



Department
for International
Development

Operational Plan 2011-2016

DFID Vietnam

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Contents

Context	4
Vision	5
Results 2011/12-2015/16	6
Delivery and Resources	9
Delivering Value for Money	13
Monitoring and Evaluation	14
Transparency	15
Annex A: Changes to Operational Plan	16
Annex B: Human Rights Assessment	17

Introduction

In 2013 the UK became the first G7 country to meet the United Nations target of spending 0.7% of gross national income on international development. The Department for International Development (DFID) uses that investment to help countries to lift themselves out of poverty and leave poverty behind. Operational plans set out to the public how we plan to deliver results across policy areas and for every country we work in. These plans clearly explain why, and how, DFID is targeting its resources and what we expect to achieve; covering the period up until March 2016.

DFID is focused on spending in the right ways, on the right things, in the right places. The portfolio of our projects is already shifting to deliver a more coherent, focused and ambitious approach to economic development. We are helping to build strong and investable business environments in developing countries and improving access to finance for entrepreneurs.

Improving the prospects for girls and women in developing countries is a priority. Investing in girls and women is the smart thing to do, as well as the right thing to do. By unleashing their potential, we see returns for girls and women themselves, their families and communities, and for their economies and countries. No country can successfully develop if it leaves half its population behind.

Life-saving humanitarian assistance remains one of DFID's most fundamental responsibilities. When disaster strikes or conflict erupts we are first on the ground to support the most vulnerable people. We are also increasing our efforts to help those countries that are at higher risk of natural disasters to become more resilient in the first place.

DFID continues to drive value for money in everything we do on behalf of the British taxpayer. We have improved our procurement and programme management, increased our internal audit oversight and we are ensuring that staff have the skills to deliver the Department's priorities.

On the international stage we are working hard to agree a new set of global development goals to replace the Millennium Development Goals when they expire next year. We are determined to secure a clear and inspiring set of goals for the post 2015 development framework that leave no one behind.

Increasingly we will take new and innovative approaches and we will work with new partners. This will include businesses who are increasingly major development players. During the Secretary of State's time as co-chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, DFID played a key role in encouraging different development actors to work together and use internationally agreed principles for aid and development effectiveness.

As our operational plans set out, our approach to international development is ambitious and innovative. We are determined to ensure that every pound DFID spends has the biggest possible impact on the ground. Ultimately by investing in developing countries, we can end aid dependency for good and build a better, more prosperous world for us all.

Context

During the last 20 years, Vietnam has achieved an impressive pro poor economic transition which has seen improved incomes and service provision for many citizens. The poverty rate has fallen from 58% (1992) to 17.2% (2012). Vietnam has a population of 90 million. Estimates of people living in poverty vary from 17.2% (15.5m) (National Poverty Line) to 2.9% (2.6m) (\$1.25 per day). The majority of the remaining poor are ethnic minority (EM) groups in isolated mountainous areas but poverty rates are gradually falling even for them. The evidence suggests the economy and rates of poverty reduction will slow in the short/ medium term – global and national drivers are constraining growth significantly, the residual poor are becoming harder to reach and climate change could significantly increase vulnerability.

Most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – particularly in health and education – have been achieved or are within reach. At the same time, Vietnam is beginning to assert itself as a more prominent player in global affairs, e.g. elected to serve on the UN Human Right Council (HRC).

But some significant development challenges remain.. 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 capability and its ability to act on the policy advice it receives 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 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, 2016-2020). 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. The government's priority is on maintaining macroeconomic stability, improving the business environment, providing support to vulnerable groups and poorer regions, and designing an affordable 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 approaches. Several traditional donors have already announced that they will phase out development assistance and focus bilateral relations on economic and political matters.

Aid transfers, including from the UK, have played their 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 will end by 2016. An Exit Plan is now in place which summarises the results our programmes will deliver by March 2016 and how we will work to ensure some of the key issues for poor people that the UK has led on will be taken forward by others.

Vision

Overview

The UK has been a long-standing development partner to Vietnam as evidenced by the 10 year Development Partnership Arrangement (DPA). Given Vietnam's rapid development and recent achievement of middle income status, the UK will phase out its bilateral aid programme by 2016. This Plan sets out a transition towards graduation. The UK will conclude its MDG programmes in Vietnam in 2013/14 and has refocused on the three priority areas of wealth creation, governance and climate change, where we will play a more prominent role over the full period of this Operational Plan

By the end of this operational plan period we will have:

Supported the 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. As part of this by the end of this Operational Plan (OP) period 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%.

Delivered wealth creation programmes which support Vietnam to benefit from global trade agreements and achieve a growth path that is more private sector led. Firstly focusing on market development which fosters business led projects for the poorest. Secondly supporting regulatory reform, particularly following Vietnam's WTO accession in 2007, in order to improve Vietnam's competitiveness.

Enhanced our support to improved governance and accountability. Until 2015 we will continue as the lead donor on anti-corruption, supporting both Government (State Audit) and other stakeholders (e.g. Transparency International). We will also step up our engagement with, and support for, key accountability institutions like civil society and the National Assembly.

Addressed challenges for girls and women, 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.

Established a new trilateral partnership on climate change between the Government and the World Bank. We will do this by enhancing the Government's technical expertise and coordination capacity, mainstreaming climate resilience (in World Bank/ government projects) and supporting 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 prioritised as a core part of our engagement and legacy and shared within DFID and with key development partners. The broader development experience from DFID's support in Vietnam will also be captured and communicated to demonstrate our impact and 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 Country 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 UK Government 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 with the FCO.

What we will stop doing

We will phase out our large resource transfer mechanisms. For example general budget support to the Government of Vietnam concluded in March 2012 and all of our MDG programmes were phased out by 2013/14. We will also effectively managed the closure of DFID's residual programmes in Cambodia by the end of 2013.

Results 2011/12-2015/16

Headline results (those with a * directly attributable to DFID. In all other cases, DFID is contributing to the results)

Pillar/Strategic	Indicator	Baseline	Progress towards results (including year)	Expected (end year included)
Poverty	Percentage of ethnic minority people living under the national poverty line	52% (2010)	59% (VHLSS 2012)	48% (December 2016)
Education	Percentage of ethnic minority students receiving full day schooling.	36% (2008)	96.7% (as of Dec 2013). No further report after 2013, as DFID has completed its support to the HIV programme by Dec 2013.	50% (December 2015) <i>We will not report on this indicator from the next round. We exited from the programme in December 2013.</i>
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)	230,951 (2013). No further report after 2013, as DFID has completed its support to the HIV programme by Dec 2013.	200,000/100,000 (December 2013) <i>We will not report on this indicator from the next round. We exited from the programme in December 2013.</i>
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. No further report after 2013, as DFID has completed its support to the HIV programme by Dec 2013.	Maintains at least at 80%/ 70% (December 2013) <i>We will not report on this indicator from the next round. We exited from the programme in December 2013.</i>
Wealth Creation	No of additional jobs created for all/women as a result of DFID support	0 (2012)	2500/1375 women (2013).	7,000 (of which 3,850 women) (December 2015)

Pillar/Strategic	Indicator	Baseline	Progress towards results (including year)	Expected (end year included)
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)	Low carbon development options are being developed by the World Bank and the government funded by DFID. As a result, policy notes are being developed for sectoral low carbon plans (2013). No further report after 2013, as DFID completed its support to the programme in December 2013.	4 (December 2016) <i>We will not report on this indicator from the next round. We exited from the programme in December 2013.</i>
Governance	Percentage of citizens satisfied with government anti-corruption (AC) efforts. This indicator is to be replaced by the below indicator from the next reporting round.	40% (2010)	24% (38% says not effective, 39% neither effective/not effective). The same interpretation as March 2013 (the TI Barometer survey). % people surveyed believe that provinces are serious about anti-corruption has increased from 34% in 2011 to 38% in 2013. At the national aggregate level, citizens tend to see corruption is better controlled in 2013 compared to 2011 and 2012. This is evident in the incremental change in the national mean score during the past three years, from 5.76 in 2011 to 6.15 in 2013. (PAPI).	50% (December 2015)
	Platforms created for stakeholders to engage in laying the foundations for anti-corruption coalitions and networks	0(2012)	A number of initial companies signed up to form the Vietnam Integrity Alliance to develop the Integrity Pledge (2014)	Establishment of Vietnam Business Integrity Pledge that bring together government, business, CSO, media to share commitment against bribery (June 2015)
Health Cambodia	Percentage of births delivered by trained health personnel in health facility (DFID share 53%)	39%	74.7% (2012). Exceeded. No further report after 2013, as DFID has completed its support to the health programme in Cambodia.	65% (December 2013) <i>We will not report on this indicator from the next round. We exited from the programme in December 2013.</i>

Headline Results

DFID office will close by March 2016. In December 2013 we have exited from a number of projects including those of MDG related sectors, climate change and of the Cambodia programme. We, therefore, will not report on indicators related to those projects starting from the next reporting round.

DFID undertook a portfolio review in 2014. As a result, most of the project budgets have been reduced. We have adjusted some of the targets to reflect the reduction of the project budgets and to make them more realistic within the time left until the office closure.

Evidence supporting results

MDGs:

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. 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. We will no longer report on MDG indicators for both DRF and OP results as DFID completed its support to all MDG projects in December 2013.

Wealth Creation and Poverty:

DFID support to job creation and livelihood improvement has strong evidence to support results (especially on jobs created for poor people and for women and increased income for rural poor) as we have developed a good M&E framework, supplemented with Government's increasingly robust and regular statistics on jobs and income.

Governance:

Data for governance is being improved thanks to DFID and the World Bank's support to the General Statistics Office (GSO) and other surveys supported by DFID and others including 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 the risks to poverty reduction gains. There is an increasing body 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.

Delivery and Resources

Instruments of delivery

DFID support to Vietnam has proved to be good value for money (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.

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. 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 through our influencing strategy, as well as necessary costs for redundancy payments for Staff Appointed In Country (SAIC).

From 2014 to 2016 the office will be guided by the following vision: Strengthen UK Government's reputation: by ensuring our exit is well managed, and promotes the continuity of HMG's engagement in Vietnam. Do the right thing by our staff and expect the best from them: ensure that staff are well supported through the transition, and that we maintain high standards of performance and delivery. Deliver our results and learn lessons: by demonstrating excellence in programme implementation and ensuring important lessons are learned and disseminated to relevant audiences. Exit responsibly: by ensuring priority issues where DFID leads are taken forward by others beyond 2016.

We are working to ensure DFID's presence in Vietnam in the final period of this Operational Plan leaves a strong legacy in MDG terms, and to identify and address the key emerging challenges for Vietnam in governance, wealth creation, and to a lesser extent climate change. Government is fully aware and accepts that our bilateral programme will close by 2016.

Our programmes will focus on growth, governance and climate change from 2013/14 to 2015/16 and represent a significant change for DFID Vietnam. They focus on new issues (less on basic service delivery and more on governance/ economic growth), new instruments (greater focus on technical cooperation through directly managed contracts and no more budget support) and new partners. Delivery of our results requires a more thorough understanding of the political context, better influencing skills and different programme management skills.

DFID Vietnam also refreshed its analysis of the drivers of poverty in Vietnam and of these where the UK leads. We have built on this to produce an 'Influencing Strategy' which describes how DFID will seek to ensure that the priority issues are taken forward by others. We have also refreshed all our logframes and Theories of Change in response to the centrally led reviews of programme management practice in DFID.

We recognise that high standards of people and change management will be key to achieving a successful exit. In 2014 we will conduct a portfolio review to ensure VfM and focus and revisit our workforce plan to ensure that we have adequate human resource capability. The final phase of DFID Vietnam's closure will be governed by our detailed Exit Plan and our influencing Strategy.

Other Delivery Mechanisms and Partners

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

Multilateral Organisations

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.

Other Country Activity

DFID Vietnam has phased out of budget support and begun to narrow down to Technical Co-operation. 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 Co-operation for engagements with the Government and NGOs on anti-corruption, climate change and accountability. Technical Co-operation 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 and will hand over responsibility at the end of 2014.

Planned Programme Spend

Pillar/Strategic	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16 (provisional*)
	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Total Resource and Capital £000
Climate Change	817		907		2730				
Education	6,370		982		2,193				
Global Partnerships	330		210		544				
Governance and Security	5,358		1,798		4,126		4,534		
Poverty, hunger and vulnerability	3,430		672		637				
Water and Sanitation	138		3,488		1,207				
Wealth Creation	8,606		2,107		2,195		3,241		
Health	6,165		6,625		2,295				
Other							487		
Grand Total	31,214		16,789		15,927		8,261		5,785

*Expenditure figures for 2015/16 are indicative. DFID works in a variety of challenging environments, including fragile and conflict affected areas. Humanitarian work is often reactive and can be scaled up or down. An element of flexibility within funding allocations is necessary to ensure that we can balance the need for long term planning alongside the ability to respond where necessary to changing requirements

Planned Operating Costs

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 (provisional*)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Frontline Delivery Costs – Pay	691	791	723	619	
Frontline Delivery Costs – Non Pay	258	333	340	317	
Administrative costs - Pay	115	102	83	44	
Administrative costs – Non Pay	35	62	52	73	
Grand Total	1,098	1,288	1,198	1,053	1600

**Expenditure figures for 2015/16 are indicative. DFID works in a variety of challenging environments, including fragile and conflict affected areas. Humanitarian work is often reactive and can be scaled up or down. An element of flexibility within funding allocations is necessary to ensure that we can balance the need for long term planning alongside the ability to respond where necessary to changing requirements

Delivering Value for Money

Maximising the impact of every pound that we spend in DFID Vietnam on poor people's lives

Key challenges (i) Desire for excellence in the concept of Value for Money (VfM) among DFID staff and partner agencies. Some programmes are relatively small so the overheads can be relatively high (e.g. Vietnam Business Challenge Fund of £6.6 million compared to other DFID challenge funds up to hundreds of £ million); (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 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 the above challenges 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.
- 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.
- Monitor closely overhead costs of programmes and request implementing partners to seek DFID approval for any changes.

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 with implementing agencies)) are used for monitoring..

Who - Primary responsibility for monitoring will fall to programme partners. DFID Vietnam lead advisers/programme managers will ensure that funding and necessary actions are taken at the design phase and at key programme milestones. We have used independent consultants and 10% cadre for project key reviews including annual reviews, mid-term reviews and project completion reports.

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 regularly at programme team meetings, the leadership meetings and the Development Partnership Arrangement (DPA) annual meeting.

What - We will ensure that the best complement of methodologies (with support from EvD and the Asia Division results advisers) are used to provide a rigorous and timely qualitative and quantitative information base to record evidence on DFID's contribution to poverty reduction in Vietnam and to draw out good lessons learnt.

Evaluation

We have developed an evaluation plan, with support from EvD and the Asia, Caribbean and Overseas Territories Division results advisers. DFID Vietnam will focus on its strategic support areas. We will capture lessons learned from innovative programmes and partnerships (e.g. on the Challenge Fund for the private sector. We are working on the Vietnam Final Evaluation with a focus on MDGs/poverty sectors. We will include communications as one of the key task of the key 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.

Transparency

Transparency is one of the top priorities for the UK Government. It helps people see where money is going and for what purpose. It helps improve value for money and makes governments everywhere more accountable to their citizens. DFID is a world leader in aid transparency and has an ambitious vision for both DFID and its partners. We will ensure that we play our part in continuing to work towards that vision – set out in a suite of commitments the Aid Transparency Guarantee (ATG), Aid Transparency Challenge (ATC) and DFID's Open Data Strategy.

Actions to ensure DFID meets its commitments in the UK Aid Transparency Guarantee

Publication of information

We will support DFID's transparency commitments by

- We will ensure that all project documentation is published on the Development Tracker (<http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/countries/VN/>)
- Will map our programmes so that we can visualise where our support is targeted
- 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 the GOV.UK 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, accessible, 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.

Supporting transparency in our work

- 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.
- 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.

Annex A: Changes to Operational Plan

Change made to operational Plan	Reason for change
Update context section with up to date information	To better reflect our changing context
Vision	Revisions to the vision section are primarily to clarify the wording
Headline results	Improve understanding
Evidence supporting results	Due to change in programmes
Results progress – update so far	To better reflect the progress so far
Delivery and resources with added text	The change in our operational context as we near closure
Planned operating costs	Initiatives to reduce operating costs and provide efficiency savings
Monitoring and Evaluation	Better reflect our approach

Annex B: Human Rights Assessment

Vietnam has a mixed track record on human rights with positive environment on economic and social rights and much constraint for civil and political rights.

Human rights context

Economic and social rights: Vietnam is ranked 121 out of 187 countries in the Human Development Index (2013) with a gradual increase since 2008. There is good progress towards achieving the MDGs - especially in health and education. Non-discrimination: Vietnam is highly ranked at 58 of 187 countries on the gender inequality index (2013) showing strong progress on women's rights. The share of female population with at least secondary education is 59.4% as compared to 71.2% of male population, and the share of women in parliament is among the average in the world (holding 24.4% seats). But other areas, trafficking, and the increasingly unequal sexual ratio at birth still require much more attention. LGBT rights are not yet recognised in the law and there are negative attitudes towards sexual minorities: the recent consideration on legalisation of same-sex marriage was put on hold. Vietnam's ethnic minorities 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 2013, Freedom House rated Vietnam's status as 'not free' on civil rights and political rights showing to no improvement since 2012. 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: Vietnam has remained one of Asia's hardest environments for the press in 2012, scored 84 out of 100 (the worst) by Freedom House. The internet is considered "not free" (Freedom House 2013). Violations occur across the criminal justice system of particular concern (Freedom House 2012).

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR): Vietnam approved 182 out of 227 recommendations from the international partners at the Universal Periodic Review in June 2014 and has worked with the United Nations Development Programme to follow up these recommendations. Vietnam declined recommendations including that could address wide international community concerns about freedom of expression and assembly and to release prisoners of conscience laws of the 1999 Penal Code inconsistent with international law, to remove other restrictions on dissent, debate, political opposition,

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.

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