



Vietnam

Annual Pathfinder Progress Report

May 2020–April 2021

Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
ANNUAL PROGRESS AGAINST PATHFINDER PRIORITIES	3
Question 1: What progress against the national roadmap priorities since May 2020?	3
Question 2: What progress against the next steps identified for May 2020-April 2021?	12
Question 3: What main successses can be highlighted for Vietnam between May 2020-April 2021?	16
Question 4: What challenges did Vietnam face in the implementation of its roadmap ? (Covid-19)	19
Question 5: What other challenges did Vietnam face in the implementation of its roadmap ?	20
EVIDENCE OF ACHIEVED PROGRESS	21
Question 6: What evidence is there of achieved progress?	21
Question 7: What stakeholders were involved in assessing progress against the national Pathfinder roadmap priorities?	21
VALUE OF THE PATHFINDER PROCESS	21
Question 8: What were the main highlights around the pathfinder process?	21
WAY FORWARD	23
Question 9: Is there a need to revise the Pathfinder Country roadmap priorities for Vietnam?	23
Question 10: What next steps is Vietnam planning to undertake until April 2022?	24
Question 11: In which areas would Vietnam need support to reach its own roadmap priorities?	25
Question 12: What is Vietnam’s 2021 Action pledge for the Elimination of Child Labour?	25

Introduction

Pathfinder countries are those that commit to going further and faster to achieve the objectives of Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals. They are committed to accelerating efforts and willing to try new approaches from which others can learn to support Target 8.7's urgent deadlines. Pathfinder status is open to any country, regardless of development level.

As of April 2021, 25 countries globally have pathfinder status. Out of these 13 have established detailed roadmaps identifying priorities for action to achieve target 8.7.

To record pathfinder progress against established national roadmap priorities, the Alliance 8.7 SDG monitoring working group structured a voluntary reporting process for the Pathfinder countries. Through their 'Alliance 8.7 national focal points' pathfinder countries can respond to a set of 12 questions related to the implementation of their roadmaps.

This report provides the overview of Vietnam's responses to these questions. It is divided in 4 sections:

1. **Annual progress against roadmap priorities:** The first section looks into the national priorities to eliminate Child Labour, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking and the next steps outlined in last year's pathfinder country report. Pathfinder countries provide a short progress report on each of their stated priorities and next steps and to report on challenges including but not limited to the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. **Evidence of achieved progress:** This second section allows reporting on the evidence of the achieved progress. It allows Pathfinder countries to provide insights into how the progress between May 2020 and April 2021 was assessed.
3. **Value of the Pathfinder process:** The third section provides the opportunity to reflect upon the Pathfinder process and help putting the results reported into context. This section allows countries to report on how the Pathfinder process may have helped them progressing towards their national priorities between May 2020 and April 2021.
4. **Way Forward:** This section allows to have an outlook on the next steps on a 12 months horizon towards the achievement of the country's priorities and to indicate whether the roadmap requires to be revised.

Annual progress against pathfinder priorities

Pathfinder countries were asked to provide a short progress report on each of their stated priorities and next steps and to report on challenges including - and not limited to - the Covid-19 pandemic.

Question 1: What progress against the national roadmap priorities since May 2020?¹

- ▶ **Child labour and business – Priority 1. Establish a National Child Labour and Business Forum involving SMEs as well as big Brands.**

Progress

The International Cooperation Department (ICD) at the Ministry of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) has been collaborating with the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) to organise a national level business and child labour forum. The event is intended to be the third of its kind since Viet Nam became a pathfinder country, and the focus for this dialogue will be on child labour elimination in agricultural supply chains in the context of international integration, with a focus of vocational training solutions. Participants will include SMEs and big brands, business associations, relevant government stakeholders, socio-political agencies, vocational training providers and institutions, community organizations and international organizations. The planning was initiated last year, with the intention of holding the forum in July 2020. However, as a result of COVID-19 there are now tentative plans to hold the event in the second quarter of 2021, as part of Viet Nam's efforts during International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. Discussions are currently ongoing regarding the format of the event.

Representatives from more than 100 businesses operating in Viet Nam gathered on 27 November in Ho Chi Minh City for a Business Forum co-organized by the VCCI and UNICEF, entitled "Reimagine Responsible Business for a Better World for Children". The forum served as a platform for business leaders and stakeholders to reimagine child friendly responsible business policies and practices, including issues related to child labour and minor workers. The event, facilitated by the Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD) as part of the World Children's Day celebration, brought together representatives from the Government, business sector, consulates, academia, non-profit organizations to discuss key issues, challenges, opportunities as well as solutions for future action and promotion of

¹ *Note to the reader: To refer to the Vietnam Pathfinder roadmap please go to: <https://www.alliance87.org/events/pathfinder-country-strategic-workshop-vietnam/>. Note that MOLISA decided to integrate the roadmap into the NPA 2021-2025 that will constitute the plan to achieve the SDG 8.7 in Vietnam (work currently in progress). As a result, in the case of Vietnam, some of the initial roadmap priorities are not being expanded upon here as they were not included in the NPA. Also see section 4/question 9.*

children's rights through business policies and programs. A number of companies shared their motivation for implementing family-friendly policies and other workplace policies, as a win-win solution. Many participants made a convincing case that initiatives that are good for business, good for parents and children, and have a positive impact on communities and society as a whole. Some of the good examples included were breastfeeding promotion, childcare support, flexible work arrangements, parenting training, child labour prevention, maternity protection, and skills development of young workers with potential to scale with the wider business community. The forum was organized under the framework of the collaboration program between UNICEF Viet Nam and VCCI on promoting Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) among Enterprises in Viet Nam.

Challenge (optional)

The aforementioned dialogue on child labour elimination in agricultural supply chains in the context of international integration, with a focus of vocational training solutions, was intended to be held last year but was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Much of the planning work was completed, but it was unable to go ahead as scheduled. A date has not yet been fixed due to the evolving COVID-19 situation in Viet Nam.

- ▶ **Child labour and business - Priority 2: Establish a network of Child Labour Monitoring Systems in child labour prevalent communes and districts.**

Progress

This priority was not originally established (there were only 3 under child labour and business), and therefore we do not have a response prepared for this

- ▶ **Child labour and business - Priority 3: Provide targeted economic opportunities and social benefits to families of child labourers in need and decent, legal work opportunities for minors not in education and already found in value-chains.**

Progress

Departments of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISAs) are continuing to support the implementation of targeted livelihood interventions in selected areas with a goal to eventually scale up and replicate successful models across the country as part of the next phase of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Reduce Child Labour for the Period 2021-2025. In the Mekong Delta region, mud-free eel farming and abalone mushroom farming models have been implemented to support vulnerable families with children at risk of child labour. This is a region where poor households have limited asset bases and are especially vulnerable to climate change due to their heavy reliance on climate-sensitive sectors such as rain-fed agriculture and fisheries. In addition to financial support to implement the models, technical transfer and training on production techniques, marketing and financial management were provided by the Centre for Technology Transfer and Services at Can Tho University.

In the North of Viet Nam, Hanoi Cooperative Alliance (HCA) carried out a livelihood needs assessment from November to December 2020 in five Northern communes. As a result,

support is being provided to households in the form of (ii) A support package for business development to add value to products from selected communes; iii) The provision of household financial management skills; iv) Sustaining and developing traditional bamboo handicraft models for beneficiary households in Trung Hoa commune through vocational training to improve their weaving skills and knowledge on market linkages. The cooperative has also organised training on agricultural production techniques and is currently implementing vegetable growing and pig raising models, overseen by People's committee of communes, labour officials at district and commune levels and the cooperative alliance at commune level. This year, there have been four training courses provided on agricultural production techniques for 38 beneficiary households. All households benefiting from these interventions have been identified by DOLISA as families with children engaged in or at risk of child labour. Models are being closely monitored and documented to support their replication and integration into the upcoming NPA/Alliance 8.7 roadmap.

- ▶ **Child labour and business - Priority 4: Implement an awareness-raising programme using social-media and targeting both the private sector and the public at large to inform and share critical information on child labour.**

Progress

World Day Against Child Labour 2020 raised awareness on the heightened risk of child labour resulting from COVID-19. To mark the occasion in Viet Nam, MOLISA collaborated with ILO and UNICEF to host a livestream panel discussion on the topic, with experts from ILO and UNICEF, the Director General of DCA and a parent and teacher affected by the crisis. The event was livestreamed on the websites of ILO Viet Nam and UNICEF Viet Nam as well as MOLISA's For the Children TV Programme and Facebook page, reaching an audience of 25,800, with about 6100 views, and 572 engagements on social media. The event was also covered by several national media outlets. The livestreamed panel discussion can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/VitreemVTV1/videos/672326666955645>

In addition to this event, messages on child labour and COVID-19 were displayed on public buses at bus stations with high migrant traffic, and LCD screens on 112 buildings in crowded public spaces, to draw heightened attention to the issue. Signboards were also installed, including messages on the dangers of child labour in different sectors, including agriculture, and promoted the national child protection hotline.



On 27 April 2021, Viet Nam launched its Music Against Child Labour song competition to raise awareness during the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, and prepare for upcoming World Day Against Child Labour. The competition was organised by the MOLISA, ILO and the Viet Nam Musicians' Association, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children International, and Good Neighbours International. The competition is open until 27 August 2021, and winners will receive certificates and cash prizes with a total value of VND168 million (US\$7,300). The goal is to shine a spotlight on the issue and utilise the universal and accessible medium of music to inspire action against child labour in Viet Nam.

The International Cooperation Department at MOLISA is developing a handbook on implementing commitments on child labour standards in the context of new generation free trade agreements and other international commitments. In addition to clearly outlining standards, commitments and requirements on child labour prevention and elimination in the context of international integration, the handbook will document experiences of implementing these commitments and highlight good practices related to child labour prevention in supply chains. To bring together relevant stakeholders from the business community to provide inputs to the handbook, ICD organised a consultation workshop with the participation of the business community, including VCCI, Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP), Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS), garment companies, handicraft enterprises and household businesses. In addition to providing inputs into the handbook, participants discussed good practices in relation to vocational training, livelihood activities, agricultural supply chains, garment and handicraft sectors. The handbook is expected to be ready for publication in June 2021.

- ▶ **Child Trafficking - Priority 1: Increase awareness raising about the dangers of trafficking and available services and improve means of communications at all levels, i.e. between institutions and from national to province, district and local levels.**

Progress

In June 2020, within the framework of the Tackling Modern Slavery in Viet Nam project, MOLISA collaborated with World Vision to organize training for operators of the 111 National Child Protection hotline to ensure an effective consultation services for trafficking victims. The training covered policies to support human trafficking victims and those at risk, and informed participants on the roles and responsibilities of relevant departments and agencies, and the cooperation mechanism between them. Participants included hotline operations at National and provincial levels; representatives of agencies in charge of verification and support to the target audience; representatives of the Criminal Police Department, Immigration Department (Ministry of Public Security), Department of International Migration (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and Provincial Police. This training is part of a broader effort to improve the capacity of authorities in identifying and supporting trafficked victims in Viet Nam.

In November 2020, a community outreach event on safe migration and trafficking prevention was organized by the Women's Union of Ha Tinh province in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The event gathered nearly 2,000 students from Nghan High School and Center for Vocational Education and Continuing Education. Students researched and presented terms and issues on migration and human trafficking through short plays, poetry and presentations. The event also opened a Q&A session for students to ask questions and receive answers from representatives of the Police and Labour sector. Later in the month, the Women's Union of Quang Ninh organized similar school outreach events to raise awareness for students about safe migration and human trafficking prevention at two schools in Quang Ninh province. At the events, a provincial police officer provided students with basic information about the situation of trafficking in persons and irregular migration across the border in Quang Ninh; the causes and consequences of human trafficking and measures to prevent it. The students also undertook their own research into human trafficking and presented their findings to each other.

On 28 and 29 June 2020, the Criminal Police Department at the Ministry of Public Security collaborated with the British Council to raise awareness on the dangers of trafficking in high risk areas through a series of theatrical plays on the issue. Quang Ninh performing Art troupe delivered two performances in Quang Ninh province and the Hai Phong performing Art troupe carried out two performances on 04 and 05 July 2020, in Hai Phong city. The interactive performances were delivered in the form of local dramas illustrating the risks and consequences of being trafficked and how to prevent it. The goal is to ensure that vulnerable populations have increased knowledge and awareness in order to facilitate patterns of behavioural change in communities. Over 750 participants attended the performances, and participated actively in a Q&A session after the performance to express their thoughts and opinions on the issue. Legal counselling sessions were also facilitated to disseminate legal information, and social support services available to victims of trafficking in Viet Nam.

In September 2020, IOM organized training workshops on "Raising awareness and responsibilities of stakeholders in prevention of forced labour and human trafficking" for officers of Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) and businesses in Hai Phong, Ha Tinh and Quang Binh. The workshops aimed at raising the awareness of all stakeholders about modern slavery and the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by migrant workers, including minor workers, in supply chains. During the interactive training, participants had the opportunity to learn, exchange experiences and share difficulties in taking action to end modern slavery at grassroots level. The workshops provided local officials and business representatives with a better understanding of their responsibilities to address forced labour and human trafficking in the context of international integration.

- ▶ **Child Trafficking - Priority 2: In order to reduce vulnerabilities of children to trafficking, reduce poverty of families through employment creation, the provision of relevant skills training and/or the provision of additional income generation opportunities, particularly in remote regions and amongst ethnic minority communities.**

Progress

During the reporting period, as part of the Tackling Modern Slavery in VN project, the IOM collaborated with Departments of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh province (both areas that are vulnerable to trafficking) to organize an information fair on employment opportunities for 600 job seekers, community members and students at high schools and vocational schools in the two districts. The Employment Service Center and enterprises representatives introduced and provided information to the participants on employment opportunities in industries such as tourism, agriculture, garments, manufacturing and construction. An IOM representative emphasized the importance of vocational training and improving professional skills in order to seize career development opportunities to decrease vulnerability to trafficking in these regions.

- ▶ **Child Trafficking - Priority 3: Explore means to manage social-media tools such as Facebook, Whatsapp, Viber, Zalo, etc. as well as the internet more generally to avoid them being used to lure children into exploitative situations. By the same token, explore how to make use of the same social media tools to increase communications to children and the public at large about the dangers of labour exploitation while providing a source of safe information.**

Progress

MOLISA has collaborated with World Vision Viet Nam to develop the website and database of the National Child Protection Hotline 111 to increase outreach to trafficking victims and at risk groups. An application has been developed to synchronise the hotline with Zalo, which is one of the most popular social media applications in Viet Nam, with 50 million users across the country. Promoting communication on child trafficking and child protection issues and reporting through the 111 Zalo account will increase the knowledge of children, parents, and community members on child trafficking issues and increase accessibility of child protection services. The official Zalo account of the national hotline on Child Protection and trafficking Prevention was officially launched in November 2020, which will update Zalo users with information on child protection and trafficking prevention and provide users with timely support and counselling on labour migration.

- ▶ **Child Labour Prevention and Education - Priority 1: Improve the quality of vocational skills training being provided, including through the review and revision of the curriculums in line with market demands.**

Progress

The Department of Vocational Education and Training (DVET) are implementing capacity building activities to improve vocational education and training in Viet Nam and ensure it meets labour market needs. To this end, DVET has developed Vocational Counselling

Guidelines and a Manual on the Development of Training Programmes that meet Labour Market Needs. During the development phase, DVET gathered inputs from relevant vocational schools and a validation workshop was held in June 2020 with the attendance of 43 participants. The guidelines were then pre-tested from May to June and in September at more than 30 vocational schools.

To implement vocational counselling and enrolment guidance according to the Vocational Counselling Guidelines, selected vocational schools have developed plans and assigned staff to participate in the counselling and recruiting process. Career counselling for students and workers based on these guidelines was held in April 2021. In order to develop training courses in line with the guidelines, a survey of training needs and competency requirements for selected occupations was conducted with the participation of 40 enterprises and 400 workers. Furthermore, seminars assessing elementary vocational training programmes for selected occupations were held throughout December 2020 and 20 January 2021. Based on results, training programmes have been developed for three pilot occupations: (i) air conditioning installation and maintenance, (ii) poultry farming and disease prevention techniques, and (iii) Pangasius aquaculture techniques. HCMC Vocational College has since been piloting the development of training materials for air-conditioning repair and An Giang Vocational School of Economics and Technology has been piloting the development of two agricultural training programmes for elementary vocational training in accordance with the manual. The goal is to improve the quality and relevance of vocational training and careers counselling services across the country, to provide viable alternatives to child labour.

- ▶ **Child Labour Prevention and Education - Priority 2: Raise awareness of communities, families and children about the dangers of child labour and inform them about the various benefits that schooling, including continued education and vocational skills training as well as higher education, will provide their children.**

Progress

The content for the awareness raising package, Supporting Child's rights through education, arts and the media (SCREAM) has recently been updated with content from the NCLS 2018 and the Labour Code 2019. Because the approach has proven so successful, MOLISA plans to integrate SCREAM into the awareness raising component of the upcoming NPA/roadmap. Between June and September 2020, 3 trainings on the SCREAM approach were organised. The first attracted the participation of 31 officials from DOLISA, Youth Unions, and provincial centers of social work from 17 Northern provinces, and the final two were organised in Da Lat and Hai Phong for 75 trainers, educators and officers of provincial Cooperative Alliances and cooperatives under the VCA system from 28 northern and south center provinces. At the end of the training sessions, participants were able to apply the SCREAM methodology to deliver communications events and trainings on child labour. In addition to training, a summer camp with the participation of 90 target children and 33 SCREAM trainers and district DOLISA officials was organized in Tinh Bien district, An Giang province from 29-30 August 2020. Activities took the form of painting, poetry recitals, role plays and dramas on child labour, as well as activities on the theme of child labour and COVID-19.

- ▶ **Child Labour Prevention in Agriculture - Priority 1: Review and revise, update and or complete the legal framework ensuring clear definitions for child labour, worst forms of child labour, forced labour and providing greater clarity regarding work that is prohibited for children in agriculture amongst different age groups as well as the allowed working hours for each category of children.**

Progress

Two significant amendments to the revised Labour Code include a new separate chapter on minor workers, and the expansion of the scope of regulations for workers in both formal and informal settings, where the majority of child labour takes place. On 12 November 2020, Circular 09/2020/TT-BLĐTBXH was issued by MOLISA to provide guidance for the execution of these new provisions relating to minor workers. The Circular provides a detailed list of light work that children between 13 and 15 years old can perform, and a list of work and working conditions from which minor workers are prohibited to engage in, including those in the agricultural sector.

- ▶ **Child Labour Prevention in Agriculture - Priority 2: Intensify the implementation of poverty reduction and income generating programmes, including those implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as the provision of strengthened career counselling, vocational skills training and job placements for older children and youth in rural areas as well as in the fishing sector with increased focus in districts with high levels of child labour.**

Progress

As noted previously, Hanoi DOLISA and Hanoi Cooperative Alliance (HCA) are providing livelihood support for households with children vulnerable to child labour, based on the results of a rapid needs assessment. So far, HCA has organized 18 training courses on a range of specialized topics including agricultural production techniques, market analysis, household financial management, development of production and business plans and skills on loan access. They are also developing safe vegetable-growing models and pig-raising models in Huong Ngai commune and Trung Hoa commune, respectively. These models will be technically supported by experienced experts and HCA at different levels, and monitored by a working group composed of representatives of the People's committee of communes, labour officials at district and commune levels and the cooperative alliance at commune level. If models are successful, they will be scaled up and replicated elsewhere throughout the country, as part of the NPA (2025-2030). DOLISA is also piloting mud free eel farming and mushroom growing models in the Mekong Delta, with a goal of further replication.,

- ▶ **Child Labour Prevention in Agriculture - Priority 3: Increase awareness raising and communications with regards to child labour with a particular focus on the legal framework and negative effects of child labour on children's well-being and poverty reduction, targeting local government institutions, families, parents and children themselves; as well as on FTAs and the elimination of child labour in agricultural value-chains targeting public and private sector enterprises.**

Progress

The aforementioned policy dialogue event is being organised by the International Cooperation Department at MOLISA, to take place later in the year. Gathering a range of private and public sector stakeholders, the event will raise awareness of child labour elimination in agricultural supply chains in the context of international integration, with a focus of vocational training solutions in this sector.

The Viet Nam Association of Seafood exporters and producers (VASEP) brings together seafood processing and exporting companies in Viet Nam as well as businesses in the service sector related to the fishery industry. In order to raise awareness on international commitments related to child labour among key stakeholders in the industry, VASEP conducted an advocacy campaign on the issue in late 2020. As part of the campaign, two video clips were developed and broadcast to promote child labour awareness and knowledge of regulations and enforcement of child labour and IUU regulations. In July and August 2020 the child labour prevention video clip was broadcast 180 times and the IUU clip was broadcast 185 times. The clips were also posted on 11 websites/web portals of Government ministries, and some coastal provinces.

VASEP also conducted 2 training courses on implementation of regulations on child labour and IUU guidelines in seafood supply chains in Nha Trang and Kien Giang, on 14 September and 16 September respectively, gathering 117 participants in total. Trainees included employees of seafood processing enterprises, representatives of fishing ports, officers of Fisheries Branches, and representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of coastal provinces. The training has provided the course participants with knowledge and guidance on the implementation of regulations on Child Labour prevention and guidance on IUU in seafood supply chains.

To supplement these activities, VASEP developed a leaflet on Child Labour prevention targeted to fishing vessel owners and fisherman and printed 30,000 leaflets to distribute to every coastal province, to raise awareness of the target audience on child labour prevention. VASEP will distribute the leaflets at training courses for seafood processing enterprises of VASEP, and send them to Directorates of Fisheries, provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development, Sub-Departments of Fisheries, Management Boards of designated fishing ports, relevant Ministries, seafood businesses in VASEP's Fisheries Enterprises Program to ship owners, fishermen and fishing port officials

There is a need to advocate among the Viet Nam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) business community on child labour, with specific guidelines on child labour prevention tailored to cooperatives, which are concentrated in the agricultural sector. In light of this, VCA has

developed a practical and user-friendly manual on child labour prevention and elimination, with support from ILO, which is appropriate for the use of cooperative members and VCA officials. The manual, which is currently under development, will serve to support the implementation of international labour standards pertaining to child labour, with a goal to sustainably prevent and eliminate child labour in the agricultural sector in Viet Nam.

Question 2: What progress against the next steps identified for May 2020-April 2021?

In Vietnam's 2019-2020 annual report, the following next steps were identified for the period May 2020-April 2021.

- ▶ **Next step 1: Continue evaluating and developing the existing child labour prevention and reduction program (2016-2020) to inform the development of the next phase (2021-2025) and finalize the related national interdisciplinary plan to achieve SDG target 8.7.**

Achieved

On May 27, 2021, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 782/QĐ-TTg approving the Program to prevent and reduce child labour (NPA) for period 2021-2025, with a vision to 2030.

The objectives of the NPA have been identified as follows:

1. Objectives:
 - a) Objective 1: To prevent, detect cases, support and provide interventions for children engaged in and at risk of child labor.
 - Strive to reduce the rate of children in child labour, aged 5-17, to 4.9%.
 - Provide timely support to 100% of children engaged in and at risk of child labor, and children trafficked for labor exploitation, ensuring intervention, management and monitoring detection.
 - Ensure that over 90% of children engaged in and at risk of child labor have access to general education or appropriate vocational training.
 - b) Objective 2: To deliver communication on child labor prevention and reduction.
 - Provide information and knowledge on child labor prevention and reduction to 90% of staff and teachers in educational institutions and childcare facilities, 70% of parents and caregivers, and 70% of children.
 - Provide information and knowledge on child labor prevention and reduction to 90% of enterprises, cooperatives and households, especially small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), and cooperatives and households in craft villages.
 - c) Objective 3: To organize training on child labour prevention and reduction.
 - Provide knowledge and skills relating to management, prevention, detection, support and interventions to reduce child labor to 90% of civil servants and public employees at provincial and district levels and 70% of cadres, civil servants of the labor, invalids and social affairs sector at commune level, and agencies and organizations working on child labor issues.

- Provide knowledge and skills relating to prevention, detection, support and interventions to reduce child labor to 90% of enterprises (with a focus on SMEs) and to 70% of cooperatives and households (with a focus on craft villages).
 - Orientation to 2030: Strive to reduce the rate of children in child labour aged 5-17, to 4.5%; and minimize the rate of children engaged in heavy, hazardous and dangerous work among children in child labour and minor workers.
- ▶ **Next step 2: Continue to promote the localization of all international child labour commitments, integrating content on child labour in normative documents to ensure harmonization with conventions and alignment with the requirements of international commitments.**

Ongoing/partially achieved

The fifth edition of the Labour Code (following its 1994, 2002, 2006 and 2012 versions) came into effect in January 2021, to implement commitments made by the Vietnamese Government as an ILO member state and to meet international requirements to facilitate international integration. The updated content of the Labour Code (2019) includes clearer provisions related to forced labour and minor workers and now covers workers in informal employment, where the majority of child labour takes place. This is an important opportunity for Viet Nam to accelerate progress towards Target 8.7. In order to disseminate the changes and new provisions of the Labour Code, the MOLISA Legal Affairs Department organized two seminars in Hanoi on 8 June 2020 and in Ho Chi Minh City on 12 June 2020. Furthermore, a range of training and awareness raising materials related to child labour have been updated to reflect these changes. To raise awareness on its provisions, the updated content on minor workers was disseminated through two workshops in June 2020, which took place in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, gathering 90 and 76 participants respectively. Participants included representatives from relevant Government ministries and departments, the National Assembly office and provincial DOLISAs and sector and industrial associations, and the events were co-chaired by DCA and the MOLISA legal department.

In order to disseminate the new content of the Labour Code 2019, including regulations on the employment of minor workers, the Legal Affairs Department of MOLISA has developed a Q&A handbook to share among DOLISAs, relevant ministries and employers' and workers' organizations. The Q&A handbook also provides information of the two ILO fundamental Conventions on Child Labour (Convention 182 and Convention 138), to mark the occasion of all 187 ILO member States having ratified the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182) in August 2020. The handbook will raise national awareness and provide a good reference source for government officials, social partners, businesses and communities. During the reporting period, two consultants developed a draft of the handbook and received the comments from Legal Departments and ILO. Currently, they are finalizing the handbook in accordance with a newly approved Circular, which provides detailed guidance for the implementation of Labour code provisions on minor workers.

- ▶ **Next step 3: Improve the legal system on child labour: Reach consensus on the definition of child labour; Conduct research with a goal to supplement the list of light jobs allowed for children under 15 years of age, develop the circulars provide guidance to implement the Labour Law**

Ongoing/partially achieved

The Department of Child Affairs (DCA), the International Cooperation Department (ICD) and the Work Safety department have collaborated in the development of a circular to provide guidance for execution of regulations in the Labour Code 2019 pertaining to the employment of persons under 15 years of age. Following several rounds of revisions, Circular 09/2020/TT-BLĐTBXH, issued on 12 November 2020, was approved by the MOLISA minister in early March 2021. The circular provides guidance on provisions of the labour code related to minors, detailing the list of light work that children between 13 and 15 years old can perform; the list of work and working conditions from which minor workers are prohibited to engage in; regulations on overtime and work at night among minor workers and the employment of under 15 year olds.

- ▶ **Next step 4: Continue to implement child labour prevention and reduction programmes with a focus on strengthening the child protection system and child protection service network to prevent violations, detect cases and support working children in a timely manner. To do so, develop and strengthen the child labour inspection and supervision system and develop support packages for children in child labour and their families.**

Ongoing/partially achieved

Currently, DCA is operating a computer-based child database system which serves as an information hub and enhances management capacity from central to local level to efficiently and accurately collect, manage and aggregate information on children, particularly those in special circumstances. To more effectively manage information on children in difficult circumstances, including those who are in child labour or at high risk of engaging in child labour, DCA has enlisted the support of an IT company to review and upgrade the child database system. The upgraded system has now been technically tested and is ready for roll out in all 63 provinces in Viet Nam. The upgraded database is designed as a hierarchical system with defined responsibilities for the creation and maintenance of data from central to provincial levels. This facilitates regular information updates on the status of children in special circumstances, including those are in child labour or at high risk of engaging in child labour. The system facilitates the collection and further disaggregation of information on all groups of children who are in special circumstances and not just those in child labour. To maximize access to the database, the selected IT company is working on the design of a mobile application for the upgraded system. It is expected that the mobile application (including IOS and Android), will be available by the end of July 2021, following which, trainings on the administration of the system will be organised for responsible officers at all levels during the final quarter of 2021.

- ▶ **Next step 5: Improve tripartite coordination mechanisms to enhance collaboration between MOLISA, VCCI, and VGCL in child labour prevention efforts.**

Ongoing/partially achieved

In early March 2021, the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) began discussions with MOLISA and ILO on the organization and implementation of a registered Action Pledge to promote action during the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour 2021. As part of the pledge, VCCI will work to improve awareness and understanding of child labour issues and related risks among business associations, enterprises and suppliers and encourage businesses to comply with regulations and codes of conduct related to child labour. To this end, a training course on child labour prevention and reduction will be organized for representatives of employers' organisations, business associations and businesses from central provinces/cities. Participants will include staff of business associations, SME employers, export production enterprises and business establishments engaged in relevant supply chains. Priority will be given to target sectors such as footwear, textiles, seafood, stone and wood processing, and handicrafts. Follow-up consultations will be conducted with selected trained businesses to support the identification and implementation of solutions to prevent labour law violations related to child labour in their businesses and supply chains. Efforts will also be made to develop child labour prevention plans and activities.

The Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL), in collaboration with MOLISA, plans to conduct a TOT training for representatives of trade unions from various economic sectors in Northern provinces with high concentrations of industrial zones. The participants will be provided with information and knowledge on child labour and training skills to conduct training and communication activities on child labour prevention and elimination in enterprises and supply chains, as part of their roles within trade unions. SCREAM methods will be integrated in the training to provide participants with useful tools to deliver effective communication and training activities. This will be a valuable opportunity to pre-test a manual on child labour prevention for trade union officers, which was developed with support from ILO. Findings from the training, as well as inputs and comments from trade union officials, will be collected during the events and integrated into the manual to ensure that it is appropriate for the use of trade union officials. This integrated manual will later be published and distributed to trade union branches nationwide to support trade union officials to mobilize employers and workers to implement policies related to the prevention and elimination of child labour in enterprises and their supply chains. The training will be conducted towards the end of April 2021.

- ▶ **Next step 6: Develop and implement criteria on the prevention of child labour in business.**

Ongoing/partially achieved

MOLISA is taking the lead in coordinating and overseeing the development of a child labour accreditation scheme to support employers' and workers' organizations and industry associations to prevent, monitor, remediate and gradually eradicate child labour in Vietnamese businesses. The aim is to identify business pioneers and champions in combating child labour, encourage more businesses to systematically address potential child labour

risks, and improve awareness related to child labour issues among the general public in Viet Nam. The scheme is currently under development with support from an external agency, in collaboration with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL), Vietnam Cooperative Alliance (VCA), ILO and a number of business enterprises. Following preparatory work throughout March and April 2020, and a consultation workshop in May, a first draft of the certification scheme was shared in July 2020. Based on recommendations from DCA and concerned stakeholders, a scheme entitled “Viet Nam Award towards Child Labour Free Business” was proposed. Throughout September 2020, the scheme’s criteria, indicators and self-assessment tools were piloted with 4 enterprises from wood processing, garment and handicraft sectors to gather further inputs for improvement. On 18 September 2020, a second consultation workshop was conducted with 15 participants from MOLISA, VCCI, CCR CRS and 31 representatives of factories, brands and consultancy firms. The documents and tools are currently being revised, with plans to integrate the award scheme into the upcoming NPA (2021-2025).

Question 3: What main successes can be highlighted for Vietnam between May 2020-April 2021?

- ▶ **Main successes related to pathfinder national priorities and next steps between May 2020 and April 2021 to be highlighted (e.g. on the Alliance 8.7 homepage, Alliance 8.7 reports)**

Strengthened legal system related to child labour

As previously noted, the finalisation and implementation of the updated labour code has ensured greater clarity on legislation related to minor workers, and aligned Vietnamese legislation on child labour more closely with international standards. In particular, MOLISA the promulgation of Circular No. 09/2020 / TT-BLDTBXH dated 12/11/2020 guides the implementation of key articles related to minor workers, clarifying legislation on the employment of under 15 year olds; the list of light work permitted for 13 to 15 year olds; and the list of hazardous work and workplaces prohibited for minor workers. This is a significant milestone, which will greatly strengthen detection and enforcement in the coming years.

Music Against Child Labour Song Competition

The aforementioned song competition to raise awareness on child labour during the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, will draw heightened attention to the issue in Viet Nam during this critical year. In Viet Nam, and around the world, music has proven a powerful tool to educate and inspire action through an accessible and universal medium. Leveraging the influence of musicians and the media to promote this activity will ensure its impact reaches a diverse audience. Furthermore, the collaboration between MOLISA, UNICEF, ILO, Save the Children and Good Neighbours, to arrange the competition is evidence of strong multistakeholder collaboration to tackle child labour in Viet Nam.

- ▶ **Other meaningful successes and opportunities toward the achievement of the target 8.7 that were not part of the main roadmap priorities**

Launch of Viet Nam's second National Child Labour Survey (2018)

In Hanoi on 18 December 2020, the report of Viet Nam's second National Child Labour Survey (NCLS 2018) was officially launched. The high profile event gathered participants from MOLISA and other relevant ministries and departments, the US embassy, employers' and workers' organisations, business associations, academia, UN agencies and NGOs. An in depth presentation of the survey findings and recommendations was provided by the Institute of Labour and Social Affairs, followed by recommendations from experts, and a presentation from the Department of Child Affairs (DCA) on the way forward. The findings outlined in the NCLS 2018 report identify an estimated 5.3 per cent of 5-17 year olds engaged in child labour in Viet Nam. This accounts for more than 1 million children, over half of whom are working under hazardous conditions. Comparatively speaking, the rate of child labour in Viet Nam is around 2 percentage points lower than the regional average for Asia and the Pacific, and, compared to findings from the first NCLS conducted in 2012, the latest figures point to an encouraging decrease in the prevalence of working children, which dropped from 15.5 per cent of children in 2012 to 9.1 per cent in 2018. Moving forward, the landmark survey will inform policies and strategies to eliminate child labour as Viet Nam progresses towards SDG Target 8.7

Ratification of convention 105

In June 2020, Viet Nam's National Assembly voted to ratify ILO Convention 105 on forced labour, which will come into force after one year; this is a major milestone on Viet Nam's path towards Target 8.7. By ratifying this Convention, Viet Nam is committing to combating forced labour in all its forms.

Revised Labour Code (2019) comes into effect

The revised Labour Code, which is more closely aligned with universal fundamental labour rights and international standards, came into effect on 1 January 2021. In addition to providing an additional chapter on minor workers, and expanding the scope of regulations to the informal sector, where the majority of child labour takes place, the fifth edition of the Labour Code (following its 1994, 2002, 2006 and 2012 versions) facilitates an improved legal framework for employment relations, working conditions, and the representation of employers and workers. It also places greater emphasis on the use of voluntary collective negotiations, which are required for a modern socialist-oriented market economy in the process of deeper global integration.

Research undertaken on child labour in agriculture

A case study on family based child labour in agriculture in the Mekong Delta region has been undertaken by Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD), with technical and financial assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The study analyses the prevalence, causes and effects of children working in the Mekong Delta. It aims to formulate recommendations for effective

interventions and means of prevention, engaging and strengthening the role of agricultural stakeholders to take effective action to eliminate child labour in family-based agriculture. Currently under review, the report is expected to be published later in the year to inform child labour interventions in the agricultural sector, where the majority of child labour takes place.

Survey on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices on Child Labour in Viet Nam

1.5 years after a baseline survey on Knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) on child labour was initiated, with support from ILO, an endline KAP survey was undertaken at the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, the results of which have now been finalised. The objective was to measure changes to KAP on child labour among 7-18 year olds, household representatives, and staff of social organisations and Government agencies (SAGA) and media and communication agencies (MCA) in target areas. Overall, results revealed positive changes to the KAP of participants, despite the short time period between the two surveys. Specifically, knowledge among household representatives and children on the defined age range of a child were evidenced, alongside marked improvements to knowledge on the process of reporting child labour violations. Among surveyed 7-18 year olds, there was evidence of increased awareness of their rights. The percentage of community members who reported having seen or heard programmes related to child labour increased. Accordingly, more participants indicated that they would take action if they witnessed a case of child labour compared to 2018. Overall, knowledge of SAGA and MCA staff was more accurate than that of community members, and significantly more SAGA and MCA staff had attended training related to child labour since the baseline survey. Results of the endline survey will inform communications and awareness raising activities and channels for the upcoming National Action Plan on child labour.

Question 4: What challenges did Vietnam face in the implementation of its roadmap ? (Covid-19)

▶ How did COVID-19 impact the implementation of the Pathfinder Country roadmap priorities?

Although the Government has been extremely successful in containing the pandemic, Covid-19 has nonetheless had a significant impact on production and employment, increasing unemployment and underemployment across the country. Informal workers, low-income workers, elderly workers, women, migrant workers, and minor workers are the most vulnerable groups to these impacts. Vietnam's labour force participation rate reached a record low over the past 10 years, at 75 per cent of the population of working age, which is down 1.3 per cent year-on-year. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that the Covid-19 epidemic has put the livelihoods of more than 22 million Vietnamese workers at high risk. This has significant implications for child labour. Despite these challenges, in May 2020, over 5,000 enterprises returned to operation, the number of newly established enterprises increased by 36.1 per cent over the previous month; total retail sales of consumer goods and services increased by 26.9 per cent; the index of industrial production increased by 11.2 per cent and exports increased by 5.2 per cent. This is promising progress, but efforts to alleviate the impacts of the pandemic on the rate of child labour will need to be sustained.

The program on the prevention and reduction of child labor for the period 2021-2025, with a vision to 2030 (which also constitutes the roadmap) was expected to be issued in the first quarter of 2020. However, due to the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic, it was necessary to limit the organization of consultation meetings to collect opinions from ministries, branches, agencies, organizations and experts on the Program and its intervention models, which slowed the process.

In addition, training courses on communication methods on the prevention and reduction of child labour were planned for staff at Departments of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Departments of Education and Training, Youth Unions, Social work centers of representatives from 15 provinces and cities. Unfortunately, the event was postponed due to the Covid-19 epidemic.

▶ How did Vietnam overcome the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic?

To respond to the challenges resulting from COVID-19, the Government provided support packages for workers at risk of losing their jobs, businesses at risk of bankruptcy and especially for poor and near poor households. To ensure safety for children during the epidemic, guidance has been provided to prevent accidents, injuries, abuse and psychological trauma for children at home when they are absent from school and attend online learning. Support has also been provided in the form of safety instructions for children and women in isolated areas. In addition, the Government has instructed ministries and sectors to pay closer attention to vulnerable groups such as children, and ensure favorable conditions for the beneficiaries of national interventions, such as the national target program on sustainable poverty reduction, policies for poor and near poor households. Poverty reduction models are being sustained and replicated to target beneficiary households

affected by COVID-19, including support accessing loans and creating conditions for production and business development.

Question 5: What other challenges did Vietnam face in the implementation of its roadmap ?

▶ What other challenges did Vietnam face to implement the Pathfinder Country roadmap priorities?

- Awareness on child labour at all levels and sectors, in particular among grassroots officials, employers, parents, caregivers of children and children is incomplete.
- There is a shortage and limited capacity of officials in all sectors and at all levels, especially at local level, to detect, prevent, intervene, and provide support in cases of child labor.
- The inspection, examination and supervision of child labour cases is not regular and the database on child labour is incomplete, which undermines the monitoring of child labour. This has also been affected by the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.
- Children may be forced to work longer hours or in more hazardous conditions due to the impact of the pandemic and climate-related disasters.

In terms of implementation, resources for relevant ministries, branches, agencies and organizations to implement the priorities of the roadmap are limited.

▶ How were challenges overcome?

As a solution to the implementation challenge related to resources, efforts are being made to integrate goals, activities and funding for the implementation of the National Action Programme/roadmap into plans and projects linked to pre-existing national programmes on new rural construction and poverty reduction, social security, labor and employment and vocational education.

▶ What are the lessons learned?

- Social and policy advocacy and behavior change always plays a particularly important role in the prevention and reduction of child labour, so it is necessary to continue to implement communication strategies nationwide.
- Strengthen intersectoral cooperation in the field of child protection, promoting coordination between Education and Training sectors, Labour, and Social Affairs, the Police and social organizations in the prevention of child labour.
- Build community capacity to promote early detection and monitoring of child labour.
- Strengthen the role and responsibility of businesses in eliminating child labour, taking measures to prevent child labour in supply chains, particularly those related to Viet Nam's dominant exports (agricultural goods, garments and processing industries).

Evidence of achieved progress

This second section allows reporting on the evidence of the achieved progress. It allows Pathfinder countries to provide insights into how the progress between May 2020 and April 2021 was assessed.

Question 6: What evidence is there of achieved progress?

Anecdotal evidence, Information from third parties (UN agencies), Information from national child labour surveys

Question 7: What stakeholders were involved in assessing progress against the national Pathfinder roadmap priorities?

- ▶ **Government agencies/Social partners/civil society organisations/law enforcement involved in assessing the progress against the national priorities identified in the Pathfinder roadmap priorities:**

National partners:

Employer organization(s): Vietnam chamber of commerce and industry; Vietnam cooperative alliance

Worker organization(s): Vietnam general confederation of labour

Other ministry/ies: Ministry of labour invalids and social affairs

International partners:

United Nations: UNICEF; FAO; IOM; ILO

International civil society organizations: World vision

Value of the Pathfinder process

The third section provides the opportunity to reflect upon the Pathfinder process and help putting the results reported into context. This section allows Pathfinder countries to report how the Pathfinder process may have helped them progressing towards their national priorities between May 2020 and April 2021.

Question 8: What were the main highlights around the pathfinder process?

- ▶ **Increased collaboration with international partners United Nations, ILO, and other Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder country/ies**

UNICEF: DCA is cooperating with UNICEF in Vietnam through the project “Promoting and protecting children’s rights in Vietnam”.

Increased support from ILO through the project, ‘Technical support for enhancing national capacity to prevent and reduce child labour in Viet Nam’

Increased collaboration with Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder countries (See below)

▶ **Vietnam supported sub-regional/regional/global initiatives on the elimination of child labour, forced labour and human trafficking**

Scaling up or testing multi-stakeholder and innovative approaches in another country

In February 2021, Viet Nam participated in a virtual introductory and experience sharing session on the awareness raising programme, Supporting Child's Rights through Education, Arts and Media (SCREAM). The session gathered around 60 tripartite constituents in Lao PDR, made up of members of the Lao NPA advisory committee and its working group. This initiative was implemented through ILO RBSA, to strengthen the implementation of the National Plan of Action (NPA) to Eliminate Child Labour and Promote Decent Work for Youth in Lao PDR towards achieving SDG 8.7. The activity was intended to support to the Government of Lao PDR to follow up on the implementation of CAS Recommendations for Convention 182, and to support the implementation of the National Action Plan on the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in Lao PDR. The session was appreciated as a good example of South-South cooperation, with Viet Nam implementing its commitments as a Pathfinder Country to share experiences in combatting child labour.

Participating in one or more of the Alliance 8.7 action groups

From 23 to 27 November 2020, DCA participated in a series of technical online workshops for the designated national focal points from all Alliance 8.7 pathfinder countries. This opportunity provided DCA a chance to exchange experiences and to reflect on the pathfinder country process to date, including the monitoring of progress against agreed priorities, and to discuss the way forward. Further to these meetings, on 25 March 2021, DCA participated in another Alliance 8.7 meeting to discuss the format and process of developing the 2nd progress report for Alliance 8.7.

On March 3-4, 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (including the International Cooperation Department, the Department of Child Affairs and the Ministry Inspectorate) attended a webinar on “The framework for monitoring the ASEAN roadmap on eliminating worst forms of child labor”. 2025” to comment on data sources and reporting forms for priority indicators on child labour.

▶ **With which domestic partners did Vietnam collaborate to achieve its priorities?**

Employer organization(s),

DCA has been collaborating to with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) on the following aforementioned activities:

- Developing a certification scheme aimed at businesses working to eliminate child labour in their supply chains;

- Developing a guideline on implementing commitments on child labor-related standards in the context of world free trade agreements and other international commitments;
- Organizing a National Forum on Child Labor and Enterprises and a third policy dialogue on child labor and enterprises;
- Organising seminars, workshops, and capacity building training for staff related to child labour
- Action pledge to raise awareness on child labour among enterprises through a workshop and a training course on child labour prevention and reduction for representatives of employers' organisations, business associations and businesses from central provinces/cities.

The Vietnam Cooperative Alliance has also been engaged in evaluating livelihood needs for households; participating in seminars and workshops, and undertaking capacity building training for staff related to child labour.

Worker organization(s)

The Vietnam General Confederation of Labor has been engaging in conferences, seminars and capacity building training for staff related to child labour.

Statistical office

The General Statistics Office was engaged in undertaking the second national survey on child labour.

Other ministry/ies

The Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Public Security, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development have been engaged in the development of the Program on the prevention and reduction of child labor for the period 2021-2025, with a vision to 2030.

Way forward

This section allows to have an outlook on the next steps on a 12 months horizon towards the achievement of the country's priorities and to indicate whether the roadmap requires to be revised. These next steps will be used for the pathfinder report next year.

Question 9: Is there a need to revise the Pathfinder Country roadmap priorities for Vietnam?

The updated priorities are currently under review. Once the NPA is launched (which constitutes the roadmap), it is likely that the priorities will need to be changed to better align with the NPA.

Question 10: What next steps is Vietnam planning to undertake until April 2022?

▶ Next step 1: Facilitating the implementation of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Reduce Child Labour (2021-2025)

April 2022 targets

- Provide Training and support to relevant ministries, agencies, organizations and localities on planning and implementation of the NPA and develop a set of indicators to monitor and supervise the implementation of the programme.
- Organize training workshops on planning and implementing the Child Labor Prevention and Mitigation Program
- Issue guidelines for the implementation of the Program
- Develop a set of indicators to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Program

Evidence that will allow to determine if the next step was achieved

Progress reports, documentation of activities, number of training courses completed, number of participants/training courses

Work area

Child Labour

▶ Next step 2: Capacity building for relevant stakeholders at all levels, relevant agencies, organizations and individuals, especially employers, on the prevention and reduction of child labour.

April 2022 targets

Capacity building materials developed and training courses implemented on child labor prevention and reduction delivered for stakeholders at all levels, including relevant agencies, organizations and individuals, and employers.

Evidence that will allow to determine if the next step was achieved

Documentation of activities, progress reports, number of participants/training courses

Work area

Child Labour

▶ Next step 3: Conduct communication, education and social mobilization to raise awareness and responsibility for the prevention and reduction of child labor

April 2022 targets

- Organize a training course for reporters from press agencies and media agencies on the provisions of the labour law, international commitments and free trade Communication materials and products developed to raise awareness and responsibility for the prevention and reduction of child labor.

- Songs aimed at raising awareness on child labour selected and promoted.

Evidence that will allow to determine if the next step was achieved

Progress reports, documentation of activities

Work area

Child Labour

▶ **Next step 4: Enhance provision of direct support to families with children at risk of child labour**

April 2022 targets

Collaboration between different ministries, sectors and organisations to develop and pilot models to prevent and reduce child labour in provinces and cities across the country.

Evidence that will allow to determine if the next step was achieved

Progress reports, documentation of activities, evaluation report if available

Work area

Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking

Question 11: In which areas would Vietnam need support to reach its own roadmap priorities?

Implementing support and intervention procedures to prevent child labour and support children in child labor and children at risk of engaging in child labor, in line with the child protection system.

Question 12: What is Vietnam's 2021 Action pledge for the Elimination of Child Labour?

2021 has been declared the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. The ILO and Partners asked stakeholders to choose a specific action that contributes to ending child labour and which can be achieved by December 2021. Pathfinder Countries play hereby an important role to bring the Act, Inspire and Scale Up to life.

▶ **Vietnam 2021 action pledge**

Supporting business operating in Vietnam to prevent and eliminate child labour in their supply chains

Enhancing engagement with academic sector to address child labour

▶ **Short description of Action Pledge**

The *Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry* will focus on improving awareness and understanding of child labour issues and related risks among business associations, enterprises and suppliers; and encouraging businesses to comply with regulations and codes

of conduct related to child labour. To this end, a workshop and a training course on child labour prevention and reduction will be organized for representatives of employers' organisations, business associations and businesses from central provinces/cities. Participants will include staff of business associations, SME employers, export production enterprises and business establishments engaged in relevant supply chains. Priority will be given to the Project's target sectors such as footwear, textiles, seafood, stone and wood processing, and handicrafts. Follow-up consultations will be conducted with selected trained businesses to support the identification and implementation of solutions to prevent labour law violations related to child labour in their businesses and supply chains. Support will also be provided to develop child labour prevention plan and activities, and implement tools. VCCI is also collaborating with ICD on an action pledge to organize a national level business and child labour forum. The event will be the third of its kind since Viet Nam became a pathfinder country, and the focus for this dialogue will be on child labour elimination in agricultural supply chains in the context of international integration with a focus of vocational training solutions. Participants will include SMEs and big brands, business associations, relevant government stakeholders, socio-political agencies, vocational training providers and institutions, community organizations and international organizations. The dialogue was intended to be held last year but was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. There are now tentative plans to hold the event in the second quarter of 2021, as part of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour.

The *School of Law at the Vietnam National University* pledged to organize a Conference on Combating Child Labour in ASEAN, in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Human Rights and Peace Studies Network (SEAHRN); and the Programme to Strengthen Human Rights and Peace Research and Education in ASEAN/Southeast Asia (SHAPE-SEA). The objectives of the Conference are to increase awareness among scholars, practitioners, public officials and corporate and industrial sectors on child labour standards and issues; to foster education on children's rights in Vietnam and Southeast Asia; and to ensure sufficient learning materials for the newly updated Master's Programme on human rights at VNU-LS. Materials developed from the conference will be published by the Project and disseminated to related local state agencies, social organizations and academic institutions for education, reference and other professional purposes.