FACTSHEET

JOINT PROGRAMME ON GENDER EQUALITY

The issue:

Viet Nam has a long history of promoting gender equality. It is a signatory to human rights conventions guaranteeing equality between men and women, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also has a National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women and has mainstreamed gender into the Socio-economic Development Plan. In 2006, the National Assembly passed the Gender Equality Law and in 2007 the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control was passed. MOLISA is designated as the State management agency responsible for gender equality and MOCST is the State management agency responsible for the prevention and control of domestic violence.

Despite this legal framework, gender inequalities still need to be addressed. Institutional capacities in implementation and reporting, gender analysis, data collection, and monitoring of the two laws need to be further strengthened.

More research on how women in Viet Nam are experiencing gender equality is needed, as well as additional sex-disaggregated data collection and analysis. Networking and information-sharing among relevant ministries and civil society also needs to be further improved.

The joint programme:

- The Joint Programme on Gender Equality aims to improve the capacity of national and provincial authorities, institutions and other duty bearers to effectively implement, monitor, evaluate and report on the Law on Gender Equality and Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control. The programme will contribute to achieving Millennium Development Goal 3, which seeks to promote gender equality and empower women.

KEY FACTS

BUDGET: USD 4,683,516
Of which:
- MDG Fund (Spain): USD 4,500,000
- Government contribution: USD 94,706
- Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation: USD 88,810

PROGRAMME DURATION: 2009 – 2011

UN PARTICIPATING AGENCIES:

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:
- Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA)
- Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MOCST)
- Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES:
- Ministries & government agencies
- The Party and elected bodies at national and provincial level
- Civil society
- Mass media
Unique features:

- This is the first time that 12 UN agencies in Viet Nam have come together as one to work on a joint programme to achieve shared goals. By working together, the UN will avoid duplication and will build on the strengths and experiences of each agency. This will provide a high-quality programme to advance gender equality in Viet Nam.

- The joint programme is undertaken in close partnership with the Government. With the UN and multiple Government and civil society partners working together, the outcomes of the programme will be more effective and sustainable.

- By bringing together organizations that work on advocacy at the national level with those engaged in local programming and research, the joint programme provides an opportunity to facilitate the integration of direct contributions from research results and pilot programming into national policy development and planning.

Key outcomes:

- Improve the skills and knowledge of duty bearers to effectively implement, monitor, evaluate and report on the Law on Gender Equality and the Domestic Violence Law by, for example, developing training materials, providing capacity building and setting up monitoring and evaluation frameworks within the Government to measure the implementation of the two laws.

- Enhance partnerships and coordination around gender equality within and outside of the Government by, for example, establishing a national Gender Forum comprising government agencies, public organizations and media professionals with an interest in gender, and providing capacity development and networking opportunities for media professionals who cover gender issues.

- Strengthen evidence-based data and data systems for promoting gender equality by, for example, providing technical assistance to engender national surveys, such as the Labour Force, Population Change and the Household Living Standard surveys, conducting research on the experience of marginalized groups of women in relation to gender equality, including ethnic minorities, migrant women and boys and girls at risk of trafficking, and carrying out the first-ever comprehensive survey on the incidence of domestic violence.

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This joint programme is funded by the Spanish MDG Achievement Fund