2020-2021 HIGHLIGHT REPORT

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

VIETNAM PARTNERSHIP

Source: Save the Children, Plan International, MSD
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<tr>
<td>ACDC</td>
<td>Action to the Community Development Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFV</td>
<td>Aid for social protection program Foundation Vietnam</td>
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<td>BoET</td>
<td>Bureau of Education and Training</td>
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<td>CEPORER</td>
<td>Centre de Parrainage des Orphelins et Enfants de la rue (Hoc Mon Child Protection Center)</td>
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<td>CDG</td>
<td>Community Development Group</td>
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<td>CGD</td>
<td>Citizen-generated data</td>
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<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>Coronavirus disease of 2019</td>
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<td>CRD</td>
<td>Center for Rural Development in Central Vietnam</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil society organization</td>
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<td>CUFO</td>
<td>Can Tho Union of Friendship Organizations</td>
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<td>DoET</td>
<td>Department of Education and Training</td>
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<td>DOLISA</td>
<td>Department of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>GACP</td>
<td>Good Agricultural and Collection Practices</td>
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<td>IA</td>
<td>Irish Aid</td>
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<td>ICSC</td>
<td>International Civil Society Centre</td>
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<td>iDRR</td>
<td>inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
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<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information, Education &amp; Communication</td>
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<td>IEP</td>
<td>Inclusive Education Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBT</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender</td>
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<td>LIGHT</td>
<td>LIGHT Institute for Development and Community Health</td>
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<td>LNOB</td>
<td>Leave No One Behind</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoET</td>
<td>Ministry of Education and Training</td>
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<td>MPI</td>
<td>Ministry of Planning and Investment</td>
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<td>MSD</td>
<td>Management and Sustainable Development Institute</td>
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<td>NCHL</td>
<td>National Child Protection Hotline</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organization</td>
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<td>OPD</td>
<td>Organizations of persons with disabilities</td>
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<td>PWD</td>
<td>Person(s) with Disabilities</td>
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<td>RIC</td>
<td>Center for Research on Initiatives of Community Development</td>
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<td>SCIE</td>
<td>Support Center for Inclusive Education</td>
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<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<td>SDO</td>
<td>Social Delivery Organization</td>
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<td>SRHR</td>
<td>Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUDECOM</td>
<td>Center for Sustainable Development of Mountainous Communities</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNCRC</td>
<td>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNFCCC</td>
<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
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<td>UNJP</td>
<td>United Nations Joint Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>USSSH</td>
<td>University of Social Sciences and Humanities</td>
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<td>VACR</td>
<td>Vietnam Association for the Protection of Child’s Rights</td>
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<td>VCA</td>
<td>Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis</td>
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<td>VNR</td>
<td>Voluntary National Review</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>YENBAI CDSH</td>
<td>Yen Bai Center for Science Technology Development and Community Healthcare</td>
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I. FOREWORD

Dear Esteemed Partners and Colleagues,

I am delighted to present the 2020-2021 LNOB Vietnam Highlight Report conducted by Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD) – LNOB Vietnam Country Lead, with remarkable contributions from member organizations and support from related government agencies. As the first highlight report of the coalition, this report introduces key information about the LNOB Partnership, presents the achievements of the Partnership in 2020-2021, and enables LNOB members to critically engage with what has been done to set new goals and develop new activities for the future by drawing on past experience.

It goes without saying that 2020 and 2021 were turbulent times. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a global crisis, experienced most significantly by marginalized communities. According to the General Statistics Office, Vietnam recorded decade-low GDP growth of 2.91 percent in 2020 after non-essential businesses and tourist services were ordered to close. With regards to CSOs, the rapid assessment report by MSD on “The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on CSOs in Vietnam” showed that 96% of the surveyed CSOs reported moderate to serious effects of COVID-19 on their operations, including delays in operation, funding crisis, and difficulties in communication, cooperation, and coordination with partners.

Overcoming various obstacles amidst the pandemic, the dedication of our member organizations with project areas across Vietnam has helped us create positive impacts without interruption. As a result, in the 2020-2021 period, the LNOB Vietnam Partnership has gradually realized our shared objective of assessing citizens’ needs – especially those of marginalized groups, and providing citizens’ data and evidence for SDG monitoring and implementation. Our most notable achievements were the recognized comments in the 2016-2020 National SDG Implementation Report and the completion of Vietnam SDG 16+ Report, which were concrete evidence of CSO participation in the implementation of SDGs at the national and international levels.

Vietnam’s SDGs Index ranking has rocketed from 88th in 2016 to 55th in 2022, showing our resolute determination in implementing sustainable development as a developing country. With our solidarity and commitment, LNOB Vietnam Partnership will continue to give voice to marginalized groups and deliver unprecedented results, thus contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

Linh Phuong Nguyen – Executive Director
of MSD, LNOB Vietnam Country Lead
II. INTRODUCTION

1. Our mission/goals
The LNOB Partnership aims to mainstream a scalable and broadly applicable approach for a more inclusive and evidence-driven SDG implementation worldwide, with a focus on the empowerment of marginalized groups. In the 2020-2024 period, the objectives of the network are:
• Implementing representative research and/or data generation in different municipalities/cities across the country where LNOB members work, focusing on the inclusion and empowerment of marginalized groups in national SDG implementation.
• Integrating the produced evidence in official monitoring and reporting as a complementary source of information.
• Using the evidence to produce concrete recommendations for policies and services that are capable of addressing the situation of the marginalized populations in their local context.

2. Our approach
Through our inclusive approach of “community-driven data”, we aim to fill knowledge gaps in local level SDG monitoring and better understand local drivers of vulnerability and marginalization. Community-driven data means: the needed evidence and SDG monitoring data is produced at the local level, with the affected communities directly involved in data generation (Making Voices Heard).

At the same time, coalition partners and authorities at the local and national levels have entered into a dialogue aiming to bring community-driven data to practical use as a complimentary source of information for public planning and policy making (Making Voices Count).

3. Our principles

1. Added value
2. Complementarity
3. Trust
4. Honesty
5. Anti-fraud and corruption
6. Prevention of financing for terrorism or sanctions
7. Leverage
8. Sustainability
9. Inclusivity
10. Gender equality
11. Child protection/safeguarding
4. Our members

- In September 2020, LNOB Vietnam expanded its network to 14 civil society organizations (CSOs) including both national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD) was elected as the Country Lead.

- Key SDGs in focus: 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17
• Mapping of area: **Nearly 30 provinces**, particularly in the rural and mountainous areas of Vietnam, have benefited from LNOB members’ work. (Specifically: Bac Kan, Bac Lieu, Ben Tre, Binh Thuan, Cao Bang, Da Nang, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Dien Bien, Ha Giang, Ha Noi, Hai Phong, Ho Chi Minh City, Hoa Binh, Khanh Hoa, Kon Tum, Lang Son, Lao Cai, Ninh Binh, Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Quang Tri, Soc Trang, Thanh Hoa, Tra Vinh, Tuyen Quang, Yen Bai)
III. 05 HIGHLIGHTS OF LNOB VIETNAM IN THE 2020-2021 PERIOD

1. LNOB as a partnership

As of 2020, LNOB has a total of 14 signed members:
2. LNOB comments in the 2016-2020 National SDG Implementation report:

LNOB members actively took part in providing comments for the National Report on the Implementation of SDGs in the 2016-2020 period. After nine months of advocacy, nearly 80% of the recommendations of CSOs in the LNOB network were integrated into the report by the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) in Vietnam. In October 2021, the report was launched with Ms. Linh Phuong Nguyen - MSD Executive Director as the guest speaker from LNOB. In the report, LNOB was recognized as a leading initiative and network of CSOs working on promoting SDGs.

3. The SDG 16+ report and Citizen-generated data project:

- Vietnam SDG 16+ report:
  As the next step after the first four years of the 2030 Agenda implementation, SDG 16 Plus (SDG 16+) - extended from SDG 16, has been an integrated and mutually-reinforcing goal focused on advancing government accountability, building trust and sustaining peace at the national level. As a part of the Monitoring and Review of SDG 16 Plus at the National and Regional Level (2015-2020) in Asia, Vietnam SDG 16 Plus Report explores the participation of various stakeholders in implementing SDG 16+, analyzes data to emphasize how SDG 16+ deals with four essential human freedoms, and presents SDG 16+ progress stories in Vietnam. Key recommendations are proposed to the Vietnamese Government and regional institutions to enhance the engagement of multi-stakeholders, especially CSOs, in the implementation of SDG 16+. The information in this report is collected from VNR 2018, Draft 2020 National Report on SDG progress, and LNOB Comments on the 2020 Draft National Report on SDG progress. The featured cases in this report are provided by LNOB members.

Cover page of the report “Monitoring and Review of SDG 16 Plus at the National and Regional Level in Asia - CSOs Perspective (Based on 13 Countries Case Studies from Asia)”
4. Communication products

• The LNOB Vietnam logo was designed and officially published in Quarter II of 2021. It holds various layers of meanings related to Vietnam, sustainable development, the UN SDGs, and the partnership itself:

The **background** of the LNOB Vietnam logo is the pattern on the Dong Son drum – the most famous artifact of the Southeast Asian Dong Son culture (today’s northern Vietnam) and a sacred symbol of Vietnamese ancestry. This pattern depicts the harmony between humans and nature, one of the most important aspects of sustainable development.

To symbolize the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the letter O in LNOB is stylized into the **color wheel** of the 17 SDGs, which is inspired by the SDG logo and the LNOB Global logo.

The **key color** for the logo is the blue from SDGs 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), which are the main focus of the partnership.

• Citizen-generated data (CGD) project:
To promote the use of data generated by CSOs, LNOB is conducting the **Local Voluntary Review of SDG in Vietnam: Making Voices Heard and Count**. This project duration is from May 2021 - October 2022, with the objective of collecting data from marginalized groups across Vietnam, particularly in the rural and mountainous areas, to fill the national knowledge gap on SDGs 4, 5, 8, 13 and 16. Particularly, the massive data set will be used to track issues and trends such as poverty or income over time, then to support the implementation of projects and programmes, and to monitor and evaluate the impact of interventions. The methodologies applied include community score cards, semi-interviews, multi-stakeholder workshop consultation, etc. Upon completion, the report will be disseminated at the regional (Asia and Pacific) and international levels. The voices of the marginalized groups collected through our data collection process will also contribute to Vietnam 2023 Voluntary National Review, which is going to be reported to the UN.
• In October 2021, the LNOB Vietnam Partnership published a compilation video to summarize the activities and achievements of the network since its establishment.

5. Learning, meeting and networking

In the 2020-2021 period, the LNOB Partnership conducted frequent meetings to learn and share with each other on how to promote SDG implementation and ensure No One is Left Behind. In addition to the sharing from LNOB members, the partnership also invited guest speakers from MPI, UNDP, UNJP, ICSC, LNOB Nepal Partnership and other specialists to share the tendency and strategy of promoting SDGs at different levels. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of the meetings were conducted virtually; however, all information was effectively communicated and executed despite this difficulty.
During the 4th outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing was strictly applied in Vietnam, contributing to the lower number of deaths and the slow spread in the community. While these restrictions are justified as necessary to protect people’s lives, millions of families, women, and children suffered as severe economic disruption pushed many of them back to poverty. Continuing their support for Vietnam’s struggle against COVID-19 impacts in 2020, ActionAid Vietnam (AAV) and Aid for social protection program foundation Vietnam (AFV) implemented the Together, we shall come back stronger! 2021 programme to provide emergency assistance to nearly 70,000 people in need due to the impacts of COVID-19 with a total fund of nearly VND 11 billion. This is done by delivering different packages of sanitation & hygienic supplies, necessities such as rice/oil/salt, other essential support during the outbreak, and support for the vulnerable community with seeds/fertilizers/micro-financing after the outbreak was over. Their team also engaged with different stakeholders to provide information on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at the community level and what people can do to access the Government relief packages. This is done in different ethnic minority languages, in posters and videos, and on community radios, reaching people far and wide and making them safer in the pandemic. The programme was implemented from July to December 2021 in 12 provinces and cities across Vietnam and is part of The People’s Vaccine global campaign initiated by ActionAid and the People’s Vaccine Alliance.
The Regional BioTrade project in South East Asia, funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs and implemented by Helvetas Vietnam, has been supporting Vietnamese companies to export various natural ingredients such as cinnamon, star anise, Shan tea, ginger, turmeric, chili and benzoin gum to high-end markets. Thanks to the project, the export turnover of BioTrade products increased to USD 17.5 million in 2020. 19 supported companies have obtained 60 certificates of international voluntary sustainability standards, including organic standards by the EU, the US, Japan, and Korea. By 2020, more than 17,500 farmers, workers and company staff (of which nearly 52% are female) benefited from the project’s activities with increased income and additional employment. The 16 newly created value chains not only help the companies prosper but also protect the environment and local biodiversity values, and ensure local people's living standard.
Under the Gift Catalog project implemented by World Vision Vietnam since 2014, over 300 families in Hai Quy commune (Hai Lang district, Quang Tri) participated in the one-day-old chicken raising program. At that time, the local authorities were skeptical of the idea because one-day-old chickens were too frail to survive, and without proper breeding techniques, the mortality rate could be as high as 99 percent. The concern, however, quickly dissipated after six training sessions were organized by Hai Lang Area Program on breeding techniques for chickens 1 to 21 days old. All families successfully raised and expanded their flock with a survival rate of 95%. “The Gift Catalog project has given families a sustainable livelihood. They didn’t simply climb out of poverty, they have owned thriving family businesses,” said Ms. Thai Thi Thuy Loan – Chairwoman of Hai Quy Women’s Union.

Source: World Vision Vietnam
VND 2,170,992,000 was raised in MSD’s project titled *For a Vietnam with no one left behind amid COVID-19*. Through this project, food and hygiene support and COVID-19 prevention education were provided to 567 families – equivalent to nearly 4,000 people – affected by the pandemic in Hanoi, Binh Duong and Ho Chi Minh City. The funds were contributed through businesses (3M, TH Group, Bac A Bank, etc.), domestic and international organizations (Community Chest of Korea, United Way Worldwide, Fund for Vietnamese Stature, etc.) and the community of MoMo E-Wallet users. From August to December 2020, with the companionship of 15 CSOs in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, MSD delivered 822 support packages to families in need, thereby helping them overcome adversity and persevere through hardships amidst the pandemic.
CBM supported the Inclusive education network for children with disabilities in Vietnam, a project for capacity building for an inclusive education network in Quang Ngai. This model builds a solid network and collaboration throughout the education system from MoET (in developing and improving policy), the Special Education Faculty of the University of Education as technical lead (in providing capacity building and supervision), DoET (responsible for resources and service provision at the provincial level), Support Center for Inclusive Education (SCIE), BoET (at the district level), and Inclusive schools which are based in communities (for collaboration and support). Children with disabilities attending mainstream community schools have access to multi-sectoral support from resource classrooms and trained inclusive teachers. These involved conducting community visits to explore family context and inputs from a multidisciplinary team of experts, including caregivers and children. Inclusive Education Plans (IEP) were translated into activities in the classroom, resource room, at home and in the community. The project has supported over 100 children each year through its early intervention programme and provided 50 training workshops involving 250 core mainstreaming teachers. One Support Center for Inclusive Education was transformed and five school-based resource classrooms were established. In 2020, a total of 1,094 students with disabilities attended inclusive schools and 235 students with disabilities were engaged in three specialized schools in the whole province. The quality of education for students with disabilities has been strengthened and improved. Such was the success of the programme that it was scaled up to a further 13 districts. Despite the pandemic, undeterred services continued with support being provided for online learning, facilitating the provision of laptops, and learning tools/toys to learners with disabilities. Only within 2021, SCIE supported a total of 385 students with disabilities in inclusive schools and specialized centers. 40 students with different types of disabilities were provided with weekly e-learning support activities by staff from SCIE, 60 parents were trained at home, and there were 370 participants in the arts, sports, and cultural programs organized by the support network.
The Shinhan Square Bridge Vietnam Project is a cross-border and multi-sector initiative coordinated by MSD with the financial support of the Shinhan Hope Foundation, created to build a community to bring opportunities for all partners, including state agencies, international networks, investors, SDOs and communities in Vietnam. As one of the six startups invested by this project, Tripath Vietnam established the “Vietnamese Public School Management System and Online Tuition Payment Business”. With this initiative, Tripath provides a safe and convenient check-in method to students in 100 schools in rural areas, which helps teachers and parents easily track the status of each student. Provinces in which this service is being provided in public schools include Thai Binh, Hung Yen, Binh Duong, and Thua Thien – Hue.
Improving quality of education for deprived children in Viet Nam – Phase 2 is implemented by Save the Children from 2020 to 2022, in partnership with Da Nang, Quang Binh, Hai Phong, Tien Giang and Dong Thap Departments of Education and Training, and the Bureau of Education and Training of Dien Bien Dong district (Dien Bien), with the funding from Save the Children Italy. This project contributed to strengthening the quality of early childhood education and basic education via improving school readiness, learning outcomes and hygiene practices in schools among deprived children in project areas. The project has benefited 54 preschools and primary schools with 31,426 students, and organized capacity building for more than 4,000 teachers and parents’ clubs for more than 6,000 parents. In addition, the preschool students’ average score of school readiness has increased by 15%, and primary students’ reading with comprehension ability (Grade 2) has developed 2.5 times in the two years of project duration.
Through the **My Right to Education** project, parents and caregivers in Bac Kan and Cao Bang participated in training on supporting children with disabilities to learn at home and at school. The project added four supporting classrooms specifically constructed to meet the needs of children with disabilities. At the end of 2020, the project had organized a series of events to celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. More than 300 children and adults participated to share their experiences and recognize individuals within the community who are advocating for disability rights. In April 2021, ChildFund trained 250 people from two districts to raise awareness on the need for inclusive education, and to reduce discrimination. Parents of children with disabilities learned about their role in supporting children to access quality education. In partnership with the Action to the Community Development Institute (ACDC), ChildFund has made significant progress towards supporting the establishment of an Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) in Bac Kan. This is a strong commitment of ChildFund Vietnam to promote local resources and localization. Together, ChildFund, OPD, and local authorities will continue to provide training and learning opportunities for children and the community, to ensure that children living with disability have opportunities to learn and reach their full potential.
In the 2020-2023 period, in cooperation with Plan International and LIGHT Institute for Development and Community Health, MSD is implementing a project titled **Safer cities for girls in Hanoi**. The project is aimed at preventing harassment and abuse of girls and women in public transport, public places, bus waiting places, etc. and encouraging victims and witnesses to report these acts. Key project activities include organizing training sessions on gender equality, gender sensitivity and gender violence; collecting data to evaluate the implementation of policy programs at central and local levels; conducting media campaigns to promote the project message; and holding youth consultation sessions on related programs and policies. Project activities have shown initial success as there have been increased awareness and effective cooperation among the youth, parents, caregivers, public transport staff and government officials towards the common goal of building safe and friendly cities for girls.
In 2021, Plan completed the four-year project funded by Irish Aid titled **Empowering Ethnic Minority Communities to Deliver Local Solutions (EMPRO)**. The project was implemented to reach disadvantaged ethnic minority communities in 27 remote communes of Dakrong and Huong Hoa districts in Quang Tri, Hoang Su Phi and Xin Man districts in Ha Giang, and Kon Plong and Kon Ray districts in Kon Tum, which were categorized by the Government to be among the poorest communities in Vietnam. Specifically, 17 communes were classified as poor by the Government under Resolution 30A (Programme 30A), including seven communes in Quang Tri, four communes in Kon Tum and six communes in Ha Giang. Most of the project locations have a high poverty rate of about 50-80%. The project intervention directly reached 231/287 villages that were identified through a consultation process based on criteria including levels of poverty, the willingness of the communities, and support from the local government. Plan facilitated the analysis of gender-related power dynamics within the family and community through the community-based inclusive development training for project facilitators (50% of which were community members), and for these engaged community members (65% of community beneficiaries were women and girls) to identify ways to improve the family and community situation. Economic empowerment for women has been proven to be a practical and effective approach in the project. Gender indicators of the project met and exceeded the targets. “The initiative of building village lighting systems has helped women and girls feel safe when they go to school or return home late from fieldwork and meetings. It also addresses the problem of traffic accidents for everyone”, said Ms. Y Thai, a woman of Xe Dang ethnic group in Dak Koi commune, Kon Tum.

In addition, the project trained government officials and communities on community-based inclusive development and at the same time, engaged PWD to not only participate, but also to actively take the lead in the identification of issues affecting them and defining solutions for their inclusion. As a result, about 1,308 PWD who are living in 27 project communes directly benefited from the project intervention.
Save the Children maintained the partnership with three key partners, An Giang Department of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA), Can Tho Union of Friendship Organizations (CUFO) and the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH) in Ho Chi Minh City with the implementation of LGBT youth and children in Vietnam have access to education, health and social services. The project’s objective is to promote the inclusion of LGBT children and youth in equal access to education, employment, health, housing and participation. After three years (2019-2021), the project increased capacity in terms of knowledge, attitude and behaviors towards issues related to LGBT rights and reached out to 1,112 LGBT youth and children, 2,889 students, 391 teachers/lecturers and 1,523 professional social workers, health staffs, Woman Union, Youth Union and government staff. The project also created a safer environment for LGBT children and youth to raise their voice and practice their rights through six campaigns and 33 initiatives as well as LGBT youth group development.
In 2020, Helvetas Vietnam successfully completed the project **Women Economic Empowerment through Shan Tea and Medicinal Plants** in Lao Cai. The project aims to improve the social and economic status of ethnic minority women through value chain development interventions in the sub-sectors of organic Shan tea and medicinal plants in Bac Ha district, and ethical medicinal plants in Bat Xat district. The project created great changes in these areas with the development of 500 ha of Shan tea and 80 ha of medicinal herbs meeting the World Health Organization’s Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP-WHO) and being exported to Europe, the US, and other high-value markets. More than 2,000 farmers, 20 production groups, and various enterprises in the value chain were trained and supported by Helvetas. Many events promoting gender equality, COVID-19 prevention, and policy dialogues were successfully organized with hundreds of thousands of reaches and thousands of participants. The project activities have really helped the life of ethnic peoples – especially women – in the project area to be significantly improved both physically and spiritually.
From 2020 to 2022, IDEA implemented a project titled *Strengthening response capacity for gender-based violence against women with disabilities* in Yen Khanh district, Ninh Binh with financial support from the US Embassy. The project aims to help women and girls with disabilities improve their knowledge and awareness of the law and practical skills in gender equality and domestic violence prevention and control, in order to reduce domestic violence in the locality. The main activities of the project include organizing training sessions on gender equality, gender sensitivity and gender violence; and organizing events to raise awareness about the right of women with disabilities to live free from violence. As a result, people’s awareness and skills to prevent and respond to gender-based violence against women with disabilities have been improved. The project also received tremendous support from relevant stakeholders and family members of women with disabilities.

Source: IDEA
5,033 people in the rural and mountainous areas had a chance to approach and use clean water thanks to MSD’s Water Ambassador Program in 2021. In collaboration with the Center for Research on Initiatives of Community Development (RIC), Hoc Mon Child Protection Center (CEPORER Hoc Mon), businesses and philanthropists, MSD constructed seven clean water systems in Hoa Binh, Yen Bai, Quang Tri, Long An, etc. to bring clean water to schools and communities, as well as to ensure the health of residents, especially children, in rural and mountainous areas. MSD developed the Water Ambassador Program by approaching the authorities so that NGOs and the community can acknowledge the unsolved problems; thereby, the authority would mobilize the available resources to invest and take part in building social works. MSD also succeeded in mobilizing resources from businesses and individuals, especially the users of MoMo E-Wallet, for the construction of clean water systems under this program.
With the Building Resilience to Natural Hazards in Central Vietnam – Phase III project, Save the Children supported local communities and school children in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai province. The project helped to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to prepare for and mitigate impacts from disasters. One of the key project activities was to support Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) improvement for communities and schools, including drinking water systems and latrine. The water systems benefited approximately 680 people (of which 333 are females) and 1,708 students (of which 751 are girls) and 47 teachers (of which 37 are females) in the project’s schools. And with the Community based disaster risk management in the exposed community in Mekong delta, Vietnam from 2020 to 2021, Save the Children worked with Ca Mau Women Union to support eight target communes and 16 primary schools in Ca Mau to access clean water by providing 420 rainwater harvesting systems for 420 households (1,441 beneficiaries including 767 females and 674 males). In addition, 32 water tanks (2,000L) were provided to 16 schools with 6,153 students benefiting, including 2,955 girls. Water tanks helped store water to be used during drought times to improve sanitation for students while studying in schools.
In dealing with the aftermath of floods, clean water is important to keep people healthy and prevent ongoing diseases that keep children out of school and people working to support their families. The Australian Government – through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership with ADRA, CARE, and World Vision Vietnam – assisted schools, health stations, and households to repair damaged water facilities and install small-scale water infrastructure. In addition, beneficiaries received training in protecting water, sanitation and hygiene facilities after natural disasters; water treatment methods; and good hygiene practices to prevent water-borne diseases as well as COVID-19.

After four months of project implementation, 25,177 people were supported to have secure access to water for daily usage.

Source: World Vision Vietnam
The project Promotion of disability-inclusive and disaster-prepared communities in Nho Quan, Ninh Binh Province with the overall objective that “Persons with disabilities (PWD) and their communities will become more inclusive and resilient to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change” was co-funded by CBM and Aid for social protection program Foundation Vietnam (AFV) and implemented by ActionAid Vietnam from 2018 to 2021. With this intervention, people in Nho Quan district, especially PWD and their families, were provided with sustainable employment, directly contributing to their financial improvement and the economic growth of the locality. At the end of the project, 133 households having PWD had a new source of income (from VND 500,000 to VND 4,500,000 per month) from participating in three value chains including water hyacinth knitting, growing honeybees, and garment production. 3,839 people (including 319 PWD and family members, and 55 government officials at all levels) were equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge on inclusive disaster risk reduction (iDRR) including principles of inclusive development, how to conduct community-based vulnerability and capacity analysis (VCA) with the participation of PWD and family members, using of data generated from the VCA for the development of iDRR plan and advocacy for integration into local socio-economic development plans and budgets, value chain development (market identification, production, marketing and sales), vocational training and technology transfer, and involvement and ownership of PWD in livelihood models.
The project **Participate: Empowered CSOs and ethnic minority youth for active participation in decision making in Yen Bai, Vietnam** is funded by the European Union and implemented by Save the Children and four local CSOs (SUDECOM, YENBAI CDSH, Vietnam Youth Federation of Tran Yen district, and Yen Bai Women Support Center) from April 2020 in nine communes in Tran Yen district, Yen Bai. The project aims to ensure target CSOs in Yen Bai province have the capacity to support the social and economic empowerment of vulnerable minority youth, their engagement and active participation in decision making and the promotion of gender equality. With support from capable CSOs, 16 youth-led initiatives were granted to implement 12 start-up projects and four social projects. Local youth were equipped with vocational training based on their actual needs and toward decent work. The project benefited 1,609 people, among whom 1,310 were youth from 16 to 24 years old.
The project **Civil society-led promotion of reproductive healthcare services** was co-funded by the European Union (EU) and ActionAid Vietnam (AAV), and targeted two districts namely Krong Bong district in Dak Lak and Lam Ha district in Lam Dong. Before the project was launched, the context of the two targeted districts was characterized by high poverty levels, illiteracy, gender inequality, poor access to sexual and reproductive health services, and limited health awareness. There were major concerns that the needs and constraints of ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups are not properly considered by government authorities and policymakers. Therefore, the project intervention has strengthened civil society initiatives by developing a network of Community Development Groups (CDGs) who are actively advocating for sexual and reproductive health rights and receiving training in relevant areas to reduce social inclusive inequalities between different segments of the population. With the overall objective of “promoting Civil Society Organization-led actions to improve access to quality and gender-responsive healthcare services for marginalized groups in ethnic and rural areas of Vietnam”, three indicators for this objective had been set out and achieved or over-achieved, including:

a. Roles and participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) had been recognized by the local authority to promote sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHRs) and gender-responsive public services in the targeted areas.

b. The number of people who can access quality and gender-responsive SRH services provided by the action’s clinics and all other existing services in the target areas reached a total of 141,054 people aged 16-60 (60% of the total population of Lam Ha and Krong Bong districts) compared to the total of 95,320 people as in the target.

c. The allocation of the national public budgets for healthcare services in the target areas (including the allocation to general healthcare and SRH) increased by approximately 60% in Krong Bong and 180% in Lam Ha from 2017 to 2021. From 2020, 100% of ethnic minority households in the project communes were also provided with free health insurance cards.
In 2020, IDEA implemented a project titled **Promoting measures to ensure the rights of women with disabilities and ethnic minority women in exercising gender equality law and marriage and family law**. The project was based in Ba Vi district, Hanoi with funding from The Justice Initiatives Facilitation Fund of the EU Legal and Judicial Empowerment Programme (EU JULE JIFF). In order to realize its objective, the project equipped people with disabilities and ethnic minorities with basic legal knowledge, necessary skills and service accessibility through training, seminars, policy dialogues, counseling, and support for victims of violence. At the same time, the project established a qualified grassroots legal aid network that can provide legal aid services for people with disabilities.

In addition, the project conducted communication campaigns to raise awareness of the community and social organizations to accompany and protect women and girls with disabilities from acts of violence. Organizations of people with disabilities, in particular, need to clearly understand their role in raising awareness of the law related to gender equality and prevention of domestic violence, legal aid related to people with disabilities, etc. to offer solutions to address gender inequality in all aspects of life.
Keeping global warming in this century below 1.5°C is the most prioritized and important target of the Paris Agreement at COP21 (the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – UNFCCC). This target also contributes to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals with less adverse climate change impacts harming the poor on agriculture, food security, gender inequalities and productivity losses. Therefore, WWF-Viet Nam has been working hard in the recent five years at both international and national levels to advocate the Government of Vietnam to increase the greenhouse gas emission reduction target in the Nationally Determined Contribution as well as Green Growth Strategy. After a series of dialogues, platforms, and joint efforts with other partners to provide recommendations and technical inputs, at COP26 in Glasgow, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh officially announced the “Net Zero by 2050” commitment of Viet Nam. This inspiring speech strongly proved the high responsibility and strong commitment of the Government of Vietnam to combat climate change towards the 1.5°C target. Thus, 2021 is a remarkable milestone for WWF-Viet Nam in their advocacy effort within five years since the Net Zero target was globally identified in Paris.
In October 2020, the Central Region of Vietnam experienced prolonged heavy rainfall as a result of a combination of numerous weather systems, that have caused severe and widespread flooding and landslides. Three tropical storms struck Central provinces including Quang Tri, Quang Binh, Kon Tum (Plan working area), Quang Nam and Hue. Hundreds of people were reportedly killed and missing. Authorities estimated that a total of seven million people were exposed to the storms, and some five million people were likely to experience worsening conditions because of the flooding. Girls, women, children, children with disability and the elderly were more vulnerable to the disaster.

The Irish Embassy has been the first Donor to support Plan in Emergency Response. Two hundred thousand Euros (EUR 200,000) were generously donated by Irish Aid (IA) and enabled Plan's effort to protect the rights of the most vulnerable children from the consequence of human disasters in Quang Tri and Quang Binh. The project had provided 10,100 emergency food packages for 38 communes. 500 household hygiene kits to the poorest families and 500 hygiene kits for adolescent girls were delivered to ethnic minority adolescent girls in Quang Binh and Quang Tri. With additional funds, the local people have been able to overcome the challenges and soon resume their normal lives.

Red Alert Campaign is an innovative and integrated influencing strategy that aims to deliver against Save the Children (SC)'s strategic commitment to achieve change with children on issues affecting the most deprived and marginalized of them. It complements other SC contributions through agreed frameworks to secure the well-being of children, including the UNCRC and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It aims to ensure Asia-Pacific children and youth have an enhanced voice in national, regional and international efforts to prevent climate catastrophe in the region and beyond. In Vietnam, SC conducted a mini-campaign including activities to promote climate change awareness-raising to children in Ca Mau province, Mekong Delta, such as developing IEC materials, mini-contests for children about knowledge on disaster, climate change and environmental issues (more than 200 students from eight schools in Ca Mau participated in the contest); photovoice about children expressing how climate change is impacting their lives and suggesting what should be done to solve the problem; using social media platform to disseminate information on a number of climate-related days (Earth Day, Earth Hour, World Environment Day, Zero Emissions Day, Energy Efficiency Day, International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, International Day of Climate Action, etc.); organizing the online talk “I choose green planet – the voice of Children and Youth about the environment” and online challenge “Red Alert – Earth can’t wait” with two themes: Air Pollution and Plastic Waste.
In collaboration with Vietnam Association for the Protection of Children's Rights (VACR), MSD implemented the project titled Supporting access to justice for sexually abused children in Hanoi. Under the scope of this project, from March 25 to April 25, 2021, MSD and VACR carried out the "Parents are here, you will be safe" campaign to raise public awareness on child sexual abuse prevention – especially for parents, caregivers, schools and the community; and to provide medical and legal support when a child is sexually abused. During the course of one month, numerous news, articles, and offline & online events consecutively took place in Hanoi’s urban districts as well as rural districts including Chuong My, Ba Vi, Ha Dong with remarkable results. Nearly 300 people attended the offline events and there have been more than 30,000 online visits on the two Facebook pages – MSD Vietnam and Spread Love.

Source: MSD
ChildFund worked with Microsoft Vietnam and the Department of Child Affairs to develop an app called “Tong dai 111” (App 111). The helpline is an important way for the public to anonymously report any child protection issues and find support services for children. This included building a mobile reporting app that people can access at any time to report child protection concerns, helping to relieve pressure on the helpline. The app aims to raise awareness of the importance of child protection and to provide a better child protection system service for responding to reports. After a report is filed, the National Child Protection Hotline (NCHL) can safely collect and manage the reports and take appropriate action. The app also hosts an online digital library of resources so people can learn more about child protection and safeguard in their community.

Since the app launched in 2019, there were 56,396 app installations on both common app stores and 1,354 reports sent to NCHL via App 111. The project also provided one mobile app and a web-based case management software to support the case management work of commune Child Protection workers.
The five-year project **Strengthening Capacity of Civil Society Organizations in Child Rights Governance from 2017 to 2021**, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), was implemented by Save the Children, and three local civil society organizations (CSOs) including Vietnam Association for Protection of Children’s Rights (VACR), Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD), and Center for Rural Development in Central Vietnam (CRD). With the aim of creating a space for CSOs in Vietnam for systematic dialogues with the Government to fulfill the gaps identified in the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the project has empowered 60 local CSOs through engagement with government agencies at all levels and promotion of child’s rights and LGBT’s rights. 900 children benefited from capacity building through the project’s activities and 95% out of 800 caregivers/parents provided positive feedback on alternative skills against physical and humiliating punishment toward children.

Source: Save the Children
The VUFO-NGO Resource Centre (NGO RC in short) has played a crucial role in Vietnam’s development sector for the past three decades, long before the United Nations established 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. NGO RC joined preliminary talks about setting up a national coalition of the Leave No One Behind partnership in Vietnam, as one of the five pilot countries. In consultations with their main partners—the People’s Aid Coordinating Committee and Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations—the centre mobilized key NGOs in the country to strengthen relationships and to enhance dialogues among themselves and with other development actors. The Centre was instrumental in establishing the coalition in Vietnam; they continued connecting organizations and disseminating relevant information; and they remain committed to promoting the Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals – by strengthening the means of implementation and by revitalizing partnerships for sustainable development in Vietnam. Through cross-sector collaboration, NGO RC encourages key members of the coalition to pursue monitoring of all SDGs, especially amongst marginalized groups. The data and knowledge that have been produced this way are of great value to Vietnam’s development.

2021 is the first year MSD – United Way Vietnam participated in The National Innovative Entrepreneurship Day (TECHFEST) with the initiative of Social Challenge and Innovation Village with the support from Shinhan Square Bridge Vietnam. As Head of the Village, MSD – United Way Vietnam promoted the connection among stakeholders to develop the ecosystem for innovation to deal with social challenges and support the vulnerable groups in the context of COVID-19. With just over three months, Social Challenge and Innovation Village had made its mark with many workshops, seminars and activities, notably the Future Solution 2021 Contest, which honored the startups in creating social values and moving toward the balance between business factors and social contributions. On behalf of Shinhan Square Bridge, MSD – United Way Vietnam was also the Golden Sponsor of TECHFEST 2021 and offered the Shinhan Square Bridge award. This initiative is solid evidence of a successful partnership between the government and CSOs to further strengthen the innovation ecosystem to address social issues.