



Department
for International
Development

Operational Plan 2011-2015

DFID Vietnam

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1) Introduction

The UK Government is determined to help end extreme poverty around the world. We believe that international development is not just the right thing to do, but the smart thing to do. Britain has never stood on the sidelines, and it is in all our interests for countries around the world to be stable and secure, to have educated and healthy populations and to have growing economies. DFID aims to end aid dependency through jobs – building the economies of developing countries so that they can stand on their own feet.

No country can develop with only half of the population involved, that is why DFID is scaling up its support for women and girls across all of our country programmes, including an increased emphasis on girls education and preventing violence against women and girls.

We are also focussing on what works, investing in research and taking advantage of new technology to ensure that UK development support has the greatest impact.

DFID is committed to being a global leader on transparency, and in 2012 was ranked the top aid organisation in the world for transparency. Transparency is fundamental to improving accountability both to UK citizens and to citizens in the countries where we work. Transparency also helps us achieve greater value for money and improves the effectiveness of aid. As part of our commitment to transparency we publish Operational Plans for each area of our work setting out what we will achieve and how we will achieve it. In June 2013 DFID launched a new online tool, Development Tracker, to provide an easy way to access information and data about DFID programmes.

With less than 1000 days to go, we will continue to focus our efforts on delivering the Millennium Development Goals, creating wealth in poor countries, strengthening their governance and security and tackling climate change. The prize, in doing so, is huge: a better life for millions of people, and a safer, more prosperous world.



1) Context

Vietnam has developed rapidly over the last two decades, following successful economic reforms since the 1980s. Consistent high rates of growth propelled the country to middle-income status in 2010. Poverty was reduced significantly over the last two decades, falling from 58% in 1992 to less than 15% in 2008, and 14.2% in 2010, using a different line of income set by the Government. Most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – particularly in health and education – are achieved or within reach. At the same time, Vietnam is asserting itself as a more prominent player in global affairs, e.g. as chair of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

But some significant development challenges remain. 14 million people live below \$1.25 a day in 2008. The Government's poverty line identified over 12 million people as poor as of 2010 and half of ethnic minority households live below this poverty line. The MDG target for HIV and AIDS is off track. A sizable part of the population – mainly ethnic minority and other vulnerable groups – risk stagnating in poverty without access to basic services. Climate change is a real threat: Vietnam is in the top five countries most affected by sea level rise. Corruption is systemic and there has been limited progress in tackling it, despite some high-profile steps taken by the Government. Mechanisms for accountability are limited, with a restrictive environment that makes it difficult for citizens to challenge the Government or obtain access to information. Overall, there is a need to strengthen the Government's implementation capacity and its ability to source and produce policy advice to support reforms that will be increasingly complex.

As regards to women and girls, Vietnam has led the way in several areas. As many girls as boys go to primary school, and the share of women in Parliament is among the highest in the world. But other areas, such as wider empowerment of women and tackling domestic violence, still require much more attention.

The Government of Vietnam has adopted its ten-year vision (Socio-Economic Development Strategy, SEDS, to 2020) and endorsed its five-year plan, which is equivalent to a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) (Socio-Economic Development Plan, SEDP, 2011-2015). The Government continues to focus its efforts on achieving high growth, which is seen as a prerequisite for generating the large number of jobs (around 1.5 million per annum) that are needed to absorb the increasing population and the migration to urban areas. The Government also emphasises sustainable development, dealing with climate change, and maintaining social equity. In the short term, the Government's priority is on maintaining macroeconomic stability, improving the business environment, providing support to vulnerable groups and poorer regions, and designing a new social protection system.

Vietnam's overall development success and enhanced geopolitical profile is leading to a change in the relationship with its key development partners. While the main multilateral agencies (World Bank and Asian Development Bank are planning to maintain a large lending portfolio in Vietnam (albeit at less concessional rates), bilateral development partners are gradually changing their approach. Development assistance is increasingly focussing on agendas where progress has been more limited (e.g. governance). Several traditional donors have already announced that they will phase out development assistance and focus bilateral relations on economic and political matters.

The UK is no exception. Aid, including from the UK, has played its part in supporting Vietnam's development success story. While there is a continuing role for aid in the medium term – particularly in terms of loan financing to tackle infrastructure bottlenecks – other forms of financing (e.g. public-private partnerships) and diplomatic collaboration will become more prominent. In recognition of this, the recently signed Strategic Partnership between the UK and Vietnam encompasses a broad range of bilateral interests, of which core poverty reduction agendas around the MDGs are but one strand. DFID's programme in Vietnam is due to end by 2016.



2) Vision

Overview

The UK has been a long-standing development partner to Vietnam as evidenced by the ten-year Development Partnership Arrangement (DPA). Given Vietnam's rapid development and recent achievement of middle-income status, the UK will phase out its aid programme when the DPA ends in 2016. This Plan sets out a transition towards graduation (see Annex 1 for information on 2015/16, which is beyond the Spending Review period). The UK will conclude its MDG programmes in Vietnam by 2013/14 and refocus on the three priority areas of wealth creation, governance and climate change, where we will play a more prominent role. We will:

- Support achievement of the MDGs, particularly those that Vietnam is struggling with (HIV and AIDS, sanitation) as well as primary education in remote areas. We will support Vietnam to address chronic poverty and protect poverty gains made to date. We will provide 200,000 poor rural people with toilets, keep the HIV and AIDS prevalence rate below 1%, and increase the share of ethnic minority children completing primary education from 83% to 91%.
- Step up wealth creation programmes by supporting Vietnam to benefit from global trade agreements and achieve a growth path that is more private sector led. We will do this by building on our two flagship programmes. The first one focuses on market development and fosters business-led projects for the poorest. The second one supports regulatory reform, particularly following Vietnam's WTO accession in 2007, in order to improve Vietnam's competitiveness.
- Enhance support on governance and accountability. We are the lead donor on anti-corruption, supporting both Government (State Audit) and other stakeholders (e.g. Transparency International). We will step up our engagement with, and support for, key accountability institutions like civil society and the National Assembly.
- Address challenges for women and girls, who will benefit from many of our programmes: creating jobs, raising minimum incomes and pensions (social protection), and providing access to education. We will also support policy reforms (through the UN) to enhance women's empowerment and reduce violence against women.
- Implement a new trilateral partnership on climate change with the Government and the World Bank. We will enhance the Government's technical expertise and coordination capacity, mainstream climate resilience (in World Bank/ Government projects) and support the National Green Growth Strategy by developing low-carbon growth options and including natural resources into the national accounts.

We will build on innovative work with the World Bank and the UN to ensure that Vietnam has access to world-class policy advice on poverty and governance issues. Lesson learning will be packaged as a core part of our engagement to share within DFID corporately, with other development partners in Vietnam and other countries. The development experience from DFID's support in Vietnam will also be communicated to help inform best practice.

Alignment to DFID and wider UK Government priorities

Our priorities are directly linked to DFID's Business Plan and Structural Reform Plan. They are fully embedded in the FCO-led Strategic Partnership, which underpins the UK-Vietnam bilateral relationship and is the basis for the Embassy's Business Plan. In particular, we will deliver against five Structural Reform Priorities: honour our commitments; wealth creation; governance; women and girls; and climate change. We will work with HMG colleagues to ensure a strong UK Government role on development issues after DFID exits. We will reduce staff numbers as our programmes decrease and we share services/premises with the FCO.

What we will stop doing

We made the last payment of general budget support in March 2012 and will phase out the large MDG programmes by 2013/14. We will also manage the closure of the remaining Cambodia programmes, which are due to come to an end in 2013.



3) Results

Pillar/ Strategic Priority	Indicator	Baseline (including year)	Expected Results (including year)
Poverty, Hunger and Vulnerability	Percentage of ethnic minority people living under the national poverty line. (DFID Vietnam contributes to the progress made by Vietnamese Government with support from DFID and other donors)	52% (2010)	48 (2016)
Education	Percentage of ethnic minority students receiving full day schooling.	36% (2008)	50% (2015)
Sanitation	Number of additional people/ <i>women</i> in rural areas with access to an improved sanitation facility as a result of DFID support.	0 (2010)/ Women: 0 (2010)	200,000 (2013)/ 100,000 (2013)
HIV and AIDs	Percentage of <i>female</i> sex workers in project provinces reporting condom use with their clients. DFID share: 56%. Proportion of injecting drug users using clean needles. DFID share: 60%.	88.4%(2008) 50% (2006)	Maintains at least at 80% / 70% (2013)
Wealth Creation	Number of additional jobs created/ Number of additional jobs created for <i>women</i> as a result of DFID support.	0 (2010) 0 (2010)	10,000 (2015) 5,000 (2015)
Climate Change	Low carbon action plans in highly emitting sectors are in place and government's capacity for implementation improved with DFID support.	0 (2010)	4 (2016)
Governance	Percentage of citizens satisfied with government anti-corruption efforts	40% (2010)	50% (2015)
Health - Cambodia	Percentage of births delivered by trained health personnel in health facility. DFID share: 53%.	39% (2008)	65% (2013)



3) Results (continued)

Evidence supporting results

Millennium Development Goals:

In the education, HIV and sanitation sectors we rely largely on GoV's administrative reporting, supplemented by data from Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems supported by DFID and donors. The availability of good evidence is medium for education, sanitation and for HIV and AIDS. The quality and reliability of data are one of the areas of DFID and co-financiers' support in all three sectors: to improve the quality of data collection and analysis, and their use. It is anticipated that better quality gender-disaggregated data will gradually become more available over the programme period. Donors and Government are also making greater efforts to carry out timely evaluations on effectiveness of innovative interventions, e.g. on harm reduction in the HIV and AIDs sector.

Wealth Creation and Poverty:

DFID support to job creation and livelihood improvement (under M4P project) has strong evidence to support results (especially on jobs created and jobs for women) as we have developed a good M&E framework, supplemented with Government's increasingly robust and regular statistics on jobs and income. Results of our support to policy improvement on wealth creation has less tangible and attributable evidence but we will conduct more independent reviews and studies to measure policy impacts and prioritise our support to some focus policy areas to make sure we achieve value for money and deliver measurable results.

Governance:

Data for governance is being improved thanks to DFID and the World Bank's support to the General Statistics Office (GSO). GSO's Governance Module - as part of the Vietnam Household Living Standard Survey. There are other surveys supported by other donors which are useful for monitoring e.g. the Provincial Competitiveness Survey, Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index. Donors are encouraging Government to adopt these tools systematically for policy making and monitoring processes, and publish governance data transparently. The Transparency International's Global Barometer survey (supported by DFID and other donors) is a key internationally comparable and independent source of anti-corruption in Vietnam.

Climate Change:

Impact of climate change on MDG achievements are well documented in Vietnam, especially on fall-back to poverty. There is an increasing number of research on climate change supported by DFID and other partners. A national M&E framework for the National Target Programme on Climate Change has also been developed and is being monitored. A DFID supported project via the World Bank will contribute information towards this framework.

Value for Money (VfM) rationale

DFID support to Vietnam has proved to be good VfM. Independent assessment of the UK/Vietnam Development Partnership Arrangement in June 2010 confirmed DFID support has been effective and shown strong impact in supporting Vietnam to improve service delivery, reduce poverty and undertake important reforms. There is a strong case for investing through resource transfer in the first three years of the spending round to fight HIV and AIDS and improve sanitation, the two likely off-track MDGs and improve primary education quality and equality to sustain the poverty reduction gains. With smaller resources in the outer years before exit in 2016, stronger VfM will be achieved through technical assistance to help Vietnam put in place good mechanisms to address emerging issues of accountability and transparency, climate change, and private sector led wealth creation. All these areas are the biggest challenges for Vietnam now. The unit costs for support in these areas are relatively low, while the impacts will be significant.



4) Delivery and Resources

DFID Vietnam's structure, design and means to deliver are evolving as we prepare for graduation in 2016. Our programme spend for Vietnam is £70 million for the four years of the resource allocation round, compared to £50 million per annum over 2005/2006 – 2010/2011, but we have taken on responsibility for approximately £23.5m of programme spend in Cambodia. Our operating costs will reduce gradually, but not proportionately to programme spend as the nature of the programme is changing. There will be more staff-intensive policy dialogue and influencing more technical assistance, as well as necessary costs around training and redundancy payments for Staff Appointed In Country (SAIC).

Staff resources and professional skills: To reflect the Office's frontline delivery, staff are organised into thematic teams with support functions embedded in each team. These teams are: Corporate compliance and management; MDGs; Prosperity; and Governance. By the end of FY 13/14, when one of the three teams (MDGs) will close, we expect to integrate more the programme and corporate service teams. Greater joint working between the FCO and DFID, particularly around governance is producing increased VfM. The DFID team currently has 23 staff members, of which 3 are UK based and 20 SAIC. Currently there are no plans to co-locate with the FCO as originally planned, due to significant FCO staff changes, however this will be kept under review. We have started to cut back corporate functions to move staff to front line delivery and share certain services with the Embassy. We will reduce staffing capacity in the MDG Team-by the beginning of 2014 as a result of the completions of projects. We will maintain multi-disciplinary programme staff with stronger influencing, cross-Whitehall working, and financial management skills, working in joint teams with the FCO, before DFID's presence ends in 2016.

Partnerships: Partnerships are key in DFID Vietnam's delivery strategy. We are continuing our close relationship with the World Bank in the majority of programmes to maximise our leverage over much larger resources and reduce the administrative burden on DFID. We are actively working with the Bank and most importantly Government counterparts to ensure programmes have sustainable results, particularly on policy changes. This is to mitigate the risk of the World Bank focusing more on inputs rather than results as identified by the Multilateral Aid Review. We are also working with the UN on selected issues such as governance, gender and HIV and AIDS. DFID will work closely with the FCO, UKTI and other UK agencies present in Vietnam, and from the UK to deliver the objectives on governance, trade/growth, and climate change. These form an important part of the UK/Vietnam Strategic Partnership signed in September 2010. We will strengthen partnerships with non-government institutions such as i) private sector to mobilise investment for job creation; ii) National Assembly and other state bodies to hold Government to account; and iii) civil society including research institutions also to strengthen accountability and transparency.

Aid instruments: DFID Vietnam has phased out of budget support and begun to narrow down to Technical Cooperation. We will also phase out some aspects of financial aid such as when the MDG programmes and economic reform programme with the World Trade Organisation-end in 2013/2014. We use Technical Cooperation for engagements with the Government and NGOs on anti-corruption, climate change and accountability. Technical Cooperation will be the main instrument for DFID in the last three years before exit. DFID staff will get involved more deeply in policy dialogue, influencing and networking with wide ranging partners. We (DFID and the Embassy) continue in the lead-role in the donor community on anti-corruption with the Government.

Graduation: We are working to ensure DFID's presence in Vietnam in the last five years (2011-2016) leaves a strong legacy in MDG terms, and to put in place the key mechanisms to address increasingly complex issues of governance, wealth creation, and climate change. Government is aware that we will exit after seeing through the Development Partnership Arrangement until 2016. The Government and other partners are well aware that our financial envelopes are being reduced gradually. We are managing our programme finance tightly to fit the allocated spending profile across the five years. Importantly we are prioritizing change management through communications, staff consultation, and staff support and training. We had a comprehensive and highly consultative work force planning exercise in February 2012. These activities are key in retaining the relevant pool of staff, and ensuring they remain motivated, continue to deliver effectively, and depart happily from DFID Vietnam. We are managing the last three MDG programmes in Cambodia (HIV and AIDS, Health and Poverty Monitoring) to ensure their successful completion in 2013.



4) Delivery and Resources (continued)

Planned Programme Spend - Vietnam

Pillar/Strategic priority	2010/2011		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		TOTAL 2011-2015		
	Resource	Capital	Resource	Capital	Resource	Capital	Resource	Capital	Resource	Capital	Resource	Capital	Total
Wealth Creation	13,346.34		8,606.25		2,107.35		2,854		3,549		17,117	0	17,117
Climate Change	1,543.12		817.00		907.32		1,000				2,724	0	2,724
Governance and Security	6,386.20		5,358.46		1,797.70		5,960		5,455		18,571	0	18,571
Education	9,500.30		6,369.97		981.68		3,114				10,466	0	10,466
HIV/Aids	5,620.23		3,510.76		4,601.94		1,700				9,813	0	9,813
Water and Sanitation	4,154.96		138.12		3,488.43		1,421				5,048	0	5,048
Poverty, Hunger and	3,771.70		3,430.06		672.17						4,102	0	4,102
Global partnerships	594.70		329.53		209.68						539		539
Other health	5,486.80		2,654.22		2,022.59						4,677		4,677
Others							1,150				1,150		1,150
TOTAL	50,404	0	31,214	0	16,789	0	17,199	0	9,004	0	74,206	0	74,206

Planned Programme Spend - Cambodia

Pillar/Strategic priority	2010/2011		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		TOTAL 2011-2015		
	Resource	Capital	Resource	Capital	Resource	Capital	Resource	Capital	Resource	Capital	Resource	Capital	Total
Wealth Creation	1,994.97		0.00		0.00						0	0	0
Climate Change	268.64										0		0
Governance and Security	2,194.12										0		0
Education											0		0
HIV/Aids	669.10		807.53		571.73						1,379		1,379
Water and Sanitation	48.28		0.00		0.00						0	0	0
Poverty, Hunger and	108.00										0		0
Global partnerships	28.43										0		0
Other health	6,448.82		6,381.86		5,313.47		4,983				16,678		16,678
Reproductive, Maternal and	2,798.32		2,484.52		2,018.24						4,503		4,503
TOTAL	14,559	0	9,674	0	7,903	0	4,983	0	0	0	22,560	0	22,560
COMBINED TOTAL	64,963		40,888		24,692		22,182		9,004		96,767	0	96,767



4) Delivery and Resources (continued)

Planned Operating Costs

	2010/11		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15	
		£'000		£'000		£'000		£'000		£'000
Frontline staff costs - Pay		501		602		617		653		453
Frontline staff costs - Non Pay		458		391		503		629		499
Administrative Costs - Pay		125		116	6.00	108		66		65
Administrative Costs - Non Pay		81		65		57		84		51
Total		1,165		1,174		1,285		1,432		1,068



4) Delivery and Resources (continued)

Planned Efficiency savings

Delivering Programme Efficiencies		
Category	Details	£'000
Strategic Reprioritisation	(i) Reduce priority areas : Poverty Reduction Budget support ended in 2011/12 (£20m); (ii) Focusing on good impact interventions within one project (Beyond WTO); (iii) Re-programme unused funds from less well performing projects to achieve better value for money (Making Market works for the poor phase 2) and (iv) Asking donor partners to share a bigger proportion of implementation cost of co-financing projects to save DFID fund for direct programme delivery and get bigger impacts (partnerships with the WB for climate change and governance projects). Big savings are incurring as we have taken on Cambodia programmes without increasing staff.	
Further examples of Programme efficiency		

Administrative Cost Savings Initiative	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15				
	PAY £'000	Non Pay £'000									
Reduction in Consultancy Payments		2				2		2			
Reduction in Travel											
Reduction in Training						2		2			
Reduction in Estates & Property Costs						2		10			
Reduction in costs as a result of Office Restructuring			1	12	2	2	24	4	4	48	8
Other reductions - staff time spent on covering Cambodia programme without additional staff	21	14	21	14	21	14	21	14			
Total	21	16	33	16	45	24	48	22			



5) Delivering Value for Money

Key challenges (i) Desire for excellence in the concept of Value for Money (VfM) among DFID staff and partner agencies; (ii) Fiduciary risks are high; and (iii) different understanding of and levels of attention to VfM by different developmental partners e.g. UN, the World Bank, bilateral donors.

Key actions:

DFID Vietnam has developed a DFID Vietnam VfM Strategy to be implemented over the Spending Round. The Economic Adviser is ensuring all programme team members implement the actions set out in the Strategy.

Within DFID and at programme and project levels, to improve VfM and to address challenge (i) above we will:

As regard to skills, systems and structures to improve:

- Continue to provide training on VfM (especially on external controls, VfM indicators, economic and efficiency of VfM) and results for advisory and project staff, preferably together with other offices in Asia.

As regard to VfM and operating costs:

- Review all aspects of the office operations (internal controls) and agree measures to ensure VfM and improved outcomes: e.g. on-going workforce planning exercise to maximise resources for frontline delivery. Action has been taken on the Communications Network Review.
- Continue to monitor closely our consumption of energy, paper, and telephone charges; and apply measures to cut down consumption where possible. Continue to maintain the Green Office certificate award by WWF, which promotes green and economical practices.

As regard to VfM at various stages of project cycle:

- Ensure rigorous economic analysis for new programme interventions at the design phase;
- Apply various tools and measures to ensure better competition and transparency in procurement e.g.. Fair and Transparent Procurement Action Plan, good procurement is one of the success criteria for increased funding for provinces. Include VfM audit in selected programmes;
- Establish VfM indicators for projects as applicable, especially for new projects, that use the Business Case template, and monitor them at Annual Reviews and Project Completion Review;
- Include VfM in project audits.

To improve external controls and address challenges (ii) and (iii) above we will take the following actions:

- We have the lead donor role on Anti-Corruption, leading donors' dialogue with Government in the Annual Anti-Corruption Dialogue and have designed an anti-corruption fund to generate evidence of corruption and public pressure for corruption fighting, and in improving transparency and accountability of Government systems. Particularly, continue to support key Government accountability institutions for better VfM e.g. the State Audit, sectoral ministries and provincial procurement policies and capacities, through targeted training and raising awareness.
- Promote wider application of selected best practice VfM interventions in provinces (e.g. harm reduction for HIV prevention, household sanitation improvement through social marketing and behaviour change).
- Improve aid effectiveness for a stronger focus on results by key multilateral agencies who are critical for Vietnam's development given MIC status: DFID is a leading donor to the World Bank and has been leading on improving it's effectiveness through IDA monitoring in Vietnam. DFID has significant experience in Vietnam from joint programmes with the World Bank covering 80% of DFID resources, and is a key member of the donor group on UN Delivery As One.
- Establish and lead VfM discussion fora (focusing on audits, unit costs and transparency) with key co-financiers and Government of Vietnam. This process will lead to an agreed understanding of how VfM should be considered in Vietnam's context.



6) Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring

How – At national level, DFID with the World Bank have been supporting the General Statistic Office (GSO) on the design, data collection and analysis of the Vietnam House Hold Living Standard Surveys which is a key poverty, social and governance metadata source in Vietnam. At sectoral and project levels, sectoral and project M&E frameworks (supported by donors, agreed and reported by Government agencies) are used for monitoring. Besides, each sector and project also defines a list of thematic areas for in-depth studies to monitor its effectiveness, to promote evidence-based policy making and lesson learning. For example, under the Rural Water and Sanitation Programme (RWSP), DFID together with other donors have been supporting the Government to design and collect data to report on rural water and sanitation sector performance, and on important thematic areas such as hand washing. Each project also has a log frame, which tracks programme progress against outcomes and outputs, reporting to DFID at regular intervals.

Who - Primary responsibility for monitoring will fall to programme partners: mainly on government agencies, and with support and collaboration with donors e.g. the World Bank on co-financed programmes. DFID Vietnam lead advisers/programme managers will ensure that funding and necessary actions are taken at the design phase and at key programme milestones.

When – Monitoring at the project level by implementing partners will be continuous. DFID have agreed a regular reporting schedule with programme partners (normally quarterly) and major reporting schedules based on programme key milestones e.g. annual reviews, mid-term reviews. During key reviews, DFID will assess progress against outputs and how this is contributing to the achievement of the outcomes. Progress on DFID Vietnam's portfolio is reviewed at in-days and the Development Partnership Arrangement (DPA) Annual Review.

What - We will ensure that the best complement of methodologies (with support from DFID's Evaluation Department and the Asia Division results advisers) will be used to provide a rigorous and timely qualitative and quantitative information base that informs programme management, enables measurement of programme results and supports timely policy and management adjustments to ensure programme appropriateness. We have increased our capacity on results (having a shared Evaluation Adviser) to capture and share best practices and lessons learnt from Vietnam's success story in poverty reduction.

Embedded Evaluation

We have developed an evaluation plan, with support from DFID's Evaluation Department and the Asia, Caribbean and Overseas Territories Division results advisers. DFID Vietnam will focus on its strategic support areas. We will capture best practices and lessons learned from innovative programmes and partnerships (e.g. on the Challenge Fund for the private sector. We are designing a meta evaluation with sub-evaluation on MDGs/poverty (focusing on aid modalities), wealth creation (focusing on policy influencing and working with private sector) and governance (focusing on anti-corruption and working with civil society). Support to manage evaluation work will be lead by an Evaluation adviser (shared with DFID Burma) with the support of the broader programme team. We will also include communications as part of the meta evaluation focusing on responsible graduation.

Building capacity of partners

DFID has been the key supporter via the World Bank and the UN for GSO and sectoral ministries to build their capacity and skills for professional evaluation. DFID also promotes transparency, disclosure of information and public participation under our programmes, for example with the World Bank under Rural Transport project, we promote Construction Sector Transparency Initiative, public disclosure of programme information at district and commune levels, and community supervisory boards so that people are informed and can participate in programme budgeting, planning and monitoring. We also support think tanks and academic institutions e.g. the Central Institute for Economic Management to provide independent and diversified views on Government policies. Vietnam also participates in the MDG project supported by the Global Statistics Partnership team in DFID, and implemented by UN Statistics Division. The project aims to help reconcile country and international data on MDGs.



7) Transparency

Transparency is one of the top priorities for the UK Government. We will ensure that we continue to meet our commitments under the UK Aid Transparency Guarantee including publishing detailed information about DFID projects, programme documents and all spend above £500. We will continue to ensure that information is accessible, comparable, accurate, timely and in a common standard with other donors and that we provide opportunities for those directly affected by our projects to provide feedback. We will ensure the following:

1. Publication of Information:

- DFID Vietnam will publish detailed information of all new programmes, all contracts over £10,000, documents of formal tenders above the £25,000 threshold, and DFID Vietnam's Operational Plan (in both English and Vietnamese), on DFID's external website. In addition, since April 2011, we have published annual project performance reports and end-of-project evaluations. We will ensure that information on DFID Vietnam's programmes/projects is comprehensive, comparable, accurate and timely.
- Our published information will be in plain English, and we will consider to what extent we could make this information more accessible by translating it into local languages (Vietnamese or ethnic minority languages). Our local project partners prepare project implementation reports in Vietnamese which can be published through DFID's external website.

2. Supporting our partners (donors, civil society organisations and Government agencies) to be more transparent

- Most of our project partners have committed to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). We will encourage others to do the same. For example, since FY 2012/13 we now require any civil society organisations in direct receipt of DFID funds to publish information about DFID-funded projects in line with the IATI standards.
- DFID Vietnam will continue working together with the British Embassy and other partners to promote greater transparency by the Government of Vietnam. We will use our influence and provide support to the Government to introduce the new Law on Access to Information, to improve disclosure of the State budget and expenditure, and transparency in key sectors such as construction, health and education. Our support to civil society organisations will be enhanced to increase their capacity to make donors and Government more accountable to citizens for how aid is spent in Vietnam.

3. Enabling Access to Information by and feedback from beneficiaries

- We will increase opportunities for feedback by those benefiting from DFID programmes. We will continue the existing mechanisms we have built up with partners, which have been working well, and advocate for those mechanisms to be replicated in other donors and Government projects. Some examples are consultative processes to make key and sensitive project decisions available at different stages, Community Supervisor Boards established with community representatives to monitor project activities, and independent social safeguard audits, etc.

We estimate that on average 5% of staff time is needed across these activities.



8) Human Rights Assessment

The UK recognises that the realisation of all human rights underpins sustainable development. Through its development programmes, the UK aims to support civil society and governments to build open economies and open societies in which citizens have freedom, dignity, choice and control over their lives, and institutions are accountable, inclusive and responsive.

Human rights context

- **Economic and social rights**: Vietnam is ranked 127 out of 187 countries in the Human Development Index (2012) but Vietnam has made good progress towards achieving the MDGs – especially in health and education (UN Statistics).
- Government statistics show that the right to an adequate standard of living is supported by a fall in headcount poverty over the last two decades from 58% in 1992 to less than 15% in 2008, and 14.2% in 2010.
- **Non-discrimination**: Vietnam is highly ranked at 48 of 148 countries on the gender inequality index (2012) showing strong progress on women's rights. As many girls as boys go to primary school, and the share of women in Parliament is among the highest in the world (holding 122 seats). But other areas, such as wider empowerment of women, tackling domestic violence and trafficking, and the increasingly unequal sex ratio at birth still require much more attention. LGBT rights are not yet recognised in law and there are negative attitudes towards sexual minorities: currently there is a Government consultation on whether to legalise same-sex marriage. Vietnam's ethnic minority population comprises less than 15% of the population but nearly half of all poor and two-thirds of the extreme poor. There are wide rural and urban and regional differences, especially with central highlands and Northern Mountains (WB Poverty assessment 2012).
- **Civil and political rights**: In 2012, Freedom House rated Vietnam's status as 'not free' on civil rights and political rights. The 11th Party Congress in January 2011 reaffirmed the Communist Party's pre-eminent role; the National Assembly elections in May 2011 saw only 4 independent candidates become Deputies in the 500-seat parliament. Freedom of the press is severely curtailed, ranking 182 out of 197 countries. The internet is considered "not free" (Freedom House 2012). Violations occur across the criminal justice system, with systemic corruption and a lack of independence in the judicial system of particular concern (Freedom House 2011).
- The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Vietnam reported in May 2009. Vietnam supported several recommendations but declined others including to repeal or amend national security laws of the 1999 Penal Code inconsistent with international law, to remove other restrictions on dissent, debate, political opposition, and freedoms of expression and assembly and to release prisoners of conscience. The Government of Vietnam accepted 94 of the 146 recommendations put forward, but declined 46. Implementation of the recommendations will be reviewed at the next UPR process in 2014.

Direction of travel

- Social and economic rights are on a strongly positive trend overall.
- Inequalities persist and result in rising income inequality and disparities in other aspects of human development which appear to be growing, including on gender.
- Civil and political rights are assessed as not improving.

UK approach and focus

- The UK will strongly support positive trends on social and economic rights through MDG programmes to support primary education especially for ethnic minority children; provide HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment; promote better access to rural sanitation; and help poor and remote communities access markets through building and maintaining rural roads.
- We will enhance women's empowerment and seek to reduce violence against women through our programmes and with partners.
- We will raise concerns about civil and political rights with the Government of Vietnam at all levels.
- We will help build accountability institutions as lead donor on anti-corruption and through support to the National Assembly.
- We will encourage a more active and responsible role of civil society which engage on issues of public concern.
- We will work to support a more open and professional media and promote effective investigative journalism in anti-corruption.



Annex A: Revisions made to Operational Plan 2012/13

Section	Description of changes
Context	Minor grammatical changes and abbreviations spelt out
Vision	Minor grammatical changes and abbreviations spelt out
Results	Education and Climate Change indicators have changed to allow for accurate monitoring and reporting.
Delivery and Resources	Updated to reflect slight changes in the structure of the office. Figures updated which also reflect the programme is on course to meet spending commitments. As referenced in the previous Op Plan, the 2013/14 and 2014/15 planning figures would be subject to revision. Vietnam programme figures are slightly higher than under DPA to allow for some slippage in F/Y 15/16 which falls outside of the current RAR. On the admin budget side there are slight savings for F/Y 13/14 and F/Y 14/15 given some staffing gaps the office has had to carry. Further down the line the office will also have to meet the costs of redundancies.
Monitoring and Evaluation	Text updated to reflect work already undertaken and plans around communications and evaluations as part of the graduation.



Annex B: Results Progress

* These results may not be directly aggregated with other country results due to different measurement methodologies

Pillar/ Strategic Priority	Indicator	Baseline (incl.year)	Progress towards results (including year)	Expected Results (incl. year)
Poverty	Percentage of ethnic minority people living under the national poverty line	52% (2010)	The poverty rate for ethnic minorities remains stagnant. Through a World Bank Project DFID is supporting analysis of the causes and measures to address. A Social Protection Programme currently under design supported by DFID will also target ethnic minorities. Data will be available to report by December 2013.	48% (2016)
Education	Percentage of ethnic minority students receiving full day schooling Changed from "Percentage of poorest students completing primary education (as percentage of all poor students) in schools supported by DFID"	36% (2008)	48.3% (2012)	50% (2015)
Sanitation	Number of additional people/women in rural areas with access to an improved sanitation facility as a result of DFID support.	0 (2010) Women 0 (2010)	181,144 (women 90,572) (2012). With the current trend, we will overachieve the target slightly.	200,000 Women 100,000 (2013)
HIV and AIDS	Percentage of female sex workers in project provinces reporting condom use with their clients (DFID share 56%) Proportion of injecting drug users using clean needles (DFID share 60%)	88.4% (2008) 50% (2006)	85.2% (2012) on condoms and 82.7% on needles used (2012). The latter represents a small reduction compared with 2011, but overachieved compared with the final target. As DFID will exit the sector by December 2013, our aim is to maintain the results at 80%/70%, reasonable rates for protection, as this is an aid dependant sector.	Maintains at least at 80%/70% (2013)
Wealth Creation	No of additional jobs created for all/women as a result of DFID support	0 (2010) Women 0 (2010)	2,260 (women 1,130) (2011/12) . No new results, as the new programme has just been approved. Start-up activities for delivery are on track.	10,000 Women 5,000 (2015)
Climate Change	Low carbon action plans in highly emitting sectors are in place and government's capacity for implementation improved with DFID support. Changed from "Number of rural poor people/women benefiting from enhanced climate resilience in rural development and natural resource management"	0 (2010)	Low carbon development options are being developed by the World Bank and the Government funded by DFID. As a result, policy notes will be developed for sectoral low carbon plans.	4 (2016)
Governance	Percentage of citizens satisfied with government anti-corruption (AC) efforts	40% (2010)	We can report on this indicator by August 2013 using the Transparency International's survey. However, the Sociological Survey on Corruption conducted by the World Bank and the Government funded by DFID suggests that more people are dissatisfied with government efforts on AC. This may be due to greater awareness leading to increased perception and/or weak implementation of Government's AC Law.	50% (2015)
Health Cambodia	Percentage of births delivered by trained health personnel in health facility (DFID share 53%)	39%	74.7% (2012). Overachieved.	65% (2013)