



**Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social
Affairs**



United Nations Development Programme

PROJECT OUTLINE
**“Project on support to the improvement
of social assistance system”**
2013 - 2016

Hanoi, October 2013

MINISTRY OF LABOUR – INVALIDS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

PROJECT OUTLINE

I. PROJECT TITLE: Project on support to the improvement of the social assistance system

II. NAME OF DONOR: United Nations Development Program in Vietnam (UNDP)

III. NAME OF LINE AGENCY: Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA)

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IV. PROJECT DURATION

1) Phase I: Quarter 4/2013 - 2014

2) Phase II: 2015 - 2016

V. PROJECT CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

1. The necessity, role, position of the project in sector planning and development plan relevant to the project's contents

Social protection (SP) holds an important position in the social-economic development strategy (SEDS) of Vietnam in the period 2011 - 2020. SP is aimed at executing the basic human rights, ensuring social equity and equality, contributing to development of a harmonized, consensus and sustainably developed country.

Over the past years, the State and Government of Vietnam have been always paying attention to development and implementation of policies on SP, considering them as both objective and motivation for sustainable and stabilized development of politics and society.

Thanks to the policy on linking economic growth to social protection and successful implementation of the SEDS in the period 2001 – 2010, five years social – economic development plan (SEDP) in the period 2006 - 2010, the average GDP over the past 10 years has reached 7.26%/year; State investment in SP has increased, accounting for around 30% of the State budget (2% of GDP). As a result, the living standard of people, including the advantaged and vulnerable people, has been constantly improved.

Additionally, the Government of Vietnam (GOVN) has promulgated many policies on SP for different target groups, especially for poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable people, helping them overcome difficulties, stabilize living and help themselves better integrate into communities.

Social assistance (SA) is one of key components in SP system which attracts great concern of the GOVN. Over the past 10 years, GOVN has promulgated many policies and programs on support to the target groups which need SA, aimed at timely and effectively responding to risks and vulnerabilities in life, and at the same time catching up the general development of the nation.

These policies on SA have been added and revised on a base of widening the coverage, increasing the support level approaching the minimum living standard, development of SA services and gradually adapting the community-based care of target people that are reflected in the Decree 67/2007/ND-CP by the Government, dated on April 13th, 2007 on social assistance for social protection beneficiaries and the Decree 68/2007/ND-CP by the Government on regulation of criteria for establishment of social protection centers; and followed by the Decree 13/2010/ND-CP on amendment and supplementary of some clauses in the Decree 67/2007/N-CP and other legal documents in which regulate 09 target groups receiving monthly subsidy and 08 target groups receiving one time subsidy.

However, the current SA policies in Vietnam have not yet been well framed in a coherent and sustainable system. Some limitations have been long remained and slowly addressed. Achievements of policies on employment generation and poverty reduction are not sustainable. Percentage of near poor and poverty relapsing households is still high. The coverage and support level of social assistance policies remain low. Quality of education and training has not met the development demands. Percentage of people participating in social insurance and health insurance is still modest. Living standard of some groups of people, especially poor people, ethnic minority groups is still facing a lot of difficulties, not yet meeting the minimum living standard of basic social services. The gap in accessing to social protection services between the mountainous ethnic minority groups in comparison with the national average is still big, etc.

Meanwhile, the current SA policies in Vietnam have been developed on a base of innovative viewpoints, relevant to the international conventions in which Vietnam participated, i.e. on ensuring rights for the vulnerable groups in society. Therefore, the beneficiaries of SA policies have been added, but some vulnerable groups remain unsupported and unprotected. Besides that, SA policies still depend on the State budget capacity; as a result the support level remains low,

lower than the poverty line that does not meet the minimum living standard of the beneficiary target groups.

To support the newly emerged target beneficiaries and improve the living of target groups, SA policies have been regularly considered revised and added when necessary. Subsequently, it has resulted in a system which has many fragmented, unsystematic, incomprehensive and inconsistent (sometimes contradictory) policies, lack of connection and complementary for each other, difficult in monitoring and assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of each policy for poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

Though some different approaches have been in place by the Government, it still lacks of a united methodology for identifying the minimum living standard of the society as a base (standard) for supporting the beneficiaries of SA policies which is in line with the regulations on support levels of the State and relevantly benefiting each target group in a scientific manner. Additionally, administration expenditures for implementation of these patchy and fragmentary SA policies are constantly increasing, and subsequently costly.

Moreover, Vietnam has deeply integrated in the international economy. Over the recent years, due to the economic crisis, impacts of high inflation as well as impacts of climate change in Vietnam have created new risks and vulnerabilities, significantly affecting the living of the disadvantaged people depending on SA subsidy of the Government and poor migrants, informal sectors workers in urban areas.

Under these circumstances, it is very crucial for Government of Vietnam to continue improvement of the SP system in Vietnam in the period 2011 - 2020. In June 2012, the Central Party Committee - Section XI had promulgated the Resolution No.15-NQ/TW at the Fifth Conference on some issues of social protection in the period 2012 - 2020 (Resolution 15-NQ/TW). Accordingly, Ministry of Labour – Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) has been tasked by the Government on development of the Government's Action-plan for implementation of the Resolution 15-NQ/TW, issued under Resolution No.70/NQ-CP dated on 1st November 2012 by the Government of Viet Nam, and plans for development of master-plans, as identified in the Decision 1791/QD-LDTBXH dated 6th December 2012. . The Resolution 15-NQ/TW has been developed in a new approach and on a base of ensuring human rights, in a more systematic and coherent manner, more flexibility and potentials of supplementary for one another; establishing a social protection policy system based on a united standard which is identified by the demands of minimum living standard to address issues in a multi-dimensional approach to ensure the

prevention, minimum of social risks and rehabilitation for all people, and approaching SP coverage for all people.

In the above mentioned context, supports of UNDP to Vietnam is very crucial, contributing to improving the social assistance system based on the minimum living standard for (i) identifying the target groups, widening the coverage, defining the social assistance levels relevant to the socioeconomic development conditions of the nation; (ii) strengthening the operational mechanism, improving capacity to ensure the delivery of social assistance work in a timely, demands and right beneficiaries-based manner, promoting social assistance modalities and efficiency in order to improve the material and spiritual lives of people with extreme difficulties and ensure the equality and sustainability of social assistance work; (iii) striving to provide around 2.5 million people with regular social assistance by 2020, of which over 30% of the beneficiaries are elderly people.

2. Summarize other completed or ongoing programs/ projects with different budget resources (if there is any) to support to address relevant issues in the Agency proposing the project

At present and in the coming period, Vietnam still needs international support and cooperation, especially with the United Nations' agencies (UN) in the field of social development in the period 2012 – 2016 through projects, particularly this project on support to social protection. Proper reference and discussions about the existing social protection related projects have been organized during the development process of this proposed project, as a result they are basically not overlapped, but supplementary and bringing positive impacts for the proposed project. *Summary of these projects as follows:*

- The World Bank (WB) continues support to Social Insurance. The WB in cooperation with UNICEF are designing and will pilot a program on conditional cash transfer for poor households with children and pregnant women in some selected provinces in ethnic minority areas, aimed at strengthening the children rights, and simultaneously focusing on the monitoring and evaluation framework of the program implementation process.

- GIZ from the Federal Republic of Germany is cooperating with MOLISA through the Project on strengthening social protection in two year period of 2012-2014. This project focuses (i) activities at macro level such as evidence based policy design by providing consultancy for research on selected issues (e.g. for target group of most vulnerable and poor population such as elderly, persons with disability (PwD), informal sector workers, single parents households, etc.);

support the development and communication of the Government's Action-plan for implementation of the Resolution 15-NQ/TW; (ii) activities at meso and micro level such as to reform the management and implementation system of social assistance policies through (a) development of models and piloting the social transfers through service providers, (b) the development of the management information system (MIS) of social assistance, (c) piloting community based micro insurance models(Social Risk Fund), improving information and services for vulnerable population in selected provinces/districts/communes.

- Project on the improvement and implementation of the national targeted programs on poverty reduction supported by UNDP, has supported the Committee for Social Affairs of National Assembly, Committee for Ethnic Minority and MOLISA in mapping policies and programs on poverty reduction as well as widely mapping all policies, programs on social assistance and conducting consultation workshops on the draft Government's Action-plan.

- Project supported by International Labour Organization (ILO) is supporting MOLISA in the field of labour market policies. The project operation focuses on improvement of active labour market policies; development of the employment strategy (2010 – 2020); development of labour market information system. ILO is planning to support MOLISA in piloting the public work scheme. This project is expected to have positive impacts on poverty reduction, because it focuses on connection between accessibility to basic social protection and promotion of employment, development of skills, including the poor people and disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

- Project supported by ILO to MOLISA on social insurance (SI) is focusing on enhancement of mechanism for execution of laws on unemployment insurance; support to development of micro-finance schemes and micro-production insurance for women in informal sector; analysis of social pension;

- Project supported by UNICEF continues supporting MOLISA in child care and protection. The project operation focuses on enhancement of child protection, especially poor children at national and local levels, including the legal and policy framework and child protection and care services.

3. Demand for ODA to address the major issues related to the Agency proposing the project Identify the major issues that will be addressed by the proposed project

MOLISA, which is tasked by the Government to be responsible for state management of social protection, takes lead in cooperation with the line

Ministries, sectors and Vietnamese social partners and with technical assistance of UN's agencies, studying, developing and submitting for promulgation of the Resolution No. 15-NQ/TW on some issues of social protection policies in the period 2012 – 2020 (Resolution 15-NQ/TW). Based on Resolution 70 - Action plan for implementation of the Resolution 15-NQ/TW (the Action-plan) and Decision 1791 of MOLISA, new master-plan for reform of the social assistance system is proposed for development. Following that, the minimum living standard-based social assistance policies for people with extreme difficulties will be developed and implemented in a renewed and strengthened manner of the social assistance system.

During the study, renewal and implementation process of the reformed social assistance policies, various issues need to be addressed by the proposed TA project supported by UNDP, *details as follows*:

- During a long period of time, the social assistance policies have not yet been developed with a clear direction, foundation and methodology, which resulted in a complicated system, difficult for monitoring the effectiveness and efficiency of different policies for each beneficiary group.

- Meanwhile, awareness of policy making level on development as well as implementation of SA policy system in the period of from 5 to 15 years to come is not homogenous, and yet approaching the social assistance/protection trends in the world in order to apply the innovations relevant to conditions of Vietnam. Additionally, information, knowledge and consensus on the real situation of the SA system in Vietnam, especially in terms of the inclusiveness, progressiveness, feasibilities and sustainability of the system, have seen many limitations. The options/measures for reforming and developing an SA system are not appropriate with the real situation. Even the approved Action-plan for implementation of the Resolution 15-NQ/TW in terms of social assistance field is facing difficulties, and yet clearly defining the process/road-map and necessary agenda of reforms in the coming period. A consensus vision for SA reform is required.

- Legal framework of the SA work is insufficient and unsatisfactory to the increasing needs of the target groups. There is an absence of homogenous methodology for identification of a minimum living standard to identify the social assistance target beneficiaries, to regulate the standard social assistance level of the State and social assistance coefficients in a scientific manner. Therefore, the line ministries of the Government, particularly MOLISA and the Committee for social affairs/National Assembly are having discussions to develop a law on social protection/assistance in order to address the shortcomings in terms of legal framework of the social protection/assistance area.

- SA policy coverage remains low, while target people of SA are increasing. Deep integration into the international economy as well as impacts of climate change has created challenges, risks and new vulnerabilities. Most recent impacts of high inflation have seriously affected the people depending on social subsidy of the Government and migrant workers in informal sector in urban areas. Meanwhile, supports to prevention, mitigation and restoration of natural disasters have just met a small part of the demand, thus property and human being losses are still significant.

- The procedures and process for identifying SA beneficiaries are inadequate. Management of emergency relief work has seen many shortcomings; as a result the similar groups may receive very different levels of social assistance.

- Capacity of institutionalization and policy implementation arrangement of central ministries as well as local authorities has seen a lot of limitations, especially in terms of SP/SA policy making competency. Capacity of policy implementation arrangement, service provision and co-operation among entities in SP/SA policy implementation has seen various weaknesses. Capacity of monitoring and evaluation and participation mobilization during the development, monitoring, evaluation and implementation process of SA policies needs strengthening to meet the real demands.

- Financial mechanism is unclear. There is no specific budget flow for SA policies. The investment level of the State for SA remains low. There is no a united legal framework for managing the fund mobilized from people for SA, especially the fund for emergency relief.

- It lacks a strong SA service delivery system for the target groups which is suitable to the market economy (in terms of public service provision), particularly in the context that community based care services for target beneficiaries provided by social partners are performing under diversified modalities which are flexible, voluntary, charitable, humanitarian and non-profitable.

- It lacks a criteria system, methodologies and tools for (i) monitoring SA policy implementation and (ii) impact assessment, inclusiveness, progressiveness and efficiency of these policies as well as vulnerability change and SA demands so as to have timely policy adjustments.

- SA policies are inter-sectorial, but cooperation among sectors in developing SP policies with feasibility, appropriateness and consensus, is still limited and in need of further improvement. It lacks a close policy connection between MOLISA and line ministries in designing a uniform SA policy framework that closely links SA work with other social policies (i.e. on education,

health care and other basic social services) in a harmonious and comprehensive manner so as to enhance the coverage, comprehensiveness/inclusiveness/progressiveness and mutual impacts among the related policies in order to meet the emerging demands, and avoid overlaps in terms of institutional responsibility.

- Additionally, variety of donors and UN agencies which are planning to support this area is also creating new challenges for MOLISA/GOVN in coordinating/collaborating different sources of supports to avoid overlaps and increase the efficiency of supports for this area.

In the above mentioned circumstances, MOLISA really needs TA and capacity building for renovation, development and implementation of the SA policy system in a synchronous and comprehensive manner, with new approaches which are systematic, multi-dimensional and human rights-based in delivering the SA policies and services to the target beneficiaries, especially in defining the minimum living standard based approach which serves as a base for developing specific SA policies and identifying the target beneficiaries, designing the policy framework closely linked to the social protection system and feasible, realistic road-map for streamlining, mainstreaming and harmonizing the SA policies as well as enhancing capacity for SA service provision under the new SA policy framework, etc.

Because the renovation process of SP system of the Government has just been started, and taking into consideration the contents of other TA projects supported by different development partners for SA/SP area, this proposed project should be divided into two phases in order to ensure the best matching of this project to the Government's demands and coherence, mutual-supports among TA projects supported by different development partners:

- Phase I (2013-2014): Support to defining the contents for improving and reforming the SA policy system and developing the road-map of SA reform;
- Phase II (2015-2016): Support to implementation of social assistance system reform.

VI. RATIONALE FOR SELECTION OF DONOR

1. Relevance of the project contents and objectives to the direction of cooperation and program priorities of the donor the mandate and program priorities of the supporting agency

Contents of the proposed project are relevant to the top priorities of UN and UNDP in Vietnam. Particularly they are relevant to the “One Plan 2012 - 2016”

in One United Nations Initiative in Vietnam and Common Country Program Document (CCPD – 2012-2016) of UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA. This project will directly contribute to the One Plan 2012 – 2016 and CCPD in which focus on the Focus Area 2 (FA2), Outcome 2.1, Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3.

Focus Area 2 (FA2) “Access to quality essential services and social protection”

Outcome 2.1: By 2016, a more effective national social protection system provides increased coverage, quality, and equitable access for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Output 2.1.1: High quality evidence is available for use by decision-makers to inform the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection-related legislation and policy;

Output 2.1.2: Policy advice and technical support provided and considered by the Government to enhance the effectiveness of the social protection system, with a particular focus on coherence between different pillars and with other relevant policy framework;

Output 2.1.3: Alternative legal, policy, targeting and financing options are available and considered by the Government for the expansion of integrated and adequate social assistance, social insurance and social welfare and protection services;

The project’s contents and objectives are determined based on the contents of the Resolution 15-NQ/TW and the Action-plan for implementation of the Resolution 15-NQ/TW, particularly in the area of social assistance, such as wide consultation with national and international experts who have rich and in-depth understanding in situation of Vietnam.

Additionally, the project’s expected results are ensured to have close connections with the breakthrough tasks of the SEDP in the period 2011 – 2015, SEDS in the period 2011-2020 and the Government's action-plan for implementation of the Resolution 15-NQ/TW. During the consultation and involvement process, the Governmental agencies and donors have always linked the partnership activities with new approaches for social assistance, aimed at contributing to the earlier achievements of MDGs.

2. Reasons for the selection and comparative advantages of the supporting Agencies, in terms of managerial experience and policy advice

Firstly, UNDP has always been a trustworthy, neutral and long-term DP of the Government of Viet Nam. Presence in Vietnam since 1970s, UNDP has been

regarded as “a gateway to the outside world, bringing important technical and economic support and ideas to the country’s planning for development”. Among the present technical assistance projects supported by UNDP for MOLISA reveal that one of strong points of these projects is the donor’s long and strong partnership commitment with GOVN in general and MOLISA in particular.

Secondly, UNDP has established the relationship with many organizations, research institutes and high-qualified international experts with rich experience in poverty reduction, social protection and social assistance in particular and socioeconomic development in general. Therefore, this is an advantage for MOLISA in implementation of the project, because UNDP can mobilize high qualified experts when Vietnam needs technical assistance.

Thirdly, UNDP has been supporting and providing Vietnam with technical assistance for implementation of poverty reduction programs for many years, especially the project on “the improvement and implementation of the national targeted programs on poverty reduction” (NTP-PRs), and policy studies, policy discussions on social protection. Achievements from the national targeted program on poverty reduction are successful lessons-learned from cooperation of UNDP with Vietnamese partners on hunger eradication and poverty reduction, settlement of social protection/assistance issues in Vietnam.

Fourthly, the comparative advantages of UNDP are provision of TA which is based on systematic and comprehensive manner in combination with capacity development. This has been proven by direct and effective supports of UNDP for MOLISA in development of policy systems and capacity building for officials from central to local levels during the planning, implementation and monitoring process of policies and programs on poverty reduction in a participatory and evidence based manner.

Fifth, UNDP has rich experience in supporting the Government of Vietnam, including MOLISA in terms of building national capacity on coordination/collaboration of efforts of the nation as well supports from donors. This has been proven by coordination/collaboration achievements of poverty reduction programs which had provided supports to development of joint results based technical assistance framework of different donors and resulted in most effectiveness of the poverty reduction programs of the nation.

Continue provision of UNDP is very crucial for MOLISA to successfully execute and fulfill the innovation and development process of the SP/SA system in the new context, and develop the SA policy framework with a systematic approach which can help people, particularly poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable

people prevent and minimize risks and recover from risks in the market economy and natural disasters, especially impacts of climate change and other social risks.

3. The Vietnamese side's capacity to the conditions as required by ODA donors

All rules and regulations of UN in general and UNDP in particular are specified in the Harmonized Program and Project Management Guidelines (HPPMG), in which key regulations have been harmonized with the management regulations of the Government of Vietnam. Therefore, the project managing agencies of Viet Nam are apparently able to meet conditions and regulations on the project management of UNDP.

VII. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

1. Overall objective

The project will contribute to the overall objectives of the Resolution 15, i.e. support to the improvement of the social assistance system, aimed at (i) widening the beneficiaries with relevant support modalities, striving to have around 2.5 million people benefiting from regular social assistance by 2020, in which 30% of the beneficiaries are elderly people; (ii) increasing the social transfer level/improving the well-being and reducing the vulnerability of social assistance beneficiaries relevant to the economic conditions of the State; (iii) developing/improving the operational mechanisms of the social assistance system to ensure that the social transfer is timely, demands-based and for the right beneficiaries.

2. Specific objectives

The project supports the implementation of the national strategy and related action plans/master plan in social assistance reform, with focus on strengthening institutional capacity to improve inclusiveness, progressiveness and effectiveness of social assistance policies in Viet Nam, via support to:

- Building a national vision/definition of an inclusive and sustainable social assistance system, hence refining the scope and interventions social assistance reforms, mandate and accountability of related stakeholders
- Building a harmonized reform process/roadmap to ensure the 'readiness' of national system to cope with the changes (institutional, organizational and individual capacity), at the same time ensure the continuity of support to the vulnerable groups during the transitional period. Elements considered during the formulation of the roadmap are:

+ Streamlining and consolidating the social assistance system through reviewing existing policies and proposing the strategy for mainstreaming, consolidating current policies or developing new policies where necessary, taking into account the financial feasibility and social impacts of the policies;

+ Establishment of criteria and process for identifying the social assistance beneficiaries and vulnerability monitoring (target beneficiary management) based on an identified minimum living standard, to avoid the overlapping of the beneficiaries targeted by SA policies and those targeted by other social policies such as social insurance policies, unemployment insurance policies and health insurance policies;

+ Building capacity for developing and agreeing on the vision among the line ministries involving in social assistance implementation and improving the payment/support modalities in order to save administration costs and improving the effectiveness of social assistance work.

PHASE I (2013-2014): Identification of areas of reforms of the social assistance system and building a roadmap for social assistance reform process

Output target 1 (2013-2014): Increased awareness and consensus of the shortcomings and gaps in targeting, support level, coverage, financial mechanism, transparency and effectiveness of the social assistance policies as evidences for identification of areas for social assistance reform.

Baseline:

- The current overall system for social protection/social assistance is still fragmented and lacks coherence, not progressive and inclusive.

- Shortcomings and gaps in targeting, support level, coverage, financial mechanism, transparency and effectiveness of the social protection service delivery are yet clearly defined on a base of scientific evidence and methodologies.

- There are different views on contents and approaches of social assistance system in the coming period.

- Social Protection Floor Options formulated by ILO.

- Discussion on the need to consolidate selected social assistance policies targeting poor households with pregnant women and children raised by WB/UNICEF SASSP project

Indicators:

- Extent to which findings and recommendations from studies are discussed and considered as useful in the workshops/meetings on development/revision of social assistance system in the coming period.

- Number of policy recommendations from the studies are agreed and used for development/revision of the social assistance system/framework.

Output target 2: (Phase I in 2013 – 2014): A clear and feasible roadmap to improve and consolidate the social assistance system is developed and endorsed in a national Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform.

Baselines:

- There is little robust evidence of the appropriateness, progressiveness, inclusiveness, efficiency and impact of existing social assistance policies and schemes upon beneficiaries' well-being.

- Social assistance policies/schemes have been developed and delivered largely in isolation by different institutions, under various patchy/fragmented approaches and benchmarks and are not part of a coherent overall system for delivering social assistance measures.

- UNICEF and WB are formulating a pilot project on conditional cash transfer to poor ethnic minority families with children.

- UNDP supported a study on “Mapping Social Assistance Policies and Schemes in Viet Nam”.

Indicators:

- The level of harmonization and consolidation of the SA policies and schemes in terms of approaches of defining target groups, defining benefits and service delivery.

- The level of comprehensiveness, inclusiveness, progressiveness, efficiency and impacts on target groups of SA policies and schemes in Viet Nam.

PHASE II (2014-2016): Support to implementation of social assistance reform ¹

Output target 3: Social assistance reform are smoothly implemented through supports in (i) development and effective implementation of the master-plan on social assistance reform based on minimum living standard, (ii) development of guidelines for application of the minimum living standard approach in identifying the target groups and support level of the

¹ Specific contents of the Phase II will be detailed at the end of Phase I to ensure the real needs and relevance to the context. The proposed activities here are just orientations.

Government, (iii) strengthened capacity of related agencies in terms of organizational arrangement for implementation of the master-plan, (iv) participatory and evidence based monitored and evaluated, and under a relevant legal framework.

Baseline:

- MOLISA assigned by the GOVN to develop the action-plan for implementation of the Resolution 15-NQ/TW which set an important task of *“development the minimum living standard relevant to socioeconomic conditions functioning as a base for identifying the target social assistance beneficiaries”*.

- A number of tools currently exist which are of use in monitoring the progress and impact of social protection policies/schemes such as administrative records and reports of VSI/VHI/MOH/MOF on social/health /unemployment insurances, etc. VHLSS, Rapid Impact Monitoring (RIM) and some qualitative studies were used to monitor the impacts.

- However, data collected are currently not adequate and systematically well documented, sufficiently disaggregated, widely shared/ disseminated and data are not used systematically and in an integrated/comprehensive way to track the progress and impacts of (and thus refining) SP policies and schemes.

- Lack of a specific law on social protection/social assistance to unify and legalize regulations on social protection/social assistance.

Indicators:

- Availability and approval of the master-plan for minimum living standard based social assistance reform.

- Availability and wide agreement on the plan/road-map for implementation of the Resolution 15-NQ/TW by Social Protection Department/MOLISA.

- The existence and operations of an integrated SA statistical indicator system with indicators, their disaggregation by sexes/ages/ ethnicities/locations, frequencies/ responsibility and means of data collection and mechanisms for data sharing/dissemination.

- The level of use of the system for monitoring the progress and impacts, and for refining SP policies and schemes.

VIII. THE PROJECT'S BENEFICIARIES

- Disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, beneficiaries of social assistance policies (through social assistance system reform and capacity reform/ability to provide social services, etc.);
- MOLISA and the functional departments/institutes, especially Social Protection Department under MOLISA;
- Committee for Social Affairs/National Assembly;
- Other institutes and related agencies.

IX. MAIN EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE PROJECT (*see the details in the attached results and resources framework*)

Output target 1:

Activity result 1.1: Studies are conducted to identify shortcomings and gaps in targeting, support level, coverage, financial mechanism, transparency and effectiveness of the social assistance policies² (i.e. on functions of institutional set-up, admin costs from central to local delivery) for both regular and emergency SA systems.

Activity result 1.2: Review results (shortcomings and gaps in targeting, support level, coverage, financial mechanism, transparency, SA service delivery effectiveness and recommendations for SA policy reform) are widely discussed and agreed.

b) Budget allocation:

The planned budget for the Output target 1: US\$ 270.000.

Output target 2:

Activity result 2.1: Feasibility studies are conducted and policy options for SA policy reform are provided to address the identified shortcomings/gaps in coverage/targeting methods, assistance level identification, financial feasibility, implementation/service delivery capacity.

Activity Result 2.2: The Master Plan on SA policy reform in Vietnam is developed, publically discussed and promulgated.

Activity result 2.3: The roadmap/action plan to implement the Master plan for SA reform is formulated and promulgated.

Activity result 2.4: Communication and capacity on the content of social assistance reforms to the beneficiaries and high level policy makers are enhanced.

² The researches should be built on the existing/on-going research supported by UNDP and other development partners such as ILO (SPF), UNICEF, WB, GiZ, etc.

Activity results 2.5: A project mid-term review is conducted to inform the relevance and scope of support for phase II of the project.

Budget allocation:

The planned budget for the Output target 2: 530,000 USD

Output target 3:

Activity result 3.1: Policy papers and their implementation instructions are revised and newly developed based on the research results and most relevant international experiences.

Activity Result 3.2: Financial allocation mechanism and SA services are harmonized to increase effectiveness.

Activity Result 3.3: Capacity of SA policy delivery officers and service providers is increased to meet the implementation requirements of new policies and mechanisms.

Activity result 3.4: SA policy reform process is participatory and evidence based monitored and evaluated.

Activity result 3.5: Thematic studies are conducted to serve development of Law on social protection/assistance and its guidelines for implementation of the Law on social protection.

b) Budget allocation:

The planned budget for the Output target 3: 975,000 USD.

X. TOTAL BUDGET OF THE PROJECT

The total budget of the project: 2,300,000 USD, *in which:*

1. ODA funding

Grant ODA: 2,000,000 USD, *in which:*

The operational budget: 1,775,000 USD

The management budget (including GMS): 225,000 USD

2. Counterpart fund

2.1. Counterpart fund: 300,000 USD, equivalent to 6.3 billion VNĐ,

In which:

- In kind: 1.89 billion VNĐ

- In cash: 4.41 billion VNĐ

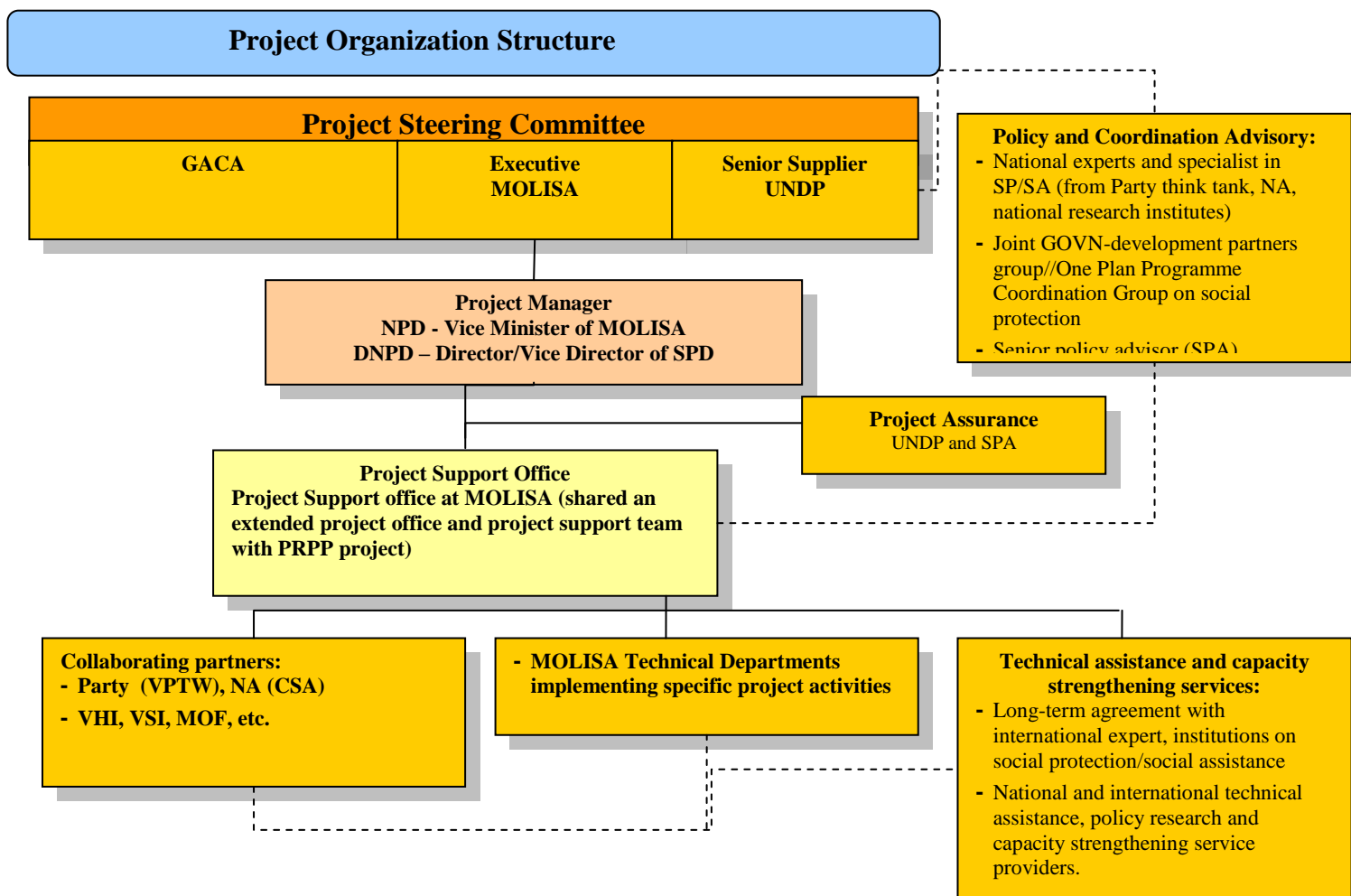
It is planned to allocate 800,000 USD for Phase I (2013-2014) and 975,000 USD for Phase II (2015-2016).

XI. RECOMMENDATION FOR FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE PROJECT

In pursuance to Circular 225/2010/TT-BTC dated 31 December 2010 of Ministry of Finance on the State financial management of non-refundable aid classified as State budget revenues and Harmonized Programme and Project Management Guidelines (HPPMG).

XII. MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

1. Project organization structure:



The project will be following the National Implementation Modality (NIM). Its management and implementation structure is arranged in line with the

functions and mandates of the national implementing partner. This arrangement is aimed at ensuring the full alignment of the project structure to the Government systems and through which ensuring the efficiency, reducing transaction and management costs, minimizing overlaps and particularly ensuring d the realization of maximum of benefits and impacts for the beneficiary agencies as well as sustainability of the project.

a. Project Steering Committee

The Project Steering Committee includes lead agency, donors and GACA who are responsible for steering, monitoring and coordinating the project's activities.

The Project Steering Committee is co-chaired by MOLISA and UNDP, with the participation of partners participating in the project, responsible for defining the project strategic directions and ensuring effective coordination and achievement of the project objectives of UNDP's technical assistances for MOLISA. The Project Steering Committee will perform this function through annual review meetings to monitor the implementation progress in the previous year and withdraw fundamental lessons learned, make strategic directions and approve the annual work-plans and budgets of the coming year. In order to support the Project Steering Committee in identifying the strategic directions of support by the project, an international senior policy adviser on Poverty reduction and Social Protection (SPA) (for this project, project on poverty reduction PRPP with MOLISA and Urban Poverty project with HCM City) together with other national senior experts/consultants will provide advice and directive recommendations on study themes, policy advocacy and key activities in the AWP supported by the project.

b. Project management unit (PMU)

According to the assigned functions and tasks of MOLISA for development and state management of social protection system in Vietnam, MOLISA will assign its deputy minister as the national project director (cum the national project director of the project on poverty reduction PRPP), representing MOLISA and being responsible to ensure that this project will be effectively managed and implemented, and all output targets are achieved according to plans of the project, making effective contributions to achievements of objectives/outcomes of this project in a sustainable manner.

To support the national project director in fulfilling the responsibilities of MOLISA for this project management and implementation (cum the national project director of the project on poverty reduction PRPP supported by UNDP)

and to ensure the most effective cooperation among UNDP supported projects for MOLISA, MOLISA can assign a deputy national project director (DNPD) and establish one project management unit (PMU) with a project support office at MOLISA to manage and support (i) this project and (ii) the project on poverty reduction PRPP supported by UNDP.

The project management unit will have the project support office at MOLISA which includes:

- National project director (cum the national project director of the project on poverty reduction PRPP) is a leader of MOLISA;
- Deputy national project director (cum the deputy national project director of the project on poverty reduction PRPP) is a leader of SPD;
- Chief accountant (cum chief accountant of the project on poverty reduction PRPP) is assigned by MOLISA to work fulltime at the project support office;
- National project management (cum the national project manager of the project on poverty reduction PRPP) is recruited by the project management unit;
- International senior policy adviser (cum policy adviser of the project on poverty reduction PRPP) is recruited by the project management unit;
- Project technical coordinator is recruited by the project management unit;
- Project admin assistant is recruited by the project management unit;
- Project secretary cum accounting assistant is recruited by the project management unit;
- And other officers are assigned by MOLISA to work at the project support office.

Salary of full time contracted staff at the project support office (excluding the project technical coordinator and project secretary cum accounting assistant) will be shared with the project on poverty reduction PRPP supported by UNDP to MOLISA.

Under the Government's contribution frame, MOLISA will appoint some officers from MOLISA's agencies to work part time or full time for the project as focal points of MOLISA/functional departments/agencies to assure the relevance, quality and effective utilization of the project's resources for capacity development. These officers may include one national policy expert and one social development expert.

Related departments, institutes of MOLISA as beneficiary units of the project, will be responsible for implementing the project activities as the approved plans. Other collaborating partners, such as: Central Party office, Committee for social affairs (National Assembly), General Statistics Office, etc., (see details in the project results and resources framework) will receive the project supports and be responsible for implementing the project activities under the coordination, support and monitoring of the project management unit and based on the approved plans.

2. Management and implementation arrangement

a. Planning

Based on the proposals from partners/collaborating agencies of the project, the project management unit will (i) develop the annual work-plans and budgets and submit to MOLISA and UNDP for approval, after discussions and consultations with the Project Steering Committee at meetings; (ii) based on the approved annual work-plan, the project management unit will make quarterly work-plans and submit to the national project director and UNDP for approval.

Related departments, institutes and units of MOLISA, as collaborating partners as mentioned earlier, will closely cooperate with the PMU, be proactive in proposing their work-plans and budgets, drafting TOR, etc., then submit to the PMU for consideration and consolidation.

The PMU will execute procurement procedures in line with HPPMG and provide collaborating units with supports for implementing the project activities as approved plans. MOLISA's units participating in the project implementation will be responsible for management of services/resources, development of progress reports and financial statement of the project and sending them to the PMU; effective utilization and quality control as well as application of project's outputs.

b. Reporting

The PMU will be responsible for consolidation of quarterly and annual progress reports and financial statements and submitting them to UNDP for approval (in line with templates and regulations of HPPMG). Additionally, the PMU must execute all reporting requirements of the Government of Vietnam according to the current regulations.

c. Cooperation arrangement

According to the approved detail project outline/annual work-plans, MOLISA, in cooperation with UNDP and related agencies (i) develop and sign

letter of agreements with the collaborating agencies to enhance their roles and responsibilities, including the regulations on planning, project activity implementation, budget transfer modality from the implementing partner to the collaborating agencies, financial management (of the implementing partner and/or collaborating partners) as well as progress and financial reports, etc; (ii) similarly, MOLISA/PMU will develop and provide guidelines and supports (for MOLISA's departments/institutes, units participating in the project), such as on development of TOR, procurement procedures, etc., if needed.

With the role of the implementing agency, MOLISA is responsible for (i) cooperation, monitoring and supports for implementation of all project activities, (ii) *based on the proposed work-plans and budgets, quarterly and annual progress reports and financial statements of collaborating partners*, developing the quarterly and annual work-plans and budgets, quarterly and annual progress reports and financial statements and submitting them to UNDP and MOLISA for approval.

International and domestic TA service providers will be recruited through the open and competitive procedures of HPPMG and responsible for producing/providing products as stated in TOR.

d. Coordination/cooperation of the project activities with support activities of other related UN agencies and donors

MOLISA/National project director will be responsible for ensured effectiveness of coordination of this project's activities with support activities of other related donors and/or UN agencies. Measures for improved cooperation and connection of efforts from the Government and development partners for improvement of social protection/assistance and poverty reduction interventions are implemented through the following mechanisms: (i) coordination of UNDP supported projects (both projects) and other support activities of UN agencies for social protection/assistance area will be implemented through the joint annual work-planning process, joint evaluation of all UN supported activities for MOLISA and other efforts which are in place according to the One UN Initiative (for example, the program coordination group on social protection will be established during the implementation process of the Joint Program of UN in the period of 2012-2016); (ii) Joint GOVN and development partners partnership for social protection/social assistance (which will be established and operated by this project); and (iii) unofficial group of development partners for social protection. The international coordination expert (of this project and the project on poverty reduction PRPP) will assist the Project Steering Committee and MOLISA to

develop and operate the cooperation mechanism within this project and among different donor supported projects for social protection/social assistance area.

e. Financial management arrangement

The resources of this project will be managed in accordance to the HPPMG, EU-UN cost norms and other program/project management regulations of UNDP if any.

Based on the annual work-plans and budgets approved by MOLISA and UNDP, previous quarterly progress report/financial statements and request for quarter advance of the project, quarterly advances will be transferred by UNDP to the PMU. The final payment will be settled by the modalities of (a) direct payment and/or (b) payment to the third parties. As there could be many collaborating partners who may request for other modalities of budget transfer, the quarterly advance modality could also possibly be used, based on sound financial management capacity assessment.

In order to avoid complicating the project and financial management, the collaborating partners can request the PMU with supports of the project support office, to implement the procurement procedures (in line with the regulations of the Government of Vietnam) and make direct payment for service providers. Similarly, the PMU/MOLISA can also request UNDP to implement the project activities. In this case, UNDP will execute the requested activities in line with the regulations and procedures of UNDP. However, the collaborating partners and/or MOLISA will finally responsible for ensuring the quality and utilization of the support services.

MOLISA will open a bank account to receive advanced fund from UNDP, open and keep accounting records/books to track and manage funds of the project, according to the regulations of the Government of Viet Nam and HPPMG. According to the regulations of HPPMG and HACT, the NIP will, also based on the financial reports from CIPs, make quarter/annual financial reports to UNDP for certification. Audit will be executed according to the regulations of HPPMG/UNDP NIM/HACT guidelines.

3. Management and implementation capacity of the implementing project

MOLISA has many years of experience in implementing and managing TA projects supported by UNDP and other development partners (like the projects mentioned above). Through the above mentioned projects and based on the achievements in the evaluation reports (including the micro assessment report and independent, end-project evaluation of the project on support to the improvement and implementation of the national targeted program on poverty

reduction) as well as regular review, final evaluation reports and audit reports of these projects, MOLISA has proved capable of managing and implementing this proposed project, especially in implementing and managing projects supported by UNDP which apply the National Implementation Modality (NIM) mechanisms under HPPMG.

MOLISA has gained good experience in cooperation and policy dialogues with the DPs. Committee for social affairs/National Assembly, Central Party Office and GSO, etc., have many experiences as NIP and CIP in management and implementation of projects supported by UNDP.

Monitoring/Overseeing, evaluation and reporting requirements of this project

This project will be implemented under basic monitoring/overseeing, evaluation and reporting mechanisms according to instructions in HPPMG.

The approved annual work-plan as well as the monitoring and evaluation framework (with key outputs, data base, output indicators, required data and data collection means, etc..) will plan the fundamental role in monitoring and assessing the project achievements. The monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed by NIP according to HPPMG.

Key monitoring, overseeing, evaluation and reporting activities include:

At project result (target/output target) level: (i) Review meeting of the Project Steering Committee, annual progress and financial reports of the project which is consolidated by NIP; (ii) joint review missions and relevant reports of GACA and UNDP; (iii) independent mid-term review and final evaluation of the project (this project will conduct the project mid-term review by Quarter 3 of 2014 to make recommendations for improvement of inputs and outputs of the project, aimed at improving the performance of the project and identifying the relevance and scope of work for the Phase II of the project during 2015-2016); (iv) one review meeting on end of project will be conducted just before the project end to evaluate the overall achievement of the project implementation, fulfillment of outputs/results of the project against its set objectives/targets, impacts or future impacts of the project, its relevance in the country context and management efficiency and lessons learned; the end of project evaluation report will be developed, sent to NIP and used as input for the terminal project review meeting of the PC which will be organized at the end of the project.

At project activity result/activity level: Annual and quarter progress and financial reports of the project implementing partner; reports of the participating agencies; review missions of the project management unit to the participating

agencies; IP/PMU applying monitoring, overseeing and evaluating the quality of policy research products/TA and CB products of the service providers; quality assurance and monitoring activities of UNDP (including micro-assessments and/or spot checks as well as regular monitoring activities, etc).

Audit: Like all other projects supported by UNDP under the NIM, supports of UNDP to MOLISA as a NIP, will be annually and independently audited according to the regulation of UNDP³.

XIV. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF PROJECT'S BENEFITS, IMPLICATIONS AND SUSTAINABILITY

1. Project's economic and social benefits

- After four years of project implementation, the policy makers will make relevant and advanced policy decisions, aiming at ensuring a more inclusive and progressive social assistance system for the people, especially the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable people, establishing and applying new/innovative approaches and modalities and institutionalizing and applying the monitoring and evaluation system of social assistance implementation.

- Direct beneficiaries will transfer benefits from TA of this project to the end-beneficiaries of this project, especially the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

2. Economic, social and environmental implications for the sector

The project, which will contribute to improving and developing social protection system in Vietnam in the period of 2011 - 2020 and developing a policy framework on social assistance in an innovative approach, will certainly work well in reality and produce impacts on living of millions Vietnamese people, especially the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable people. As a result, its achievements on improvement and development of the social protection system and social assistance framework will continue contributing to protection of the environment, effective management and utilization of natural resources; responding and coping with the climate change impacts; generating momentum for economic growth and social development in an equal and advanced manner.

3. Sustainability of the project following its completion.

a. Achievement sustainability:

Achievements of the project are: A master-plan on reforming SA policy system in the period of 2014 - 2020 in Vietnam developed and widely agreed; a

³ Depending on the progress of One UN Initiative, audits can be organized for all UN supported activities for MOLISA; and/or HACT audit will replace NIM audit.

policy framework of social assistance with innovative approaches and its feasible road-map developed and approved by the Government. These are legal frameworks ensuring an effective and sustainable social protection/assistance system in Vietnam.

b. Organizational sustainability:

After the project ends, capacity of MOLISA and other Vietnamese partners that participate in social protection/social assistance and poverty reduction work will be improved, contributing to ensured responsibility and cooperation among stakeholders during the implementation process of the social protection objectives in Vietnam by 2020.

c. Financial sustainability:

After the project activities have proved their effectiveness, positive impacts and feasibility in wider range application, they will be continuously maintained by the national budgets, simultaneously attracting donors to continue supports for Vietnam.

Hanoi, Date:24th October 2013

Head of the Agency proposing the project

(signed and sealed)

Attached documents:

Annex 1: Results and resources framework;

Annex 2: Counterpart fund allocation;

Annex 3: List of equipment and facilities.

Annex 1: Results and resources framework;

Intended Outcome as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resource Framework:				
Outcome 2.1/OP3: By 2016, a more effective national social protection system provides increased coverage, quality, and equitable access for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.				
Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:				
Outcome 2.1: “By 2016, a more effective national social protection system provides increased coverage, quality, and equitable access for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups”				
Indicator 1: Number of beneficiaries receiving benefits from social assistance under the Government’s decrees on policy support for social assistance beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex of beneficiary, ethnicity, migratory status, urban/rural, region; Baseline (2011): To be determined (MOLISA to provide data); Target (2016): To be determined; MoV: MOLISA data				
Indicator 2: Share of workers covered by social insurance (disaggregated by sex, urban/rural, sector, industry, migratory status and occupational level) Baseline (2011): 18%; Target (2016): To be determined; MoV: VSS, Labour Force Survey				
Applicable Key Result Area (from 2012 Integrated Plan): VNM_OUTCOME_2.1 A more effective national social protection system provides increased coverage, quality, and equitable access for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups				
Partnership Strategy: MOLISA as NIP, Line Ministries/National Assembly-Committee for social affairs as CIP, joint GOVN-Development Partner Partnership Group (to be established)/ One Plan Joint Programme Group on Social Protection (for coordination).				
Project title and ID (ATLAS Award ID): ‘Project on support to the improvement of social assistance policy system’ (ATLAS Award ID, and Project IDs)				
INTENDED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT TARGETS FOR (YEARS)	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	INPUTS
Output 2.1.1: High quality evidence is available for use by decision-makers to inform the	PHASE I (2013-2014): Identification of areas of reforms of the social assistance policy system and building a roadmap for social assistance policy reform process			
	Output target 1 (2013-2014): Increased awareness and consensus of the shortcomings and gaps in targeting, support	Activity result 1.1: Studies are conducted to identify shortcomings and gaps in targeting, support level, coverage, financial mechanism, transparency and effectiveness of the existing social assistance policies ⁴	<i>MOLISA;</i> <i>NA (CSA)</i>	Activity result 1.1: Policy debates/dialogues,

⁴ The researches should be built on the existing/on-going research supported by UNDP and other development partners such as ILO (Social Protection Floor), UNICEF, WB, GiZ, etc.

<p>formulation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection related legislation and policy.</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.1: <i>Number of studies/surveys available that respond to social protection priorities in Resolution 15</i></p> <p>Baseline (2011): Target (2016): <i>Findings of UN supported research projects discussed and considered by policy-makers</i></p> <p>MoV: <i>One Plan Outcome evaluation reports</i></p> <p>Indicator 2.1.1.2: Availability of an</p>	<p>level, coverage, financial mechanism, transparency and effectiveness of the social assistance policies as evidences for identification of areas for social assistance policy reform.</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current overall system for social protection/social assistance is still fragmented and lacks coherence, not progressive and inclusive. - Shortcomings and gaps in targeting, support level, coverage, financial mechanism, transparency and effectiveness of the social protection service delivery are yet clearly defined on a base of scientific evidence and methodologies. - There are different views on contents and approaches of social assistance policy system in the coming period. - Social Protection Floor Options formulated by ILO. - Discussion on the need to 	<p>(i.e. on functions of institutional set-up, admin costs from central to local delivery) for both regular and emergency SA systems.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u></p> <p>1.1.1.Improve and finalize the quality of the desk-review on “<i>mapping social assistance policies and schemes in Viet Nam</i>” (by additional review on current social assistance policies in Vietnam and in-depth analysis on shortcomings/gaps in policy design).</p> <p>1.1.2.Conduct technical workshops, high ranking workshops among MOLISA, Committee for social affairs (NA) and Party agencies, etc., to finalize the review report and to identify contents of further researches under the Activity 1.1.4 below.</p> <p>1.1.3.Print and disseminate the desk review report.</p> <p>1.1.4.Conduct in-depth field survey⁵ to review and assess the real situation, shortcomings and gaps in social policy implementation in terms of (i) targeting, (ii) ways of identifying the assistance level, (iii) coverage, (iv) financial mechanism and management (including budget allocation, funding provision mechanism, payment modality, payment settlement and financial reporting), (v)</p>	<p>technical workshops:</p> <p>Short term Int. and nat. consultancy services for studies and workshops:</p> <p>Workshops: Printing and dissemination results of the public consultations:</p>
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⁵ Research results contribute to defining directions/roadmap/plans for SA policy reform as well as be used as baselines to monitor and evaluate the results of SA policy reform. Contents of these researches need focusing on poverty reduction related policies and schemes, i.e., emergency relief and social pension, etc. The design of the survey will build on current assessment conducted by WB/UNICEF/GIZ.

<p>M&E framework for social assistance policy reform</p> <p>Baseline (2012): <i>Not applicable at the start of the One Plan 2012-2016</i></p> <p>Target (2016): <i>Yes</i></p> <p>MoV: <i>Implementing Partner Report</i></p> <p>Output 2.1.2: Policy advice and technical support provided and considered by the Government to enhance the effectiveness of the social protection system, with a particular focus on coherence between different pillars and with other relevant policy frameworks</p>	<p>consolidate selected social assistance policies targeting poor households with pregnant women and children raised by WB/UNICEF SASSP project</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extent to which findings and recommendations from studies are discussed and considered as useful in the workshops/meetings on development/revision of social assistance policy system in the coming period. - Number of policy recommendations from the studies are agreed and used for development/revision of the social assistance policy system/framework. <p><u>Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shortcomings and gaps in targeting, support level, coverage, financial mechanism, transparency and effectiveness of the social protection service delivery are clearly defined on a base of scientific evidence and methodologies. - Roadmap/Action-plan for 	<p>transparency and satisfaction of people, (vi) effectiveness and SA service delivery capacity, (vii) target beneficiary monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation and impacts, (viii) admin costs from central to local level.</p> <p>1.1.5. Conduct national and regional technical workshops/meetings and peer reviews to finalize study/field survey reports.</p> <p>1.1.6. Complete field survey reports, consolidated reports/ policy briefs and recommendations, print and disseminate the reports widely.</p> <p><u>Activity result 1.2:</u> Review results (shortcomings and gaps in targeting, support level, coverage, financial mechanism, transparency, SA service delivery effectiveness and recommendations for SA policy reform) are widely discussed and agreed.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u></p> <p>1.2.1. Support development of (easy-to-understand) “policy briefs” of the final policy research papers to be used for policy workshops and public debates.</p> <p>1.2.2. Conduct policy workshops, forums on sharing results and recommendations of studies/researches (in combination of other related research findings conducted by ILO, WB, UNICEF, GIZ which will be used as inputs for these policy discussions) aimed at (i) raising awareness and understanding of policy makers, Party and National Assembly members, officials, academics and international partners on the real situation of social assistance</p>		<p>Activity result 1.2:</p> <p>Short term Int. and nat. consultancy services: .</p> <p>Policy workshops/ consultations/debates, workshops/peer reviews:</p> <p>Printing and dissemination of research papers/ results:</p> <p>Long term int. advisers for Output target 1:</p>
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<p>Indicator 2.1.2.1: Number draft law, policies, circulars and decrees in the field of social protection that incorporate data from UN supported studies and surveys Baseline (2012): Decree 67/13 was revised using recommendations from the UN .</p>	<p>reforming social assistance policy system toward being more consolidated and inclusive are formulated and widely discussed with reference to conducted high qualified studies and reviews and shared suitable international experiences. .</p>	<p>policy system in Vietnam, and (ii) getting consensus on identifying key issues to be addressed and directions for future social assistance policy reform. 1.2.3. Conduct expertise/technical workshops for in-depth discussions about the recommendations of studies/researches and develop the visions/expected outcomes, directions/key contents and options for SA policy reform (as well as identification of contents of feasibility studies to serve the follow-up steps in the SA policy reform process).</p>		
<p>Target (2016): <i>Relevant legal documents incorporate data from UN supported studies and surveys</i> MoV: <i>One Plan outcome evaluation reports.</i> Indicator 2.1.2.2: Number of advocacy</p>	<p>Output Target 2 (Phase I in 2013 – 2014): A clear and feasible roadmap to improve and consolidate the social assistance policy system is developed and endorsed in a national Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform⁶. <u>Baselines:</u> - There is little robust evidence of the appropriateness, progressiveness, inclusiveness, efficiency and impact of existing social assistance policies and</p>	<p>Activity result 2.1: Feasibility studies are conducted and policy options for SA policy reform are provided to address the identified shortcomings/gaps in coverage/targeting methods, assistance level identification, financial feasibility, implementation/service delivery capacity. <u>Activities:</u> 2.1.1. Review international/national lessons learnt and organize high-level national workshops to build a vision for SA policy reform considering (i) minimum living standard approach in defining the assistance level, (ii) consolidation of SA policies to optimize social assistance service delivery and (iii) need to increase the coverage of vulnerable groups, taking into consideration the financial feasibility, service delivery capacity and particular policy</p>	<p>MOLISA, Responsible line ministries and agencies (CEMA, MOF, MPI, etc.)</p>	<p>Activity result 2.1: Short term Int. and nat. consultancy: Field surveys: Policy discussions/peer reviews: Printing/ dissemination: support:</p>

⁶ Despite of supporting development of social assistance policy framework, this project will focus on policies/schemes relating to poverty reduction under UNDP focus.

<p>documents which identify issues of coherence and overlaps between different social protection policies disseminated to policy makers</p> <p>Baseline (2011): <i>Baseline study to be undertaken in 2013</i></p> <p>Target (2016): <i>National and sub-national social protection action plans reflect relevant policy linkages.</i></p> <p>MoV: <i>IP and UN reports 2013; One Plan Outcome evaluation report 2015</i></p> <p>Output 2.1.3: Alternative legal, policy, targeting, and financing options are available and</p>	<p>schemes upon beneficiaries well-being.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social assistance policies/schemes have been developed and delivered largely in isolation by different institutions, under various patchy/fragmented approaches and benchmarks and are not part of a coherent overall system for delivering social assistance measures. - UNICEF and WB are formulating a pilot project on conditional cash transfer to poor ethnic minority families with children. - UNDP supported a study on “<i>mapping Social Assistance Policies and Schemes in Viet Nam</i>”. <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The level of harmonisation and consolidation of the SA policies and schemes in terms of approaches of defining target groups, defining benefits and service delivery. - The level of comprehensiveness, 	<p>beneficiary groups.</p> <p>2.1.2. Conduct feasibility studies based on the agreed vision/scenarios/directive options to address shortcomings/gaps in terms of coverage/targeting, support level identification, financial feasibility, SA policy implementation/service delivery capacity.</p> <p>2.1.3.2.1.3. Conduct technical workshops/meetings/peer reviews on research results, policy options and directive solutions for SA policy system reform.</p> <p>2.1.4. Conduct studies on capacity assessment for change management⁷ in terms of organizational/institutional set-up and mechanisms of SA policy system under each scenario/option (particular on policy development process, functions and mandates of related agencies of MOLISA and line Ministries, agencies).</p> <p>Activity Result 2.2: The Master Plan on SA policy reform in Vietnam is developed, publically discussed and promulgated.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>2.2.1. Built on the results of feasibility studies (under the Activity Result 1.2 and 2.1 above) and technical consultations, support the development of the Master Plan for SA policy system reform in Vietnam</p> <p>2.2.2. Support wide consultation on the Master Plan for SA policy system reform with policy makers, experts, development partners, State officials/SA service delivery providers and SA policy beneficiaries.</p>		<p>Activity result 2.1:</p> <p>Short term national consultancy:</p> <p>Technical reActivity Activity result 2.1:</p> <p>Short term international and national consultancy:</p> <p>Field trip/Central and regional workshops:</p> <p>Technical reviews (including peer reviewing by nat. and intern. experts):</p> <p>Dissemination/printing:</p> <p>Activity result 2.2:</p> <p>Short term national consultancy:</p> <p>Technical reviews (including peer</p>
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⁷ Reference to and utilization of study results/assessments by WB, ILO, GIZ, etc., on the related contents.

<p>considered by the Government for the expansion of integrated and adequate social assistance, social insurance and social welfare and protection services</p> <p>Indicator 1: Number of draft policies/decrees/circulars in social protection that incorporate recommended options</p> <p>Baseline (2012): <i>Baseline study to be undertaken in 2013</i></p> <p>Target (2016): <i>Design, targeting, and financing options in agreed policy areas discussed with policy makers</i></p> <p>MoV: <i>One Plan</i></p>	<p>inclusiveness, progressiveness, efficiency and impacts on target groups of SA policies and schemes in Viet Nam.</p> <p><u>Annualized Targets</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2013 and 2014, study results/evidence based policy options/visions for harmonizing/consolidating current social assistance policies and schemes into fewer/more integrated and efficient, more inclusive and progressive policies/schemes identified, debated widely and adopted. - Vision/roadmap/action plan for harmonizing and consolidating SA policies and schemes, related institutional arrangements and financing options, implementation mechanisms and M&E framework are identified, debated widely, and adopted under the Master Plan on Social Assistance Reform (2013-2014). 	<p>2.2.3. Complete the Master SA policy system reform for appraisal and approval by the Government.</p> <p>Activity result 2.3: The roadmap/action plan to implement the Master plan for SA policy reform is formulated and promulgated.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>2.3.1. Support to development and wide consultation on the draft roadmap/action plan for implementation of the master-plan among policy makers, technical experts, development partners, State officials, SA service providers and SA policy beneficiaries to reach consensus.</p> <p>2.3.2. Support MoLISA, related Governmental agencies/line ministries and and provincial level in developing their specific plans (annually and every three years, with revisions) for implementation of the Action Plan of Master plan for SA policy reform.</p> <p>2.3.3. Support MoLISA and related Governmental agencies/line ministries to review the recommendations from the comprehensive capacity assessment (Act 2.1.4) and develop their capacity development plan as part of the SA reform implementation strategy</p> <p>2.3.4. Conduct relevant technical support to implement the capacity development plan like training workshops on change management in terms of organizational/institutional set-up and mechanisms of SA policy system and others in vision to phase II of the project</p>		<p>reviewing by nat. and intern. experts): Central and regional workshops: Dissemination/printing:</p> <p>Activity result 2.3: Short term national consultancy services: Field surveys: Consultation/policy discussions:</p> <p>Activity result 2.4: National multimedia services: Workshops: Dissemination/printing:</p> <p>Activity result 2.5: International and National consultancy: Studies/workshops:</p>
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<p><i>Outcome evaluation report 2015</i></p>		<p><u>Activity result 2.4:</u> Communication and capacity on the content of social assistance reforms to the beneficiaries and high level policy makers are enhanced.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u></p> <p>2.4.1. Develop multi-media tools to disseminate the agreed vision, roadmap and key policy discussions</p> <p>2.4.2. Organize information workshops for members of National Assembly, elected bodies and SA policy beneficiaries on the content of social assistance reforms</p> <p>2.4.3. Document and publish the conclusions /recommendations of all technical workshops/policy dialogues/policy papers</p> <p>2.4.4. Update knowledge on designing and implementation of SA/SP system for related Government officials through training courses organized by international organizations (HelpAge, EPRI and interested agencies).</p> <p>2.4.5. Learn from regional/international experience in formulating a comprehensive social protection policy.</p> <p><u>Activity results 2.5.</u> A project mid-term review is conducted to inform the relevance and scope of support for phase II of the project</p> <p><u>Activities:</u></p> <p>2.5.1. Review and document the project’s relevance, progress, efficiency and effectiveness</p> <p>2.5.2. Conduct discussions with national partners and international partners on the needs and scope to</p>	<p>Long term int. advisers for Output target 2:</p>
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		recommend for the formulation of phase II of the project.		
PHASE II (2015 – 2016): Support to implementation of social assistance policy system reform⁸				
	<p>Output target 3 (Phase II in 2015 – 2016): Social assistance policy system reform are smoothly implemented through supports in (i) development and effective implementation of the master-plan on social assistance reform based on minimum living standard, (ii) development of guidelines for application of the minimum living standard approach in identifying the target groups and support level of the Government, (iii) strengthened capacity of related agencies in terms of organizational arrangement for implementation of the master-plan, (iv) participatory and evidence based monitored and evaluated, and under a relevant legal framework.</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOLISA assigned by the GOVN to develop the action-plan for implementation of the 	<p>Activity result 3.1: Policy papers and their implementation instructions are revised and newly developed based on the research results and most relevant international experiences.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u></p> <p>3.1.1. Support to the implementation of the master-plan for SA policy reform, including support to harmonization (mainstreaming and consolidation), amendment and development of SA policies (with focus on poor group) through in-depth studies, international experience sharing, peer reviews of experts and people.</p> <p>3.1.2. Support to piloting and completing the mainstreaming/consolidating of some SA policies.</p> <p>3.1.3. Support to development of introductions for application of the minimum living standard approach in identifying the target groups and assistance level of the Government.</p> <p>3.1.4. Support to the amendment and completion of SA policy papers and submit them to the Government for appraisal/promulgation.</p> <p>Activity Result 3.2: Financial allocation mechanism and SA services are harmonized to increase effectiveness.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u></p>	<p>MOLISA, relevant Ministries, agencies and local levels</p>	<p>Activity result 3.1: Short-term inter. and nat. consultancy:.</p> <p>Thematic studies (including peer reviews by international and national experts): Pilot harmonization of SA policies:</p> <p>Activity result 3.2:</p> <p>Short-term inter. and nat. consultancy services and in-depth studies:.</p> <p>Field surveys:.</p> <p>Discussions/policy consultancy:.</p> <p>Printing:</p> <p>Activity result 3.3:</p>

⁸ Specific contents of the Phase II will be developed later. The contents herewith are basically directive.

	<p>Resolution 15-NQ/TW which set an important task of “<i>development the minimum living standard relevant to socioeconomic conditions functioning as a base for identifying the target social assistance beneficiaries</i>”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A number of tools currently exist which are of use in monitoring the progress and impact of social protection policies/schemes such as administrative records and reports of VSI/VHI/MOH/MOF on social/health /unemployment insurances, etc. VHLSS, Rapid Impact Monitoring (RIM) and some qualitative studies were used to monitor the impacts. - However, data collected are currently not adequate and systematically well documented, sufficiently disaggregated, widely shared/ disseminated and data are not used systematically and in an integrated/comprehensive way to track the progress and impacts of (and thus refining) 	<p>3.2.1. Support in-depth studies, international experience sharing.</p> <p>3.2.2. Conduct field surveys.</p> <p>3.2.3. Provide consultations, peer reviews from experts and people.</p> <p>3.2.4. Pilot and complete SA policy papers for the Government's appraisal and promulgation.</p> <p><u>Activity Result 3.3.</u> Capacity of SA policy delivery officers and service providers is increased to meet the implementation requirements of new policies and mechanisms.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u></p> <p>3.3.1. Built on the results of capacity assessment studies, feasibility studies and directive framework for SA policy reform (under the Activity results: 1.2, 2.1 and 2.2 above), support to development/suggestions of measures of capacity improvement for implementation of SA work at all levels.</p> <p>3.3.2. Support to wide consultation on the measures of capacity improvement for implementation of SA work among policy makers, technical experts, development partners, State officers/SA service providers and target beneficiaries of SA policies to reach consensus.</p> <p>3.3.3. Develop training documents, guidelines for implementation/dissemination about new policies and mechanisms.</p> <p>3.3.4. Conduct training of trainers courses (ToT).</p>		<p>Short-term inter. and nat. consultants: TOT courses and study tours: Workshops and training courses: Printing:</p> <p>Activity result 3.4: Short-term inter. and nat. consultancy services: Surveys and evaluations: Discussions/policy debates: Printing:</p> <p>Activity result 3.5: Short-term inter. and nat. consultants: Thematic studies (including peer reviews by international and national experts):</p>
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	<p>SP policies and schemes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of a specific law on social protection/social assistance to unify and legalize regulations on social protection/social assistance. <p><u>Indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The existence and operations of an integrated SA statistical indicator system with indicators, their disaggregation by sexes/ages/ethnicities/locations, frequencies/ responsibility and means of data collection and mechanisms for data sharing/dissemination. - The level of use of the system for monitoring the progress and impacts, and for refining SP policies and schemes. <p><u>Annualized Targets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An integrated SP statistical indicator system (with indicators, their disaggregation by sexes/ages/ethnicities/locations, frequencies/ responsibility and means of data collection and mechanisms for data sharing/dissemination) 	<p>3.3.5. Continue conduction of workshops on change management to meet the required capacity for managing the newly changed SA policy system (2.1.5 and 2.1.6).</p> <p>3.3.6. Continue assigning officers to participate in training courses on implementation of SA policies in Vietnam and the region.</p> <p>3.3.7. Learn experiences from the similar models of SA policy implementation in the world.</p> <p><u>Activity result 3.4.</u> SA policy reform process is participatory and evidence based monitored and evaluated.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u></p> <p>3.4.1. Develop the baselines based on the study results under the Output target 1.</p> <p>3.4.2. Develop indicator system, M&E framework of the roadmap/action-plan for implementation of the master-plan for SA policy reform.</p> <p>3.4.3. Develop tools for data collection: CRC tools, digitalized data tools.</p> <p>3.4.4. Conduct MTR on effectiveness, coverage and impacts of the SA policy system.</p> <p><u>Activity result 3.5:</u> Thematic studies are conducted to serve development of Law on social protection/assistance and its guidelines for implementation of the Law on social protection.</p> <p><u>Activities:</u></p> <p>3.5.1. Support MOLISA and Committee for social affairs/NA in conducting ex-ante impact assessments on RIA as well as other necessary</p>		<p>National and regional consultation workshops: Printing/dissemination: Long term international experts for Output target 3: Senior policy adviser (SPA):</p>
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	<p>developed/ officially issued (2014).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three thematic researches to inform NA/CSA and MOLISA on the needs and scope to formulate the Law on Social protection (2014-2015) - Roadmap/action plan for harmonizing and consolidating SA policies and schemes are implemented and monitored/evaluated and regularly updated (2015-2016). - SA statistical data (administrative record/report data) more reliable and objective, systematically and widely disseminated, stored and used for SP policy making (2015-2016). 	<p>thematic studies (in addition to those conducted under the Activity Result 2.1 above) to serve the development of the Law on Social protection.</p> <p>3.5.2. Support MOLISA and Committee for social affairs/NA in wide consultation about the draft Law on SP as well as consolidation of peer review reports on the draft Law on Social protection.</p> <p>3.5.3. Support MOLISA and Committee for social affairs/NA in wide dissemination about research results (conducted under the Activity result 2.1), RIA and other studies (under the Activity result 1.2) and wide consultation, consolidation of peer review reports to serve development of Law on Social protection.</p>		
	<p>Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops on implementation reviews and annual work-plan development: Project audit: Facilities, Project operation: 	<p>Staffing arrangement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senior Policy Adviser (SPA) (in 3 years and share budget with PRPP project in MOLISA and UPS project in HCM City): (this cost will be charged to relevant Output target of this project); - National Technical Coordinator on SP - roject secretary cum interpreter:. - Accounting assistant (newly recruited): 		

