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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS (UNDAF)

PLAN-CADRE DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ASSISTANCE AU DÉVELOPPEMENT (UNDAF)

MARCO DE ASISTENCIA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL DESARROLLO (UNDAF)

وثائق إطار الأمم المتحدة للمساعدات الإنمائية

VIET NAM

The Secretariat of the World Food Programme presents the attached document to the Executive Board, for information. Please note that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) documents for Mozambique, Madagascar, Mali and Viet Nam are only available in the language in which they were produced.

Le Secrétariat du Programme alimentaire mondial présente au Conseil d'administration le document ci-après pour information. L'on notera que les Plans-cadres des Nations Unies pour l'assistance au développement (UNDAF) pour le Mozambique, Madagascar, le Mali et le Viet Nam sont disponibles uniquement dans la langue dans laquelle ils ont été rédigés.

La Secretaría del Programa Mundial de Alimentos presenta el documento adjunto a la Junta Ejecutiva a título informativo. Se ruega tomen nota de que los Marcos de Asistencia de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (UNDAF) correspondientes a Mozambique, Madagascar, Mali y Viet Nam solamente están disponibles en el idioma en que fueron preparados.

تقدم أمانة برنامج الأغذية العالمي الوثائق التالية للمجلس التنفيذي للعلم والإحاطة بمحتواها. نلفت النظر إلى أن وثائق إطار الأمم المتحدة للمساعدات الإنمائية لكل من موزمبيق ومدغشقر ومالي وفيتنام، متوفرة باللغة التي كتبت بها فحسب.

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**UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK
FOR THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
1998-2000**

Reaching Out to Serve Better

Hanoi, 15 May 1998

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Mission Statement United Nations in Viet Nam

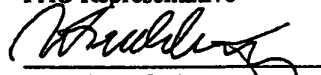
We, the UN Country Team in Viet Nam, are committed to supporting the national goals of Viet Nam to achieve social and economic development with equity and sustainability through a people centred development, and thereby, to reduce poverty. Our overriding mission is to help the people of Viet Nam in its fight against poverty through support to programmes that expand choices and enlarge opportunities for especially disadvantaged communities, families and individuals, by addressing the underlying causes of their poverty.

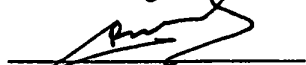
Using people-centred approaches, our programmes are intended to reach out to and directly benefit the poor - in particular women, children and youth, farmers, and workers. This will be achieved through support to fulfilment of basic human needs, achievement of improved environmental protection and natural resource management, rural development and good governance. Respecting the specific culture of Viet Nam, and in accordance with the principles contained in the fundamental UN instruments, we will strive to provide the best advice and develop national capacity. Participation, information, creation of public awareness and dissemination of best practices are all part of this process.

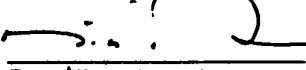
We will continue to play a catalytic role within the ODA community to promote national development objectives and to strengthen national capacity for effective aid coordination and management. We are committed to using the ongoing UN Development Assistance Framework process as an opportunity for closer policy and operational collaboration with international financial institutions, bilateral donors and international NGOs. The World Bank wishes in particular to associate itself closely with the process and its objectives, and is committed to close collaboration with the UN agencies in realizing its Country Assistance Strategy.

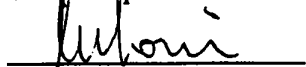
We are committed to a process of continuing self-evaluation and change. Working as partners, while preserving the unique strengths and identities of our agencies, we aim to improve our own coordination, effectiveness and efficiency in order to provide the best possible service to the Government and people of Viet Nam. The UN Development Assistance Framework identifies areas for joint action and opportunities for maximising impact through agreed objectives and a shared timeframe.


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FAO Representative



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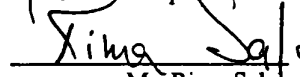

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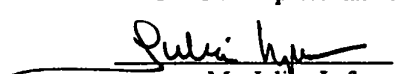

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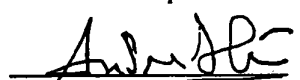

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I. The UNDAF Preparation Process

1. One of United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan's proposals to achieve greater integration and impact of UN development activities at the country level, was the formulation of a United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In his comprehensive report on United Nations reform, the Secretary General stated, that: "*In order to achieve goal-oriented collaboration, programmatic coherence and mutual reinforcement, the United Nations programmes of assistance will be formulated and presented as part of a single United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) with common objectives and time-frame.*". Viet Nam was selected as one of initially eleven pilot countries to prepare an UNDAF.

2. The UNDAF preparation process in Viet Nam was launched at a Heads of Agency meeting in September 1997. A Working Group comprising focal points of the funds and programmes with field-level representation in Viet Nam (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP) was established. The Working Group was later expanded and - as reflected on the sign-off page - the entire UN System with operational activities in Viet Nam became involved in the process and committed itself to the resulting document and process. Limited consultancy assistance was sought for compiling Common Country Assessment (CCA) indicators and for drafting a preliminary outline of two chapters to stimulate discussion among the UN Country Team.

3. The UN Country Team (with participation of the World Bank) held a retreat 10-12 October 1997 to discuss, among other issues, the UNDAF exercise. The agencies committed themselves to working closer together and be speaking more with one voice. Besides the wishes expressed to do a good UNDAF document (*product*), it was realized that the UNDAF formulation exercise was not the least also a team-building *process*. A consensus was reached on the focus areas of future UN development activities in Viet Nam.

4. The Government was formally notified of the UNDAF exercise in a letter addressed to the Minister for Planning and Investment in October 1997. Also in October, the donor community in Viet Nam was informed about UNDAF at the monthly Donor Group Meeting, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator. The first round of consultations among UN staff and project advisors took place in December with the involvement of two UNDAF facilitators, provided by HQs. On the basis of this first round of consultations and subsequent meetings of the focus area groups, a zero draft document was formulated and reviewed by the Working Group. Viet Nam was selected to present its experiences to a joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA and UNICEF in New York in January 1998. In preparation for this, a meeting was held in Hanoi with locally represented board members to brief them on the formulation process and solicit their views on UNDAF and UN reform in general.

5. By March 1998, a first draft document was ready and a second round of consultations was undertaken, this time reaching out to government, the National Assembly, mass organisations, international NGOs and bilateral donors. In parallel, comments were obtained from non-resident UN agencies and individual agency HQs. Having incorporated comments - as considered appropriate by the Country Team - the framework document was signed by the Country Team on 15 May.

6. Among the lessons learned of the preparation process, has been the importance of initiating the process through a team-building retreat among Heads of Agencies to ensure a shared commitment and common approach to the exercise. Facilitation by outsiders, if necessary, should take place as early as possible in the process. Likewise, it is important to get a wide spectrum of national and international staff and advisors involved at an early stage. The document being a UN document meant that the Government did not involve itself fully in the formulation exercise, which will be addressed as part of the commitment to reaching out better in the future. A number of valuable spin-off effects were derived from the UNDAF preparation process, such as the formulation of Issues Papers (on follow-up to world conferences), the CCA indicators and the revitalization of theme groups.

7. However, a number of constraints in preparing the present document must be recognized. Some are due to the very nature of being a pilot country and some to the timing of the exercise. Since the funds and programmes had already approved their individual country programmes, the subsequent formulation of a framework document was inevitably inconsistent with the ideal logical sequencing. Furthermore, the framework document only covers until year 2000, when the programming cycles of the funds and programmes will be harmonized. The ambitions of the Country Team grew as time got scarce and the specialized agencies became increasingly engaged in the process. The present document is therefore to be considered a work in progress, which will show its true value through its impact on the next generation of country programmes.

II. Viet Nam's Major Development Challenges

8. The 1997 *Human Development Report* classified Viet Nam as having a medium Human Development Index rating (ranking 121 of 175 nations) and medium Gender-related Development Index rating (ranking 101 of 146 nations). Despite a GDP per capita in 1997 of only US\$332 (UN estimate calculated on the basis of General Statistical Office data), Viet Nam ranks high on some social development indicators: in 1994 life expectancy was 66 years (female 69.1; male 63.6), with 93% adult literacy (female 89.9; male 95.7), and 90% access to health services (1990-95). In its 1994 *Multi-Purpose Household Survey*, the Government estimated that about one-fifth of the population is "very poor". However, the *Viet Nam Living Standard Survey* conducted in 1992-93 with funding from UNDP and SIDA revealed that by using a marginally higher income-based poverty line, half of the country's population of (then) 72 million people lived in poverty. In any case, 90% of poverty in Viet Nam is rural, with the poorest regions being the Central Highlands, the Northern Uplands, and the North Central Coast.

9. For a foreseeable future, economic growth, which is a necessary - albeit not sufficient - precondition for poverty alleviation, will originate primarily from the industrial sector. A major challenge is to create a conducive environment for domestic and foreign industrial investment, in particular private sector investment, thereby spurring economic growth and creating job opportunities for the more than one million new entrants to the labour market each year.

10. The policy of *doi moi* (renovation) adopted in 1986 (see para. 18) has proven successful in promoting both economic growth and poverty reduction. Over the last decade *doi moi* has galvanized the talents and energies of millions of people, stimulating rapid economic growth, curbing inflation and transforming agricultural, industrial and commercial activities. It has stimulated exports and imports, attracted greatly increased foreign investment and promoted the transfer of technology. The results have been increasing employment as a key strategy for combatting poverty, higher real incomes and improved quality of life for most of Viet Nam's citizens, a significant reduction in the prevalence of poverty, and, especially for the young people, a much broader range of occupational choice and much brighter prospects for human development. At the same time, however, the reform process has tended to be crisis-driven rather than anticipated by policy makers, which may cause the same policy makers to miss the opportunities to chart a new phase of reform much earlier and more effectively.

11. A number of problems have resulted from the reform process: widening disparities in income and lifestyles, particularly between urban and rural areas. Ethnic minorities have been particularly hard hit by these changes. Ethnic minority women are generally among the most constrained of all social groups, having the least access to education and off-farm opportunities. Other emerging social problems are the growing number of street children, use of child labour, child trafficking, prostitution, drug trafficking and abuse. Uneven development naturally occurs as the market rewards talents and resources according to relative scarcity, productivity and location, but beyond a certain point, this can be economically and socially disruptive. The Government has, however, made efforts to curb the rise of these problems, which are referred to in total as "social evils". The Government as well as the State and the Communist Party has paid attention to gender and ethnic minorities issues, and has for instance developed preferential treatment systems and established specialized institutions to address the issues. Women deputies in the National Assembly make up 26% of the total number of deputies, which is higher than the regional average as well as the world at large.

12. The rising living standards have helped families to better master their fertility, the total rate of which has declined from 3.8% in 1989 to 3.1% in 1994 (*Inter Censal Demographic Survey, 1994*). The Government recognizes, however, that several challenges remain inherent to the dynamics of Viet Nam's continued population growth; nearly 60% of the population is under 25 years of age and the pressure on natural resources is growing. 11 persons have to share one hectare of cropland, the highest pressure on land in the sub-region.

13. There are many gender disparities in Viet Nam, most obvious in the workforce. In rural areas women's workload is increasing as more men migrate to the cities in search of employment. Women also have a disproportional amount of housework, on average 3 hours per day, compared to an average of 12 minutes for men. Poverty affects women more adversely than men with a higher percentage of women and girls malnourished, leading to indicators which show that 30-50% of pregnant women are anemic (National Institute of Nutrition, 1992). Some recent studies also indicate an increasing literacy gap between the sexes.

14. Viet Nam's economic reform process coupled with the country's "open door" policy has led to significant foreign direct investments as well as an increase in pledges of official development assistance (ODA). Over the period 1996-2000, the Government hopes to mobilize and invest US\$21 billion of domestic savings, US\$13 billion of foreign direct investment (FDI) and US\$7.5 billion of ODA. Despite recent economic developments in the region, the target of US\$13 billion of FDI remains within reach if the Government lives up to its stated intent of streamlining foreign investment procedures. In terms of ODA, Viet Nam succeeded in getting a total pledge of US\$2.4 billion at the most recent Consultative

Group meeting (Tokyo, 11-12 December 1997). This was the same amount as pledged at the previous year's Consultative Group meeting, which in turn was up from US\$2.3 billion in 1995. A significant achievement in light of the declining global trend in ODA, the region's financial crisis, and the depreciation of a number of major currencies in the region.

15. ODA disbursements have been improving with estimated disbursements of more than US\$1 billion in 1997 compared with only US\$0.74 billion disbursed in 1996. Preliminary data suggest that disbursements are rising due to certain large infrastructure projects, so while there may be some volatility in total disbursements (caused largely by swings in general balance of payments lending), the general trend appears upward. It is clear, however, that the Government's capacity to plan, coordinate, manage, and effectively absorb large amounts of ODA needs further strengthening. The distribution of ODA between urban and rural areas continues to improve, although total spending of ODA in social sectors decreased by almost 10% to US\$168 million (from US\$187 million in 1995), constituting only 17% of total ODA. Spending on basic social services (basic education, primary health care, family planning, low-cost water and sanitation and nutrition programmes) represents only 12% of ODA outlays, well short of the 20% target set in the 20:20 initiative adopted at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development (*Overview of Official Development Assistance in Viet Nam*, UNDP, 1997).

16. Viet Nam's population has doubled since 1968, now standing at 78 million. As a result of this rapid and continued population growth, further agricultural expansion will push onto more sensitive lands including steep hillsides, coastal zones, wetlands, and acidic soils. Agricultural intensification will result in the use of more herbicides, pesticides, fertilizer and irrigation water. Larger portions of the population will move into the cities where infrastructure remains inadequate for wastewater treatment, solid waste collection and air pollution control. The industrial sector will continue to grow rapidly. In a short term perspective existing enterprises with outdated technology will continue to cause environmental damages. In a medium to long term perspective these enterprises will, however, gradually become technically defunct. Therefore the most important challenge is to ensure that new enterprises apply cleaner production methods with a view to minimize the negative environmental impact.

17. Many of the root causes of environmental degradation will remain in the near future. In addition to population growth, these include: (1) lack of government capacity to follow-up on commitments to environmentally sustainable development, especially within the large state-owned industrial sector which is generally unresponsive to environmental control measures; (2) inadequate environmental monitoring, with a resulting lack of reliable and comprehensive baseline data; (3) weak implementation of sectoral master plans and environmental laws; (4) limited public awareness of environmental issues and high tolerance of environmental degradation; (5) inadequate mechanism for financing environmental protection measures, coupled with government monopolies over major resources with their inherent economic inefficiencies.

National development goals

18. In 1986 the Sixth National Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam adopted the policy of *doi moi*, a policy for comprehensive renovation of the society based on three fundamentals:

- shifting from a centralized planned economy based chiefly on public ownership of the means of production to a market-oriented economy with state management and a socialist orientation;
- democratizing social life with the aim of developing the rule of law in a state of the people, by the people and for the people;
- implementing an open door policy and promoting cooperation and relations with all other countries in the world, developing amicable relations for peace, independence and development.

19. The Authorities' long-term economic objective is to industrialize and modernize so that Viet Nam can move from an economy dominated by agriculture towards becoming a newly industrialized economy. The country's development goals are as follows:

- an annual GDP growth rate of 9 to 10%, with the emphasis on industrialization and modernization, and increase real income per capita by eight to ten fold by the year 2020;
- a balance between economic and social development, with special attention to hunger eradication and poverty reduction through food security for all and expanding choices for the poor, with the goal of halving the poverty rate by the year 2000 and eliminating all causes of poverty by 2010;
- a replacement level of fertility by the year 2005;

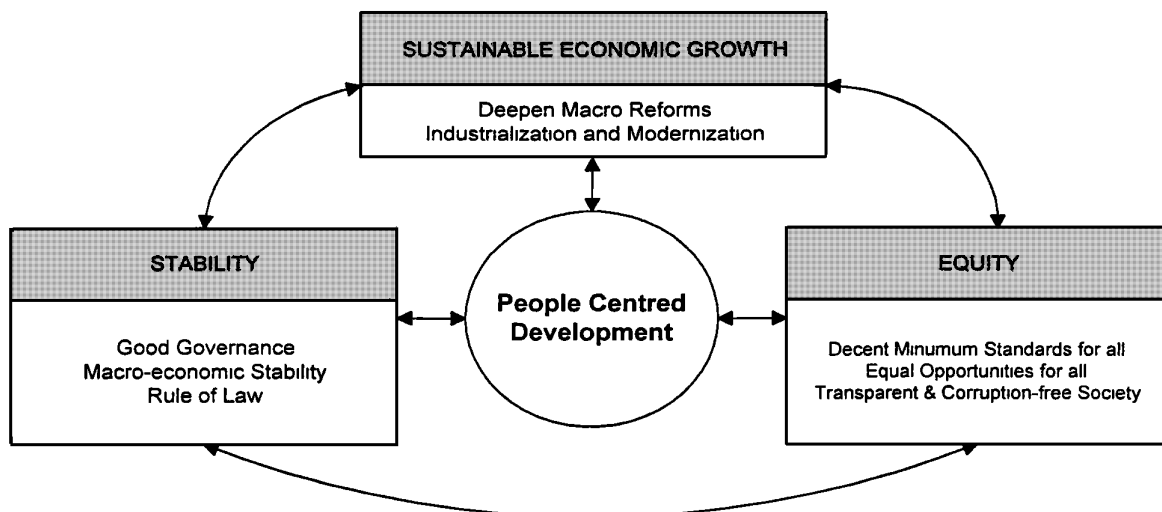
- the creation of conditions to ensure strong, sustainable growth, associated with peoples' empowerment through education and technical, vocational and skills training, to reduce unemployment, create environmentally responsible citizens, an improved infrastructure and a better functioning of the market mechanisms.

20. The Government's Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction programme targets directly the poor to make them more active in their own development. Featured interventions include increasing access to land for the poor, micro-credit for the poor and other support facilities for promoting employment and income generation, rural infrastructure for poor communes, vocational training, technology transfer, increasing access of the poor to basic health and education, and special support for the disabled poor. The programme will attempt to make every citizen food secure in the first two to three years of the 1996-2000 five year plan, firstly in regions where ethnic minority groups live, the highlands, remote areas, and in areas which are prone to natural disasters. The programme's longer-term goal is the reduction and ultimate elimination of poverty in Viet Nam. At the December 1997 Consultative Group Meeting the Government reiterated its commitment to ensure that reforms will be socio-economic balanced and assured that priority ODA funds will go to education, health care, creating opportunities for women including access to employment and incomes and child protection including elimination of child labour.

Key national development strategies

21. The Government stressed in its country report to the 1995 World Summit for Social Development that high and sustainable economic growth is essential to overcoming poverty and other social problems. The Government also has emphasized that stability and equity are critical to sustaining high economic growth. The inter-relationship between these three elements can be likened to a "three legged stool":

Figure 1: The Government of Viet Nam's Socio-Economic Development Strategy



22. As the Government explained in its publication *Strategy for Socio-Economic Stabilization and Development Until the Year 2000*: "an important objective of the strategy is to put people at the very centre of development - the development process must be implemented by the people for the people in order to realize a strong and sustainable development". In its report prepared for the 1995 World Social Summit for Social Development, the Government further articulated this approach as "a strategy which is centred on the task of caring for, fostering, and developing human potential, which considers human beings as the most powerful engine of development, the creative energy, the source of material and spiritual wealth of a society". The Viet Nam Country Report to the 1995 World Conference on Women states that "Vietnamese women have formed and continue to form a source of labour with great potential and at the same time constitute a strong motivating force for the implementation of the country's strategy for socio-economic development aimed at achieving equality and development through wealth for the people, strength for the country and a just and civilised society for all."

23. Speaking to the National Assembly in September 1997 Prime Minister Mr. Phan Van Khai outlined the six priorities for further implementation of the *doi moi* reforms, priorities that was subsequently reflected in the Government Report to the December 1997 Consultative Group meeting:

- improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the economy, mainly through creating a favorable incentives environment for export processing industries;
- develop agriculture and rural areas towards industrialization and modernization, by, among others, reconsidering the land tenure regime and removing constraints on trading of agricultural products (especially rice);
- promote state enterprise reform and private enterprise, private enterprise as well as small and micro enterprises with job-creation potential;
- reform the financial and banking sector by, inter alia, reforming tax policy and creating a transparent and sustainable public expenditure policy;
- develop the social sectors and protect the environment, through national programmes on employment and hunger eradication, improved health and education services, establishing health insurance and social security, social relief funds, protecting of workers' rights and national programmes on environmental management; and
- build a democratic, honest, competent, and effective administration, by, among others, simplifying administrative procedures, strengthening decentralization of administrative powers and improving civil servant's wage regime.

Country priorities for follow-up to World Conferences

24. Viet Nam has participated in the various United Nations sponsored world conferences and in most cases translated relevant measures into national plans of action. Specific follow-up action, however, has often been hampered by institutional, legal and financial constraints. A summary of the Government's follow-up to international conferences is provided as Annex A. As part of the UNDAF process, Issues Papers has been made on follow-up in Viet Nam to the Social Summit, the Food Summit, the Children's Summit, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Rio Conference on Environment and Development (including Rio+5) and the Beijing Women's Conference.

25. Of the various conferences and summits sponsored by the United Nations in the last decade, the 1990 World Summit for Children, the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, the 1995 World Summit on Social Development and the 1996 World Food Summit have had most relevance to Viet Nam's economic and social development targets.

26. The 1990 World Summit for Children's recommendations were translated into a national *Plan of Action for Child Survival, Development and Protection* and Viet Nam was the first country in Asia to ratify the Convention of the Rights of the Child and translated it into national laws. As a direct follow-up to the Worldwide Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990), Viet Nam formulated a *Plan of Action for Education for All*. The 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women was translated into a national *Plan of Action for the Advancement of Vietnamese Women by the Year 2000*. The commitments of the Summit on Social Development were reflected in the Government's *Five Year Socio-Economic Plan (1996-2000)*, including annual plans with concrete targets and measures. The follow-up to world conferences thus offer a strong conceptual basis for development assistance to Viet Nam, giving it a social, people-centered and gender sensitive dimension.

27. The Viet Nam Women's Union and the National Committee for the Advancement of Women have provided an exemplary example for follow-up to a UN Conference. Besides translating the commitments of the Fourth World Conference on Women into a National Plan of Action, providing specific targets for individual government departments, Committees for the Advancement of Women has been established in each province to ensure the implementation of the Plan of Action. Many of these committees have further developed their own Provincial Plan of Action.

Other country priorities related to UNDAF

28. The 1995 *Country Strategy Note (CSN)* identified three main areas for support from the United Nations System: i) social development; ii) economic, legal and public administration reform; and iii) environment and natural resource management. Since completion of the CSN, the Government and the UN have identified a complementary fourth focus - rural development - in recognition that 90% of Viet Nam's poor live in rural areas.

Box 1: Monitoring the Implementation of the 20:20 Initiative.

The 20:20 initiative was adopted at the World Summit on Social Development that was held in Copenhagen in March 1995. The 20:20 initiative proposes that, on average, 20% of government budgetary expenditure and 20% of official development assistance (ODA) should be allocated to basic social services. Basic social services refers to basic education, primary health care and nutrition, family planning services and low-cost water and sanitation. If both the developing and developed countries were to move even half way towards the 20:20 and 0.7% of GNP targets in ODA by the year 2000, this would generate US\$60 billion in additional resources for basic social services. Because of its emphasis on basic/primary social services, the 20:20 initiative automatically targets the poor and thereby is a powerful strategy for poverty reduction.

The 20:20 initiative was endorsed by the Government of Viet Nam at the December 1997 Consultative Group meeting. In addition the Government has agreed to host an international conference, planned for October 1998, to bring both developing and developed countries together to examine the progress each has made in reaching the 20:20 target.

In order to assist the Government in preparing for this important conference, three UN agencies - UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA - will be conducting a joint study, in close collaboration with the Government. The study will examine Viet Nam's progress in implementing the 20:20 initiative, through analyzing public sector and ODA allocations to basic social services. As a new feature of such an analysis, a number of provincial case studies will be carried out. The study is expected to produce interesting findings with policy implications for the provision of basic social services to the people of Viet Nam.

29. The leaders of Viet Nam possess notable capacity to guide the process for development. The effective partnership between the Government and the UN System, highlighted in the September 1997 review of 20 years of UN collaboration with Viet Nam, offers scope for the UN to contribute further to Viet Nam's development, particularly through advocacy and policy dialogue.

III. Common Country Assessment

30. Building on substantial sector work and analysis already undertaken by Government, UN Agencies and Development Banks, the Country Team further reviewed national priorities in the light of six major global UN Conferences, found to be of particular relevance to Viet Nam. To measure progress in these areas, the Country Team reviewed and clustered some 100 development indicators into four groups: (a) population, (b) governance, (c) basic human needs and (d) environment. From these, a core list of 30 development indicators was selected to give direction to and monitor the progress of the implementation of UNDAF (Annex B).

Review of core indicators

31. The core indicators selected by the UN Country Team reflect some of the fundamental processes at work in Viet Nam which are of interest to the UN agencies and are sex disaggregated wherever possible. First and foremost, population growth has and will continue to bear on all development concerns in the near and long-term future. Since more than 70% of the population reside in the countryside, the most important implications of population growth in the near-term will be for rural development; in the longer-term, population growth will increasingly impact the processes of urbanization and industrialization.

32. A number of fundamental issues span this urban-rural divide. First, environmental degradation affects both those who depend on soil and water for their livelihoods as well as those who breathe the city air. Second, social services such as health, education and family planning are equally important in the city and the countryside. Finally, good governance is essential to face the challenges of development nationwide, especially in light of *doi moi*.

33. Only half of all public resources are being allocated to identified sectors. As public spending for economic infrastructure and basic support services is still needed to raise the basic human needs satisfaction and economic status of the population, more transparency from Government's side is needed. Still, while Government spending in general decreased considerably, the social sectors seems to have remained relatively protected. There is a need for more information about current and planned expenditure not only at central levels, but also at provincial and lower ones. The amount of ODA compared to the state budget, especially for basic social services, has risen. Attention is needed to avoid dependency on ODA for basic needs satisfaction.

34. Given the current age structure, population growth will continue for at least another 40 years, also if replacement level fertility will be achieved by the year 2005. Life expectancy has improved considerably, both for women and men. There are information gaps regarding the ethnic minorities, both in terms of their sizes and basic social indicators. For most if not all core indicators, the needs are most pressing for the rural population, where about 80% of the population lives. Still, while the current population is mainly rural, the urban population is likely to double within the next 30 years, posing other development challenges. In the last two decades, urbanization levels were low and rather constant, mainly due to lack of industrialization and low income differentials between rural and urban areas. This situation has clearly changed. Although 70% of the labor force is still working in agriculture and forestry, the share of agriculture in GDP has fallen from 41% in 1991 to 28% in 1995, or becoming smaller than industry/construction (30%) and services (42%). Anticipated rapid population growth in urban areas will challenge the current infrastructure and support services, and the environment.

35. For many years the average income in rural areas did not differ much from cities. However, more recent data show that poverty issues are mostly rural problems. More rural households now live below the poverty line. Literacy rates and school enrollment are lower, fewer households have access to safe drinking water, latrines and electricity. There is a higher calorie consumption in urban areas, with the wealthiest 20% of the population consuming 5 times more than the poorest 20%, and calorie consumption nearly twice as high. More rural women and children suffer from malnutrition. Real expenditure per head are almost double in urban areas. In sum, most of Viet Nam's current poverty problems are rural problems, and these affects women and children more severely. Food-availability data are still only available on a national scale. Food production increased since 1991, and though Viet Nam has become a net exporter of rice, there still seem to be large groups that are not able to fill their rice bowls daily. Deforestation continues to influence negatively the ratio of arable land per capita, already the lowest in East-Asia.

36. Regarding progress made with the reform process in Viet Nam, specific indicators are yet to be developed, agreed on and included in the core list. Given the importance of this sector and as per Government's request to the UN to provide policy advice and capacity development on this historic transformation from a planned to a market-based economy, ample attention will be paid to this by the UN Country Team. In this respect, special attention will also be needed for human resource development to sustain the reform process, bearing in mind that at present just over 60% of youth completes primary school, and still fewer completing secondary and higher education.

37. Though fertility has declined rapidly, there is still a large unmet need for family planning services. The contraceptive prevalence rate in Viet Nam is very high, estimated to be around 65%, but practice of traditional methods is also very high (21%). In addition, intra uterine device (IUD) use accounts for 75% of all modern methods. This means that many couples practice unsafe family planning and that many women only have the opportunity of using the IUD, a method unsuitable for practising birth spacing as well as being unsuitable for young women who have not yet given birth. In addition, the remaining unmet need for contraception has been estimated at 32%. These factors have resulted in alarmingly high abortion rates, including the fact that approximately one third of all births taking place were reported as unwanted at the time the pregnancy occurred. There is therefore an obvious need to provide more choices and access to better and modern contraceptives.

38. Largely as a result of the pressures of population growth, Viet Nam's environment has become increasingly degraded in recent years. In rural areas, this has primarily affected forests, land and water. Forest cover has dropped from 44% of the total land area in 1943 to about 25% today (World Resources Institute, *World Resources 1996-97*). Although Viet Nam is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of biological diversity, this forest loss has caused decreased habitat size. Today, 25 of a total of 213 mammal species are considered threatened (*ibid*). In terms of land, because the arable land per capita has fallen to 0.09 ha, increased agricultural intensification added 0.9 million tons of fertilizers to Viet Nam's environment in 1993 (*ibid*). In terms of water resources, only 53% of the urban population and 17% of the rural population have adequate sanitary services (1994 *Multipurpose Household Survey*), which has implications both for the environment as well as human health. In urban areas, environmental degradation is resulting primarily from human

wastes and vehicular emissions. Only a fraction of solid wastes are regularly collected in the cities, while the number of vehicles on the roads has increased dramatically in recent years. Related to both rural and urban development, energy consumption is also rapidly increasing. The equivalent of 18 million tons of coal were consumed in 1993, while 8,300 Gw-hours were produced from hydropower plants, up 19-fold from 1973 (*ibid*).

39. Apart from above issues, newer ones have come to claim attention and resources. While the actual number of detected HIV/AIDS patients has risen sharply over the last few years, the numbers are still small as compared with current projections. Within the next three years, one in every 300 Vietnamese could become HIV-infected, if no adequate initiatives are taken to raise awareness and help preventing the spread by providing access to safe blood, special programmes for drug-addicts and promoting the use of condoms, especially among the high risk groups. Other issues, and often related to higher risk groups, concern increased drug use, (child-) prostitution and streetchildren. As these are relatively new issues in Viet Nam, only a start has been made to address them.

IV. Major Lessons Learned from UN Development Cooperation

40. Against the background of Viet Nam's recent transition towards meeting the needs of people through a market-oriented form of economic management, a number of lessons can be identified for UN development partnership (United Nations, *Partnership - A Review of 20 Years of Cooperation*, Hanoi, September 1997):

- Firstly, that facilitating sound macro-economic policies and an enabling institutional framework, holds the key to the design and implementation of successful programmes. Without these, UN operational activities will continue to be restrained in their impact.
- Secondly, that peoples' empowerment is a vital precondition for poverty eradication. Peoples empowerment requires the entire UN to reach out - in addition to governmental structures - to private sector institutions, non-governmental organisations, universities, research institutes and other civil society organisations.
- Thirdly, the UN must increasingly utilize its comparative advantages of impartiality, grant funding, technical expertise, and international networks, and be more selective in its operational tasks, avoiding overlap and duplication with other donor activities and confining itself to catalytic operations where the UN has comparative strengths and advantages.
- Fourthly, efficient generation, provision and channeling of development information is needed for markets to operate efficiently and for donors/investors to base decisions.
- Fifth, the efficiency and effectiveness of ODA delivery has to be improved to overcome problems related to issues of implementation (e.g. delivery-rates, design and approval of projects, recruitment of experts and placement of trainees and modalities of national execution) caused by shortcomings in overall policy and management systems.
- Sixth, the Government needs to improve effectiveness of existing procedures at the same time as the UN harmonizes its own procedures.
- Seventh, the role played by the partner country is a decisive factor in ensuring the efficiency of development cooperation.

Implications for UNDAF

41. The overall implication for the UN in Viet Nam of these lessons learned - in particular the need to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its assistance - is the need to further integrate and coordinate activities at the field level by developing complementarity (taking full advantage of each Agency's comparative strengths), achieving synergy from operational activities and by interacting more closely with the programmes of government and other donors. The *Country Strategy Note* (CSN) prepared in 1995 constituted in this respect the starting point of an integrated UN operational system in Viet Nam.

42. Interaction will be intensified between UN agencies to further develop linkages with the various development partners, public and private, bilateral and multilateral donors will also be developed. This will be a prerequisite for

remaining in a position to develop innovative forms and modalities of technical cooperation, especially for capacity development. Through intensifying the development dialogue avenues, effective advocacy for people empowerment will also be developed.

43. In a situation of an expanding and changing ODA environment, the UN will encourage efficient aid coordination and delivery in terms of policies and organisational human skills. In addition the UN will continue assisting the Government in mobilising additional development assistance. Facilitating transparency and sharing of information among all development partners would be part of this. In addition, effective aid coordination requires integration of aid with domestic resources, and the UN will - through policy dialogue - facilitate a comprehensive approach to aid coordination that links aid coordination and management to ongoing institutional, legal and administrative reform.

44. Generation and channeling of information, which is closely related to aid coordination, will receive full support to reach out beyond strict confines of the public sector to civil society and facilitate generation and dissemination of information to a wider circle of development actors. A more systematic approach to accumulating information is a stepping-stone to more effective people empowerment.

45. Important progress needs to be made in developing national administrative capacities. When utilised selectively and blending national and international expertise of the highest quality, technical assistance is a vital contribution in this regard. Experience with national execution of development projects has highlighted that particularly operational capacities needs strengthening for sustainable impact.

46. Sustainability will be maintained firstly, through assistance to policy reforms which facilitate a dynamic development process ensuring growth with social stability and equity. Important is the generation of capacities of policy analysis through an interministerial approach. Secondly, high quality information collection and research capacities will be developed across various sectors, and thirdly, through training and building of training capacities of training institutions, by training of trainers, developing curricula and training methodologies to enhance skills, productivity and employability.

V. Common Framework for UN Cooperation with Viet Nam

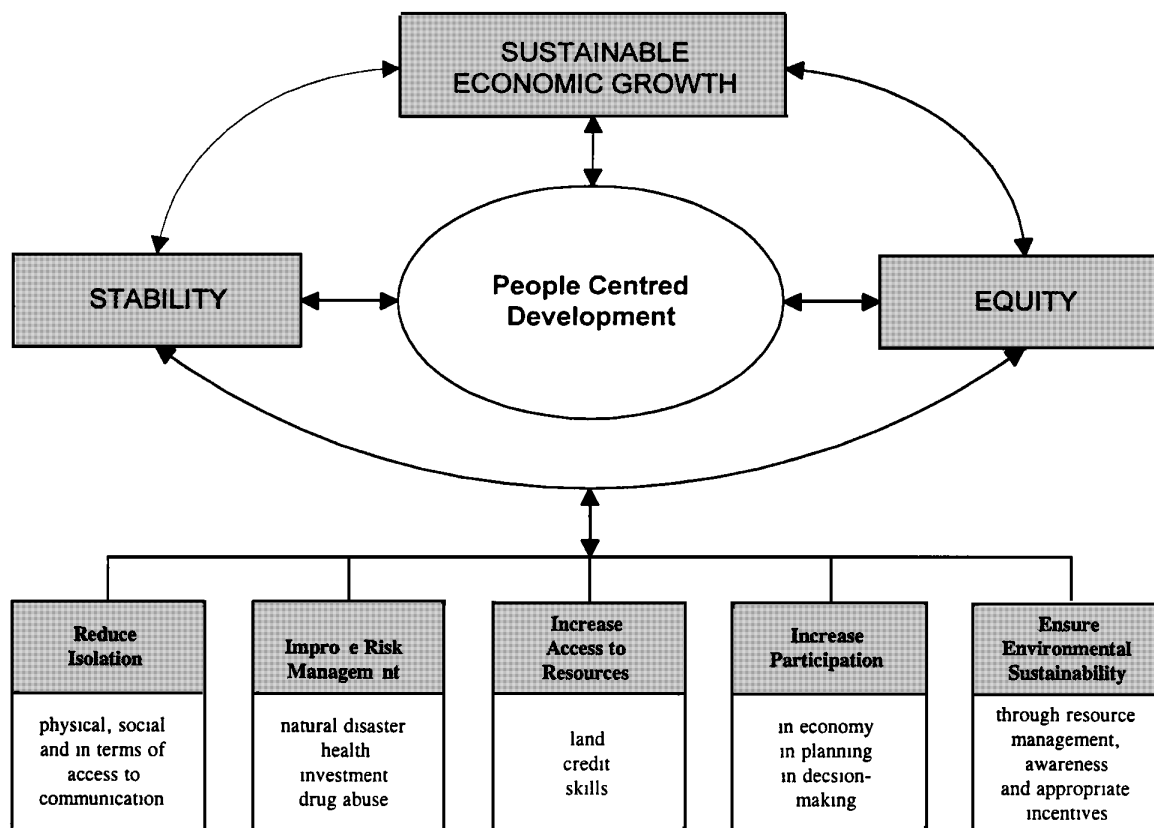
A. Framework Objective - Poverty reduction through capacity development

47. The single most overarching objectives of the UN in Viet Nam is to reduce poverty through expanding choices for the poor promoting employment and people empowerment for their full participation in the development of the country. The UN is committed to assist Viet Nam's authorities to develop an over all macro framework and incentives to guide people empowerment in a way that expand access to resources for the poor. This involves supporting the development of capacities of individuals, organisation and institution to achieve priority objectives and ensure efficiency and sustainability. The UN will advocate that people remain at the centre of the decision making process, respected in the culture living and working environments.

48. In recent years, the UN has devoted considerable efforts to analyse the causes and constraints that keep the people of Viet Nam poor (see *Poverty Elimination in Viet Nam*, 1995). From the analysis of causes of poverty and consideration of strategies to further develop the enabling environment emerged a conceptual framework for poverty elimination in Viet Nam. The conceptual framework (illustrated in figure 2 below) builds on the Government's strategy of growth with equity and stability, in targeting the root causes of poverty.

49. A multifaceted approach include, in addition to an overall support for deepening of macro reforms (economic, legal, institutional), reducing isolation (via rural roads to markets and social services, increasing functional literacy, information flows, communication systems, language training in ethnic areas, etc.); reducing risks (by building sea dikes and irrigation systems, increasing preventive health care services, increasing family planning choices, eliminating narcotic crops); increasing access to available resources, particularly for women and other marginalized groups (including land, credit, extension services, skills, technology); ensuring sustainability (through food security, improved land management and reforestation, rational investment and financial planning, alternative development for opium crop replacement); increasing participation of isolated areas in identifying priority needs and fashioning solutions (via a sufficient degree of fiscal decentralization and related decision-making).

Figure 2: Conceptual Framework for Poverty Elimination in Viet Nam



50. This conceptual framework was further developed in another UN publication (*Catching Up - Capacity Development for Poverty Elimination in Viet Nam, 1996*) and adopted at the UN Country Team Retreat in October 1997, as the basis to orient UN assistance in Viet Nam. Hence strategies approaches were developed to address some of the underlying causes of poverty and four areas were identified namely: Governance, Basic Human Needs, Rural Development and Environment. In the four mentioned areas priority needs identified in the CCA will be taken into consideration for programming.

51. The September 1997 review of 20 years of cooperation afforded an opportunity to take stock of the partnership between the agencies of the UN and Viet Nam. The review highlighted that the UN has been an important supplier of technical, commodity and capital assistance. The UN also has helped to promote capacity development, including both the transfer of knowledge and the development of policy and incentive structures. At the request of the Government, the UN has also played an active role as development facilitator and has helped to coordinate external assistance and mobilize resources. While agreeing that the central priority for the UN-Viet Nam partnership continues to be poverty reduction - particularly bridging gaps between rural and urban areas - it was recognized that economic growth coupled with an appropriate pro-poor policy framework is a precondition for overcoming poverty. It was further emphasized that ensuring social equity and environmental protection for sustainable development remains of parallel concern. The Government and the UN concluded that there is a clear need for a comprehensive policy for development cooperation that includes the UN, international financing institutions, international NGOs and other actors.

B. Focus Areas

52. Besides overall support to national follow-up to world conferences and support to policy development and capacity building, four focus areas was identified for UN assistance in the period 1998-2000, within which a number of concrete interventions has been identified:

- **Governance** (promote sound socio-economic management; develop a comprehensive legal framework to support socio-economic reforms; strengthen legislative, executive and judiciary institutions)

- Environment (re-afforestation; bio-diversity management; promotion of non-forest products)
- Basic human needs (basic health services; HIV/AIDS; clean water and sanitation; basic education; reproductive health; nutrition, children in especially difficult circumstances)
- Rural development (area development; food security; promotion of people's participation)

Governance

53. Governance can be seen as the exercise of economic, political, and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels. Governance encompasses the state, private sector and civil society. The State creates a conducive political and legal environment, while the private sector generates jobs and income and the civil society facilitates political and social interaction. The challenge for all societies is to create a system of governance that promotes, supports and sustains human development. Empowerment, cooperation, equity, sustainability and security are issues directly affecting the lives of the poor and are dimensions of governance that will guide development of UN projects and programmes. The UN will support all actions taken to put people at the very centre of development.

54. In the context of the Government's commitment to accelerate the reform process, the main issues in terms of systemic reform include: reform of governing institutions; improvement in public and private sector management; decentralization and support to local government; and promotion of civil society organizations. Specific objectives for UN cooperation in the field of Governance would be to: (1) promote sound socio-economic management and the appropriate and efficient role of the state, better fitted to the needs of a market-oriented economy. This would include public administrative reform at central and local levels, improved efficiency of markets, the promotion of international industrial competitiveness, trade reform and Viet Nam's integration with regional and global organizations, state-owned enterprise reform, and the enabling environment for private sector development; (2) assist in developing a comprehensive legal framework to support socio-economic reforms; and (3) strengthen legislative, executive and judiciary institutions while fostering the enabling environment for social and economic development.

55. In all of the above, the UN will promote increased participation of the non-state sector, encourage active public participation and partnerships, and pay particular attention to the social dimensions of adjustment. As part of these efforts, human rights will be promoted, as these are about respect for the worth and dignity of all human beings and about protecting, promoting and fulfilling the possibility to develop one's full human potential in an environment of equality, self-determination, peace and security.

56. UN cooperation would be at three levels: (1) information sharing and awareness raising on international policies and practices as well as advocacy relating to follow-up of international conferences; (2) providing advisory support to assist the government in policy development; and (3) capacity development of institutions at central and local levels along with concrete demonstration and pilot activities.

57. More attention will be given to UN consultation and cooperation with the National Assembly and civil society, including NGOs, academia, mass organisations and the private business community, the latter being the main source of future employment and livelihood. Public participation will be promoted since it is essential in advocating and monitoring sustainable development. This will enable people to participate more directly in improving the governance process and help include those previously excluded from decision-making, particularly women, ethnic minorities and the poorest.

Box 2: Complementary action in Quang Binh province.

An example of the UN being in the process of identifying areas where complementary action could be effective, is the rural province of Quang Binh. There is an opportunity to combine the expertise and experience that some agencies have gained at the local level with that of other agencies working more at the central and provincial levels. For example, UNICEF is promoting decentralization through the area-focused approach (142 districts by the year 2000, including two districts in Quang Binh) with the aim that programmes on primary health care, education, clean water, sanitation, nutrition, safe motherhood, children in need of special protection and child rights will be adapted and integrated in a single package to better respond to local needs. This approach is complemented by UNDP support to provincial public administration reform and poverty elimination. Modalities for working together (e.g., mechanisms for implementation and monitoring) still need to be developed and maintained following further discussions.

Environment

58. The Government of Viet Nam has undertaken several reforms in response to the threats of continued environmental degradation. The *National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development* was published in 1991. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, and later the National Environment Agency, were established in 1992-1993. The Law on Environment went into effect in 1994.

59. The UN agencies will use their comparative advantages to assist the Government in overcoming the threats of continued environmental degradation. This entails bringing international experiences and connections to bear on these problems, especially in terms of support for sustainable development for an economy in transition. Second, as formal partners of various Government ministries and agencies, the UN agencies should support capacity development and institutional development, especially to address the problems of implementation mentioned above. Third, as impartial partners in development, the UN agencies are uniquely suited to promote good governance in the environmental sector. This entails promoting the active involvement of civil society and the private sector in environmental protection and natural resource management.

60. General actions in the environmental sector to be taken jointly by UN agencies in Viet Nam include the following: (1) take an unequivocal corporate position on the environment and development in line with the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, i.e., that environmental considerations cannot be separated from the general development process; (2) designate an environmental focal person within each UN agency and to strengthen information exchange among the agencies and between the UN agencies and the rest of the world using current information technologies; (3) further develop procedures for joint program/project review and appraisal; (4) to continue to develop joint sectoral and regional strategies and actions, for example, in the education sector or in specific provinces; and (5) build non-regulatory approaches for environmental management into programmes and projects - in light of the limited national capacity for monitoring and enforcement - to including, for example, environmental awareness, economic mechanisms, trade incentives, appropriate cleaner production methods and urban planning.

61. More specific actions will focus on re-forestation, bio-diversity management through promotion of agro-forestry methodology and people's responsibility and promotion of non-forest products (e.g. extracts such as essential oils and resins, medicinal plants, rattan, bamboo and honey).

Basic human needs

62. The basic human needs of the population have to be satisfied if the full participation of all citizens in the country's socio-economic development is to be achieved. Ensuring food, education and health to all remains the ultimate objective of any economy. They are indispensable to lead a long, healthy, creative life and to enjoy a decent standard of living, freedom, dignity, self-respect and the respect of others. Linkages between economic growth and human development need to be forged with determination that they should mutually reinforce each other.

63. At the central level the UN will assist the Government in policy and strategy development to address existing and emerging issues to satisfy the basic needs of the population. This will include people's empowerment at all levels to enhance people's participation in the planning and implementation of social programmes. Priority will be given to those under-represented in participation at all levels, especially ethnic minorities, women and other disenfranchised groups. The UN has been assisting the Government in developing its national Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction programme and the UN will continue to support the coordination and implementation of this programme particularly at the local level in selected provinces.

64. Hunger eradication remains a top priority of the authorities. The Government's Plan of Action will inspire common UN action to ensure stable availability of and access to food for every citizen in the country at all time. This implies better food distribution and improved income for the poor. Hunger eradication is deeply connected with empowering the poor, mainly ethnic minorities in remote areas. Soil management, small irrigation systems, adapted inputs, post harvest facilities, diversification of crops coupled with new policies of prices and taxation incentives are all means to empower the poor for them to eradicate their hunger.

65. As described in the Convention on Child Rights as well as in the concluding documents of the International Conference on Nutrition and the World Food Summit, adequate nutrition is a basic human right. The UN will continue to work in the field of nutrition, since reduction of the high level of malnutrition, especially among the ethnic minorities and

other vulnerable groups is closely connected with overall efforts of poverty alleviation. Specific policy analysis and activities will be carried out, to ensure that social, economic, organisational as well as food resources will be available for good nutritional outcome. UN support in this area will also be focused at the household level, by providing health and nutrition education as well as micronutrient and food supplements, where appropriate and necessary.

66. Health is one of the most important rights of the human being, and the health status of people, particularly young children and women, is a main determinant of a country's development. Poor health status decreases the learning and working capacity of people and increases expenditure at the household level, making health also a main determinant of poverty.

67. The basic health system in Viet Nam can not provide adequate preventive and curative care for everyone. The more disadvantaged people with less access to health services have their condition worsened. UN assistance for dealing with this issue, will be focused at two levels: at the central level, the UN will through a complementary approach support the Ministry of Health in developing adequate national strategies and policies for the revitalisation of the basic health system, particularly at the district level. In addition complementary assistance will be provided directly to the districts by ensuring the availability of essential resources, by promoting a rational health service management system, based on the community participation, in order to enable the health facilities to provide to all people, preventive and curative care at affordable cost.

68. The majority of people becoming infected with HIV/AIDS are 29 years of age or younger. The UN programmes on HIV/AIDS will promote the right of children to education, the right to access to appropriate information including on HIV/AIDS, and right to non-discrimination. The UN in the framework of UNAIDS will continue to support the government to prevent and manage the increasing pandemic. Assistance will be provided to maintain information sharing in the four established technical working groups as well as support overall advocacy efforts with particular emphasis on high rate of HIV/AIDS infections and transmissions among the injecting drug users. Assistance will also be provided through the framework of UNAIDS to develop a comprehensive National Strategy on AIDS 1998-2000 including the legislative framework. In addition assistance will be provided to the Government in information/education/communication programmes targeting groups of people who are vulnerable to HIV infection, of which a special high risk group is intravenous drug abusers. In addition, the UN will continue to assist the government in improving the capacity of the National AIDS Committee at all levels.

69. The UN will assist the authorities in shifting from the present narrow focus on family planning towards a more holistic approach. The current development of a reproductive health approach in Viet Nam is affected by two main features. One is the remaining focus on the family planning component, with a continued strong demographic rationale. The other is a very vertical, fragmented and provider biased service provision. There is a need to create a better understanding among policy makers that broader contraceptive options based on individual choice can significantly reduce unsafe abortion, improve maternal health and maximize demographic impact. The UN will therefore support and advocate for the development of a comprehensive reproductive health, family planning and sexual health policy and strategy, focusing on choice-expanded, client-friendly and quality-oriented service delivery.

70. In developing and implementing a Reproductive Health, Family Planning and Sexual Health policy and strategy, due attention needs to be given to the HIV/AIDS epidemic: a comprehensive set of reproductive health policies and programmes have to be developed concurrently with those for HIV/AIDS control in order to cope with not only population and family planning problems, but also with the rapid HIV/AIDS transmission among the population mostly due to hazardous practice of sharing contaminated needles among intravenous injecting drug users and unsafe sexual behaviour. To achieve this, support will be given for the development of a stronger technical capacity to integrate population variables into development planning with considerable efforts in capacity development to generate and disseminate quality data, research in support programme development, monitoring and evaluation. Findings of the *Inter Censal Demographic Survey* of 1994 and the more recent *Multi Round Survey* have not yet been taken into account despite the serious challenges posed by the conclusions to the planning system. The UN will review the options for developing a clear policy concerning the preparation of official population projections by General Statistical Office. Among the more specific interventions to be undertaken, highlighted by the CCA data collection and analysis, is assistance for improved access to quality essential obstetric care for pregnant women.

71. Not only are access to clean water and sanitation facilities basic human rights and important goals, they also contribute to maximizing the impact on health, nutrition and the wellbeing of the population especially women and children. In the area of Water and Sanitation in rural areas, the UN will continue to assist the Government in their effort to provide improved access to clean water supply, sanitary means of excreta disposal and hygiene education which are indispensable

for social and human development. The National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy, will provide a framework for comprehensive action to deal with domestic water supply and environmental sanitation challenges that lie ahead.

72. Providing basic education is essential to improve the quality of life by breaking the cycle of poverty. Access to basic education is a human right that ensures the development of countries and nations. Achieving Universal Primary Education in Viet Nam continues to be a high-priority goal. However, there are still big gaps in terms of non-enrollment and low completion of primary school, a shortage of primary school teachers, language difficulties, inappropriate curricula, teaching and learning materials. UN support in this area will be focused on innovative education methodologies, to improve educational quality and accessibility and school-enrollment, especially of girls attending secondary school.

Box 3: Social Issues Education Framework

Several UN agencies will attempt to coordinate and integrate their individual assistance concerning social issues and education methodologies to the Ministry of Education and Training. This will include primary and secondary levels as well as adult literacy. Discussions have been undertaken to develop a "Social Issues Education Framework" incorporating educational focus areas of UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNDCP as well as those undertaken through UNAIDS. The framework would ideally address the common concerns of quality, completion rate and gender representation, providing an overall, integrated social issues education strategy and resulting in complementary programming. As part of the activities towards the development of the framework, UNESCO and UNDP will conduct an analysis and monitoring exercise on the progress accomplished towards the education for all goals set forth at the outset of the 1990 Worldwide Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand). The study will provide policy guidance and advice to senior decision-makers on education for all and build national capacity in strategic planning for education for all, improved coordination and optimization of resources.

73. The changing socio-economic environment in the country is increasingly putting vulnerable families and children at risk; the number of street children, juvenile delinquents, child labourers, child prostitutes and drug addicts is rapidly increasing. Recognising that the protection from abuse and neglect is the right of every child the UN will advocate to ensure that every family and child, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, have access to basic services and be provided with other services such as counseling. The UN will concentrate on preventing children from leaving home but will also provide some support services for those already outside the home environment.

74. To enable the UN agencies to identify issues of concern, as well as monitor and evaluate progress made, assistance will be provided to the General Statistical Office and to the line ministries in setting up and maintaining a common database. In addition, the UN will develop a common resource centre/library to facilitate information sharing and providing access to lessons learned from all agencies.

75. The UN will work towards complementary action in pilot provinces. A list of core indicators will be developed to serve as a basis for selection of provinces eligible for this. Once chosen, the full range of indicators used by each agency will be applied in order to access the specific needs of the province and thereby decide on the joint assistance to be provided.

76. Furthermore, the UN will play a central role in advocating for support for sensitive and often neglected areas such as child labour, trafficking of women and children, sexual exploitation, drug trafficking and drug abuse. As a follow-up to the Copenhagen Social Summit, a study on the allocation of donor and government resources to basic social services will be carried out in 1998 (see Box 1). The ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age and the upcoming Convention on the most Intolerable Forms of Child Labour will be actively promoted for ratification and implementation.

Rural development

77. 80% of Viet Nam's population and 90% of the poor live in rural areas, with the impact most heavily felt by women and children, especially those of ethnic minority groups. Since the common priority of the UN is poverty reduction, the main geographic focus of UN activities will be in poor rural areas. The UN will focus on empowering the poor with the main geographical focus on the rural areas. Certain agencies (such as WFP, FAO and UNDCP) will further focus on the "hungry poor" who have insufficient access to food to meet their basic food requirements.

78. An important goal for Viet Nam is an economy where industry and services will be the leading sectors, with progressively reduced importance of agriculture. In this transformation, the agriculture sector, while steadily rising production and productivity, will contribute a declining relative share of the national income and employment.

79. The UN will support this transformation through support to institutional and legislative reform, human resource development and the promotion of people's participation. Broad strategies and programmes which are likely to accelerate rural development include: (i) strengthening of capacity within the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to prepare improved policy and investment allocations through training, national and international technical assistance, improved information services and material support, with the purpose of further integrating Viet Nam's major commodities in the international markets; (ii) supporting a plan of action for people's participation including public awareness raising, policy and legal reform, strengthening people's organizations - particularly cooperatives and credit unions, promoting decentralization and monitoring and evaluating outcomes; (iii) support the formulation of systematic, more diversified and geographically-balanced investment plans, including the promotion of small and medium-sized labor-intensive export oriented enterprises and household enterprises, which are likely to be more flexible and adaptable than large scale industries in meeting the challenges of an ever changing environment; (iv) appraising government agricultural sector institutions, including State enterprises, and supporting specific action leading to more efficient and competitive agricultural services, including transitional support to displaced staff; (v) support accelerated land allocation, (vi) supporting gender sensitive programmes for women's economic empowerment and that enhance agricultural diversification and rural industrialization and; (vii) in selected progressive as well as economically disadvantaged provinces, finance, jointly with government, innovative rural development programmes which (a) promote food security, (b) stimulate agricultural diversification, non-farm employment, employment incentive programmes and small-scale rural infrastructure, (c) target poor districts and communes and (d) meet financially, socially and environmentally viable public services and technical needs identified by local people.

80. Viet Nam has a broad scope for diversifying into new agricultural, horticultural, and forestry production. Making the most of Viet Nam's natural resource potential is especially critical to improving livelihood security and choices for low-income families who are mostly dependent on agriculture, forestry, fishing, and other resource-based occupations like opium production by hilltribe peoples in the mountainous areas. Opium, for instance, is grown by food-deficit ethnic minority households to secure their livelihood during months were they would otherwise be short of food. A number of assets relating to improving opportunities for the rural poor have been identified: adequate education and health services, land use rights, small-scale infrastructure, credit, specific technology and know how, and social safety nets. Important cross-cutting issues include the need for gender sensitivity in programme design to ensure women's access to services and income generating opportunities.

81. The possibility of a geographical focus of UN assistance will be explored, based on examination of relevant criteria relating to poverty, malnutrition, low health and educational levels. This would most likely imply a concentration on remote, mountainous districts, with high proportions of ethnic minority populations. In this connection, UN assistance with Vulnerability Assessment Mapping will be explored as a tool for re-focusing UN interventions on the poorest and most food insecure areas of the country.

82. Other important areas of relevance to rural development, such as health, education, population, water supply & sanitation and adult literacy and alternative development for opium replacement and drug abuse prevention are addressed through initiatives in the field of basic human needs, while issues such as watershed and forest management are addressed through initiatives in the field of environment. To assist rural provinces in mobilising additional government and donor resources for anti-poverty programmes, local level capacities to design and implement development activities that benefit the rural poor households will be strengthened. Priority will be given to dissemination of success stories of agricultural activities among ethnic minorities.

83. UN support in these fields will directly benefit rural men and women by creating the environment for sustained agricultural growth. The poor will benefit through rural growth and more targeted and sustainable support programmes. The environment will also gain from better appraisal of policy and public investment choices, a more diversified and sustainable agricultural economy and a wealthier rural population having substantive local control of the resource base.

84. In sum, the UN will work towards a focused support program which will increase market and agricultural sector efficiency, raise people's participation and implement often innovative approaches to rural development and poverty alleviation at provincial level. In so doing, UN activities will directly benefit the rural population and provide an enabling environment for wider donor support.

Box 4:

The Ky Son experience of complementary action.

In 1996 UNDCP launched a pilot project to help Ky Son District, Nghe An Province, develop alternatives to opium poppy cultivation. Remote Ky Son is among the poorest districts in the country. The district's 51,000 mostly ethnic minority population lacks easy access to the larger Vietnamese society and economy, and the Government's limited ability to deliver essential services to the district has resulted in high incidences of diseases as well as low educational standards.

Eight UN agencies operating in Viet Nam came together for four days in April 1997 to explore possible ways of collaborating to help improve the lives of the poor in Ky Son. The joint UN mission, organized by UNDCP, was the first such inter-agency complementary programming mission in Viet Nam. In addition to UNDCP, agencies participating in the mission included FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, and WHO. As part of the Ky Son project UNDCP will provide US\$3.8 million to support the Government's opium poppy eradication programme with the intention of developing and demonstrating techniques which can be replicated in other provinces. The project will also coordinate and focus the activities of various national institutions as well as international organizations in a joint effort to find a solution toward the problems of opium production, addiction, and trafficking; rural poverty amongst ethnic minorities living in mountainous regions; and environmental degradation caused by slash-and-burn cultivation and deforestation. The project focuses on community development (including health, sanitation, and education services), infrastructure and agriculture, enabling local officials and villagers to carry out their own development.

This broad-based approach to development provides many opportunities for UN agencies to contribute inputs based on their own areas of expertise. As a result of the complementary programming initiative, several UN agencies extended assistance to Ky Son as part of their ongoing programmes and activities. In particular, UNDP funded a UN Volunteer and is coordinating donor support for a silk-weaving income-generation project, UNFPA will provide training and equipment in the field of reproductive health, UNHCR funded the construction of a school, UNICEF extended water and sanitation, health, nutrition, and education activities to the district, and FAO agreed to support an artificial insemination programme for local livestock development.

The Ha Giang experience of UN/donor collaboration

A different set of lessons can be drawn from the Ha Giang Ethnic Minorities Development Project, in which another approach to donor collaboration was taken. At the beginning of 1997 IFAD and UNDP held discussions about jointly formulating a poverty reduction project for another remote and poor area; the Ha Giang province. Possibilities for donor collaboration was explored through consultations with other UN agencies (UNICEF, FAO and UNFPA in particular) and bilateral agencies (SIDA in particular) and international NGOs already working in Ha Giang province.

Following a donor meeting organised by the Provincial Peoples Committee of Ha Giang, in which donors were briefed on the urgent development priorities of the Province, the Ha Giang Ethnic Minorities Development Project was formulated. IFAD led the project formulation, with UNDP, UNICEF and SIDA participating with specialist staff in Ha Giang for extended periods of time. UNDP provided advice on a common planning and management structure for the project; UNICEF gave advice on water and sanitation, education and health; and SIDA gave advice on agricultural development and extension aspects. The mission benefitted from the reproductive health assessment already undertaken with WHO/UNFPA assistance.

One major impact is that IFAD's loan assistance is now partly being used to support education and health activities, which has never previously been the case in Viet Nam. This helps to ensure a more holistic and integrated approach to reducing poverty in the province and reflects the vital importance of social development aspects of poverty. Secondly, in October 1997 IFAD, UNDP, UNICEF and SIDA signed a memorandum of understanding which specifies the type and level of support each of the agencies will be giving to the project and commit the agencies to joint monitoring and evaluation missions and a common reporting system, to avoid overburdening the provincial administration with separate demands. UNFPA was already further advanced with its planned assistance to improve reproductive health services. A project agreement was approved in 1997, establishing a common review/management mechanism with Ha Giang Ethnic Minorities Development Project.

The challenge during project-implementation, in terms of donor-collaboration, is for the agencies to systematically maintain the complementary donor programme approach. This means that they will increasingly have to coordinate with other donor agencies who are planning to work in the Province - notably the World Bank and Japan.

C. Strategic Approaches

85. The UN in Viet Nam will aim for improved integration of activities, while preserving the special characteristics and distinctiveness of its various Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies. The UNDAF framework will help to further focus agency efforts in support of the Authorities' and people's development objectives. At the 1997 Inter-Agency retreat, the following strategic approaches for the UN cooperation was identified:

- capacity development;
- advocacy;
- decentralized service delivery;
- programme approach.

Capacity development

86. The people of Viet Nam, are responsible for choosing their model of development. With the advice of the international community, more choices can be offered. UN cooperation aims at full national ownership of the development process. With its various instruments and mandates, the UN is tasked to ensure peace through activities conducive to "development by the people and for the people", eradicating all sources of violence mainly rooted in misery and exclusion. Each citizen's access to available resources can be achieved by full participation in the decision making process.

87. Mainstreaming gender equity throughout UN programmes in Viet Nam is a key element of the equity component of the conceptual framework for poverty reduction. The approach to gender mainstreaming in Viet Nam follows the *National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Viet Nam by the year 2000*. The National Plan of Action was formulated by the National Council for the Advancement of Women to implement the International Platform for Action endorsed at the Fourth World Conference for Women. The National Plan of Action was adopted by the Prime Minister in October 1997 and contains 11 specific objectives for the advancement of women.

88. All aspects of UN work will be guided by the concepts of equality and equity. In many areas this requires special attention to be given to women and the girl child, where it is obvious from studies that women and girls are under represented in decision making positions, health and education statistics. In some areas it may require special attention to be given to men and boys where they are under or over represented in specific areas such as child labour. It is also necessary to address gender issues specifically with women and men within families and social groups. This involves the use of sex disaggregated baseline social surveys in communities.

89. National policies and initiatives in the area of gender and women's concerns, which will in particular guide the UN, includes (1) Article 24 of the Constitution of Viet Nam which states "*Women enjoy equality with men in all spheres of activities- political, economic, cultural, at home and in society...There should be equal pay for equal work...The state guarantees women employees fully paid maternity leave both before and after the birth*"; (2) Decree 163 in 1998 states that the Viet Nam Women's Union should be consulted and involved in any discussions on policies relating to women and children at all levels of government; (3) Directive 37 in 1994 of the Part Central Committee states that all levels of the Government and Party should aim to have at least 20% of positions filled by women. It requires all branches of the state apparatus to improve their gender awareness, develop plans for training and retraining women cadres, increasing the number of women employees and formulate policies to develop women's skills (4) the *National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Viet Nam by the Year 2000*, outlines strategies for the advancement of women in 11 areas including: poverty and hunger alleviation, employment education and training, health, leadership and decision making, women's rights, family roles, sustainable development, communication activities, peace, national machinery and the girl child.

90. General action taken jointly by UN agencies will include (1) taking an unequivocal position on gender and development in line with the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, i.e. to integrate gender concerns into all programs and projects from formulation to review; (2) designate a gender focal point within each UN agency and to strengthen information among and within agencies through the use of information technologies; (3) development of joint agency meetings on gender every 6 months to review the extent to which gender impact and gender equality are an integral part of technical assistance activities, programme evaluations and assessments; (4) inclusion of gender issues

in all thematic working groups; (5) identification of cross cutting sectoral areas that support recommendations on women's empowerment and gender equality in the plans, platforms, and declarations of conferences, possibly for collaborative programming activities; (6) increased use of sex disaggregated baseline surveys in all project design; (7) increased use of gender checklists in all stages of country programming and projects.

91. People centred development facilitates the complete blossoming of individuals in a harmonious society and is made possible when each citizen, within the overall group, can contribute fully, his or her social, cultural and civil rights being respected. The UN mandate is to ensure that human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. This concern will be integrated in UN common development interventions to ensure that UN development activities lead to human rights promotion and peaceful processes of development.

Advocacy

92. Advocating on specific issues and promoting substantive discussions on important development themes or sectors is a UN mandate. The various UN-supported world conferences and summits provide a ready agenda for advocacy on important development issues. While each agency has its own responsibility for advocacy, many issues are better advocated through joint efforts. An "advocacy workplan" will be developed on an annual basis based on upcoming international conferences, various international "years" or "days", focusing on issues of particular relevance to Viet Nam. Such a workplan would guide dialogue with the Government and people, and all other partners active in the development of Viet Nam. A particular effort will be made to share more information and documentation with the National Assembly and consult on a regular basis.

93. "Theme Groups" will be strengthened or revitalized to promote enhanced collaboration among the agencies of the UN. In addition to information sharing, a limited number of theme groups will promote collaborative action, including essential advocacy efforts on such issues as child rights and children in need of special protection (child labour and child prostitution). Gender issues will be included in all thematic theme groups. Strengthening of the theme group structure implies strong agency commitment, including dedication of staff and other resources. The UN Country Team will ensure the effective functioning of the theme groups, with assistance from the Resident Coordinator Office and development partners. For an overview of existing or planned Theme Groups with UN involvement, see Annex D.

94. A mechanism for enhanced collaborative effort is the inclusion of "information sharing and collaboration" in all agency as well as individual staff workplans. Effective inter-agency collaboration will be included in annual staff performance appraisals/reviews.

95. The newsletter *UN NEWS Viet Nam*, will be improved as a vehicle to share information, review development experiences, and to promote team-building, collaboration, and coherence of action. UN NEWS will also publicize activities of the various UN Theme Groups as well as other matters of common interest, and advocate for people centered development.

Box 5: Joint UN Advocacy

The UN in Viet Nam is taking concrete steps to enhance the use of joint advocacy on issues that cross individual agencies' mandates. The UN Country Team decided early in 1997, that "international days" provided an opportunity for the UN to make joint statements on what the UN is doing in Viet Nam and what could be done on issues of international importance. In addition to UN Day (24 October), three "international days" with a wide focus were chosen: Women's Day (8 March), Environment Day (5 June) and Poverty Day (17 October). It was agreed that joint UN statements would be made through the UN Resident Coordinator's Office on each of these days. Throughout the press releases, reference was never made to any single UN agency. Rather, the relevant areas in which individual agencies are working, for instance with respect to poverty eradication, were reflected in terms of the UN as a whole.

For UN Day specifically, a meeting between the Prime Minister and the UN provided an opportunity for the UN Resident Coordinator to make a joint UN statement celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Viet Nam's membership of the United Nations, which was broadcast on national radio on October 24 and received wide coverage in the national press.

Decentralized service delivery

96. The UN will pursue an area-based approach to project implementation in line with the overall strategy of the Government to decentralise budgets, decision-making and authority to the province, district and commune levels. Clear division and common agreement of the responsibility of respective agencies with respect to geographic and programme areas will be required. In addition to providing greater direct impact and poverty reduction by concentrating resources, this approach is also expected to develop appropriate technical and managerial models for replication.

Programme approach

97. By programme approach is understood a concentration of interventions in larger, joint or complementary programmes through expanded partnerships within a given sector. Such programmes could either be area based (focusing on e.g. a province) or theme based (such as HIV/AIDS). To enhance the impact and align interventions with national priorities, such programmes will be formulated on the basis of national sector programmes or campaigns.

D. Programme Resources Framework

98. The UNDAF Programme Resources Framework for Viet Nam (Annex C) covers the period 1998 up to and including the year 2000, since the programme cycles of the funds and programmes will be harmonized by the year 2000 (for a summary of current country programmes, see Annex E). It is anticipated that 32% will be spent within the focus area of basic human needs, 17% on governance, 41% on rural development and 10% on environment/natural resource management. The distribution reflects the importance attached by the UN to human development through adequate provision of basic social services, which leaves the UN well above the target of the 20:20 initiative. It is also in line with the overall priorities that the Government places on UN cooperation for people empowerment. There is scope for aligning UN cooperation with the substantial ODA investment capital that is now reaching Viet Nam, through e.g. the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. This has been explored through, for example, cooperation between the UN and the World Bank in the preparatory processes for UNDAF and the Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) respectively.

E. Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

Programme operations

99. Heads of Agency meetings. The Heads of Agencies will continue to meet every third Tuesday of the month to discuss programme and policy matters and thematic issues, with the purpose of maintaining an ongoing, high level of information exchange and improve coordination and collaboration.

100. Joint Project/Programme Committee. A joint UN Project/Programme Committee will be established for, among others, in-country review of all new projects and overall agency country programmes. As an appraisal committee it will not have any formal clearing authority, but will ensure that agencies' different perspectives are taken into consideration. The Resident Coordinator Office will maintain a joint list of UN pipeline projects and will call meetings based on project summaries (or similar brief documentation) prepared by the respective agencies. The Committee will be meeting quarterly at the level of deputies or programme staff. It will be left to the discretion of individual agencies to decide for which agenda items they will need to be participate. This and other mechanisms will be used for consultation during the development of the next generation of agency programmes. The Joint Project/Programme Committee will replace and de facto continue the work of the UNDAF Working Group in monitoring the progress of the UNDAF process.

101. Progress reviews. Other agencies will be invited on an ad hoc basis to participate in mid-term or other project progress reviews, including field-based assessments or evaluations of individual projects. The following reviews (over and above annual reviews) are planned for the period 1998-2000 (some of which may be replaced fully or in part by the next UNDAF):

- UNDP: Mid-term review of Country Cooperation Framework (CCF); 1st quarter 1999
- UNDP: Advisory Note and situation analysis for next CCF; 4th quarter 1999
- UNFPA: Mid-term review of Country Sub-programmes; 1st quarter 1999

- UNFPA: Situation analysis for next country programme; 4th quarter 1999
- UNICEF: Mid-term review of country programme; 2nd quarter 1998
- UNICEF: Situation analysis for next country programme; 4th quarter 1999
- UNIDO: Mid-term Review of Programme of Cooperation; 3rd quarter 1999

102. Joint field visits. The UN Country Team will once a year undertake a “forward-looking” visit to a selected province to discuss specific options for collaborative activities. Similar joint field visits by programme level staff will be encouraged by the senior management. The possibility of collaborative activities in selected geographical areas will be one of the objectives and criteria for undertaking joint field visits. Options for collaboration with World Bank capital investments will be explored as part of efforts to work with the Bank on realizing its Country Assistance Strategy (CAS).

103. Annual UN retreat. To enhance team spirit, an annual UN retreat will be held, combining social activities with discussions on key national developments and the opportunities and implications these may have for future UN activities in Viet Nam.

104. Regular review of Government-UN cooperation. The Government and the UN will develop adequate mechanisms to review regularly government-UN cooperation. Such review will ensure that UN efforts are focused on country priorities, that developmental successes and achievements are documented, and that emerging problems as well as opportunities are addressed. In addition, review of overall UN cooperation in Viet Nam will promote system coherence, as well as provide an opportunity for advocacy (such as on follow-up to international conferences). The numerous existing individual reviews are posing a major burden on already stretched government (and agency) resources. Opportunities for substituting these with a single - possibly annual - joint UN-Government review will be explored through discussions with agency HQs and the Government.

105. Consultative Group process. The close cooperation between the UN and World Bank Group in preparing for the annual Consultative Group (CG) meetings will be continued. The UN will strive towards a common position on all issues raised and will speak with one voice through the Resident Coordinator System. The CG is a continuous process which should be strengthened through sectoral, thematic and/or CG mid-term reviews.

106. Thematic/sector Reviews. In continuation of past government-led thematic reviews (e.g. water resources), the UN will encourage that more thematic reviews be undertaken to enhance a common understanding among all stakeholders of the issues at hand. Together with the World Bank, the UN have identified the health sector as a case in point. Health is considered a sector where all concerned donors need to assist the Government in reviewing the entire sector, implement a health sector financing study, review the management information system and streamlining cooperation with donors to enhance coordination and information transparency. Thematic or sector reviews would further enhance opportunities for collaborative resources mobilization, building on experiences gained by, among others, the Disaster Management Team.

107. Theme Groups. As mentioned in paragraph 93, theme groups will be strengthened or revitalized (see Annex D). Certain theme groups have a narrow focus and limited membership (e.g. drugs, reproductive health, children in difficult circumstances, ODA implementation/operational issues) while others are on broader issues involving a wider group (e.g. population, food security). Three theme groups on key issues of interest to the entire donor community will be sought revitalized with assistance from the Resident Coordinator Office and development partners: poverty, governance and environment.

108. Gender mainstreaming. The gender focal points of each agency will meet bi-annually to review the extent to which gender impact and gender equality are an integral part of technical assistance activities, programme evaluations and assessments and propose ways of means of further improving gender mainstreaming of UN activities.

109. Common Indicators. The common indicators list (Annex B) developed as part of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) exercise will be maintained by the Resident Coordinator Office with input from agencies as relevant. It will be updated at least annually as part of UN preparations for Consultative Group meetings. The Issues Papers on follow-up in Viet Nam to the main world conferences will also be updated as needed.

Common services and shared premises

110. Inter-Agency Administrative Group. Striving for more cost-effective UN development assistance, the existing Inter-Agency Administrative Group will intensify its efforts to identify and analyze options for more common services and administrative support, including harmonization and simplification of locally established procedures and regulations. The main areas where the Group intends to focus its efforts are:

- financial and banking services
- personnel administration
- travel
- procurement

111. UN House. The Government was approached in late 1997 about its position regarding the establishment of shared premises for the UN agencies in Hanoi (a “UN House”) and responded favourably. Only UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO and UNDCP is currently sharing the same location. Information and data about requirements and cost implications is currently being collected among the UN agencies in order to discuss the option further with government.

112. UN Homepage/E-mail. A skeletal frame of a *UN System - Viet Nam* homepage on Internet (<http://www.undp.org.vn>) was opened in early 1998. It will be further developed by improving the layout, expanding information contained on the site and by adding pages for all UN agencies. The data of Common Country Assessment (CCA) indicator list will be made accessible at the homepage. Efforts will be made to store project information in a form that will enable it to be sorted by the reader according to e.g. geographical or sectoral criteria. The part of the homepage only accessible by UN agencies (so-called “intra-net”) will carry information on planned missions, reviews, appraisal meetings, etc., thereby enhancing information sharing in a cost-effective manner. All UN staff and individual project offices will be connected through E-mail and linked up to the Internet during 1998. A number of fora for information sharing (so-called “bulletin boards”) established through the local network Netnam (which preceded Internet in Viet Nam) will be transferred/linked to the UN homepage. These include issues such as agriculture, governance and HIV/AIDS. Not awaiting the physical establishment of a “UN House”, the Country Team thus works towards establishing a “Virtual UN House”.

113. Joint staff training. Through the Inter-Agency Administrative Group, it will be ensured that all training opportunities offered within each agency are extended to staff of other agencies where relevant and practically feasible. Over and above these individual initiatives by agencies, joint staff training is being planned in the following issues:

- team building
- gender mainstreaming
- environment and sustainable development
- national execution (NEX) modality

**Follow-up to World Conferences
by
the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**

Global Summit	Follow-up (ratification, Plan of Action, implementation, etc.)
<p>2nd UN Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul, 1996)</p> <p><i>Resulting documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>Habitat Agenda</i> * <i>Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A delegation attended the Conference, but presented no national report and no follow-up has taken place.
<p>World Food Summit (Rome, 1996)</p> <p><i>Resulting documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>Rome Declaration on World Food Security</i> * <i>World Food Summit Plan of Action</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declared objective to develop a comprehensive, sustainable and ecologically sound agriculture with a view to increase food production and to diversify agricultural production in order to meet the needs of the undernourished. • Recognizing the need for poverty alleviation programmes specifically targeted to reach the poorest regions and groups. • National Plan of Action on Nutrition 1995-2000 was formulated in response to the previous International Conference on Nutrition held (Rome, 1992).
<p>World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995)</p> <p><i>Resulting documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitments made at the Summit have been reflected in the five-year Socio-Economic Plan 1996-2000 and annual plans with concrete targets and measures. • Drafted the National Programme for Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction. • Poverty Reduction Boards have been established at provincial, district and commune levels. • Local plans for hunger eradication and poverty reduction are developed • The Bank for the Poor established in 1995 and made operational in 1996.
<p>4th World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995)</p> <p><i>Resulting documents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <i>Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women by the Year 2000 formulated (1996) and ratified by the Prime Minister (October 1997). • Previously ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all form of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) • Provincial committees for the advancement of women formulating provincial level Plans of Action • Consider ratifying ILO Conventions 100 (equal remuneration) and 111 (non-discrimination)

Int. Conf. on Population and Development
(Cairo, 1994)

Resulting documents:
* *ICPD Programme of Action*

- Directions issued by the Prime Minister for UNFPA to allocate resources in its Fifth Country Programme (1997-2000) to a broader population and development programme to achieve the ICPD Programme of Action.
- Post-ICPD national conference held on 5-6 March 1998, to review progress made and help develop national strategies and action plans. The conference was hosted by the National Assembly and attended by the Deputy Prime Minister, ministers, vice-ministers, parliamentarians and senior health and population officials and other experts. It was co-sponsored by UNFPA and AusAID.
- Component project prepared for integrating population data into socio-economic planning process (to be implemented by MPI and funded by UNFPA).
- National reproductive health strategy being developed by the Ministry of Health.
- Revised Population Policy and Plan of Action being prepared by NCPFP.
- Enhance the role of family is one of the eleven objectives of the National PoA. The law of marriage and family being modified and submitted to National Assembly for approval soon.
- Fertility continues to decline, in line with government policies, and replacement level fertility to be reached by 2005.
- Infant and maternal mortality rates also declining.
- The Government has instructed all local authorities and mass organizations to develop special programmes for the care of old aged persons. Some studies on gerontology were undertaken to improve medical treatment to old aged persons. Special health and charitable programmes were implemented to support old aged persons without family.
- Directive of the Prime Minister No. 37/TTG (Jan. 1997) stresses that to accelerate the implementation of the population and family planning strategy, a need for improving quality of health staff, provision of more funds at grassroots level and for strengthening of IEC activities to increase awareness and improve contraceptive mix.
- MOH promulgated the national technical standards on male and female sterilizations and aseptic standards in MCH/FP services and other national technical standards including IUD insertion, pill use, menstrual regulation, induced abortion and condom use.
- Enhanced community participation in family planning through promotion of community-based distribution of contraceptives (condoms and oral pills).
- Socializing health care and FP activities has been actively supported by mass organizations.
- A Programme of Action for Youth Union was cleared at the 7th National Congress of VN Youth Union. Issues of population, youth health and adolescent health, HIV/AIDS prevention, environment in the programme No.4 of the PoA.
- Strategic Framework for Adolescent Reproductive Health was developed with inputs from mass organisations, NGOs and UNFPA, providing the basis for EC assistance for NGOs interventions to better meet adolescent reproductive health needs.
- 1998 National Action Plan to prevent HIV/AIDS advocates and plans for better STDs and HIV prevention *inter-alia* through provision of more condoms.

Global Summit	Follow-up (ratification, Plan of Action, implementation, etc.)
<p>Int. Conf. on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994)</p> <p><i>Resulting documents:</i> * <i>ICPD Programme of Action</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government requested donor assistance for more condoms and obtained so far contribution from Denmark, Republic of Korea and UNFPA. • Directive No. 660/ttg dated 17/10/95 approved by Prime Minister regarding resolution on spontaneous migration to the central high land and to other provinces. • Circular No. 30/TB 28 March 1996 of Prime Minister regarding controlling population increase of HCM City upto 7 to 7.5 million by the year 2010. • Local authority of HCM City issues several directives regarding urban planning, and strictly control rural-urban migration. • Government approved programmes and projects regarding sedentary cultivation and settlement. • the Government decided to merge the Department of Migration with Department of Resettlement under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. • Directive 07 CP 20/1/95 approved by Prime Minister regarding the arrangements for Vietnamese overseas workers • Circular No. 20 dated 20/1/95 issued by MOLISA regarding Vietnamese overseas workers. • Major Initiative, funded by the EC on adolescent reproductive health, currently being processed (proposals have been submitted by MSI, CARE, WPF, and IPPF). • Government's Regulation on Management and Utilization of Official Development Assistance (5 August 1997); health care, population and family planning rank among priorities for ODA.
<p>World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993)</p> <p><i>Resulting documents:</i> * <i>Vienna Declaration on Human Rights</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signatory to the Vienna Declaration on Human Rights • Established the Vietnam Research Centre for Human Rights (under the Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy of Political Sciences) in 1994 • Reviewing ratification and implementation of conventions
<p>UN Conf. on Environment & Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)</p> <p><i>Resulting documents:</i> * <i>Agenda 21</i> * <i>Rio Declaration on Environment & Development</i> * <i>Statement of Forest Principles</i> * <i>UN Framework Convention on Climate Change</i> * <i>UN Convention on Biological Diversity</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signatory to Agenda 21. • "National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action." formulated in 1991 with donor assistance. • Biodiversity Action Plan approved (May 1996) and presented to donor community. • Signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (signed 1993, ratified 1994). • Signatory to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (1994). • Country Programme for phasing-out of ozone-depleting substances approved (1995). • Forest protection and forest plantation given high priority on development agenda (e.g. program 327 on tree planting on denuded hills and barren lands).

<p><i>And: UN General Assembly Special Session New York, 1997 ("Rio+5")</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government requested by the Communist Party in 1997 to pay more attention to environmental protection and assist in preparing a Party Resolution on the issue. • The State Investment Plan for 1998 is expected to increase allocations to the environment sector .
<p>World Summit for Children (New York, 1990)</p> <p><i>* World Declaration * Plan of Action on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990. • Submitted its report on the first 2 years of implementation to the International Child Rights Committee in January 1993. • A number of awareness programmes have been initiated. • National Assembly adopted: Law on the Protection, Care and Education of Children; Law on the Universalisation of Primary Education. • National Assembly adopted National Programme of Action for Children 1991-2000. • Established the Committee for the Protection and Care of Children at all levels. • Consider ratifying ILO Convention 138 on minimum age.
<p>Other conventions:</p> <p><u>Related to drug abuse:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Single Conv. on Narcotics Drugs (1961, amended '72) - Conv. on Psychotropic Substances (1971) - Conv. against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceded to (October 1997) Acceded to (October 1997) Acceded to (October 1997)

ANNEX B

CORE INDICATORS						
POPULATION						
No.	Indicator	Value	Unit	Year	Source	World Conference
1	Total population	73,959	million people	1995	General Statistical Office	All summits
		64,412		1989		
		52,742		1979		
		30,172		1960		
		23,061		1951		
	ethnic minorities	13.00	%	1989	1989 Population Census	
2	Population growth	2.00	%	1995	General Statistical Office	All summits
		2.25		1990		
		3.24		1970		
		3.93		1960		
3	Life expectancy at birth		years			All summits
	total	65		1989	1989 Population Census	
		66		1979	1989 Population Census	
	male	63		1989	1989 Population Census	
		62		1982	1984 World Dev. Rep.	
		65		1979	1989 Population Census	
		42		1960	1984 World Dev. Rep.	
	female	69		1989	1989 Population Census	
		66		1982	1984 World Dev. Rep.	
		69		1979	1989 Population Census	
		45		1960	1984 World Dev. Rep.	
	ethnic minorities	not available				
4	Population distribution		%		General Statistical Office	All summits
	urban	20.5		1995		
		19.5		1993		
		20.1		1989		
		19.2		1980		
		21.5		1975		
	rural	79.5		1995		
		80.5		1993		
		79.9		1989		
		80.8		1980		
		78.5		1975		
	0-14 years	39.0		1989	1989 Population Census	
	15-19 years	10.6				
	20-49 years	37.2				
	50 and more	13.3				
	0-14 years	37.6		1993	Living Standard Household Survey	
	15-19 years	10.7				
	20-49 years	37.1				
	50 and more	14.4				
	0-14 years	42.6		1979	1989 Population Census	
	15-19 years	10.6				
	20-49 years	37.1				
	50 and more	13.3				

ANNEX B

GOVERNANCE								
No.	Indicator	Value	Unit	Year	Source	World Conference		
5	Human Development Index (HDI)				UNDP	All summits		
		121	of 175 countries	1997	<i>Human Developm Rep</i>			
		120	of 174 countries	1995				
		115	of 173 countries	1993				
		99	of 160 countries	1991				
	gender development index (GDI)	101	of 146 countries	1997				
		74	of 130 countries	1995				
6	Average annual GDP growth rate	9.5	%	1995	General Statistical Office	All summits		
		8.1		1993				
		6.0		1991				
7	Agriculture (at current prices, est.)	28	% GDP	1995	General Statistical Office	World Food Summit (Rome)		
		29		1994				
		30		1993				
		34		1992				
		41		1991				
8	Industry (at current prices, est.)	23	% GDP	1995	General Statistical Office			
		22		1994				
		22		1993				
		22		1992				
		20		1991				
9	Services (at current prices, est.)	42	% GDP	1995	General Statistical Office			
		42		1994				
		41		1993				
		39		1992				
		36		1991				
10	Official Development Assistance (ODA)				UNDP	All summits		
	<i>bilateral</i>	483	million USD	1996	<i>Development Coopera- tion Report</i>			
		308		1994				
		482		1992				
		367		1990				
	<i>multilateral</i>	492		1996				
		288		1994				
		67		1992				
		74		1990				
	ODA compared with GDP	7	% of GDP	1994			<i>10,908 VND = 1USD</i>	
		2		1993			<i>10,583 VND = 1USD</i>	
		3		1991			<i>9,628 VND = 1USD</i>	
11	Allocation of state budget		%				General Statistical Office	All summits
	health care	<i>stat</i> 5.7		1995	<i>Social Indicators '90-95</i>			
		5.8		1993				
		6.1		1991				
	<i>local</i>	not available						
	education (primary and secondary)							
	<i>state</i>	9.5		1995				
		6.6		1993				
		6.7		1991				
	<i>local</i>	not available						
	pensions, social security							
	<i>state</i>	13.9		1995				
		10.5		1993				
		11.9		1991				
	<i>local</i>	not available						
	internal security	not available						
	external security	not available						
12	Independently audited public budget	not available	published audits					All summits
13	Cases defended by a lawyer	not available	cases					

ANNEX B

SOCIAL ISSUES							
No.	Indicator	Value	Unit	Year	Source	World Conference	
14	Households below food poverty line				General Statistical Office		
	<i>total</i>	18	%	1994	<i>Multipurp. Househ. Surv. Poor and Rich Survey</i>	Social Summit (Copenhagen) ICPD (Cairo) Children's Summit (New York) World Food Summit (Rome)	
		20		1993			
	<i>urban</i>	9		1994	<i>Multipurp. Househ. Surv. Poor and Rich Survey</i>		
		10		1993			
	<i>rural</i>	20		1994	<i>Multipurp. Househ. Surv. Poor and Rich Survey</i>		
		22		1993			
	<i>Food poverty line</i>						
	<i>urban</i>	1,104,000	VND pr. cap/year	1994	<i>Multipurp. Househ. Surv. Poor and Rich Survey</i>		
		768,000		1993			
	<i>rural</i>	804,000		1994	<i>Multipurp. Househ. Surv. Poor and Rich Survey</i>		
		564,000		1993			
15	Population below food & non-food poverty line				World Bank		
	<i>total</i>	51	%	1993	<i>1995 Poverty Assessm.</i>	Social Summit (Copenhagen) Children's Summit (New York) ICPD (Cairo)	
	<i>urban</i>	27					
	<i>rural</i>	57					
	<i>Food & non-food poverty line</i>						
	<i>total</i>	1,090,000	VND pr. cap/year	1993			
	<i>urban</i>	1,293,000					
	<i>rural</i>	1,040,000					
16	Children under five malnourished		%		General Statistical Office		
	(2 standard deviations below normal nutrition level of weight for age, i.e. serious malnutrition)					World Food Summit (Rome) Children's Summit (New York)	
	<i>total</i>	41		1997	<i>(Institute of Nutrition) Survey on Mid-Decade Goals for VN Children Survey on Nat. Malnutrit. & Protection Progr. Country Rep. to Copen.</i>		
		43		1996			
		43		1994			
		48		1990			
	<i>urban</i>	33		1996			
		38		1994			
	<i>rural</i>	45		1996			
		44		1994			
	<i>big cities</i>	25		1997			
17	Under five mortality rate	55	pr. 1000 livebirths	1995		General Statistical Office	
		55		89-93	<i>Implem. of Mid-Decade Goals for VN Children</i>	ICPD (Cairo) Children's Summit (New York)	
		70		84-89			
		82		79-83			
18	Maternal mortality rate	1.1	pr. 1000 livebirths	1996	Ministry of Health		
		1.2		89-93		ICPD (Cairo)	
		1.2		84-88		Women's Conference (Beijing)	
		1.4		79-83			
19	Functional literacy rate		%			All summits	
	(10 years of age and over)						
	<i>total</i>	87		1993	<i>Liv. Stan. Househ. Surv. 1989 Population Census</i>		
		88		1989			
		85		1979	<i>1989 Population Census</i>		
	<i>urban</i>	93		1993	<i>Liv. Stan. Househ. Surv.</i>		
		94		1989	<i>1989 Population Census</i>		
	<i>rural</i>	85		1993	<i>Liv. Stan. Househ. Surv.</i>		
		87		1989	<i>1989 Population Census</i>		
	<i>male</i>	91		1993	<i>Liv. Stan. Househ. Surv.</i>		
		93		1989	<i>1989 Population Census</i>		
	<i>female</i>	82		1993	<i>Liv. Stan. Househ. Surv.</i>		
		84		1989	<i>1989 Population Census</i>		
20	Completion rate, primary school	61	%	94-95	General Statistical Office		
		57		93-94			ICPD (Cairo)
		47		92-93			Children's Summit (New York)
		41		91-92			
		40		90-91			

SOCIAL ISSUES					
21	Highest obtained diploma				World Bank
	Primary school	31	% population	1993	1995 Poverty Assessm. Report (data based on Living Standard Household Survey)
	<i>male</i>	33	% male		
	<i>female</i>	29	% female		
	Lower secondary school	21	% population	1993	
	<i>male</i>	22	% male		
	<i>female</i>	19	% female		
	Higher secondary school	6	% population	1993	
	<i>male</i>	7	% male		
	<i>female</i>	5	% female		
22	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (15-49 yrs. married women)		%		
	<i>total</i>	65		1994	Inter-Censal Dem. Surv.
	<i>of which: modern method</i>	44			
	<i>total</i>	53		1988	Demogr. & Health Surv.
	<i>of which: modern method</i>	38			
23	Unmet need for family planning		%		General Statistical Office
	<i>spacing</i>	8		1994	Inter-Censal Dem. Surv.
	<i>limiting</i>	11		1994	
	<i>traditional methods</i>	21		1994	
24	Births att. by trained health person		%		
	<i>urban</i>	98		1995	Ministry of Health
	<i>rural</i>	87			
	Deliveries at health facilities				
	<i>urban</i>	90		1995	Ministry of Health
	<i>rural</i>	50			
		47		84-94	Inter-Censal Dem. Surv.
25	Women in decision-making		%		
	<i>National Assembly</i>	26		1997	National Assembly Office
		19		1996	UNDP Human Dev. Rep.
	<i>Prov incial government</i>	20		1994	Country Rep. to Beijing
	<i>District government</i>	18		1994	
	<i>Commune's People's Commitees</i>	14		1994	
26	HIV-AIDS cases		cases		Ministry of Health
	<i>HIV cases (cumulative)</i>	8,060		1997	Statistical Yearbook
		3,905		1995	
		1,160		1993	
		1		1991	
	<i>AIDS cases (cumulative) New</i>	1,178		1997	
	<i>Death</i>	173			
	<i>New</i>	421		1995	
	<i>Death</i>	156			
	<i>New</i>	106		1993	
	<i>Death</i>	46			
	<i>New</i>	0		1991	
	<i>Death</i>	0			

ANNEX B

ENVIRONMENT and RURAL DEVELOPMENT						
No.	Indicator	Value	Unit	Year	Source	World Conference
27	Households with access to safe drinking water		%		General Statistical Office	Environment (Rio)
	<i>total</i>	43		1994	<i>Multipurp. Househ. Surv.</i>	
		37		1993		
	<i>urban</i>	56		1994		
		66		1993		
	<i>rural</i>	31		1994		
		32		1993		
28	Households w/access to safe latrine		%		General Statistical Office	Environment (Rio)
	<i>total</i>	26		1994	<i>Multipurp. Househ. Surv.</i>	
	<i>urban</i>	53		1994		
	<i>rural</i>	17		1994		
29	Electricity output	14,691	m kwh	1995	General Statistical Office	Environment (Rio)
		10,851		1993	<i>(96 World Dev. Report)</i>	
		9,307		1991		
	Commercial energy use	8.3	% growth	90-94		
		4		80-90		
30	Agricultural land per capita	995	m2	1995	General Statistical Office	Environment (Rio)
		1035		1993		
		1034		1991		
31	Food available per head (net)	373	kg	1995	General Statistical Office	World Food Summit (Rome)
		335		1993		
		309		1991		
	Food production by region					
	<i>Northern Uplands</i>	238		1995		
	<i>Red River Delta</i>	355				
	<i>North Central</i>	252				
	<i>Central Coast</i>	258				
	<i>Central High Lands</i>	212				
	<i>Southeast</i>	145				
	<i>Mekong River Delta</i>	809				
	<i>Northern Uplands</i>	252		1993		
	<i>Red River Delta</i>	390				
	<i>North Central</i>	236				
	<i>Central Coast</i>	235				
	<i>Central High Lands</i>	217				
	<i>Southeast</i>	130				
	<i>Mekong River Delta</i>	721				
	<i>Northern Uplands</i>	190		1991		
	<i>Red River Delta</i>	257				
	<i>North Central</i>	222				
	<i>Central Coast</i>	290				
	<i>Central High Lands</i>	226				
	<i>Southeast</i>	129				
	<i>Mekong River Delta</i>	703				
32	Deforestation	26371	hectare	1995	General Statistical Office	Environment (Rio)
		13,436		1994	<i>(96 World Dev. Report)</i>	
		21,688		1993		
		40,120		1992		
		20,257		1991		
	<i>annual</i>	1.6	%	81-90		
33	Threatened mammal species		species		World Resources Instit.	Environment (Rio)
		25		1993	<i>World Resources 96-97</i>	

COMMON DATA BASE							
POPULATION							
No.	Indicator	Value	Unit	Year	Source	World Conference	
1	Total population	73 959	million people	1995	General Statistical Office	All summits	
		64 412		1989	1989 Population Census		
		52 742		1979			
		30 172		1960			
		23 061		1951			
		ethnic minorities	13 00	%	1989		
2	Population density	223	person/km2	1995	General Statistical Office		
		219		1994		Environment (Rio)	
		209		1992		ICPD (Cairo)	
		200		1990			
3	Population distribution		%		General Statistical Office	All summits	
		urban	21		1995		
			20		1993		
			20		1991		
			20		1989	1989 Population Census	
			19		1979		
			22		1975		
		rural	80		1995		
			81		1993		
			80		1991		
			80		1989	1989 Population Census	
			81		1979		
			79		1975		
		0-4 years	12		1993	Living Standard Household Survey	
		5-14 years	26				
		15-19 years	11				
		20-49 years	37				
		50 and more	14				
		0-4 years	14		1989	1989 Population Census	
		5-14 years	25				
15-19 years	11						
20-49 years	37						
50 and more	13						
0-4 years	15		1979	1989 Population Census			
5-14 years	28						
15-19 years	11						
20-49 years	33						
50 and more	13						
4	Population distribution by sex		million people		General Statistical Office		
		0-14 years					
		Male	11		1989	1989 Population Census	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
		Female	12				ICPD (Cairo)
		Male	14		1979	1989 Population Census	
		Female	13				
		15-49 years					
		Male	12		1989		
		Female	16				
		Male	13		1979		
		Female	15				
		60 years and older					
		male	2		1989		
		female	3				
		male	2		1979		
		female	3				
5	Sexratio	106 50	female/male	1989	General Statistical Office	ICPD (Cairo)	
		104 80		1979	1989 Population Census		
6	Population growth rate	2 00	%	1995	General Statistical Office	All summits	
		2 10		1989	1989 Population Census		
		3 24		1970			
7	Life expectancy at birth		years			All summits	
		total	65		1989	1989 Population Census	
			66		1979	1989 Population Census	
		male	64		1994	UNDP Human Dev Rep	
			63		1989	1989 Population Census	
			64		1979	1989 Population Census	
		female	68		1994	UNDP Human Dev Rep	
			68		1989	1989 Population Census	
			68		1979	1989 Population Census	
		ethnic minorities	not available				

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8	Crude birth rate (CBR)		%		General Statistical Office	ICPD (Cairo)
		25.30		93-94	<i>Inter-Censal Dem. Surv.</i>	
		30.10		88-89	<i>1989 Population Census</i>	
9	Crude death rate (CDR)		%		General Statistical Office	ICPD (Cairo)
		6.70		1993		
		7.06		1992		
		7.50		1991		
10	Children less than one year of age registered for a birth certificate	not available	children			Children's Summit (New York)
11	Total fertility rate		child		General Statistical Office	ICPD (Cairo)
		3.30		89-93		
		3.10		1993	<i>ICDS 94</i>	
		3.80		1989	<i>Population Census</i>	

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GOVERNANCE						
No.	Indicator	Value	Unit	Year	Source	World Conference
12	Human Development Index (HDI)				UNDP	All summits
		121	of 175 countries	1997	<i>Human Developm Rep</i>	
		120	of 174 countries	1995		
		115	of 173 countries	1993		
	gender development index (GDI)	99	of 160 countries	1991		
		101	of 146 countries	1997		
		74	of 130 countries	1995		
13	GDP growth	9.5	%	1995	General Statistical Office	All summits
		8.1		1993	<i>World Bank</i>	
		6.0		1991		
		3.9		86-90		
		6.4		81-85		
14	GNP per capita growth	7.4	%	1995	World Bank	All summits
					<i>Structural Adjustm Rep</i>	
15	Real GDP per capita		PPP USD		UNDP	All summits
		1,208		1994	<i>Human Develop Report</i> <i>(PPP = purchasing power party)</i>	
		1,040		1993		
16	General retail prices index	127.0	% change	1995	General Statistical Office	
		5.20		1993		World Food Summit (Rome) Social Summit (Copenhagen)
		67.50		1991		
17	Allocation of state budget		%		General Statistical Office	All summits
	health care					
	(state)	5.70		1995		
		5.80		1993		
		6.10		1991		
	(local)	not available				
	education (primary and secondary)					
	(state)	9.50		1995		
		6.60		1993		
		6.70		1991		
	(local)	not available				
	pensions social security					
	(state)	13.90		1995		
		10.50		1993		
		11.90		1991		
	(local)	not available				
	internal security	not available				
	external security	not available				
18	Deficit	0.50	% GDP	1995	Econ Intelligen Unit (EIU)	-
		4.60		1993		
		1.50		1991		
19	Investment-share	24	% GDP	1994	Econ Intelligen Unit (EIU)	
		21		1993		
		18		1992		
		15		1991		
20	Foreign direct investment	4,445	million USD	1997		All summits
		8,258		1996		
		6,616		1995		
		4,071		1994		
		2,652		1993		
		2,036		1992		
21	Official Develop Assistance (ODA)		million USD		UNDP	All summits
	bilateral	483		1996	<i>Development Coopera-</i> <i>tion Report</i>	
		308		1994		
		482		1992		
		367		1990		
	multilateral	492		1996		
		288		1994		
		67		1992		
		74		1990		
22	ODA compared with GDP	6.95	% of GDP	1994	10 908 VND = 1USD	All summits
		2.00		1993	10 583 VND = 1USD	
		2.99		1991	9 628 VND = 1USD	

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23	Independently audited public budget	not available	published audits			All summits
24	Employed labour force		% of work force		General Statistical Office	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
	<i>total</i>	65		1997	97 Labour Force Survey	
		74		1989	1989 Population Census	
	<i>urban</i>	64		1997	97 Labour Force Survey	
		66		1989	1989 Population Census	
	<i>rural</i>	74		1997	97 Labour Force Survey	
		76		1989	1989 Population Census	
25	Civil servants		persons		General Statistical Office	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
	<i>total</i>	1,448,513		1995		
	<i>administrative organs</i>	357,323				
	<i>service establishments</i>	1,011,515				
	<i>party & ass. organs</i>	79,675				
26	Employment in industry	13	%	1994	Int. Monetary Fund (IMF)	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
27	Employment in services	15	%	1994	Int. Monetary Fund (IMF)	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
28	Agriculture (at current prices, est.)	28	% GDP	1995	General Statistical Office	World Food Summit (Rome)
		29		1994		
		30		1993		
		34		1992		
		41		1991		
29	Industry (at current prices, est.)	23	% GDP	1995	General Statistical Office	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
		22		1994		
		22		1993		
		22		1992		
		20		1991		
30	Services (at current prices, est.)	42	% GDP	1995	General Statistical Office	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
		42		1994		
		41		1993		
		39		1992		
		36		1991		
31	Average annual growth in	5.10	%	1995	General Statistical Office	
	agriculture, forestry and fisheries (at constant prices of 1989)	3.90		1994		World Food Summit (Rome)
		3.80		1993		Social Summit (Copenhagen)
		7.10		1992		
		2.20		1991		
32	Average annual growth in industry (at constant prices of 1989)	14.00	%	1995	General Statistical Office	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
		12.90		1994		
		12.10		1993		
		14.60		1992		
		9.90		1991		
33	Average annual growth in services (at constant prices of 1989)	10.60	%	1995	General Statistical Office	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
		10.20		1994		
		9.20		1993		
		7.00		1992		
		8.30		1991		
34	State industry sector (est.)	72	% GDP	1994	World Bank	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
					Struct. Adjustment Rep.	
35	Number of medical workers		persons		General Statistical Office	ICPD (Cairo)
	(state sector, including commune health workers)				Social Indicators 1990-95	
	<i>doctors per 100,000 people</i>	42		1995		
		42		1994		
		40		1992		
		36		1990		
	<i>assistant doctors per 100,000 people</i>	62		1995		
		63		1994		
		68		1992		
		70		1990		
	<i>nurses per 100,000 people</i>	65		1995		
		71		1994		
		81		1992		
		107		1990		
	<i>midwives per 100,000 people</i>	16		1995		
		16		1994		
		17		1992		
		20		1990		

ANNEX B

36	Patient beds per 100,000 people	175	beds	1995	General Statistical Office	ICPD (Cairo)
	<i>government sector</i>	175		1994	Social Indicators 1990-95	
		180		1993		
		185		1992		
		198		1991		
		202		1990		
	<i>private sector</i>	not available				
37	(Independent) judges per 100,000	not available	persons			
38	Policemen per 100,000 people	not available	persons			
39	Cases defended by a lawyer	not available	no. of cases			
40	Appeals	not available	no. of appeals			
41	Length of proceedings	not available	months			
42	Desegregation of cases	not available	no. of cases			
43	Corruption cases filed	not available	no. of cases			
44	Household having radio	43	%	1994	General Statistical Office	
45	Household having TV	39	%	1994	General Statistical Office	
46	Members of mass organisations	not available	persons			

ANNEX B

SOCIAL ISSUES						
No.	Indicator	Value	Unit	Year	Source	World Conference
47	Income share, poorest 40% of pop.		%		General Statistical Office	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
		28		1994	<i>Social Indicators 1990-95</i>	
48	Households below food poverty line		%		General Statistical Office	
	total	18		1994	<i>Multipur. Househ. Surv.</i>	World Food Summit (Rome)
		20		1993	<i>Poor and Rich Survey</i>	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
	urban	9		1994	<i>Multipur. Househ. Surv.</i>	
		10		1993	<i>Poor and Rich Survey</i>	
	rural	20		1994	<i>Multipur. Househ. Surv.</i>	
		22		1993	<i>Poor and Rich Survey</i>	
49	Food poverty line				General Statistical Office	
	(starvation: min. calorie intake 2,100)					World Food Summit (Rome)
	urban	1,104,000	VND pr. cap/year	1994		Social Summit (Copenhagen)
		768,000		1993		
	rural	804,000		1994		
		564,000		1993		
50	Population below food & non-food poverty line		%		World Bank	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
	total	51		1993	<i>1995 Poverty Assessm. and Strategy Report</i>	
	urban	27				
	rural	57				
51	Food & non-food poverty line		VND pr. cap/year		World Bank	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
	total	1,090,000		1993	<i>1995 Poverty Assessm. and Strategy Report</i>	
	urban	1,293,000				
	rural	1,040,000				
52	Changes in real income	not available				Social Summit (Copenhagen)
53	Children under five underweight (moderate and severe)		%		UNDP	
		45		90-96	<i>1997 Human Dev. Report</i>	Children's Summit (New York)
						World Food Summit (Rome)
54	Children under five malnourished		%		General Statistical Office	
	(2 standard divisions below normal nutrition level of weight for age, i.e. serious malnutrition)					World Food Summit (Rome)
	total	41		1997	<i>(Institute of Nutrition) Survey on Mid-Decade Goals for VN Children Survey on Nat. Malnutrit. & Protection Progr. Country Rep. to Copen.</i>	Children's Summit (New York)
		43		1996		
		43		1994		
		48		1990		
	urban	33		1996		
		38		1994		
	rural	45		1996		
		44		1994		
	major cities	26		1997		
55	Iodized salt consumption	49	% households	1995	General Statistical Office	World Food Summit (Rome)
56	Vitamin A coverage	85	% children <5	1995	General Statistical Office	World Food Summit (Rome)
57	Infant mortality rate		pr. 1000 livebirths		General Statistical Office	
	total	44		89-93		ICPD (Cairo)
		46		84-89		Children's Summit (New York)
		55		79-83		
	urban	27		84-93		
	rural	49		84-93		
	female	39		1994		
	male	50		1994		
58	Under five mortality rate	57	pr. 1000 livebirths	1995	General Statistical Office	Children Summit (New York)
	total	55		89-93	<i>Implem. of Mid-Decade Goals for VN Children</i>	ICPD (Cairo)
		70		84-89		
		82		79-83		
	female	56		1994	<i>Inter-Censal</i>	
	male	67		1994	<i>Demographic Survey</i>	
59	Low birth weight (less than 2500 gr.)	6.8	% of livebirths	1994	General Statistical Office	
		7.1		1993		ICPD (Cairo)
		9.5		1992		Children's Summit (New York)
		11.7		1991		
		9.8		1990		

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60	Maternal mortality rate	1.1	pr. 1000 livebirths	1996	Ministry of Health	
		1.2		89-93		ICPD (Cairo)
		1.2		84-88		Women's Conference (Beijing)
		1.4		79-83		
61	Birth attend. by trained health person		%			ICPD (Cairo)
	urban	98		1995	Ministry of Health	
	rural	87		1995	Ministry of Health	
		56		84-94	Inter-Censal	
					Demographic Survey	
62	Deliveries at health facilities		%			ICPD (Cairo)
	urban	90		1995	Ministry of Health	
	rural	50		1995		
		47		84-94	Inter-Censal	
					Demographic Survey	
63	Births occurred at home	43.50	%	84-94	ICDS	ICPD (Cairo)
64	Contraceptive prevalence rate (15-59 years and married women)		%		General Statistical Office	
	total	65		1994	Inter-Censal	Women's Conference (Beijing)
	of which: modern method	44			Demographic Survey	ICPD (Cairo)
	total	53		1988	Survey on Pop. Change and Family Planning	
	of which: modern method	38				
65	Unmet need for family planning		%		General Statistical Office	ICPD (Cairo)
	spacing	7.8		1994	Inter-Censal Dem. Surv.	
	limiting	10.6		1994		
	traditional methods	21.2		1994		
66	Infertility-rate	not available	%			ICPD (Cairo)
67	Abortion-rate		%		General Statistical Office	
	ever had abortion	13		1994	Inter-Censal Dem. Surv.	Women's Conference (Beijing)
	general married abortion rate (married women 15-49)	23		1994		
	mean number of abortion per woman	1.25		1994		
68	Functional literacy rate (10 years of age and over)		%		General Statistical Office	All summits
	total	87		92-93	Liv. Stand. Househ. Surv.	
		88		1989	1989 Population Census	
	urban	93		92-93	Liv. Stand. Househ. Surv.	
		94		1989	1989 Population Census	
	rural	85		92-93	Liv. Stand. Househ. Surv.	
		87		1989	1989 Population Census	
	male	91		92-93	Liv. Stand. Househ. Surv.	
		93		1989	1989 Population Census	
	female	82		92-93	Liv. Stand. Househ. Surv.	
		84		1989	1989 Population Census	
69	Completion rate, primary school	61	%	94-95	General Statistical Office	
		58		93-94		Social Summit (Copenhagen)
		47		92-93		ICPD (Cairo)
		41		91-92		Children's Summit (New York)
		40		90-91		
70	Net enrollment lower second. school				World Bank	
	total	2,996	million	1993	1995 Poverty Assessm. Report (data based on Living Standard House- hold Survey)	Social Summit (Copenhagen)
		2,729		1992		ICPD (Cairo)
		2,727		1991		Children's Summit (New York)
		2,708		1990		
		2,759		1989		
		3,038		1988		
		3,291		1987		
	urban	56	%	1993		
	rural	33				
	richest	56				
	poorest	19				

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71	Highest obtained diploma				World Bank	
	primary school	31	% population	1993	1995 Poverty Assessm. Report (data based on Living Standard Household Survey)	Social Summit (Copenhagen) Women's Conference (Beijing) ICPD (Cairo) Children's Summit (New York)
	male	33	% male			
	female	29	% female			
	lower secondary school	21	% population	1993		
	male	22	% male			
	female	19	% female			
	higher secondary school	6	% population	1993		
	male	7	% male			
	female	5	% female			
72	Disabled children		children			Children's Summit (New York)
		not available				
73	Street children		children		General Statistical Office	Children's Summit (New York)
		2,345		1995	Living Standard Household Survey	
74	Women in salaried employment		%		General Statistical Office	
	total	48		1995	1995 General Survey of Econ., Adm. & Serv. Org.	Women's Conference (Beijing) Social Summit (Copenhagen)
	urban	not available				
	rural	not available				
75	Households headed by a woman		%		World Bank	
		23		1994	1995 Poverty Ass. Rep.	Social Summit (Copenhagen) Women's Conference (Beijing)
76	Rural-urban migration (by sex)	not available				All summits
77	Female workforce in rural areas (economically active)		%		General Statistical Office	
		83		92-93	Living Standard Household Survey	Women's Conference (Beijing) Social Summit (Copenhagen)
78	Average rural wages		VND/month		General Statistical Office	
	male	97,930		92-93	Living Standard Household Survey	Women's Conference (Beijing) Social Summit (Copenhagen)
	female	67,820				
79	Women in decision-making		%			All summits
	National Assembly	26		1997	National Assembly Office	
		19		1996		
	Provincial government	20		1994		
	District government	18		1994		
	Commune's People's Committees	14		1994		
80	HIV/AIDS cases		persons		Ministry of Health	ICPD (Cairo)
	HIV cases (cumulative)	8,060		1997		
		3,905		1995		
		1,160		1993		
		1		1991		
	AIDS cases (cumulative)					
	New	1,178		1997		
	Death	173				
	New	421		1995		
	Death	156				
	New	106		1993		
	Death	46				
	New	0		1991		
	Death	0				
81	Drug-addicts		persons			
		148,104		1995	Statistical Yearbook	
	under control	66,384		1995		

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ENVIRONMENT and RURAL DEVELOPMENT						
No.	Indicator	Value	Unit	Year	Source	World Conference
82	Households w/access to safe water		%		General Statistical Office	Environment (Rio)
	total	43		1994	Multipurp. Househ. Surv.	
		37		1993	Poor and Rich Survey	
	urban	56		1994	Multipurp. Househ. Surv.	
		57		1993	Poor and Rich Survey	
	rural	31		1994	Multipurp. Househ. Surv.	
		32		1993	Poor and Rich Survey	
83	Households w/access safe latrines		%		General Statistical Office	Environment (Rio)
	total	26		1994	Multipurp. Househ. Surv.	
	urban	53		1994		
	rural	17		1994		
84	Households w/ access to electricity		%		General Statistical Office	Environment (Rio)
	total	62		1994	Multipurp. Househ. Surv.	
	urban	92				
	rural	54				
85	Average time from commune to:				World Bank	ICPD (Cairo)
	nearest health facilities					
	hospital	2.40	hour	1993	1995 Poverty Assessm.	
	commune health center	1.70				
	pharmacy	2.00				
	doctor	1.80				
	assistant to doctor	1.50				
	nurse	1.30				
	midwife	1.20				
	healer	2.10				
	nearest education facilities					
	primary school	not available	minute	1993		
	lower secondary school	52.50				
	upper secondary school	51.10				
86	Communes in rural areas with:		%		General Statistical Office	
	primary schools	97		94-95	Educational Survey 94-95	Children's Summit (New York)
	secondary schools	66		94-95		ICPD (Cairo)
87	Schools w/access to sanitation facil.	not available	%			Children's Summit (New York) Social Summit (Copenhagen)
88	Rural housing by type of housing		%		General Statistical Office	
	permanent	12		1994	Agriculture Census	ICPD (Cairo)
	semi-permanent	46				Social Summit (Copenhagen)
	other	43				Environment (Rio)
89	Garbage disposal method		%		General Statistical Office	Environment (Rio)
	collected by garbage truck	9		92-93	Living Standard	
	burned, buried	33			Household Survey	
	dumped in river or lake	9				
	not fixed place	7				
	use for fertilizer	42				
90	Electricity output	14,691	m/kwh	1995	General Statistical Office	Environment (Rio)
		10,851		1993		
		9,307		1991		
91	Commercial energy use		% growth		World Bank	Environment (Rio)
		8.3		90-94	1996 World Dev Report	
		4.0		80-90		
92	Households hit by natural disasters	not available	number/year			Environment (Rio)
93	Deforestation	26,371.00	hectar	1995	General Statistical Office	Environment (Rio)
		13,436.00		1994		
		21,688.00		1993		
		40,120.00		1992		
		20,257.00		1991		
	annual	1.60	%	81-90	(1996 World Dev. Rep.)	
	change in forest area	-19.30	%	80-93	(1997 Human Dev Rep.)	
94	Area irrigated by irrigation system	33.80	% arable land	1993	UNDP	
		28.00		87-90	Human Develop. Report	Environment (Rio) World Food Summit (Rome)
95	Agriculture land per capita	994.81	m2	1995	General Statistical Office	
		1,034.61		1993		Environment (Rio)
		1,034.00		1991		World Food Summit (Rome)
96	Food available per head (net)	373.00	kg per year	1995	General Statistical Office	World Food Summit (Rome)
		334.78		1993		
		309.07		1991		

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97	Food production per head (gross)		kg per year		General Statistical Office	World Food Summit (Rome)
	<i>Northern Uplands</i>	238		1995		
	<i>Red River Delta</i>	355				
	<i>North Central</i>	252				
	<i>Central Coast</i>	258				
	<i>Central High Lands</i>	212				
	<i>Southeast</i>	145				
	<i>Mekong River Delta</i>	809				
	<i>Northern Uplands</i>	252		1993		
	<i>Red River Delta</i>	390				
	<i>North Central</i>	236				
	<i>Central Coast</i>	235				
	<i>Central High Lands</i>	217				
	<i>Southeast</i>	130				
	<i>Mekong River Delta</i>	721				
	<i>Northern Uplands</i>	190		1991		
	<i>Red River Delta</i>	257				
	<i>North Central</i>	222				
	<i>Central Coast</i>	290				
	<i>Central High Lands</i>	226				
	<i>Southeast</i>	129				
	<i>Mekong River Delta</i>	703				
98	Chemical fertilizers for agriculture		1000 tons		General Statistical Office	
	<i>nitrogenous</i>	2,366		1995		Environment (Rio)
		2,388		1994		World Food Summit (Rome)
		2,110		1990		
		1,448		1986		
	<i>phosphatic</i>	not available		1995		
		159		1994		
		402		1990		
		224		1986		
99	Prices, key agricultural commodities		1000 VND		General Statistical Office	World Food Summit (Rome)
	<i>paddy rice</i>	2,031		1996	<i>Statistical Yearbook</i>	
		1,352		1994		
		1,094		1992		
		1,291		1991		
	<i>pork</i>	22,734		1996		
		15,639		1994		
		15,265		1992		
		10,519		1991		
	<i>beef topside</i>	30,773		1996		
		20,726		1994		
		17,910		1992		
		11,893		1991		
	<i>chicken carcass</i>	22,822		1996		
		16,147		1994		
		13,985		1992		
		9,369		1991		
	<i>duck's eggs</i>	10,733		1996		
		7,470		1994		
		6,046		1992		
		5,355		1991		
	<i>sea shrimps</i>	36,082		1996		
		24,689		1994		
		18,053		1992		
		11,941		1991		
100	Transportation by:				EIU 97	Environment (Rio)
	<i>road</i>	12,000	passenger km	1995		
		10,601		1993		
		9,438		1991		
		2,247	freight km ton	1995		
		2,437		1993		
		1,815		1991		
	<i>rail</i>	2,322	passenger km	1995		
		1,921		1993		
		1,767		1991		
		1,500	freight km ton	1995		
		978		1993		
		1,103		1991		
101	Traffic roads		km		General Statistical Office	Environment (Rio)
	<i>land ways</i>				<i>Statistical Yearbook</i>	
	<i>total</i>	177,259		1994		
	<i>northern uplands</i>	56,457				
	<i>red river delta</i>	27,569				
	<i>north central</i>	25,230				
	<i>central coast</i>	15,789				

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK - VIET NAM
PROGRAMME RESOURCES FRAMEWORK 1998-2000
(in thousand US\$ and including non-core resources)**

AGENCY	SOURCE OF FUNDS	BASIC HUMAN NEEDS	GOVERNANCE	RURAL DEVELOPMENT	ENVIRONMENT	TOTAL
FAO	Regular	0	540	1,500	350	2,390
	Donor (and other)	0	0	3,500	1,550	5,050
IFAD	Committed	0	0	26,000	0	26,000
	Pipeline	0	0	18,000	0	18,000
UNDCP ¹	General and donor	1,462	1,563	1,853	0	4,878
UNDP ²	Core	9,700	17,100	10,200	10,500	47,500
	Non-core	1,750	9,600	5,240	10,910	27,500
UNHCR	Speci l Programme	1,756	0	0	0	1,756
UNFPA ³	Regular and other	15,360	3,240	3,000	0	21,600
UNICEF ⁴	General	12,290	3,706	3,511	0	19,507
	Supplementary	15,120	4,560	4,320	0	24,000
UNIDO ⁵	General and donor	0	2,900	3,700	3,200	9,800
WFP ⁶		14,160	0	31,200	0	45,360
WHO ⁷		10,200	850	1,050	1,400	13,500
Total		84,798	44,059	110,074	27,910	266,841

¹ UNDCP programme resources data only includes committed funds.

² UNDP programme cycle covers 1997-2000. Programme resource information based on UNDP Country Programme (DP/CCF/VIE/1 of 8 July 1996).

³ UNFPA programme cycle covers 1997-2000. Programme resource information based on UNFPA Country Programme (DP/FPA/CPI 58 of 30 July 1996).

⁴ UNICEF programme cycle covers 1996-2000. Programme resource information based on UNICEF Country Programme of Cooperation 1996-2000.

⁵ UNIDO programme resource information based on UNIDO Programme of Cooperation 1998-2000.

⁶ WFP programme resource information based on WFP Country Strategy Outline 1996-2000.

⁷ WHO programme resource information based on Country/Intercountry Regular Budgets and Additional Provisions (such as programme-specific, voluntary contributions).

THEME GROUPS

	COMPOSITION	LEAD AGENCY	CHARACTER OF WORK	MEETING FREQUENCY
Poverty	Consultative Group (CG) members	UN Resident Coordinator	Information sharing	(to be established)
ODA Implementation and Operational Issues	Consultative Group (CG) members	UN Resident Coordinator	Policy discussion and coordination on specific issues	As needed. Meet last time January 1996
UN Working Group on Drug Issues	UN agencies (occasionally NGOs invited)	UNDCP	Coordination and information sharing	As needed. Meet last time April 1997
Ha Noi Mini-Dublin Group (on illicit drugs)	Donorwide (members of the Dublin Group)	UNDCP	Policy discussion	Meets bi-annually. Meet last time March 1998
Reproductive Health	UNFPA, UNICEF, certain bilaterals and NGOs plus Ministry of Health	UNFPA	Coordination and information sharing	Monthly
Safe Motherhood	UNFPA, UNICEF, NGOs	UNICEF/UNFPA	Technical discussion	Monthly
Donor Group on Gender	Donorwide	Rotating	Coordination and information sharing	Every 6 weeks.
NGO Gender and Dev. Working Group	NGOs (but open to all donors)	Oxfam/Great Britain	Technical and training	As needed.
Environment	Donorwide	UNDP	Coordination	As needed. Meet last time July 1997
Children in Difficult Circumstances	UNICEF with selected NGOs, mass organisations and key ministries	UNICEF	Technical discussions and information sharing on the rights of children	Every 2 months.
Food Security	Donorwide with Ministries of Agriculture & Rural Development and Planning & Investment	FAO	Ensure execution of Plan of Action of the Food Summit	As needed
Governance	Donorwide	UNDP	Information sharing	(to be established)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

The ILO has expanded and refocused its programme of activities in Viet Nam, with the main accent being placed on:

- employment
- provision of social protection
- development of tripartism and tripartite approaches to social and labour issues

Technical advisory services have been provided to high-level policy makers in the Government in the review and formulation of a national employment programme. Two major projects (financed by Japan and UNDP respectively) seek to build the capacity of the Employment Service Centres and Job Promotion Centre which offer employment services throughout the country. An ADB-financed project seeks to create a sub-regional labour information network in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. This will facilitate the sharing of labour market information amongst the countries of the region and the application of uniform standards in technical training and mutual recognition of technical certificates. The Labour Code (adopted in 1995) represents the foundation for the development of a labour relations system introducing new structures and mechanism for labour inspection, conciliation and arbitration.

ILO has provided technical advice and guidance in the design and implementation of the programme of labour force surveys and in improving labour statistics compiled from administrative records.

ILO works with the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI). As a result VCCI last year set up a Bureau of Employers' Activities to deal with social development matters. ILO have assisted in developing a 3-year strategic plan to guide the activities of the Bureau and assisted the Bureau organize a national employers' conference on industrial relations (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, April 1998). ILO will also assist organizing a national employers' workshop on collective bargaining and negotiations.

The ILO continues to provide assistance to promote workers' rights and interests in Viet Nam. It will support, in particular, a workshop hosted by the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour in Hanoi on the Role of Trade Unions in Tripartite Mechanism. Furthermore, ILO is considering a project proposal for a 2-3 years comprehensive trade union education programme, which aims at preparing VGCL for the new challenges in connection with the changes in the economic structures. ILO also provides assistance for translation of ILO publications such as Summaries of International Labour Standards, International Labour Conventions and Recommendations, Freedom of Association, etc.

A national project on social protection development and training is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and ILO. It reviews the social and economic conditions of Viet Nam in its economic transition in order to assess the needs for social protection of the people. It is proposed that a new Social Security Act be developed. Within the framework of labour administration and labour relations, activities are ongoing or planned with the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour and the VCCI. and within a current ILO/Japan Project on Industrial Relations and Globalization, all the tripartite constituents have been involved in training in creating a sound industrial relations environment. A new UNDP-funded project (about US\$ 2 million) for the implementation of the Labour Code will considerably augment ILO work in the fields of labour relations and labour administration. Projects are ongoing for training and information dissemination on Women Workers' Rights and for the strengthening of trade union action to raise awareness of the needs of women workers and combat child labour. Viet Nam also benefits from regional and inter-regional programmes on occupational safety and health. The ILO Country Objectives for Viet Nam also propose activities to develop appropriate employment-related skills and provide training and vocational education to assist in the upgrading of skills to meet the demands of the labour market. ILO promotes the ratification of core international labour standards.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Current FAO activities are within the following four programme areas of which the main focus is:

1. Food Security and Nutrition.
 - Formulation of a National Food Security Programme. A follow-up of an Italian-funded funded is a project assisting the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the collection of information related to food security throughout the country.
 - FAO assisted the General Directorate of Standards and Metrology to improve the control over export products, such as to increase the competitiveness of Vietnamese export food commodities on the world markets.
 - A National Plan of Action for Nutrition was formulated with the assistance of FAO. FAO is now assisting in the training of nutritionists for the implementation of this Plan.

2. Sustainable Agriculture Development.
 - Reform the institutional frameworks in order to liberate the initiatives of the farmers through the cooperatives.
 - Adoption of new development approaches in production programmes and farming systems.
 - Review the specific role of the state in agricultural development.
 - An agricultural development strategy.
 - Reviewing the researches in the agricultural sector.

3. Forestry and Watershed Management.
 - Capacity building for the implementation of the National Forestry Action Plan.
 - Improve the techniques in watershed management.
 - Assistance in the formulation of adequate forestry policies and legislation.
 - Review and formulation of researches programmes in the forestry sector.

4. Fisheries.
 - Formulation of adequate policies and legislation in the fisheries sector.
 - Extension of aquaculture techniques among poor farmers in remote and ethnic areas, in particular to women farmers.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Using the Convention on the Rights of the Child as the main framework of its action, UNICEF works with the Government of Viet Nam, mass organizations and non-governmental partners to improve the well-being of children and women. UNICEF aims to achieve goals that were set during the World Summit for Children in 1990 and later translated into a National Programme of Action for Vietnamese Children. The current five-year programme of cooperation, 1996-2000, has a budget of US\$ 124 million (25% general resources, the remainder to be obtained from supplementary funds).

The strategy is a mix of service delivery, capacity building of counterparts, empowerment of families and advocacy at national and local levels. There is concentration on the poorest families, particularly ethnic minorities in remote areas through a limited number of priority programmes. UNICEF supports programmes both at the national level and in a more concentrated way in 116 selected districts, at least one in each of Viet Nam's 61 provinces.

UNICEF's main inputs are towards improvements in: health; water and sanitation; nutrition and early child care; education and; assisting children in need of special protection. This programme mix is supported by sustained advocacy at all levels to maintain children's issues high on the national agenda to promote increased investment in children and awareness of their rights and needs.

1. Health.

The health programme concentrates on strengthening primary health care, providing technical support to revolving drug funds at commune level, working closely with WHO to strengthen the national immunization programme and to define models to reduce maternal mortality. Assistance is also given to the control of diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections.

2. Rural water supply and sanitation.

The main activities include the construction of rural water supply facilities in remote rural communities and in primary schools together with sanitation facilities and hygiene education. Training is a major component, as is communication to raise awareness and create behaviour change.

3. Nutrition.

Child nutrition is sought improved through the distribution of micro-nutrients and improving the knowledge of mothers on appropriate child feeding and caring.

4. Education.

Inputs in the education sector focus on upgrading of curricula and teaching/learning materials, introducing multi-grade and bilingual education for remote and ethnic minority areas and mobilization of families and communities to support improved education.

5. Children in need of special protection.

The programme focuses on preventing child prostitution and trafficking, improving juvenile justice and addresses childhood disability, child labour, HIV/AIDS, street children as well as improving conditions for ethnic minority children.

Other areas of activity is (i) micro-credit for poor female-headed households combined with information for better health, and (ii) creating models for development in some ethnic minority districts, through the extensive use of mass-media and communication activities to create a deeper understanding of children's needs and rights among people, government and children themselves.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The *First Country Cooperation Framework for Viet Nam (1997-2000)* was submitted and approved by the UNDP Executive Board in July 1996. It outlines the following three areas of concentration:

1. Poverty elimination and social policies.
 - Direct assistance for poverty reduction through i) Provision of technical assistance to the formulation of the national poverty elimination programme; ii) Provision of sustainable micro-finance services; iii) Provision of employment and asset creation services; (iv) The development of food and agro-processing industries in support of food security;
 - Support to national objective of universal access to basic infrastructure and social services.
 - Strengthening national capacity to formulate and implement social policies and reforms which complement the ongoing economic, public administration and legal reforms.
 - Support to the national Committee for the Advancement of Women in the implementation of the Platform for Action agreed in Beijing.
 - Support the formulation of reports analysing key issues, including the impact of reform on poverty, gender and internal migration.
2. Reform and development management.
 - Promote sound macro-economic management and an appropriate and efficient role of the State in the market economy as well as the development of other economic sectors;
 - Develop a comprehensive legal framework to support current socio-economic reform efforts;
 - Strengthen the public legislative, executive and judiciary institutions, while fostering a favourable enabling environment and encouraging active public participation.

One programme will support the expansion of public administration reform into local level institutions. Another programme will support capacity development of the Office of the National Assembly, the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuracy. Supporting the move towards decentralization, capacity building assistance will be extended to the provincial and local levels. UNDP also supports the facilitation of Viet Nam's integration into regional and international organisations (WTO and ASEAN in particular) and the harmonisation of national laws and regulations with international laws governing standards and investments.

3. Environment and natural resource management.
 - Incorporate environmental concerns into decision-making
 - Promote sustainable utilisation of natural resources
 - Reduce the impact of urban and industrial pollution in key industrial areas
 - Reduce impact of natural disasters through better disaster preparedness, relief and mitigation

Emphasis is on prevention aspects of environmental policy and on a more integrated approach to environmental protection and economic development. Assistance will be provided for environmental valuation, monitoring and reporting and assessment of policies. The disaster management initiative is being expanded to link 75% of disaster-prone districts to a nation-wide disaster management network.

UNDP is furthermore providing assistance in areas of service to the Government and donor community:

- Aid coordination and management (including: a) resources and advice on strengthening government's capacity to coordinate and manage ODA; b) assistance in preparation of annual CG and sectoral aid coordination meetings; c) support aid information-sharing, coordination and management, including monthly donor meetings and theme groups).
- Support to follow-up to world conferences and global summits.
- Resource mobilization for both domestic and external financial support.

Special Features. There are certain special features which all programmes hold in common. First, the programmes strive to *build knowledge*. Each programme has non-project specific knowledge-building activities built it. Second, such knowledge will be disseminated as *public information* using both traditional (newspapers, television, newsletters, etc.) and state-of-the-art information technologies (Internet, CD-ROM). Third, *gender issues* are mainstreamed in these programmes. In general, UNDP in Viet Nam will increasingly be decentralizing its assistance from central levels to the poorer provinces.

United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)

UNDCP started its cooperation programme in Viet Nam in late 1991 with the assistance in developing a project on formulation of a national drug control master plan, for which the Committee of Ethnic Minorities and Mountainous Areas (CEMMA) was designated as the implementing agency. The UNDCP Liaison Office in Hanoi was opened in 1994 to support the Government in the development and implementation of the master plan.

The master plan was approved by the Government in November 1995. It outlines the strategy for the national anti-narcotic activities in the period from 1996 to 2000. The master plan sets out the major objectives 1) to strengthen drug control administration and coordination; 2) to improve the national legislation system and advocate for Viet Nam accession to the UN conventions on drug control; 3) to reduce and control the supply of illicit drugs; 4) to combat illicit trafficking; 5) to prevent drug abuse ; 6) to provide treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and; 7) to promote effective international and subregional cooperation in drug control. The implementation of the master plan has been estimated to cost over US\$ 30 million in total, of which US\$ 16 million is required from external sources.

In support for drug control activities in Viet Nam, UNDCP has so far assisted the Government in developing and funding seven technical cooperation projects with total contribution of US\$ 6,675,307. These include projects on:

- alternative development in Ky Son district
- strengthening of national capacity in drug control coordination and management
- drug interdiction and seizure capacity building
- drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention among high risk group of intravenous drug users

Three pipeline demand reduction projects, which was awaiting government approval and signing as of early 1998, focuses on:

- drug prevention in schools
- drug abuse data assessment, and treatment / rehabilitation
- drug abuse prevention programme for hilltribe peoples

Two more projects, one for sustainable development in a former opium producing area in Song Ma and the other to carry out surveys on drug abuse among workers and public servants are under formulation. The estimated cost of these two projects is around US\$ 2,558,041. Most of the projects will remain ongoing by the year 2000. Furthermore, UNDCP assists the Government in implementing twelve subregional projects developed under the Action Plan of the Memorandum of Understanding for drug control cooperation in East Asia comprising Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, and monitors the execution of some smaller NGO-projects.

In recognition of the Government's commitment and efforts in the fight against the drug problems as well as the size of the programme, and in order to provide further assistance to the Government in carrying out its national drug control programme, the UNDCP Liaison Office in Hanoi was upgraded to the status of Viet Nam Country Office, effective on 1 January 1998.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

UNFPA is convinced that meeting reproductive health needs will contribute to improving the quality of life and to the universally accepted aim of stabilising world population. These goals are an integral part of all efforts to achieve sustained and sustainable social and economic development that meets human needs, ensures well-being, and protects the natural resources on which all life depends.

UNFPA is the lead UN organisation for the follow-up and implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in September 1994. In this capacity, UNFPA is fully committed to working in partnership with the Vietnamese government, the UN Country Team, development banks, bilateral aid agencies, non-governmental organisations and civil society. UNFPA strongly supports the United Nations Resident Coordinator system and the implementation of all relevant United Nations decisions.

Main Focus Areas. UNFPA has provided assistance to Viet Nam in the areas of maternal child health/family planning and reproductive health since 1978. The Fifth Country Programme (1997-2000) was approved with a total budget of US\$ 24 million and further consolidates the trend of decentralisation and national execution. It has been elaborated in the form of three sub-programmes, covering the following main areas of work:

1. Reproductive health.

Help ensure access to reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, to all couples and individuals as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015.

2. Population and development strategies.

Support population and development strategies that enable building of capacity in population programming.

3. Advocacy.

Promote the advocacy of population and development issues and to assist in mobilisation of the resources and political will necessary to accomplish its areas of work.

For these three sub-programmes, guideline documents have been developed identifying the needs, the key issues as well as the overall objectives and strategies in each area, fully exploiting the potential linkages that exist. This has been followed by the formulation of individual component projects, all covering a wide range of topics including capacity building on the national level in the areas of policy planning, research and data collection/dissemination, increasing awareness as well as mobilizing support and commitment and strengthening of the reproductive health services in eight provinces. It is the hope, that this holistic approach will bring about the goals set out at the ICPD and thereby increase the quality of life for the Vietnamese people.

UNFPA assists in the mobilisation of resources from both developed and developing countries following the commitments made by all countries in the PoA to ensure that the goals of the ICPD are met. An annual increase of 30% in financial resources will be required to successfully attain the stated goals. UNFPA in Viet Nam is therefore very grateful to the assistance that has been provided by the embassies of Switzerland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Australia, Republic of Korea and by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The 22-year long drama of Vietnamese boat people, one of the most tragic examples of human suffering in the region's recent history, finally came to an end in 1997.

In the past few years, the main UNHCR activities in Viet Nam have been the reception, reintegration and monitoring of returnees under the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA), the framework established in 1989 to seek humanitarian solutions to the problem of Vietnamese Boat People. Repatriation movements have been largely completed in the middle of 1997, bringing back in safety and dignity some 110,000 Vietnamese boat people who were considered to be illegal migrants, from the camps and detention centers in Hong Kong, the ASEAN countries and Japan. The intensive and unprecedented-scale of UNHCR monitoring of returnees has demonstrated that the majority of them have regained their livelihood upon return with the assistance of the central and local authorities, UNHCR and a series of large bilateral returnee assistance programmes financed by EU as well as few NGOs.

Under the UNHCR Micro-Projects Scheme, a total of 685 small-scale community-based development projects were implemented. These Micro-Project were implemented in all 61 Provinces of Viet Nam but they were concentrated in provinces where the returnees were numerous. These projects were implemented in infrastructure works such as reconstruction of schools or dispensaries, communal roads and bridges. In 1997, the scheme was expanded to impoverished communities in provinces where the number of returnees was very small, including the construction of a primary school in a remote community targeted for the UNDP/UNDCP pilot project as a part of the UN's joint efforts in the reduction of poverty. The scheme undoubtedly contributed to the smooth reintegration of returnees at the community level and at the same time to facilitate the UNHCR monitoring activities.

Although it will be progressively scaled down, the UNHCR presence in Viet Nam will continue to be required in 1998 and 1999 in order to carry out its monitoring activities mainly on the recent returnees and their progress in reintegration. In 1998, the last year of UNHCR's material assistance relating to the returnees, UNHCR plans to distribute educational material and medical equipment/supplies to schools and dispensaries which were funded by UNHCR and which are located throughout Viet Nam.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

UNIDO's current technical cooperation programme is outlined in the *Programme of Cooperation Between the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and UNIDO for the Triennium 1998-2000*.

The objective of the UNIDO technical assistance cooperation programme is to assist the Government in achieving sustainable and equitable social and economic development by providing primarily capacity developing technical assistance for industrial development so as to support the Government's programme for industrialization and modernization. The UNIDO technical assistance thereby facilitates the transition to a market economy and is assisting the Government in achieving goals regarding *inter alia* economic growth, employment creation, and poverty alleviation.

The scope of the Government-UNIDO technical assistance cooperation programme in Viet Nam has been designed on the basis of local experience and with a sharp focus providing potential for significant impact. The programme was formulated within the broader framework of:

- the UNIDO Global Business Plan (UNIDO's activities are clustered in two main groups; (a) strengthening industrial capacities; and (b) cleaner and sustainable industrial development);
- the Country Strategy Note (CSN) for Viet Nam; and
- the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

As of May 1998 UNIDO in Viet Nam had 14 ongoing projects at a total value of more than US\$ 10 million, focused within the following three areas:

1. Industrial strategies, policies and strengthening of industrial capacities.

The main ongoing projects within the area of industrial strategies, policies and strengthening of industrial capacities are Assistance to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Viet Nam, Assistance to the Preparation of a Medium-term Industrial Development Strategy and Implementation of a National Industrial Statistics Programme.

2. Poverty alleviation through rural industrial development.

The main ongoing projects contributing to poverty alleviation through rural industrial development are Training of Women Entrepreneurs in the Food Processing Industry and an Arts and Handicraft Villages Employment Creation Programme.

3. Environmentally sustainable industrial development.

In the environmental field the main ongoing projects are the Viet Nam National Cleaner Production Centre, Industrial Pollution Reduction in Viet Tri, Industrial Pollution Reduction in Dong Nai and Phasing Out of Ozone Depleting Substances.

UNIDO is cooperating with several UN agencies at project level. UNIDO is thus cooperating with UNEP in the Viet Nam National Cleaner Production Centre project, with UNICEF and UNIFEM in the Training of Women Entrepreneurs in the Food Processing Industry project and with UNDP in the Industrial Pollution Reduction projects in Viet Tri and Dong Nai provinces and in the National Industrial Statistics Programme.

World Food Programme (WFP)

WFP started activities in Viet Nam at the end of the war in 1975. Total assistance committed since that date amounts to over US\$ 414 million of grant food aid. Including the value of non-food items contributed through WFP and overheads would bring the value to about half a billion US\$. Assistance has been provided for 25 emergency operations and 26 development projects.

The current WFP portfolio consists of five development projects in three sectors, namely (a) water resources (sea dyke rehabilitation); (b) agro-forestry and (c) maternal child health. WFP is present in 26 of the current 61 provinces of Viet Nam and has a strong rural focus, concentrating its assistance on the hungry poor of the poorest and more remote provinces, with special emphasis on women and ethnic minorities. For most of its food resources, WFP imports wheat or wheat flour, which is exchanged for local rice. Small quantities of vegetable oil and locally purchased micro-nutrient enriched blended food are also used for one maternal child health project. Significant amounts of non-food items and funds for training etc. are also provided.

The projects currently being implemented are as follows:

1. Maternal Child Health.

One project with a four year duration, due to end in May 1999 and covering 25 districts in ten of the poorest and most remote provinces. The project aims to encourage attendance at primary health care centres and to improve the nutritional status of severely malnourished children. Each year some 78,000 expectant/nursing mothers and 181,000 children under three years of age receive food assistance.

2. Agro-forestry.

There are two projects in this sector. One is for Coastal Forestry in 13 northern and central provinces. Assistance under this project is aimed at improving the productivity of forest land, thus relieving pressure on existing forests and improving incomes and living standards, by engaging 225,000 farmers in the reforestation of 125,000 hectares of "barren" lands. All WFP resources (food and non-food) have been delivered to complete the project, ending in May 1998. The second agro-forestry project started in early 1997 for a four year period and aims to encourage smallholders to plant fruit and forest trees on 51,000 hectares of "barren" land in five north-eastern provinces.

3. Water resources.

Past assistance to water resources was primarily for the establishment and rehabilitation of irrigation systems. More recent assistance has been for the up-grading and rehabilitation of a total of some 800 kilometers of sea and estuary dykes in twelve central and northern provinces, under two projects. These projects have a strong disaster mitigation element, which is important in a country like Viet Nam, which is struck by annual typhoons.

In view of Viet Nam's current status as a major food (rice) exporting country, WFP plans to phase out its food aid development assistance by the end of the current decade.

World Health Organization (WHO)

There are twelve plans of action in the 98-99 biennial programme with a total budget of US\$ 4,588,955 (not including the cost of the Representative Office, extra-budgetary programmes, the regional budget for inter-country programmes including Viet Nam, or Headquarter's budget for programmes that includes Viet Nam). The Viet Nam regular country budget breakdown is as follows:

1. Health policy, management and development: US\$ 682,380.

This plan of action will produce strengthened health managerial procedures; improved capacity for national health policy and system development; development of policy for health care and social mobilization; and development of health legislation.

2. Training human resources in selected areas: US\$ 453,700

This plan of action will produce improved maintenance of hospital equipment; enhanced workforce planning and management; improved teaching, communications, and advocacy skills for teachers; a strengthened role for and management of nursing services; updated skills in vector biological control; and updated policies in occupational health.

3. National essential drugs programme: US\$ 637,200

This plan of action will produce improved capacity in the national drugs programme; improved drug quality control; and strengthened quality assurance of vaccine manufacture.

4. Blood transfusion safety: US\$ 561,500

This plan of action involves development of a system for the supply of safe blood and blood products.

5. Traditional medicine: US\$ 353,400

This plan of action involves the adoption of modern technologies in evaluation of traditional medicine and drug formulation.

6. Promoting mental health: US\$ 368,300

This plan of action will improve skills in policy and programme development, rehabilitation and management of mental health services.

7. Food safety: US\$ 400,600

This plan of action will produce improved capacity for food safety management.

8. Management of hospital waste and associated risks to health: US\$ 439,200

this plan of action will produce guidelines for the effective and safe disposal of hospital waste.

9. Tuberculosis control: US\$ 393,000

This plan of action will result in better management of the TB control programme.

10. Control of vector-borne diseases: US\$ 31,375 working budget (approved: US\$ 319 100)

This plan of action will result in reduced incidence and mortality with strengthened management and training capacities.

11. Control of non-communicable diseases: US\$ 340,200

This plan of action will produce an expanded school-based oral health programme; improved capability for diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases; and improved early diagnosis and monitoring of cancer.

12. Extrabudgetary Programmes: Through extrabudgetary support, WHO is providing long term advisory inputs to the Expanded Programme on Immunisation and the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness in Viet Nam.

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