



Vietnam

Annual Pathfinder Progress Report

May 2021-April 2022

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Introduction

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

As of April 2022, 29 countries globally have manifested interest to become pathfinder countries. Out of these 18 have established detailed roadmaps identifying priorities for action to achieve target 8.7.

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

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

1. **Annual progress against roadmap priorities:** The first section looks into the national priorities to eliminate Child Labour, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking and the next steps outlined in last year's pathfinder country report. Pathfinder countries provide a short progress report on each of their stated priorities and next steps and to report on challenges including but not limited to the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. **Evidence of achieved progress:** This second section allows reporting on the evidence of the achieved progress. It allows Pathfinder countries to provide insights into how the progress between May 2021 and April 2022 was assessed.
3. **Value of the Pathfinder process:** The third section provides the opportunity to reflect upon the Pathfinder process and help putting the results reported into context. This section allows countries to report on how the Pathfinder process may have helped them progressing towards their national priorities between May 2021 and April 2022.
4. **Way Forward:** This section allows to have an outlook on the next steps on a 12 months horizon towards the achievement of the country's priorities and to indicate whether the roadmap requires to be revised.

Annual progress against Pathfinder's roadmap priorities

The first section looks at both the national priorities to eliminate Child Labour, Forced Labour, and Human Trafficking and the next steps outlined in last year's Pathfinder Country report. Pathfinder Countries will be asked to provide short feedback on all their stated priorities and next steps. Moreover, this section will allow Pathfinder Countries to report upon challenges they have encountered over the past 12 months.

Question 1a: What progress has been made against the national roadmap priorities since May 2021?

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

Progress

The Viet Nam Association of Seafood exporters and producers (VASEP) has been implementing a range of measures to prevent and reduce child labour in the fishery sector, with a focus on the heightened risk of child labour in the context of COVID-19. As a first step, a rapid assessment was conducted on the impacts of COVID-19 on children of seafood workers affected by the pandemic. To share the results, and explore solutions and labour management measures to support workers and employers in the fishery sector to prevent child labour in the context of COVID-19, a hybrid online and offline forum on child labour and social protection for fishery workers in the context of COVID-19 was organized on 29 October 2021 in Hanoi. The forum brought together 132 participants comprised of representatives from 74 enterprises and seafood supply chain units, ship owners, fishing port officials, professional officers at Provincial Departments of Fisheries, Departments of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs (DOLISA) staff, Directorate of Fisheries, Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development, sub-departments of Fisheries, the Management Board of fishing ports, and representatives from relevant Ministries and sectors. The Forum raised the awareness of seafood processing enterprises on the prevention child labour in fishing activities, and facilitated discussions on critical solutions to address these issues under COVID-19 circumstances. Specific discussions included: regulations on unemployment insurance benefits for employees; state support policies for businesses and employees due to the impact of Covid 19; cases of enterprises implementing the "3 on the spot" policy and how employees can deal with it; guidance on settlement of cases of salary payment and support for employees on leave due to COVID-19; and understanding offshore fishing and child labour prevention.

Following the forum, an online training course on the practical application of social responsibility standards and prevention of child labour in the fishery sector was conducted on 24 November for officials from 52 units in the seafood supply chain, with a total of 106 participants, including professional officers at Provincial Departments of Fisheries, Sub-Departments of Fisheries, the Management Board of fishing ports, seafood enterprises and units in seafood supply chains. The training provided an overview of voluntary standards in use in the fishery sector, regulations and requirements related to child labour and discussions on developing child labour prevention plans in seafood businesses and seafood supply chains. According to a VASEP assessment the training has contributed to helping seafood enterprises to improve their awareness on child labour with updated information on legislation and measures on how to prevent it, and provided timely updates and policy guidance to support employees in the context of Covid -19 and child labour prevention. In addition the training was an opportunity to disseminate key awareness raising products such as videos, leaflets, news articles and websites for the owners of ships, boats, and fisheries. The documents have helped enterprises build a stricter recruitment process (including age verification), and develop timely solutions when child labour is detected. Participants have also learned how to develop clearer measures to monitor and supervise contractors, supplies, and implement supply chain management.

A Handbook on guidance on the prevention child labour in seafood supply chains was developed and updated. To share the Handbook and gather inputs for its finalization, a workshop to promote the application of the Code of Conduct and practices to prevent child labour in seafood enterprises was conducted on 17 January 2022. The workshop brought together more than 70 participants from Provincial Departments of Fisheries, Sub-Departments of Fisheries, the Management Board of fishing ports, seafood enterprises and units in the seafood enterprises. After several rounds revisions and consultations with relevant specialists from different departments of MOLISA, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), national experts, participating enterprises, VASEP and ILO, the handbook was finalized and, about 3,500 copies will be printed to distribute to representatives of units of seafood supply chain enterprises, leaders, and relevant professional departments. The soft copy of the handbook will also be displayed on different VASEP information channels.

Challenges

NA

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

Progress

This is an outdated priority and has been removed, as noted for the previous reporting period.

Challenges

NA

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

Progress

During the reporting period, with the support of ILO, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and US Department of Labor (through the ENHANCE project), DOLISAs are continuing to support the implementation of targeted livelihood interventions for households with children engaged in or at risk of child labour in selected areas, with support from ILO. The goal is to eventually scale up and replicate successful models across the country as part of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Reduce Child Labour for the Period 2021-2025.

During the reporting period, the following progress has been made: In An Giang province, at least 150 target households have received livelihood support via local service providers. local vocational training schools have delivered 2 one-day training courses on mud-free eel farming techniques for 65 households and 2 one-day training courses on mushroom growing techniques for 57 households. A post-training support plan was then developed to provide on-site support to households, ensuring that knowledge and techniques are correctly applied across the farmers groups. Additionally, in November and December 2021, a series of training courses was organized to develop soft skills for targeted households on the operation a chili drying system, business planning, budget management and marketing, and labeling and production of value-added abalone mushroom products. These activities benefited a group of 35 farmers and 50 households participating in mushroom farming in An Giang province.

In Trung Hoa commune and Hoang Dieu in Chuong My district, Hanoi technical training on pig farming and taro/chive cultivation for households has been ongoing in collaboration with DOLISA and the ENHANCE project, through Hanoi Cooperative Alliance (HCA). Due to the success of the pig farming model, an additional

cooperative group has been established, benefiting 27 target households. Technical guidance groups and local support groups have also been established to support households in the localities. The technical support group is comprised of HCA, a district technical expert hired by HCA, and a commune veterinarian, for the pig raising group. The commune veterinarian acts as the first point of contact, who can contact the district expert as needed. The role of the technical support group is to assist with vaccinations and medications and to gradually raise awareness and change the behaviour of households in relation to the technical process of disease prevention, which must be strictly followed in order to be effective. The role of the commune support group, comprised of the commune level child protection officer and the commune vice chairman, is to monitor the situation of members and connect households with the technical support group, playing a key role in resolving challenges.

From 26 October – 6 November 2021, an eight-day training course on improving the skills of bamboo rattan weavers was held at Trung Hoa bamboo rattan import and export limited company with the participation of 28 beneficiaries. By the end of the course, each trainee was able to make an average of 6 products/day, equivalent to an income of about 2 million to 3.2 million dong per month.

The Vietnam Rural Industries Research and Development Institute (VIRI) has also collaborated with the ENHANCE project and local authorities to support the development of sustainable production and business models, providing support to production facilities to develop online marketing tools and websites/facebook pages to promote and sell products.

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

Progress

To mark 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, a social media campaign on child labour was carried via the ILO Facebook page to promote action against child labour throughout the year. In June 2021, on the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL), during the Week of Action (10 - 17 June), a high volume of posts was shared. A game on child labour was organized to promote engagement, which reached an audience of nearly 210,000. Furthermore, celebrity influencers were mobilized to strengthen the impact of the campaign. The campaign also included a story in a social community group to increase interaction. In addition to sharing facts on child labour and the increased risk of child labour resulting from COVID-19, information was shared on the National Plan of Action for Prevention and

reduction of Child Labour for the period 2021 – 2025, with a vision to 2030 (NPA) and new Global estimates on child labour were disseminated. The campaign reached an audience of around 1,083,000 in total, with the total number of engagements in June reaching around 158,000, and more than 307,000 for the whole year.

Additionally, a news report was aired on An Giang Television in December 2021 and posted on the An Giang Television website to raise awareness among the public on the NPA. A radio story entitled “The pathway to school” was also developed to strengthen understanding of the community on child labour, its consequences and to promote education for children. The story is being aired on the communal radio system in An Giang province throughout 2022.

During the previous reporting period, on 27 April 2021, Viet Nam launched its music against child labour song competition, which attracted 88 entries from 68 musicians from across Viet Nam. On 2 December 2021, an awarding ceremony was held in Hanoi, during which two first prizes were awarded, as well as two second prizes, five third prizes and four encouragement prizes. The two winning songs include “Children are young buds on the trees” by composer Khanh Vinh and “My wish for the world” by songwriter Tran Van Hung. The initiative was launched by MOLISA, the ILO and the Viet Nam Musicians’ Association, in collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children International, and Good Neighbors International.

An online training to raise awareness and understanding among journalists on child labour, and ethics of writing about children, and child labour specifically, was organized in December 2021. The training was integrated into DCA training on child protection in cooperation with INGO, Good Neighbors International. 37 reporters from key news agencies, including national television and the most popular national newspapers such as Vietnam Television, Vietnam News Agency, Voice of Vietnam, Nhan Dan, Tien Phong, Lao Dong, Vnexpress, Dantri, Vietnamnet, etc. attended the training. Participants included 6 representatives from television programmes, 3 from radio channels, 19 from printed and online newspapers, 4 from concerned departments of the Ministry of Information and Communication and Vietnamese Journalists’ Association, and 5 from social networks.

- ▶ **Priority 5: Child Trafficking 1. Increase awareness raising about the dangers of trafficking and available services and improve means of communications at all levels, i.e. between institutions and from national to province, district and local levels.**

Progress

On February 21, 2022, the Department of Foreign Relations under the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) coordinated with the HCMC Municipal Police Department and relevant units to hold a conference on enhancing efficiency of international cooperation in anti trafficking in person (anti-TIP). The video-conference engaged international delegates and representatives from relevant ministries and units as well as functional agencies of provinces and cities which share a border with Laos and Cambodia. During the event, delegates listened to in-depth reports delivered by domestic and international experts and participated in specialized discussions on approaches to improve the efficiency of international cooperation in anti-TIP. The outcomes of the conference are expected to significantly contribute to the implementation of the national anti-TIP action plan for the 2021-2025 period.

On July 30 2021, MPS collaborated with The Viet Nam Women’s Union to co-organize a virtual conference on anti-TIP joint actions, under the theme “Victims’ voices lead the way”, as part of World Day against Human Trafficking. The event brought together the Deputy Minister of Public Security and Chairwoman of the Vietnam Women’s Union, among other delegates. In addition to Government efforts, social organisations have also collaborated to raise awareness on the dangers of trafficking. Specifically, the Global Fund to End Modern Slavey partnered with two local social organizations, Blue Dragon Children’s Foundation and Sustainable Hospitality Alliance (the Alliance), to implement comprehensive anti-TIP programming in Viet Nam, in Ha Giang province and Hanoi respectively. To help raise awareness of the risks of trafficking, Blue Dragon conducted a series of events across Ha Giang province, in collaboration with community stakeholders including village leaders, Women’s Union members, commune police officers, teachers and students. Each of these interventions explained the risks associated with irregular migration abroad, including sexual exploitation and forced labour. They also warned against actions, such as migrating without a contract, or indebtedness before migration, that might increase one’s vulnerability. To raise awareness of support mechanisms should a case of trafficking be suspected, programming included guidance on who to contact and information via the anti-TIP hotline.

- ▶ **Priority 6: Child Trafficking 2.** In order to reduce vulnerabilities of children to trafficking, reduce poverty of families through employment creation, the provision of relevant skills training and/or the provision of additional income generation opportunities, particularly in remote regions and amongst ethnic minority communities.

Progress

Local NGO, Blue Dragon, developed “Back to School” campaigns in response to the spike in school dropout rates caused by COVID-19 in northern Viet Nam. The interventions, aimed at keeping children in school and safe from human trafficking, have assisted hundreds of students to return to class. Between May and October 2020, Blue Dragon carried out five Back to School campaigns in Ha Giang and Dien Bien provinces. This resulted in 65 per cent of the children who had to abandon their education returning to the classroom. One year later, 99 per cent of these students who returned to class during the 2020 campaigns remained in school. In light of these positive results, Blue Dragon is now carrying out these campaigns twice a year, when most children are likely to abandon their studies: after the summer break, and after the Lunar New Year holiday. In March 2022, in Ha Giang province, more than 50 ethnic minority women participated in a learning visit to learn from a community-based tourism model. These women also joined a community workshop with the local authorities to discuss policies and support mechanisms for community-based tourism. The discussion explored challenges facing households and cooperatives during the establishment and operation of homestay models. At the end of the learning visit, participants committed to teaming up for the best value chain and supporting others for household and local economic development. The visits were facilitated as part of the ‘We are ABLE’ project, funded by the UNESCO Malala Fund for Girls’ Right to Education with financial support from CJ Group (Republic of Korea). The project has four areas of focus and targets roughly 16,000 people – ethnic minority secondary school students, teachers, principals and education officials, parents and community members in three selected provinces. Over 9,000 of these individuals are female including 6,000 girls aged 11-14 from 24 secondary schools.

- ▶ **Priority 7: Child Trafficking 3. Explore means to manage social-media tools such as Facebook, Whatsapp, Viber, Zalo, etc. as well as the internet more generally to avoid them being used to lure children into exploitative situations. By the same token, explore how to make use of the same social media tools to increase communications to children and the public at large about the dangers of labour exploitation while providing a source of safe information.**

Progress

The Japan International Cooperation Agency has been implementing a Project for Strengthening the Operation of Hotline for Counseling and Supporting Trafficked Survivors, in collaboration with the MOLISA Department of Child Affairs (DCA). The Anti-TIP Hotline has been operating with budget allocation from the Government of Vietnam since before the Project started, and the Project has been supporting the quality improvement of the nationwide service.

In 2021, the JICA-funded project implemented the following activities:

- Developed a referral guideline for the Border Guard Command. 470 copies of the guideline have been distributed to 44 border guard stations and schools nationwide
- Supported the participation of two DCA officials in JICA's "Knowledge Co-creation Program
- Promotion of Networking among Asean Countries on Anti-human Trafficking"
- Organized online training courses for hotline counsellors and collaborators in Hanoi on: skills to recognize problems through counseling sessions; case monitoring and management skills; and mental health and therapeutic theory
- Developed standardized training materials for hotline counsellors.
- Evaluated the counselling quality of all counsellors working at the two regional hotline stations (Da Nang and An Giang) as well as the new counsellors in Hanoi to draw lessons learnt for the next training courses.
- Developed case studies based on actual cases collected from evaluation activities as reference for counsellors and DOLISA focal points.

In 2021, the JICA-funded project implemented the following awareness raising activities:

- Developed and printed 4000 copies of an anti-TIP manual in collaboration with the Vietnam Women's Union. This manual is for communicators and leaders of the

Vietnam Women's Union to use in grassroots communication activities and in regular community meetings.

- Produced audiovisual products and a reportage on anti-TIP activities: the production of the anti-TIP reportage started in the second quarter of 2021, in collaboration with the Vietnam Women's Union. DCA and JICA experts provided comments on the reportage, which was then finalized in late December 2021.

- Advertisement of the hotline on websites: articles and images of the hotline 111 were posted on the website of the Labour and Social Magazine. On the website, there has been a banner (for 3 months, starting from 15 July 2021) detailing how to use the hotline 111 through social networks.

- Broadcast short reportages: the project supported MPS to produce and broadcast short (2-3 minutes) reportages and a special 10-minute reportage on the Security Television Channel at the end of July in response to global Anti-TIP Day (30 July).

- Broadcast radio messages: in the third quarter of 2021 (from early July to August 20), radio messages promoting the hotline were broadcast 72 times (40 times in Vietnamese language, 10 times in H'Mong language, 12 times in Khmer language and 10 times in Ede language) on Voice of Vietnam. In the fourth quarter of 2021 (from November 5 to December 5), radio messages were broadcast 71 times (36 times in Vietnamese language, 12 times in H'mong language, 12 times in Khmer language and 11 times in Ede language) on Voice of Vietnam.

- Produced and distributed communication products: the project has distributed various anti-TIP communication products (e.g., calendars, pens, shirts, banners, flyers, etc.)

- Produced anti-TIP comics: comics developed by Cause Vision have been edited to provide information on TIP risks and how to avoid becoming a TIP victim. Once the editing is completed, they will be published and distributed to schools.

- ▶ **Priority 8: Child Labour Prevention and Education 1. Enhance multi-sectoral collaboration within the MoET, across key Ministries and from National to Provincial, District and local levels.**

Progress

This is an outdated priority and has been removed, as noted during previous reporting period.

- ▶ **Priority 9: Child Labour Prevention and Education 2. Improve the quality of vocational skills training being provided, including through the review and revision of the curriculums in line with market demands.**

Progress

During the previous reporting period, the Directorate of Vocational Education and Training (DVET) developed two sets of documents, namely

- (i) Vocational Counselling Guidelines and
- (ii) the Manual on the Development of Training Programmes and Curricula that meet Labour Market Needs.

To evaluate the quality and suitability of the documents, two vocational schools (HCMC Vocational College and An Giang Economic and Technical College) were selected to pilot these guidelines, with plans to carry out the training from May to the end of July 2021. However, the prolonged COVID-19 related school closures in the southern provinces of Viet Nam caused delays in delivering the pilot training. To ensure the progress of the pilot training programme in the context of the pandemic, DVET selected a third vocational school in the northern province of Hoa Binh (Hoa Binh College of Economics and Technology) to take part in the pilot program.

Three occupations have been selected for piloting activities: air conditioner installation and maintenance (all students male), poultry farming and disease prevention techniques (24 students are male and two are female); and Pangasius aquaculture techniques (out of 35 registered students, three are female). Curricula were developed based on the Guidelines for Developing Training Programs according to market demands. In December 2021, HCMC Vocational Training College was able to adopt an online and offline blended mode after several months of school closures, and Hoa Binh College of Economics and Technology has been able to carry out offline training. At the beginning of March 2022, the two vocational training institutions in HCMC and Hoa Binh completed both theoretical and practical vocational training for a total of 43 trainees, who were recruited for training in their selected occupations.

- ▶ **Priority 10: Child Labour Prevention and Education 3. Develop economic models for poor families to help them overcome poverty and generate additional income in order to be able to have their children attend school instead of working.**

Progress

This is an outdated priority and has been removed, as noted during previous reporting period.

- ▶ **Priority 11: Child Labour Prevention and Education 5. Raise awareness of communities, families and children about the dangers of child labour and inform them about the various benefits that schooling, including continued education and vocational skills training as well as higher education, will provide their children.**

Progress

As noted during the previous reporting period, SCREAM (Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media), an arts based educational programme designed to raise awareness on children's rights and child labour, has proven to be extremely successful in Viet Nam. Due to school closures and COVID-19 restrictions, it has not been possible to carry out most of the SCREAM activities as planned. However, in the coming months, DOLISA and the Department of Education and Training (DOET) will conduct numerous SCREAM activities to raise awareness among the target groups, including children, parents, teachers and other community members in selected localities. Specifically, 11 awareness raising events on child labour are planned to take place in districts of An Giang province, including 9 awareness raising events in 5 communities and 4 schools, using SCREAM communication materials. A two-day training for 30 children selected from 10 child rights clubs in An Giang has also been planned. Trained children will carry out SCREAM events on child labour in their respective localities. The approach of mobilizing "children as agents of change" is expected to catalyse transformations to mindsets within these communities. In Hanoi, awareness raising activities in the community using the SCREAM approach are planned to be carried out in the next coming months, when primary and secondary students return to schools.

- ▶ **Priority 12: Child Labour Prevention in Agriculture 1. Review and revise, update and or complete the legal framework ensuring clear definitions for child labour, worst forms of child labour, forced labour and providing greater clarity regarding work that is prohibited for children in agriculture amongst different age groups as well as the allowed working hours for each category of children.**

Progress

Two workshops were organized for relevant personnel to disseminate the circular providing guiding details and instructions for the implementation of labour code articles related to the employment of juvenile workers. The first online workshop was organized on 5 November for 56 participants including representatives from DCA, Department of Work Safety, Department of Industrial Relations and Wages; MOLISA inspectors; and participants from 30 northern provinces including child affairs staff, labour officers and labour inspectors. The second workshop was organized on 8 November for 70 participants from DOLISAs of 33 provinces and cities in the South including child affairs staff, labour officers and labour inspectors. The workshop updated participants on the new content and regulations of the Circular on guidance for regulations and provisions on the employment of minor workers. Participants and experts in the workshops discussed the application of the circular to the employment of children under 13 years of age, how to regulate on the legal representative of a minor employee, as well as periodical health examinations, among other topics.

To ensure the consistency of training materials for child labour inspectors in relation to the new Labour Code 2019 and the new circular detailing and guiding the implementation of articles on the employment of minor workers, MI has been working to update the training materials, tools and check lists on child labour inspection in informal economic sectors in line with the revised Labour Code and other related by-law documents. They are also piloting the implementation of procedures at district and commune level in 3 provinces; and providing training to improve the implementation of inspection. Draft checklists have been developed and 2 consultation meetings were conducted in January 2022 to provide inputs to the procedures and checklists. In March 2022, MI provided the training and conducted the pilot in three provinces.

- ▶ **Priority 13: Child Labour Prevention in Agriculture 2. Intensify the implementation of poverty reduction and income generating programmes, including those implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as the provision of strengthened career counselling, vocational skills training and job placements for older children and youth in rural areas as well as in the fishing sector with increased focus in districts with high levels of child labour.**

Progress

As part of the aforementioned “We are ABLE” project, In October 2021, nearly 80 ethnic minority women participated in three learning visits on women-led business models at Son Y Herbal Products Cooperative (Vi Xuyen district), Po My Agriculture and Forestry Service and Commerce Cooperative (Dong Van district) and Sa Phin A Agriculture, Forestry and Services Cooperative (Dong Van district). After these study tours, cooperatives and experts will support 130 ethnic minority women with basic training on knowledge and skill for income generation to identify and realise their business plans. This study tour was organized through a partnership between UNESCO and the EMPS Project Management Board of the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs, in collaboration with the Bureau for Ethnic Minority Affairs, DOLISA, DOET, Women’s Union and Cooperatives Alliance of Ha Giang province, and with the close support from local authorities and women’s union of the project districts. Furthermore, in Yen Bai province on 12 October 2021, Save the Children (SC) and the Center for Sustainable Development of Mountainous Communities (SUDECOM) co-hosted a Talk Show called, “Joining hands to connect start-ups and jobs for ethnic minority youth in Tran Yen district, Yen Bai province”. The Talk Show was organized through the project “Participate: Empowered CSOs and ethnic minority youth for active participation in decision making in Yen Bai, Vietnam”, funded by the European Union. 100 representatives from provincial, district and commune levels participated, including 60 ethnic minority youth in project areas in Tran Yen district. This included representatives from Department of Industry and Trade; Youth’s Union, Women’s Union, Farmer Association, Cooperative Alliances, Business Women Association, Young Businessmen Association, local enterprises, cooperatives, and civil society organizations. The workshop was an opportunity to engage enterprises to connect in providing opportunities and inspire young people in start-ups and employment in the locality.

- ▶ **Priority 14: Child Labour Prevention in Agriculture 3. Increase awareness raising and communications with regards to child labour with a particular focus on the legal framework and negative effects of child labour on children’s well-being and poverty reduction, targeting local government institutions, families, parents and children themselves; as well as on FTAs and the elimination of child labour in agricultural value-chains targeting public and private sector enterprises.**

Progress

As noted during the previous reporting period, the MOLISA International Cooperation Department (ICD) has been working on developing a user-friendly handbook on international labour standards and commitments on child labour¹ to provide a good reference source for government officials, social partners, businesses, and communities about the nature of child labour in supply chains. The manual has been developed based on review of presentations, records, and reports, and questionnaires were sent to relevant identified partners, enterprises, associations to gather the information and inputs on the good practices on child labour. A consultation workshop was conducted to gather inputs for developing the handbook on good practices related to vocational training and livelihood models, and good practices in agricultural supply chains, and garment and handicraft sectors, with the participation of 40 stakeholders and experts involved in various models and practices noted in the handbook. After the workshop, the consultants continued to develop the handbook and shared with relevant stakeholders. ICD has been working to finalize the handbook including peer review, layout, and design for printing. The handbook has now been printed and 1000 copies have been sent to relevant stakeholders nationwide.

Viet Nam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) has also finalized a manual on child labour prevention and elimination, which is tailored to the needs and conditions of cooperatives. Following its finalization, a TOT cum pre-test training on the manual was organised in November 2021 for 26 trainers and core staff of VCA system, followed by 2 roll out trainings on child labour prevention for 54 cooperative members and provincial Cooperative Alliance representatives from 13 provinces in December 2021. Four trainees from the TOT actively delivered sessions during these two roll-out trainings and gained competent training skills. Upon returning from the

¹ Volume 1 of handbook (in Vietnamese) available at:

https://www.ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_816439/lang--vi/index.htm.

Volume 2 of handbook (in Vietnamese) available at:

https://www.ilo.org/hanoi/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_816436/lang--vi/index.htm

training, several cooperatives called for meetings with their members to disseminate the information on child labour that they learned, to promote the prevention of child labour in their production activities.

Moreover, as noted above, a handbook on guidance on the prevention of child labour in seafood supply chains² has been developed by VASEP, with ILO support for dissemination to representatives of units of seafood supply chain enterprises, leaders, and relevant professional departments.

Question 1.b: What progress has been made against the next steps that Nepal identified for the period May 2021-April 2022?

In Vietnam 's 2020-2021 annual report, the following next steps were identified for the period May 2021-April 2022.

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

Ongoing/partially achieved

The second Programme on the Prevention and Reduction of Child Labour for the 2021- 25 period was officially launched on 1 December 2021 in Hanoi at a hybrid event with the attendance of both online and offline participants. Developed by MOLISA with the leadership from its DCA and technical support from the ILO, the programme builds on the successes and lessons learned from the implementation of the first National Child Labour Programme, implemented from 2016 - 2020. The latest programme was approved by the Prime Minister through Decision No. 782/QĐ - TTg on 27 May 2021.

With a long-term vision towards 2030, the programme has three core aims: to prevent and detect cases of child labour, and support and provide interventions for children engaged in and at risk of child labour; to raise awareness on child labour prevention and reduction; and to deliver training and capacity building on child labour prevention and reduction. The launch of the programme represents a pivotal landmark along Viet Nam's path towards achieving SDG Target 8.7 to eliminate child labour

The launch event was attended by around 300 delegates, including representatives from government ministries, the US Embassy and the EU, academic and research

² Available (in Vietnamese) at: <https://seafood.vasep.com.vn/total-seafood-trade/news/vasep-and-ilo-release-practical-guide-on-preventing-child-labour-in-fishery-supply-chains-24156.html>

institutions, workers' and employers' organizations, UN agencies, NGOs, industry associations and enterprises, and key provincial level implementing agencies. During the event, participants were introduced to the objectives and content of the programme, and provided with guidance on how to translate these aims into concrete action. They also discussed the challenges related to COVID-19 which will increase the risk of child labour, including economic decline, the impact of underemployment and job loss on households, barriers to education, food insecurity, increased mortality and high medical costs. On July 12, 2021, MOLISA sent 2 Official Letters No. 2177 and No. 2178/LDTBXH-TE to central ministries/ agencies and provincial-level people's committees to guide the implementation of the NAP for 2021-2025 with a vision to 2030.

Following the launch, to ensure the successful implementation of the programme, DCA/MOLISA conducted two online training sessions on developing effective provincial action plans for implementing the national programme for DOLISA and child protection staff across the country. The first session took place on 6 and 7 December, and the second took place from 8-10 December. The training was intended to familiarize participants with the components and framework of the programme, and provide guidance on the planning, management and implementation of related activities. During the sessions, participants had the opportunity to practice developing a plan to prevent and reduce child labour for 2022, through the framework of the programme. As Viet Nam forges ahead with its implementation, the goal is to build on the achievements and lessons learned from the past five years, during which many noteworthy milestones were achieved as a result of the first programme.

In terms of the Issuance of legal documents to support the NPA implementation, on December 31, 2021, the Government issued Decree No. 130/2021/ND-CP on sanctioning administrative violations related to child affairs (including child labour), such as failure to inform authorities on the employment of children or to provide support/interventions for children at risk or subject to abuse, including child labourers.

On September 30 2021, the MOLISA Minister issued Circular No. 13/2021/TT-BLDTBXH on statistical indicators relating to the situation of children and child abuse, and handling of administrative violations related to child abuse, which include indicators for children engaged in or at risk of child labour (i.e. children from poor/near -poor households, and children who have dropped out of school to earn a living before completing mandatory education).

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

Ongoing/partially achieved

A five-day online TOT training course was organized on 1-3 and 14- 15 December, to build the capacity of 20 staff members working on child care and protection and DOLISA officials in eight districts. The training was delivered using “Understanding Child Labour” training materials, developed by ILO and DCA. In addition to deepening the knowledge of participants on issues related to child labour, the training provided participants with training and communication skills to facilitate further online training and communications. 2 days of the training were dedicated to the prevention and elimination of child labour; 1.5 days to training methodologies and 1.5 days to practicing training. 6 out of 10 trainees can now confidently deliver training on child labour in their communities, and 11 out of 20 participants were assessed as potential trainers pending further coaching.

To ensure the consistency of training materials for child labour inspectors in relation to the new Labour Code 2019 and the new circular detailing and guiding the implementation of articles on the employment of minor workers, MI has been working to update the training materials, tools and check lists on child labour inspection in informal economic sectors in line with the revised Labour Code and other related by-law documents. They are also piloting the implementation of procedures at district and commune level in 3 provinces; and providing training to improve the implementation of inspection. Draft checklists have been developed and 2 consultation meetings were conducted in January 2022 to provide inputs to the procedures and checklists. In March 2022, MI provided the training and conducted the pilot in three provinces.

A summary workshop on the pilot of the procedures and checklists on child labour inspection was organized via a hybrid modality on 22 March 2022 to document lessons learnt and update and finalize the procedures. More than 30 participants including MI, MOLISA departments, Hanoi DOLISA, Ninh Binh DOLISA, Hai Duong DOLISA, and representatives from pilot districts and communes attended. At the workshop, MI reported that the pilot revealed a lack of knowledge and understanding about child labour and the employment of minor workers among local authorities and officials at district and commune level, as well as among local employers. The training and pilot process provided participants with the chance to provide inputs to improve the documents on procedures and checklists, and training on inspection of minor workers.

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

Ongoing/partially achieved

In addition to the aforementioned communication and awareness raising activities, discussed under related priorities, efforts are being made to lay the foundations for more effective communication on child labour across the country. To this end, an online training to raise awareness and understanding among journalists on child labour, and ethics of writing about children, and child labour specifically, was organized in December 2021. The training was integrated into DCA training on child protection in cooperation with INGO, Good Neighbors International. 37 reporters from key news agencies, including national television and the most popular national newspapers such as Vietnam Television, Vietnam News Agency, Voice of Vietnam, Nhan Dan, Tien Phong, Lao Dong, Vnexpress, Dantri, Vietnamnet, etc. attended the training. Participants included 6 representatives from television programmes, 3 from radio channels, 19 from printed and online newspapers, 4 from concerned departments of the Ministry of Information and Communication and Vietnamese Journalists' Association, and 5 from social networks.

As previously noted, as part of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, a social media campaign on child labour was carried via the ILO Facebook page to promote action against child labour throughout the year, with an increased volume of posts shared on WDACL and the week of action. Content included the engagement of celebrities, stories on child labour, interactive games and information sharing on the NPA and global child labour estimates. The campaign reached an audience of around 1,083,000 in total. In addition, DCA cooperated with Dan Tri electronic newspaper to publish 12 articles and 31 photos on child labour prevention and reduction from November - December 2021.

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

Ongoing/partially achieved

Please refer to the aforementioned livelihood support activities discussed under related priorities above.

Question 2: Overall, looking at the progress made vis-à-vis your roadmap priorities, how would you classify your progress over the past 12 months?

We have made some progress towards our roadmap priorities.

Question 3: Looking at your progress regarding your national priorities and next steps, what are the main successes between May 2021 and April 2022 you would like to highlight?

As noted above, the second Programme on the Prevention and Reduction of Child Labour for the 2021-25 period was officially launched on 1 December 2021. This is a key milestone in Viet Nam's path towards target 8.7.

Viet Nam's child database is being connected to the national citizen database (in accordance with Circular No. 13/2021/TT-BLDTBXH on statistical indicators relating to the situation of children and child abuse, and the handling of administrative violations related to child abuse).

As noted above, on September 30 2021, the MOLISA Minister issued Circular No. 13/2021/TT-BLDTBXH on statistical indicators relating to the situation of children and child abuse, and handling of administrative violations related to child abuse, which include indicators for children engaged in or at risk of child labour.

Question 4: Would you like to mention other meaningful successes and opportunities toward the achievement of the target 8.7 that are not part of the main roadmap priorities (e.g. laws enacted, events, partnership arrangements, additional resources)?

The Statistics Law was supplemented and amended on 12 November 2021 in line with the socio-economic development context, and to promote the goal of sustainable development of Viet Nam. The rapid changes related to the digital economy and society and the impact of the fourth industrial revolution, meant that the previous list of national statistical indicators reveals did not fully reflect the realities of the socio-economic situation. Furthermore, there was a lack of indicators on sustainable development. The list of indicators was therefore revised, with 58 new statistical indicators added, including numerous indicators on education and childcare. The revisions reflect the requirements for statistics to facilitate Viet Nam's social and economic development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the global 2030 agenda. In particular, the inclusion of the percentage of workers aged 5-17 years in national statistical indicators is evidence of Viet Nam's firm commitment to eradicating child labour in line with its international commitments.

Question 5: What challenges, including COVID-19 if relevant, did you face to implement the Pathfinder Country roadmap priorities?

- Awareness on child labour prevention at all levels and sectors, including among grassroots officials, employers, parents, caregivers of children and children themselves, is incomplete and not updated.
- Officials in all sectors and at all levels, especially at local level, are insufficient in terms of quantity and expertise to detect, prevent, intervene, and support child laborers.
- The inspection, examination and supervision of child labour is not undertaken regularly; the child labour database is incomplete.
- The negative socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, and the impact of climate change and natural disasters in Viet Nam are negatively impacting the economic conditions of households, damaging livelihoods, and reducing employment opportunities and incomes. This leaves many children with no choice but to drop out of school and migrate with their families to earn a living. In addition to falling into child labour, many children are at risk of being forced to work longer hours or in conditions that harm their physical, mental and personality development due to the double burden of the pandemic as well as the increase of natural disasters caused by climate change.

How were challenges overcome? What are the lessons learned?

- Social mobilization, advocacy and behaviour change always play a particularly important role in child labour prevention and reduction. Therefore, it is necessary to continue implementing communication strategies nationwide.
- It is necessary to strengthen inter-sectorial cooperation in child protection, and promote collaboration between sectors (education and training, labour, agriculture, public security) and among social organizations in child labour prevention.
- Building community level capacity to promote the early detection and monitoring of child labour has been crucial.
- Enhancing the role and responsibility of businesses in eliminating child labour is vital, including implementing measures to prevent child labor in supply chains, especially those related to the key export products in Viet Nam (e.g. agricultural products, garments and handicrafts).

Evidence of achieved progress

The second section allows reporting on the evidence of the achieved progress. It will allow Nepal` to provide insights into how the progress that occurred between May 2021 and April 2022 was assessed.

Question 6: How have you examined the progress against the national priorities identified in the Pathfinder country roadmap priorities?

Other types of evidence: Desk review of various progress reports, and inputs and information gathered from partners and third parties : Progress reports collected from NGOs and UN agencies on their activities.

Question 7: What other stakeholders like government agencies/ social partners/ civil society organizations involved in assessing progress?

- Employer organizations: VCCI, VCA
- Worker organizations: Vietnam General Confederation of Labor (VGCL)
- Statistical office: General Statistics Office (GSO)
- Other ministries: MPS, MOET, MARD
- United Nations (without ILO): UNICEF; UNESCO
- International organizations: Save the Children, World Vision, Blue Dragon
- ILO: ENHANCE project, Better Work program

Value of the Pathfinder process

The third section provides you with the opportunity to reflect upon the Pathfinder process and help put the results you reported upon into context. This section allows Nepal, Recipient First Name to report how the Pathfinder process may have helped them progress towards their national priorities between May 2020 and April 2021.

Question 8: What are the main highlights around the pathfinder process for Vietnam?

- ▶ **Increased collaboration on SDG 8.7 with international partners,**
Increased collaboration with United Nations organizations
UNICEF- joint support with ILO to implement new NPA

Increased collaboration with the ILO:

Support to implement new NPA, and support provided through ILO ENHANCE project and ILO Better Work

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

The School of Law at Viet Nam National University hosted an academic conference on Combating Child Labour in ASEAN/Southeast Asia on 3 and 4 June 2021, which brought together scholars from multiple countries in the region. More information is provided below.

MOLISA (ICD, DCA and Inspectorate) has participated in a webinar on the implementation and monitoring of the ASEAN Roadmap on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2025 to share Vietnam's experience towards achieving SDG Target 8.7.

▶ Increased collaboration on SDG 8.7 with domestic partners

Employer organization on a domestic level

- VCCI (Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry): designing an award for child-labor free enterprises; developing a guideline on implementation of commitments to child labour-related standards under new-generation free trade agreements and other international commitments; organizing a national forum on child labour and business; planning for the third policy dialogue on child labour and business; implementing training and workshops for child labour-related officers.
- VCA (Viet Nam Cooperative Alliance): evaluating livelihood needs of households; organizing seminars, workshops and training for child labour-related officers.

Worker organization on a domestic level?

VGCL (Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour) has organized seminars, workshops and training for child labour-related officers.

Statistical office on a domestic level

GSO (General Statistics Office) has worked on revising the Statistics Law.

Ministries on a domestic level

The Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) have collaborated in developing and implementing the NPA for 2021-2025 with a vision to 2030.

Future /Now what ?

This section allows pathfinder countries to indicate whether the roadmap requires to be revised and to have an outlook on the next steps to achieve your priorities on a 12-month horizon. Please note that the next steps will be used for the pathfinder report next year.

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

Yes, Vietnam's priorities and roadmap on the elimination of child labour will be adjusted to better align with the second National Programme on the prevention and reduction of child labour for the 2021- 2025 period.

Question 10: What next steps are you planning to undertake until April 2023?

- ▶ **Next step 1: Provide training and guidance on identification of child labour based on newly promulgated legal documents, and in line with the set of indicators to monitor the implementation of the NPA for 2021-2025 with a vision to 2030.**

Targets until April 2023

- Training and guidance on identification of child labour based on newly promulgated legal documents, in line with the set of indicators to monitor the implementation of the NPA will be organized for DOLISA staff nationwide.

DCA will organize 3 training courses on the prevention and reduction of child and guide the monitoring and supervision of the Program on prevention and reduction of child labour for staff of DOLISAs nationwide in 63 provinces and cities.

What evidence will determine that you achieved this step ?

Progress reports, and third-party information from relevant stakeholders.

Work area

Child Labour

- ▶ **Next step 2: Organize a series of events in response to WDA CL (12 June 2022).**

Targets until April 2023 :

A series of events in response to the WDA CL (12 June 2022) will be organized, including a workshop on social security in connection to child labour prevention,

reduction and elimination. In addition, communication materials and events will be developed in response to the WDA CL (e.g. advocacy and communication seminars on mass media, television programs on Vietnam's implementation of commitments in 2021, communication products promoting the global conference on child labour, communication on the NPA, and nationwide communication related to the Month of Action for Children).

- Raise public and community awareness on child labour and the importance of building social protection systems in preventing, reducing and moving towards the elimination of child labour.

- Mobilize agencies, departments and the whole society to collaborate to take action to prevent and eliminate child labor.

What evidence will determine that you achieved this step ?

progress reports, communications data, third party information.

Work area

Child Labour

- ▶ **Next step 3: Improve the child labour prevention and reduction capacity of stakeholders at all levels, related agencies, organizations and individuals, especially for employers.**

Targets until April 2023 :

- Training materials and courses for improving the child labour prevention and reduction capacity of stakeholders at all levels, related agencies, organizations and individuals, especially for employers, will be developed and provided

What evidence will determine that you achieved this step ?

progress reports, training figures, third party information.

Work area

Child Labour

- ▶ **Next step 4: Implement communication, education, and social mobilization to raise awareness and responsibility for child labor prevention and reduction, with a focus on agriculture and employers in the informal economic sector.**

Targets until April 2023 :

Communication materials to raise awareness and enhance responsibility for child labour prevention and reduction will be developed.

What evidence will determine that you achieved this step ?
developed materials, progress reports, third party information.

Work area
Child Labour

- ▶ **Next step 5: Inter-sectorial coordination mechanism for child labor prevention and reduction.**

Targets until April 2023 :

An inter-sectorial coordination mechanism for child labour prevention and reduction to be established by competent authorities

What evidence will determine that you achieved this step ?
progress reports and third party information.

Work area
Child Labour

Question 11: Support needed to achieve the priorities on the roadmap?

Viet Nam wishes to learn from international experiences on:

- Deployment of a support and intervention process to prevent children from falling into child labor , which is integrated in the existing child protection system.
- Models of prevention and reduction of child labour in the agricultural sector
- Developing and implementing policies to promote social protection for children and children in special circumstances in the context of COVID-19, to prevent and minimize child labour.
- Deployment of a support and intervention process to prevent children from falling into child labor , which is integrated in the existing child protection system.
- Development and implementation of a child labour prevention and reduction model in agriculture.

Question 12: 2021 was the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. Please, in a few lines, describe the major outcomes from your action pledge.

Pledge title : "Organize policy dialogues on International Commitments related to Child Labour Elimination in FTA towards SDG 8.7"

Pledge page, see [here](#).

1. Legal documents are promulgated, supporting the implementation of objectives 8.7 As noted above, Viet Nam's child database is being connected to the national citizen database (in accordance with Circular No. 13/2021/TT-BLDTBXH on statistical indicators relating to the situation of children and child abuse, handling of administrative violations related to child abuse).

Furthermore, on December 3, 2021, the Government issued Decree No. 130/2021/ND-CP on sanctioning of administrative violations related to child affairs, including child labour.

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

VCCI and ICD have been planning to jointly organize a national level business and child labour forum. The event will be the third of its kind since Viet Nam became a pathfinder country, and the focus for this dialogue will be on child labour elimination in agricultural supply chains in the context of international integration with a focus on vocational training solutions. Much planning has already gone into the event, but its implementation has been postponed several times due to successive outbreaks of COVID-19, which peaked in Viet Nam from April 2021. Plans to hold the forum as an online event were discussed, but it was decided that an in-person event would be preferable. With COVID-19 restrictions now lifted, discussions are ongoing regarding the possibility to hold the conference in May 2022, with potential to link the conference to WDAFL 2022.

3. Enhancing engagement with academic sector to address child labour

An "Online Conference on Combating Child Labour in ASEAN/Southeast Asia" was held on 3 and 4 June 2021. The conference was hosted by the School of Law at Viet Nam National University, Hanoi, in collaboration with the South East Asian Human rights research network (SEARHN) and the programme, Strengthening Human Rights and Peace Research and Education in ASEAN/Southeast Asia (SHAPE-SEA). The conference provided a unique platform for more than 130 scholars, advocates, practitioners, government officials and representatives ASEAN and the UN. The goal was to share knowledge and experiences on child labour prevention in the region, strengthen multistakeholder collaboration and promote the participation of scholars, researchers, universities and research institutes in the prevention of child labour. 24 abstracts were presented at the Conference, with scholars from Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and China sharing their research. The Conference was organized over two afternoons, with two plenary key note

sessions and 5 panels. The panels explored issues of vulnerability and child labour, child labour in different sectors, the impact of COVID-19 on child labour, and Laws and policies related to child labour. Each presentation was followed by active discussions and Q&As.

After the Conference, selected papers were gathered to form a conference proceedings publication and seven papers were selected for publication in the *Lentera Hukum* (Journal of Legal Studies) an academic journal established by the Human Rights Centre of the University of Jember, Indonesia. The final conference proceedings booklet was finalized for printing in October 2021. In addition, a webpage for the conference was developed for papers on the SHAPE-SEA website: <https://shapesea.com/about-us/news/online-conference-on-combating-child-labour-in-asean-southeast-asia/>