight on poverty reduction, studies on assessing socio-economic impact of hydro-power resettlement projects on EM people, the effectiveness of land provision policies for EM people, analysis of MDP survey data (by MOLISA) and 53 EM groups' database (by CEMA) as the inputs for annual high-level policy dialogues.

2.2. Organize annual high-level policy dialogues

In 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 PRPP supported MOLISA and CEMA in organizing annual high-level policy dialogues and forums on the Day for the poor (October 17), EM development forums, forums on development of sustainable poverty reduction orientation, etc. These forums were attended by National

Assembly's agencies, line ministries and communication agencies at central level and local levels. Here are the PRPP-supported forums:

- Supported CEMA, in collaboration with NA-EC and UN agencies, in organizing Annual EM development forum 2014 for line ministries, international organization, development partners, provinces, EM representatives, experts, policy makers and mass media. EM development policy messages were sent to the 13th National Assembly's members at the May 2014 conference in Hanoi;

- Supported 02 annual forums on poverty reduction and EM development. The topics were annually developed, as legacy from the previous year, to improve related policies and programs mentioned in previous parts of this report;

- EM development forum to communicate and reach agreement upon Decision 1557 and promotion of EM's role and potential in poverty reduction and sustainable poverty reduction in Hanoi on December 9th, 2015. The forum was technical consultation about policy advocacy for ISNC in new rural development and poverty reduction. The forum was attended by 250 people (including more than 40 EM people in the whole country);

- National forum on rolling out EM strategy until 2020, chaired by the Vice Prime Minister;

- Annual EM development forum 2014: "Poverty reduction policies in EM areas and mountainous areas: Lessons learned and directions for the 2015 – 2020 period" was held in Hanoi on May 19th, 2014;

- Poverty reduction forum on the International Day for Eradication of Poverty chaired by MOLISA;

- Annual high level policy forum on implementation of MDGs for EM with the theme: Accelerating EM development – Leave no one behind" organized on 26 April 2017, co-chaired by Minister of CEM and Country director of UNDP.

High-level policy forums are the communication channel for high-level policy makers to listen to people's voice and for people to understand policies and directives of the Party and the State. Through these forums, PRPP's research products and experience were shared and widely communicated;

Through many contents discussed and agreed at annual high-level policy forums, a number of key policies and break-through directives (EM poverty, gender equity, urban migration, MDP, ISNC, land provision, etc) were discussed

and agreed at high-level platforms such as conferences of the National Assembly and the GOVN. This contributed to inclusive, pro-poor development and equity outcomes (among different population groups and regions) in the issued policy documents, which are being rolled out to contribute to sustainable, equitable and inclusive development in Vietnam.

3. SUPPORT IN EFFECTIVE COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

At national level, PRPP project is responsible for coordinating central agencies (more than line ministries and National Assembly's committees) in collaboration with related development partners (WB, Oxfam, ILO, UNICEF) and 08 selected provinces. The project has a large number of technical assistance activities directly or indirectly building capacities for several line ministries, particularly CEMA and PRCO/MOLISA. Through the project's activities, inter-ministerial cooperation (and at provincial level) has been improved, particularly during the process of making key policies. This achievement can be sustained in the context of NTP-SPR design that requires strong and effective coordination.

In selected provinces, PRPP's collaboration with provincial departments and local DPs-supported projects has resulted in significant achievements. This is proved by a number of institutionalized documents in Cao Bang, Ha Giang, Dien Bien, Kon Tum and Tra Vinh. The development partners also made significant contributions to changes in poverty reduction policies at national level and provincial level.

Realizing the aforementioned achievements in coordination and management of resources for poverty reduction, in the draft End-project evaluation report, the consultancy team recommends that UNDP continue coordinating the development and implementation of a technical assistance project to support poverty reduction programs and policies in the 2016-2020 period, including NTP-SPR.

C. ADVANTAGES

1. PRPP has been always supported and closely supervised by leaders of MOLISA, Social Protection Department, CEMA and selected provinces, districts and communes; and actively participated by beneficiary agencies.

2. PRPP has been always supported timely and effectively by program officers from UNDP and IA through effective technical guidance, regular supervision and periodical monitoring.

3. PRPP project management units at central level and provincial level are under labour – invalids and social affairs (focal point in poverty reduction), which is convenient for horizontal and vertical collaboration in poverty reduction and for inter-sectorial cooperation.

4. PRPP maintains stable staffing with responsible officers who are experienced in managing and coordinating development projects, which contributes to completing a huge workload in a short period of time.

D. DIFFICULTIES

1. PRPP is a technical assistance project so there have been many difficulties in approaching and implementing the project, particularly in its first days. A technical assistance project also required time and latency.

2. Policy advocacy at macro level, changes in the awareness of a policy/institutional system required time, strong direction and commitment of the leaders, timely coordination and stakeholders' consensus. This proves that technical assistance is an important factor contributing to changes in the awareness and implementation methods, to building capacity for effective design and implementation of socio-economic development plans in general, and poverty reduction/social assistance plans in particular.

3. PRPP provides technical assistance to the implementation of Resolution 80/NQ-CP 2011-2020 and NTP-SPR 2012-2015, while annual budget allocation in NTP-SPR is completed quite slowly. This leads to difficulties in coordinating and mainstreaming resources.

4. A job related to various aspects is a big challenge for the project's officers, consultants and collaborators, while there are not so many qualified consultants and experts working poverty reduction field. A number of consultants committed to deliver their products in a timely and qualified manner but they failed to do so. Many contracts and technical assistance products were delivered quite late.

5. There are not so many fulltime officers at central level and provincial level, while they have to coordinate and complete a huge workload, regarding the donor's complicated administrative procedure, requirements for high quality and accuracy.

6. There are often urgent demands for technical assistance from beneficiary (state) agencies, while the revision of work plans must be in compliance with the requirements from the donors and the GOVN. PRPP project

had to apply flexible solutions to meet the demand for technical assistance in terms of quality and implementation progress, and ensured the project's compliance with strict regulations of the donors and the GOVN.

7. Strengthen and improve decentralization in management, participatory planning, budgeting, and implementation process. Application of "block grant" is still facing challenges related to long-lasting mechanism and system and legal documents (Budget Law, Public Investment Law, planning regulations, etc).

8. Multidimensional poverty (MDP), anthropological approach in development of poverty reduction policies and EM development policies are new approaches for Vietnam and many other countries in the world so technical assistance needs to be provided to improve the awareness of addressing core poverty in EM areas, which requires increasing budget and time.

9. PRPP is implemented at central level and local levels in a complicated manner which requires effective collaboration and synchronization. The project is designed in the format of a joint project model (including NIP and CIPs) so NIP's focal point role is overloaded. The slowness in planning, implementation and reporting by one CIP may lead to slowness of the whole project.

10. In provinces, the project only has management units at provincial level (no management unit at district and commune levels), while many of the project's activities target district and commune levels so project management, monitoring and evaluation are facing many difficulties; seconded officers have also face time limitation during project implementation process. The difference in project officers' awareness and knowledge of poverty reduction policies, programs and directions is also a barrier for the project's achievements.

E. LESSONS LEARNED

1. Project leaders' close supervision and timely direction are key success factors. Since PRPP project was kicked off, it has been always supported and supervised by leaders of MOLISA, Social Protection Department, Poverty Reduction Coordination Office, Provincial Poverty Reduction Steering Committees/People's Committees from 08 selected provinces; close and good collaboration with UNDP and IA. PRPP project management units from central level to local levels quickly stabilized their management mechanisms, targeted the right focuses for each year, met the urgent demand for technical support from state management agencies, local government and local people so most of the

project's products have been applied effectively (in short term and long term) by beneficiary agencies and people.

2. Technical assistance are based on beneficiary agencies' demand and responsibilities. Targeting the right priorities (within their action plans) enabled beneficiary agencies to attract active involvement and effective implementation. Following this principle, PRPP project mobilized effective participation and support from line ministries and line departments under MOLISA, CEMA, MARD, MPI, MOF, MOET, MOC, MOJ, NA-CSA and NA-EC, etc.

3. Strategic, timely, effective and coordinated technical assistance from UNDP and IA. PRPP project's national management unit recognized, highly appreciated and made use of valuable support, guidance and facilitation of experts and program officers from UNDP and IA. Thanks to their support, PRPP project has overcome great challenges in implementation of its planned targets in a wide scope and achieved break-through results.

4. PRPP project's activities and annual plans are the legacy from previous year, ensuring a chain of interventions/results for ultimate changes at policy/institutional level and changes in people's lives, particularly in poor people's lives (ethnic minorities, women).

5. Targeting right people and activities, using the best methods. PRPP project's activities, management and coordination were closely connected to beneficiary agencies' mandates and state management responsibilities/functions so the project attracted and strengthened pro-active involvement of state management agencies. The project's approach has been innovated for relevance to the current trends so it has been supported by policy makers, researchers and experts.

6. Capacity building for project implementing partners at all levels. Project officers and collaborators at all level were provided with regular capacity building activities for effective implementation of national implementing partners' activities and the project's activities. Qualified knowledgeable and skillful project officers are the premise for sustainable poverty reduction.

F. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the last few years, Vietnam has been recognized by its poverty reduction achievements. Vietnam became a middle income country and the GOVN has been prioritizing sustainable poverty reduction as the contribution to social protection.

A number of successful poverty reduction models were evaluated, documented and scaled up, which contributed to reforming poverty reduction approach and effective integration of resources for poverty reduction. Some highlighted models include block grant, commune ownership, livelihood models connected to decentralization and empowerment, case management promoting relevant support for specific groups and being applied for chronic poverty groups and social assistance beneficiaries.

Poverty rates reduced rapidly in poor districts, extremely disadvantaged communes, ethnic minority areas; common poverty rate reduced to under 5% in 2015, and a number of provinces had no poor households (based on poverty line for the 2011-2015 period).

However, poverty rates were still very high in many areas, reaching 50%, or even 60-70%. Poverty in Vietnam was distributed unevenly in differently regions and target groups: poverty status tended to be more serious in rural areas, mountainous areas, coastal areas, islands and among ethnic minorities (poor EM households were equal to nearly 50% of total number of poor households in Vietnam). Most of poor areas had disadvantaged natural conditions and suffered badly from climate change, infrastructures and socio-economic conditions in these areas were lagging behind other areas.

Development investment policies targeting poor districts and extremely disadvantaged communes but these policies were not strong enough. Poverty reduction policies and program were fragmented and not synchronized; implementation mechanism was not relevant to local conditions, indigenous culture and customs. A number of poor people and local government had no full awareness of the meaning and the importance of poverty reduction so they were still dependent on the support from the state and local communities.

The risk of poverty relapsing could increase due to the impact of climate change, natural disasters and health hazards; price fluctuations, increasing inflation, economic downturn; the impact of global integration and market economic development; employment for the poor was more challenging due to innovations in advanced science and technology and different investment levels in different areas. The disparity in people's income was increasing.

Vietnam needs to focus on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and has commitment to global community; as a basis for international organizations' consideration and

development of cooperation plans, built on Vietnam's sustainable poverty reduction orientation for the next phase. Within this context, Vietnam proposes that poverty reduction project 2017 – 2021 focus on the following 03 outputs:

Output 1: Integration of multidimensional poverty reduction policies

- Support MOLISA, CEMA and line ministries in arranging and integrating multidimensional poverty reduction policy system in harmonization with social assistance policies;

- Continue supporting MOLISA, General Statistics Office and line ministries in finalizing multidimensional poverty reduction multidimensional poverty measurement on directions of expanding dimensions, improving the quality of measurement indicators, deprivation thresholds, and developing multidimensional poverty database;

- Research and proposing the reform of targeting method (self-registration method) and the reform of poverty reduction policy implementation – make poor people become the center of poverty reduction/human rights-based method.

Output 2: Support to Program implementation

- Support MOLISA and line ministries in researching, piloting the models that highlight decentralization/empowerment, block grant, promotion of community's role at local levels during the implementation process of NTP-SPR 2016-2020;

- Support piloting of project-based poverty reduction models implemented by local teams;

- Support piloting of social work and case management to address poverty reduction-related issues, for application and replication in NTP-SPR;

- Support the implementation of NTP-SPR monitoring and evaluation framework based on its outputs and multidimensional approach.

Output 3: Capacity building

- Support development of training materials for communication to local communities and officers for their awareness changing, necessary knowledge and skills used in decentralization and empowerment, delivery of innovations and realization of their ownership in poverty reduction;

- Support organization of Trainings of Trainers (TOTs) in connection to expected outcomes/proposals;

- Support organization of contests, festivals and movement promoting sustainable poverty reduction, community's roles and the poor's responsibilities;
- Support consolidation and sharing of successful models and practices in poverty reduction and social assistance.

G. ANNEXES

Annex 1: A list of issued legal documents

Annex 2: A list of research reports

Annex 3: A list of workshops, trainings and conferences

Annex 4: A list of publications

Annex 5: A list of successful stories

Annex 6: Financial report

Annex 7: PRPP project's staffing

Annex 8: Summary report of Independent End-project Evaluation

Annex 9: A list of PRPP project-supported models