

2015 Annual Project Progress Report

Project code & title: 00068992

“Support to implementation of Vietnam Statistical Development Strategy 2011-2020, Vision to 2030”

Report period: 1/1/2015 to 31/12/2015

Date of signature of AWP: 18/10/2012

Implementing partner: GENERAL STATISTICS OFFICE

Co-implementing partner(s):

Co-financing Donor(s):

Reported by: *Vu Thanh Liem*

PART A: TOTAL RESOURCES

Allocated resources	Approved budget (as in the originally approved AWP)	Actual budget (received as of 31 Dec /2015)			NIP and CIP Viet Nam (based on the quarterly FACE forms)	UNCO/INGO	Total	6= 5/2x100 (%)
		1	2	3				
Contribution of UN agency (USD):								
- Regular:	300,146		282,716			282,716	94.19%	
- Other sources:								
+ Source 1:								
+ Source 2:								
Total:	300,146		282,716			282,716	94.19%	
Government contribution:								
- In cash (VND):	920.000.000		719.735.156			719.735.156	74.47%	
- In cash (USD):	42,981		32,010			32,010	74.47%	
- In kind (VND):	574.117.647		574.117.647			574.117.647	100%	
- In kind (USD):	26,822		26,822			26,822	100%	
Total:	69,802		58,832			58,832	84.28%	

PART B: NARRATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. Context:

In 2015, the General Statistics Office's prioritized activities continued to focus on improvement of legal environment for statistical activities, enhancement of statistical advocacy and communication, statistical coordination, and improvement of statistical methodology and quality to ensure the timely provision of reliable statistical information for the socio-economic development plan making of leaders at different levels and economic forecast.

The Project "Support to implementation of Vietnam Statistical Development Strategy 2011-2020, Vision to 2030" was endorsed by the Prime Minister in late 2012, aiming at supporting the Viet Nam's Statistical System (VSS) in implementing the Viet Nam Statistical Development Strategy 2011-2020, Vision to 2030 (VSIDS). Specifically, the project focuses on improvement of the statistical legal framework, coordination mechanism of stakeholders in the VSS, data dissemination, statistical methodology and techniques in some prioritized fields, and M&E of the progress of implementing the VSIDS through achieving 4 outputs: (1) Statistical legal environment is improved and complied to ensure official statistical principles; (2) Capacity is improved; (3) Statistical methods are improved and conformed to international standards in all stages of data collection, processing, aggregation and analysis; and (4) the

implementation of VSDS 2011-2020, Vision to 2030 is closely coordinated between the agencies in the VSS and development partners and monitored and evaluated in a systematic and regular manner. The achievement of these outputs will particularly contribute to Output 1.1.1, Outcome 1.1 of One Plan 2012-2016, the monitoring and evaluation of the 5-year and annual Socio- Economic Development Plans, Socio- Economic Development Strategy 2011-2020, and MDGs/VDGs implementation.

The project's 2015 annual work plan was designed in close consultation with GSO's leadership and related Departments to ensure the strict alignment of its activities with the GSO's priority.

In the initial annual work plan for 2015, there were 10 activities. During the implementation process of the work plan, recognizing the unfeasibility of some activities and urgent needs from the GSO in carrying out newly-assigned tasks, the project consulted with UNDP to revise the work plan in October to ensure the feasibility and effectiveness of the supported activities.

In November 2015, given the changes in the government's timetable for a number of activities, the project worked with the UNDP to review and revise the AWP 2015. The final annual work plan for 2015 consisted of 9 activities. The total budget for 2015 activities was from \$300,146, unchanged compared to the budget allocated from the beginning of the year.

This report evaluates the project performance based on the final annual work plan. Among 9 activities planned for 2015, 7 activities have been completed fully, 2 activities are on-going meaning that they will be carried over to 2016. The budget delivery rate is about 94%.

2. Results Achieved:

Statistical information plays an increasingly important role and is a cross-cutting area related to all aspects of socio-economic life. The strengthened capacity of the VSS contributes information to monitoring, evaluating and making plan for all other focus areas in One Plan.

Results of the implementation of project activities showed that the project's supporting activities are stick to the targets of each output, very much aligned with the activities of the statistical system. All activities' products of the project are used as inputs for many important products of the VSS. The products of the project have received high appreciation of the VSS, data users and donors, which confirms that the activities of the project in 2015 achieve high efficiency.

Statistical legal environment

Improvement of statistical legal environment to ensure official statistical principles was still one of the prioritized activities of the VSS in 2015. Therefore, in 2015, the Project continued to support the GSO to revise the Statistics Law 2003 under the form of national consultant to render peer - review service for the final versions of the draft revised Statistics Law. The Project also supported the GSO to conduct consultation workshops to finalize the revised Statistics Law to submit to the Government and National Assembly. For this revised Statistics Law, the GSO developed a set of National Statistical Indicators with the most update indicators from Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be enclosed to the revised Statistics Law.

Also, in order to improve legal normative documents to be attached to the revised Statistics Law, the Project supported the GSO to review and revise the Decree No 79 on Sanction on administrative violations in statistics to be in line with the revised Statistics Law.

Statistics Law 2015 was approved by the National Assembly on 23/11/2015. On 18/12/2015, the Project supported the GSO to hold a Launching Workshop on Statistics Law 2015. The Statistics Law 2015 was approved in the context of Viet Nam completes 5-year socio-economic development plan for the period 2011-2015 and develops its next 5-year plan for the period 2016-2020. 2015 is the year when Viet Nam and other countries in the world finish the implementation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and approve Development Agenda to 2030 with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, assurance of data features of relevance, reliability, timeliness, coherence, comparability and accessibility is an indispensable condition for making plan, monitoring and evaluation of socio-economic development plans and policies. The Statistics Law 2015 is expected to be the highest legal document, creating legal environment in order to support Statistics Sector to perform well its functions in the new development period of the country: producing high-quality data to satisfy data users' needs and to leverage the VSS to a new ranking in the ASEAN and Asia Pacific region. In the context of deeper integration into the world in general and into the world statistics community in particular, the improvement of the legal environment for statistical activities is very meaningful for the development of the VSS, which then contribute to the achievement of One Plan output.

Advocacy for statistical activities

In order to further enhance communication and advocacy for statistical activities, in 2015, the Project supported the GSO to review and post statistical documents/materials on GSO website. Besides, the Project supported the GSO to hold workshops on raising awareness of statistical knowledge for different groups of data users. Under the support of Project, the GSO completed 02 types of documents on statistical knowledge for journalists and leaders; provided training workshops for data users including: Training workshop for press agencies on 26/11/2015 and Training workshop for MPI leaders on 17/12/2015.

Strengthening statistical methodology

The project's activities in 2015 continued to focus on the GSO's key and difficult statistical field, i.e. national account system (SNA). As a continuation of the Project's support in 2014 related to development of the Project "Changes in GRDP compilation procedures in provinces", in 2015, after Prime Minister signed Decision No 715/QĐ-TTg dated 22/5/2015 approving GRDP compilation procedures, the Project supported the GSO to develop a roadmap for the implementation of the project on "Changes of GDP compilation procedures in provinces". The roadmap is an important document for the GSO to jointly coordinate with relevant Ministries/agencies to successfully carry out the project "Changes in GRDP compilation procedures in provinces" in order to improve GDP data in Viet Nam, ensuring that the procedures of calculating GDP of Viet Nam follow internationally accepted standards and overcoming the discrepancies of data between the central and local levels, contributing to consolidate the trust of data users. Also in SNA field, the Project supported the GSO to develop IO table and IO table-based macro-economic analysis. So far, the GSO completed and released a publication "IO table 2012".

Statistical quality

Statistical information is being used by the Party, State, and leadership at all levels and branches as an important input for the process of developing, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of macro socio-economic policies. However, statistics quality in general and the quality of statistical data in particular in Viet Nam are heated issues in different forums.

In the recent years, Viet Nam has embarked in several reforms to improve statistics quality by renovating the legal system, enhancing data provision and sharing mechanism, technical procedures and mechanisms in each statistical field and steps of statistical process. The quality of Viet Nam statistics system has been evaluated and measured by a number of international organizations, such as UNDP, IMF, and WB, and General Statistics Office itself through standard assessment frameworks such as DQAF, GDDS and SDDS. Nevertheless, there is not any official assessment system in the Viet Nam Statistics System to monitor, evaluate and report the statistics quality of Viet Nam in a systematic, periodical and transparent manner.

In this context, in 2015, the Project supported GSO to develop a Project “Improvement of state management of statistical data quality” with the Institute of Statistical Science acting as GSO's focal point. This activity is being carried out by a consultant group including 01 international consultant and 03 national consultants. It is expected that this activity will be completed in the Quarter 1 of 2016. The results of this assignment will be a system of monitoring, evaluation and reporting of data quality in a systematic, periodical and transparent manner about Viet Nam statistics quality with standards, tools, process, task assignment and resource allocation to monitor, evaluate and report statistical quality generally as well as each step in statistical work. This system will provide consistent, comparable and accountable information and criteria on assessment as well as strengths, weaknesses, lessons learnt and “bottle necks” hindering improvement of data quality of the entire system as well as each field and step. Also, it should identify difficulties/challenges, solutions and roadmap for implementation in order to further improve the quality, transparency and accountability of statistical data in the State Statistics System. This process should define a feedback mechanism for relevant agencies in addressing shortcomings and “bottlenecks”. Clear criteria and information will help data users understand more about quality and raise their trust on the provided data, avoid worrying and misunderstanding.

Joint mechanism between GSO and development partners supporting the implementation of VSIDS and its action plans

The close coordination between GSO and development partners is an effective cooperation channel and consultancy for GSO to mobilize technical assistance from development partners for its implementation of Viet Nam Statistical Development Strategy. Therefore, in 2015, the Project continued to support the GSO to conduct a GSO-DP Workshop. The workshop was successfully organized on 11/9/2015.

Support to evaluate VSIDS implementation

In order to monitor and evaluate the VSIDS implementation to measure progress against targets, identify challenges during implementation, and draw lessons learnt to ensure efficiency of VSIDS implementation, the Project supported the GSO to conduct midterm-review of VSIDS implementation. This activity is carried out in both 2015 and 2016. At present, a consultant group including 01 international consultant and 03 national consultants is conducting this assignment as pointed out in the TOR.

3. Lessons and Recommendations

The experience in 2015 has given the project a few lessons that the project should think over in devising the 2016 work plan:

- Given the GSO's prioritized activities, annual work plan should design some activities which can be carried over to the following year so that in the Quarter 1 of the next year, some activities are conducted, avoiding the case where Quarter 1 is just for developing the TOR.
- Since 2016 is the last year of the project cycle, the 2016 work plan, once devised, should allocate most activities for the two first quarters in order to ensure the completeness of all activities upon the time the project ends.
- The work plan should be designed in close alignment with the VSS's/GSO's prioritized activities in the year.
- During the implementation of the project's activities, the annual/quarterly work plan should be flexibly adjusted taking into account the changes in the government's timetable and urgent needs of the VSS.
- The work plan should be circulated to the corresponding Deputy Director General who is in charge of the respective focal point departments. The Project needs to work very closely with focal point departments in the GSO to get their attention and involvement in Project activities.
- With regard to coordination activities with GSO's departments, it is advisable to maintain the regular (every half a month) discussion and meetings with them to ensure smooth implementation of activities as well as to trace their performance so that if necessary the Project can provide immediate support to them.

2015 ANNUAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Project code and title: 83825- Award ID: 00068992- Support to implementation of Vietnam Statistical Development Strategy 2011-2020, Vision to 2030
 Implementing Partner: General Statistics Office of Vietnam

PROJECT OUTPUTS, INDICATORS AND ANNUAL TARGETS & ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENT	2	DEGREE OF ACHIEVEMENT			DISBURSEMENT VS. PLANNED BUDGET			Pending issues, reasons for adjustment, emerging issues and recommendations
		PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENT	Fully Completed	In Progress	Not Started	Source of funding (*)	Planned Amount (***) (USD)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<p>Output 1: Statistical legal environment improved and complied to ensure official statistical principles</p> <p>Indicators: - Level of compatibility of the revised Statistics Law and under-law documents with official statistical principles (UNSD), especially in ensuring (i) collection of objective, reliable and timely data, (ii) users' transparent access to data. - Level of</p>	<p>Activity Result 1.1. The Statistics Law 2003 revised and a Decree and/or under-law documents regulating and guiding in details the implementation of (provisions of) the revised Statistics Law formulated and issued in conformation with international standards/practices, with high feasibility, and via a wide consultation process.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1.1. Support to the revisions of the Statistics Law (including peer-reviews) - Achievement: The Project supported the GSO to revise the Statistics Law 2003 under the form of national consultants to render peer - review service for the final versions of the draft revised Statistics Law. For this revised Statistics Law, the GSO developed a set of National Statistical Indicators with the most update indicators from Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Also, in order to improve legal normative documents to be attached to the revised Statistics</p>	<p>x</p>		<p>TRAC</p>	<p>12,180</p>	<p>12,180</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>Completed</p>	

<p>availability and effectiveness of under-law documents guiding in details the implementation of the Law</p> <p>- Level of awareness and knowledge of the Statistics Law and related legal documents of staff in statistical agencies, policy making and supervising agencies.</p> <p>Targets:</p> <p>- By the end of 2015, final draft of the revised Statistics Law submitted to the NA for endorsement</p> <p>- By the end of 2015, Decree guiding the implementation of the Revised Statistics Law submitted to the PM for approval.</p> <p>- By the end of 2015, statistical knowledge and awareness of legal</p>	<p>Law, the Project supported the GSO to review and revise the Decree No 79 on Sanction on administrative violations in statistics to be in line with the revised Statistics Law.</p>								
<p>Activity 1.1.2. Organize consultation workshops on versions of the revised Statistics Law</p> <p>- Achievement: The Project supported the GSO to conduct consultation workshops to finalize the revised Statistics Law to submit to the Government and National Assembly.</p> <p>On 18/12/2015, the Project supported the GSO to hold a Launching Workshop on Statistics Law 2015.</p>	<p>Activity 1.1.2. Organize consultation workshops on versions of the revised Statistics Law</p> <p>- Achievement: The Project supported the GSO to conduct consultation workshops to finalize the revised Statistics Law to submit to the Government and National Assembly.</p> <p>On 18/12/2015, the Project supported the GSO to hold a Launching Workshop on Statistics Law 2015.</p>	x		TRAC	26,556	41,801	157.41%	Completed	
<p>Statistics Law submitted to the PM for approval.</p> <p>- By the end of 2015, statistical knowledge and awareness of legal</p>	<p>Activity Result 1.3. Awareness and knowledge of the Statistics Law and under-law documents of leaders and staff in statistical offices, policy making and inspection/supervision agencies, and community improved and applied to the implementation of the Statistics Law.</p> <p>Activity 1.3.3.1. Support to review and upload statistical documents on the GSO's website.</p> <p>- Achievement: The national consultant recruited to conduct this activity completed his work.</p>	x		TRAC	5,100	5,100	100%	Completed	

<p>statistical documents improved for different targeted groups as well as wider community.</p>	<p>Activity 1.3.3.2. Support to conduct workshops for propagandizing statistics to targeted groups of data users - Achievement: The project recruited 01 national consultant to support the GSO to develop materials for conduct training workshops for propagandizing statistics to targeted groups of data users. This activity contributes to improvement of awareness of different groups of data users of statistics.</p>	<p>x</p>		<p>TRAC</p>	<p>20458</p>	<p>19,980</p>	<p>97.66%</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Total for Output 1:</p>					<p>64,294</p>	<p>79,060</p>	<p>123%</p>	
<p>Output 3. Statistical methods improved and conformed to international standards in all stages of data collection, processing, aggregation and analysis Indicators: - Adequacy of materials guiding the implementation of environment statistics. - Improvement of knowledge of sectoral and provincial statistical reporting systems - Availability of a</p>	<p>Activity Result 3.2. National statistical survey program reviewed and updated, and a standard survey procedure developed and issued for consistent application to avoid duplication and ensure the quality and timeliness of surveys Activity 3.2.1. Support to develop a project on "Improvement of state management of statistical data quality" - Achievements: The consultant group, including 01 IC and 03 NC are conducting their assignments in accordance with the TOR. The results of this assignment will be a system of monitoring, evaluation and reporting of data quality in a systematic, periodical and transparent manner about Viet Nam statistics quality with standards, tools, process, task assignment and resource allocation to monitor, evaluate and report statistical quality generally as well as each step in statistical work. This system will provide</p>			<p>TRAC</p>	<p>39,098</p>	<p>38,061</p>	<p>97.35%</p>	<p>On-going</p>

<p>master sample frame for household surveys and large number of household surveys using master sample frame, improvement of sample selection and questionnaire.</p> <p>- Quality of national accounts data and users' satisfaction of national accounts data.</p> <p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project on "Improvement of state management of statistical data quality" completed and approved by MPI for implementation - A roadmap for implementation of GRDP project endorsed by the Prime Minister - A macroeconomic analysis completed based on the updated IO tables and widely shared with relevant stakeholders 	<p>consistent, comparable and accountable information and criteria on assessment as well as strengths, weaknesses, lessons learnt and "bottle necks" hindering improvement of data quality of the entire system as well as each field and step. Also, it will identify difficulties/challenges, solutions and roadmap for implementation in order to further improve the quality, transparency and accountability of statistical data in the State Statistics System. This process should define a feedback mechanism for relevant agencies in addressing shortcomings and "bottlenecks". Clear criteria and information will help data users understand more about quality and raise their trust on the provided data, avoid worrying and misunderstanding.</p>								
<p>Activity Result 3.5. SNA 2008 by international standard applied, and capacity of development and analysis of Input-Output Table improved.</p>									
<p>Activity 3.5.1. Support to update an IO table and macroeconomic analysis based on this IO Table (This activity is carried over from 2014)</p> <p>- Achievement: The consultant team recruited by the project completed their work in accordance with the TOR. The products of the consultant team were used by the GSO to release a publication "IO table 2012". This book is widely distributed to different data users.</p>	x			TRAC	10,330	10,330	100%	Completed	

<p>Output 4: The implementation of VSIDS 2011-2020, Vision to 2030 closely coordinated between the agencies in the VSS and development partners, and monitored and evaluated in a systematic and regular manner</p>	<p>Activity 3.5.2. Support to develop a roadmap for the implementation of the project on "Changes of GDP compilation procedures in provinces"</p> <p>- Achievement: The 2 NCs recruited to conduct this activity completed their work. The roadmap is an important document for the GSO to jointly coordinate with relevant Ministries/agencies to successfully carry out the project "Changes in GRDP compilation procedures in provinces" in order to improve GDP data in Viet Nam, ensuring that the procedures of calculating GDP of Viet Nam follow internationally accepted standards and overcoming the discrepancies of data between the central and local levels, contributing to consolidate the trust of data users</p> <p>Total for Output 3:</p>	x			TRAC	21,000	17,000	87.23%	Completed
<p>Output 4: The implementation of VSIDS 2011-2020, Vision to 2030 closely coordinated between the agencies in the VSS and development partners, and monitored and evaluated in a systematic and regular manner</p>	<p>Activity Result 4.2. A joint mechanism (between GSO and development partners) supporting the implementation of VSIDS and its action plans established and operated effectively.</p> <p>Activity 4.2.1. Support to GSO in convening meetings of GSO-DP partnership (including support to prepare documents/reports/topics for annual meeting of GSO-DP partnership in 2014 and 2015)</p> <p>- Achievement: 1 national consultant was recruited to prepare the documents for the mid-year GSO-DP Partnership meeting which was conducted in September</p>						65,391	92.85%	

<p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timeliness and usefulness of information and data to measure progress against objectives, to identify difficulties to be addressed in a timely manner, and to draw lessons in the implementation of VSDS, and its action plans. - Availability and effectiveness of inter-agency coordination mechanisms (among statistical agencies of Vietnam) (i) in statistical activities in general and (ii) in the implementation of VSDS and its action plans in particular. - Alignment and harmonisation of supports of development partners for the Statistics sector through the support to the implementation of VSDS and its action plans of. <p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A mid-term review 	<p>2015.</p> <p>The close coordination between GSO and development partners is an effective cooperation channel and consultancy for GSO to mobilize technical assistance from development partners for its implementation of Viet Nam Statistical Development Strategy. Therefore, in 2015, the Project continued to support the GSO to conduct a GSO-DP Workshop. The workshop was successfully organized on 11/9/2015.</p>	x			TRAC	4,355	4,355	100%	Completed
<p>mechanisms (among statistical agencies of Vietnam) (i) in statistical activities in general and (ii) in the implementation of VSDS and its action plans in particular.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alignment and harmonisation of supports of development partners for the Statistics sector through the support to the implementation of VSDS and its action plans of. <p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A mid-term review 	<p>Activity Result 4.4 Baseline assessment and mid-term review of the implementation of VSDS carried out to provide information for measuring progress against goals, identifying problems to be addressed in a timely manner, and drawing lessons from the implementation to ensure effective implementation of VSDS.</p> <p>Activity 4.4.2. Support to mid-term review of the VSDS implementation (This activity will be carried over 2016)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achievement: In order to monitor and evaluate the VSDS implementation to measure progress against targets, identify challenges during implementation, and draw lessons learnt to ensure efficiency of VSDS implementation, the Project supported the GSO to conduct mid-term-review of VSDS implementation. This activity is carried out in both 2015 and 2016. At present, a consultant group including 01 international consultant and 03 national consultants is conducting this assignment as pointed out in the TOR. It is expected that this 	x			TRAC and OPF	41,077	15,030	36.59%	On-going

of VSDS implementation conducted	activity will completed in Quarter 2 2016.									
	Total for Output 4:							45,432	19,385	42.67%
	PROJECT MANAGEMENT							64,134	63,022	98.27%
GRAND TOTAL:								300,146	282,716	94.20%

Prepared by:



Hoang Thi Thanh Ha
Date: 15 Jan 2015

Approved by:



Vu Thanh Liem
Date: 15 Jan 2015