

# **JOINT CONTEXT ANALYSIS VIETNAM**

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## Glossary

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ANGC	Actor of Non-Governmental Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BOET	Bureau of Education and Training (district level)
BTC	Belgian Technical Cooperation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organisation
JCA	Joint Context Analysis
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CPV	Communist Party of Vietnam
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DGD	Directorate General for Development Cooperation
DOET	Department of Education and Training (province level)
DOH	Department of Health
DOLISA	Department of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs
DPO	Disabled People's Organisation
DRD	Disability Research and Capacity Development
DTEA	Department of Teachers and Educational Administrators
ECE	Early Childhood Education
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations
FBP	Food-Borne Parasite
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FO	Farmers' Organisation
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
HE	Higher Education
HERA	Higher Education Reform Agenda
HRD	Human Resource Development
IEC	Information, Education, Communication
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ILSSA	Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs
INGO	International Non Governmental Organisation
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIC	Middle Income Country
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training (national level)
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MOLISA	Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs

MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment
MOST	Ministry of Science and Technology
MOT	Ministry of Transport
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MRE	Ministry of Resources and Environment
NAFOSTED	National Foundation for Science and Technology Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMCP	National Malaria Control Program
NSEP	National Strategy on Environmental Protection
NTDs	Neglected Tropical Diseases
NPO	Not-for-Profit Organisation
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OT	Occupational Therapy
PA/MPA	Protected Area/ Marine Protected Area
PT	Physiotherapy
R&D	Research and Development
SEARAV	Southeast Asia Research Association of Vietnam
SEDS	Socio-Economic Development Strategy
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
ST	Speech Therapy
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
TA	Technical Assistance
TOT	Training of Trainers
TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNDESA	United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
VINAREHA	Vietnam Rehabilitation Association
VNGO	Vietnamese Non Governmental Organisation
VUSTA	Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations
VWU	Vietnam Women's Union
WTO	World Trade Organisation

## Introduction

This Joint Context Analysis (JCA) of Vietnam is a result of the Law on Belgian Development Cooperation (19 March 2013 and amended by Act 9 January 2014), article 2-6°/7 and the Royal Decree of 24 April 2014, article 14 §1-2.

This document, formulated by Belgian non-governmental development actors (henceforth ANGCS) present or with an interest in Vietnam, holds a common, qualitative analysis of the Vietnamese context, in line with the guidelines established by Royal Decree. It hence contains a representation of the Vietnamese context and the opportunities for synergy and complementarity that spring from it, and not of concrete programmes, projects or specific objectives.

The JCA presents, in the first place, the opportunity to identify possible ways of cooperation, synergies and complementarities. If approved, this JCA will be an important reference document for:

- The programmes that will be submitted to DGD: for each specific objective, mention has to be made of the way in which the JCA has been consulted.
- A report, to be submitted in 2019, about the state of affairs regarding the implementation of the opportunities of complementarity and synergy, as described in this JCA.
- The allocation of DGD funding related to synergy initiatives.

The ANGCS who have participated in this exercise are all interested in being active in Vietnam in the following ten years (2017-2026). The following 16 ANGCS have contributed to this exercise:

List of participating ANGCS – JCA VIETNAM			
Nr.	ANGC	Address	Contact
1	Aide au Développement Gembloux	Avenue de la Faculté d'Agronomie 2 5030 Gembloux	Christophe Goossens; christophe.goossens@ong-adg.be
2	APEFE	Place Saintelette 2 1080 Brussels	Solange de Harlez; s.deharlez@apefe.org
3	ARES – CCD	Rue de Namur 72-74 B-1000 Brussels	Philippe Lebailly; philippe.lebailly@ulg.ac.be
4	Dynamo International	Rue de l'Etoile, 22 1180 Bruxelles	Aurélie Ladrière; a.ladriere@travailderue.org
5	Handicap International	Spastraat 67 1000 Brussels	Dominique Delvigne; Dominique.Delvigne@handicap.be
6	Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde (ITG)	Nationalestraat 155 2000 Antwerp	Anna Rosanas; arosanas@itg.be
7	Louvain Coopération au Développement	Avenue du Grand Cortil 15/A 1348 Louvain-La-Neuve	Inge Vangodtsenhoven; ivgod@louvaincooperation.org
8	Mekong Plus	Avenue des Quatre Bonniers 6 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve	Loanna Becattini; LB.consultance@skynet.be
9	Oxfam Solidarité – Solidariteit	Vier-Windenstraat 60 1080 Brussel	Hilde van Regenmortel; hva@oxfamsol.be
10	Plan België	Ravensteingalerij 3 B 5 1000 Brussels	Fabrice Lepla; Fabrice.Lepla@planbelgique.be
11	Rode Kruis Vlaanderen Internationaal	Motstraat 40 2800 Mechelen	Toon Wets; toon.wets@rodekruis.be

12	VLIR-UOS	Bolwerkplein 1a 1050 Brussels	Christophe Goossens; christophe.goossens@vliruos.be
13	Vredeseilanden	Blijde Inkomststraat 50 3000 Leuven	Mianne Van der Biest; mianne.vanderbiest@vredeseilanden.be
14	VVOB	Handelsstraat 31 1000 Brussels	Arne Willems; arne.willems@vvob.be
15	WWF	Emile Jacqmainlaan 90 1000 Brussels	Françoise Ansay; francoise.ansay@wwf.be
16	ANGCs participating in the JCA Decent Work Asia (lead: WSM)	Haachtsesteenweg 579 1030 Schaarbeek	Jeroen Roskams; jeroen.roskams@wsm.be

Together the participating NGAs submit this JCA for approval to the Belgian minister of Development Cooperation.

Furthermore, the following ANGCs contributed to the regional context analyses on Decent Work, of which parts are incorporated into this JCA:

List of participating ANGCs – JCA Decent Work Asia			
Nr.	ANGC	Address	Contact
1	ACV-CSC (IIAV/IEOI)	Haachtsesteenweg 579, 1030 Schaarbeek	Stijn Sintubin; stijn.sintubin@acv-csc.be
2	FGTB-ABVV/IFSI-ISVI	Hoogstraat 26-28, 1000 Brussels	Christian Vancoppenolle; christian.vancoppenolle@abvv.be
3	Oxfam Solidarité- Solidariteit	Vier-Windenstraat 60 1080 Brussels	Hilde van Regenmortel; hva@oxfamsol.be
4	WSM	Haachtsesteenweg 579 1030 Schaarbeek	Jeroen Roskams; jeroen.roskams@wsm.be

#### *Disclaimer*

The content of this JCA aims to be representative of the visions of all involved ANGCs (both from a technical and an operational perspective) and exchanges between them.

This JCA cannot, in any case, be used as a source of information to attribute certain points of view to any particular ANGC or partner organisation mentioned in this document. It binds only those organisations that have explicitly adopted a certain position. Furthermore, the information in this JCA cannot be considered as a political or ideological position of the involved organisations.

# 1. Description of the JCA process, the participation of the ANGCs, their local partners and possibly other participating partners

## 1.1 Description of the JCA-process

This document was drafted by Vredeseilanden (as lead organisation in this common effort) and based on the extensive inputs of information by the involved ANGCs. The Vademecum presented by 11.11.11 and CNCD served as a reference for the content table of this JCA. Based on the Vademecum, the following trajectory has been realised with all involved ANGCs to come to the realisation of the analysis:

Date, location	Progress
29/01/2015, Brussels	Lead participates in information session on JCAs
15/02/2015	All participants to this JCA are known
15/03/2015	First input of all participants for chapters 1-5
17/03/2015, Leuven	First meeting: discussion of approach; division of active participants in 4 subgroups
15/04/2015	Thematic subgroups send input for chapter 3-5 to lead
20/04/2015	Lead prepares draft versions chapters 1-5
29/04/2015, Leuven	Second meeting to discuss progress and approach for chapters 6-10
21/05/2015, Hanoi	Presentation of JCA progress at Belgian Embassy, Hanoi
25-26/05/2015, Hanoi	Workshop in Hanoi; lead incorporates output of workshop into the draft
15/06/ 2015	First draft sent out for comments to participants
30/06/2015	Participants submit comments; lead incorporates comments in draft and contacts subleads with further requests for information
11/09/2015, Leuven	Third meeting, to discuss synergies
16/09/2015	Final draft is ready for comments from participants
02/10/2015	Lead incorporates comments; final version of JCA is sent out for approval.
16/10/ 2015	All ANGCs agree on submitting the JCA. Lead submits the JCA.

The ANGCs have consulted recent existing analyses and important reference documents, such as existing context analysis of the ANGCs themselves, of their partners, or of other important development actors (such as the European Union's Roadmap for Civil Society). A reference list of existing analyses of ANGCs, local partners and international actors can be found in Annex 1.

Based on these references, the participating ANGCs have drafted a document, which was sent to local representatives of the ANGCs in Vietnam, and a selection of local partners and experts. They validated, harmonised and enriched the draft during a two-day workshop in Vietnam, and provided additional input for chapters 6 to 10. Based on this input, a first draft was sent out to all ANGCs. Their further comments were taken into account when elaborating a final draft. The final JCA was sent out for approval to all participating ANGCs, which has been received on 04/10/2015.

Furthermore, inputs of the JCA on **Decent Work** in Asia were included. The thematic analysis for Asia was born from an international and regional vision on the topic, but the proposed areas of intervention, the types of partner organisations and their needs regarding capacity strengthening indicate that there are opportunities for support at national level. In that sense, the JCA Vietnam and the thematic JCA Decent Work are, thus, complementary. Social security, lack of labour law enforcement, unemployment and underemployment, etc. are important intervention areas when striving for the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda; equally within a Vietnamese context. A coordination between the Thematic JCA Decent Work and the JCA Vietnam was set up to ensure coherence in analysis of context and stakeholders. Therefore, the description and identification of these areas of intervention, as described in chapter 3.6.4, has to be understood from the point of

view of this country JCA as well as that from the thematic JCA. For further analysis of Vietnam related to this topic, we kindly refer to the thematic JCA Decent Work Asia. Possibilities of complementarity and synergy with regards to Decent Work were equally investigated and are discussed in chapter 10.

**Environment** and **gender** are included as transversal themes in this JCA, and references to these themes are made in the descriptions and analyses of each intervention domain, when and where relevant. **Human rights** and **children's rights** are a topic of interest for many ANGCs, but not their main areas of interest. For this reason human and children's rights are not treated as a separate intervention domain, although references to the topic are made where relevant.

## 1.2 Participation of the ANGCs

Four major intervention domains are described in this JCA: Agriculture, Health, Education and Labour and Social Protection. For each of these subgroups, an ANGC volunteered as sublead. The main task of the lead, Vredeseilanden, was to coordinate the writing process and write the general chapters.

Throughout the entire process, the representatives of the ANGCs in Vietnam have been kept up to date by the contact people of their organisation. At the time of writing, the following ANGCs had representatives in Vietnam or in the region: Aide au Développement Gembloux (Phnom Penh, Cambodia); APEFE (Hanoi, Vietnam); Handicap International (Hanoi, Vietnam); Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde (partner NIMPE in Hanoi, Vietnam); Louvain Coopération au Développement (Cambodia); Mekong Plus (Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam); Oxfam Solidariteit/Solidarité (Hanoi, Vietnam); Vredeseilanden (Hanoi, Vietnam) and WWF (WWF Vietnam).

## 1.3 Involvement of local partners

In the period 2011-2015 a number of ANGCs had programmes and projects in Vietnam. Participation of local partners was primordial to the formulation of these ANGCs' programmes and projects, and to the context analyses lying at the basis of these previous programmes. These already existing context analyses, equally referred to in Annex 1, were used as reference sources for this JCA.

Local partners were involved in the writing process of this JCA in the following ways:

- Context analyses written by local partners and local experts were taken into consideration when writing this JCA – view Annex 1;
- A representative selection of partner organisations and contact people was involved and consulted for feedback by different ANGCs individually – view Annex 2;
- Local partners and local experts participated in a two-day workshop in Hanoi – view Annex 3.

Other relevant actors that were involved in this JCA include the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) and Belgian Embassy in Vietnam and NGOs present in Vietnam.

- The Belgian Embassy in Vietnam has regularly been kept up to date. On May 21, Vredeseilanden presented an update of the JCA process during a meeting at the Belgian Embassy in Hanoi.
- The VUFO-NGO Resource Centre in Vietnam is open to all INGOs, institutes, universities, learning centres and other organisations that are legally registered to work in Vietnam; currently more than 125 INGOs are amongst the members of the Resource Centre.

## **2. Mapping of programmes, projects, synergy-projects and partnerships that were implemented by the ANGCs in Vietnam in the past five years**

### **2.1 Table with programmes and projects of the participating ANGCs**

Between 2011 and 2015, numerous programmes and projects have been implemented in Vietnam by the ANGCs participating in this JCA. A full overview can be found in the table in Annex 4.

### **2.2 Synergy projects**

Between 2011 and 2015, no DGD-funded synergy projects have taken place in Vietnam.

### **2.3 Partnerships in collaboration with governments**

There are no examples of projects implemented with the financial support of the governmental development cooperation of other countries than Belgium in the past five years. It has to be stressed, however, that most of the programmes and projects that take place in Vietnam, are in collaboration with the Vietnamese government, be it at the national level or at provincial or district levels. In most cases, these collaborations are defined in Memorandums of Understanding and do not include financial support from the Vietnamese government to ANGCs, although the Vietnamese government does, in some cases, subcontract NGOs.

### **2.4 Links with neighbouring countries**

The different countries belonging to the Mekong region are faced with similar challenges, such as – but not limited to – consequences of climate change such as floods, (internal) migration, overuse of pesticides in vegetable production, malaria, ... Regional approaches to these and other challenges could certainly be interesting.

### **2.5 Assessment of synergy projects in Vietnam**

- In Vietnam, numerous examples exist of synergies between ANGCs, between ANGCs and the BTC, and between ANGCs and (inter)national organisations. These are mostly situated at the level of information exchange (for example through working groups at the VUFO-NGO Resource Centre). Chapter 10 focuses in more detail on opportunities for synergy and complementarity.
- The topics of interest of the Belgian Development Cooperation (Belgian Embassy/BTC), such as Green Growth, Governance and a Rights-Based Approach, are equally highly placed on the agenda of most ANGCs.
- The transversal themes of the Belgian Development Cooperation ('environment' and 'gender') and the prioritised topic 'Human Rights' are present in most programmes and projects of Belgian ANGCs in Vietnam; and hence also in most synergies.

### 3. Analysis of the political, economic, social and environmental situation in Vietnam

#### 3.1 Overview of the most important indicators

	2000	2005	2010	2014 (or latest information)	Source
<b>Total population</b>	78,758,000	83,161,100	87,848,400	92,547,959	(ARES-CCD, 2013; UNDESA, 2013; WPR, 2014)
<b>Demographic growth (%)</b>	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.0	(ARES-CCD, 2013; World Bank, 2015)
<b>GDP<sup>1</sup> (in USD Billion)</b>	31,176	52,931	103,575	171,4 (2013)	(ARES-CCD, 2013; Trading Economics, 2015; General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2015b)
<b>GNI<sup>2</sup> per capita (current US\$)</b>	400	680	1,270	1,740	(ARES-CCD, 2013; World Bank, 2015)
<b>Annual Growth rate GDP (in %)</b>	6.8	8.4	6.8	5.3 (2013)	(ARES-CCD, 2013; Trading Economics, 2105; General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2015b)
<b>Net ODA<sup>3</sup> received (in % of GNI)</b>	5.1	3.4	2.6	2.5	(World Bank, 2015b)
<b>Human Development Index (world ranking)</b>	0.534	0.573	0.611	0.638 (2013)	(ARES-CCD, 2013; UNDP, 2014a)
<b>Gender Inequality Index</b>	0.363	n/a	n/a	0.322 (2013)	(UNDP, 2014a)
<b>Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.25 a day (PPP) (% of population)</b>	40.1 (2002)	n/a - 21.4 (2006)	3.9	2.4 (2012)	(World Bank, 2015b)
<b>CO<sup>2</sup> emissions (metric tons per capita)</b>	0.7	1.2	1.7	1.7 (2010)	(World Bank, 2015c)
<b>Forest area (% of land area)</b>	37.7	42.2	44.5	45.4 (2012)	(World Bank, 2015c)

#### 3.2 Analysis of the political situation in Vietnam

When Vietnam gained independence from France in 1954, it was divided into a northern and a southern state. Warfare between both states erupted in the mid-1960s, which did not cease until 1975. (Eldis, 2015) After its unification in 1975, Vietnam became a single-party socialist republic led by the sole legal political party, the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV). Both the Central Committee and the National Assembly (respectively the executive and the legislative power) follow the dictates of the CPV. The National Assembly consists of 500 members with a five-year mandate, of whom 122 are women. The president is elected by the National Assembly and in turn appoints the prime minister. At provincial level, the People's Committees have considerable influence, as their approval is required for all development projects and expenditures in their jurisdiction. (NZMFAT, 2008)

Economic reforms implemented in 1986 drastically transformed Vietnam, but parallel reforms on a political level have not happened. Criticism of the government continues to be harshly suppressed and punished, and the government monitors and controls political, social, economic and religious

<sup>1</sup> Gross Domestic Product

<sup>2</sup> Gross National Income

<sup>3</sup> Official Development Assistance

facets of people's lives, by limiting print and online media, religious freedom, academic freedom, freedom of association, internet usage, etc. (Freedom House, 2012, 2014; NZMFAT, 2008) Nevertheless, it has to be stressed that considerable improvements have already been made in comparison to the early 2000s, certainly regarding access to the internet, social media, freedom of speech, LGBT rights, political rights (including the existence of opposition parties to a limited extent). (Workshop report, 2015)

Corruption and abuse of office are frequent issues, and public discontent is growing. Consequently, a few high-profile prosecutions of corrupt individuals have taken place, but comprehensive reforms are lacking. The last few Party Congresses, particularly the 11<sup>th</sup> one, have shown evidence of nepotism, with sons of senior CPV leaders becoming appointed to top positions within the party. In general, political decisions are not made in a transparent way. In 2013, plans were announced to improve the transparency of state companies, but this has not yet been initiated. (Freedom House, 2012, 2014)

### 3.3 Analysis of the economic situation in Vietnam

The war and the economic policies adopted after unification led to high levels of poverty in Vietnam. However, in 1986, following the introduction of the *Doi Moi* reform, Vietnam started moving from a centrally-planned economy to a 'socialist-oriented market economy'. (Berliner et al, 2013) Industrialisation<sup>4</sup> became the primary vehicle for development, through the establishment of state corporations at the vanguard of domestic industrialisation and the encouragements of SMEs to build a domestic private sector. (Vredeseilanden, 2013c) FDI, which brought capital, skills and technology, became one of the main drivers of economic growth. (General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2015b) Also tourism gradually became a major source of revenue, as did the export of foodstuffs and manufactured products. In 1995, Vietnam became a member of the ASEAN; in 2007, of the World Trade Organisation and in 2010 of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement. (ADB, 2012)

The rapid, stable economic growth in the past decades significantly improved the living conditions of the Vietnamese and transformed Vietnam from one of the world's poorest countries 25 years ago, into a lower middle-income country (MIC) by 2009. (ADB, 2012; World Bank, 2013) The average annual GDP growth between 2007 and 2011 was 6.6%, and the country's GDP per capita rose from \$843 in 2007 to \$1,409 in 2011. (General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2015b) Nevertheless, Vietnam's export-oriented economy was hurt by the global recession, with the 2013 average GDP growth rate (5%) being the lowest since 1999. However, exports in 2013 increased by 12% when compared to the previous year, allowing the government to undertake actions to bring the trade deficit back into balance. (General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2015b; Nguyen Duc, 2015; Trading Economics, 2015)

The measures taken to promote economic growth in the past decade also stoked inflation. In February 2011, the government shifted to measures aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability, through tighter monetary and fiscal control. (VMPI, 2014) Inflation fell from a peak of 23% in August 2011 to 4.2% in August 2014. (Nguyen Duc, 2015) In 2012, an economic reform programme consisting of three pillars –restructuring public investment, state-owned enterprises and the banking sector– was proposed, but up until now little progress has been made. (Berliner et al, 2013) Furthermore, the Government is implementing a Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) 2011-2020, which aims at promoting skill development, environmental sustainability and social equity; and at improving market institutions and infrastructure development, as human resources have not always kept up with economic development. (Workshop report, 2015; World Bank, 2015d) This should help to avoid the Middle Income Trap.

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<sup>4</sup> Between 2000 and 2013, the share of the industrial sector in the economic output increased from 36% in 2000 to more than 42% in 2013, while the share of agriculture declined from 25% to 20%. (World Bank, 2015)

### 3.4 Analysis of the social situation in Vietnam

In 2014, Vietnam had an estimated **population** of 92,547,959. (WPR, 2014) The yearly demographic growth is less than 1% and 56% of the population is younger than 30 years. (General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2015) According to the 1999 census, 85.7% of Vietnamese belong to the Kinh (Viet) ethnicity. Other ethnicities, as the Tay 1.9%, Thai 1.8%, Muong 1.5%, Khmer 1.5%, Mong 1.2%, Nung 1.1%, others 5.3%, are minorities. (General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 1999) Currently, 47.4% of the Vietnamese are employed in agriculture, 30% in services and 21.1% in the industrial sector. While the employment rate in agriculture has been declining in the past decade, the employment rates in services and in the industrial sector have been increasing. (UN Data, 2015; World Bank, 2015a)

In two decades, the **livelihoods** of the Vietnamese have significantly improved: the number of people living below the \$1.25/day poverty line fell drastically, from 40.1% in 2002 to 2.4% of the population in 2012. In 2013, Vietnam was ranked 121 of 187 countries in the HDI, meaning that human development in the country is 'medium'. Nevertheless, poverty remains an issue. According to the ADB (2012), the poorest people tend to be: those living in remote, upland areas with degrading natural resources or in coastal areas that are more prone to extreme climatic events; households headed by women or with disabled members; migrants or landless people; and members of ethnic minorities. In 2010 ethnic minorities accounted for 65% of the poorest 10%, while in 2006 this was still 53%. (World Bank, 2013) They often face discrimination, which is linked to their adherence to minority religions. In some cases, access to schooling and employment is restricted by local officials, and they have little say on development projects that affect their livelihoods and communities. (Freedom House, 2014) However, the government also has specific support programmes, including free healthcare, education, bed net distribution and house spraying in endemic malaria areas.

When it comes to **inequality**, Vietnam ranks 100 out of 174 countries, with a GINI-coefficient of 35.6 in 2013. Despite reductions in poverty, inequality is on the rise. This could pose a threat to Vietnam's socio-economic stability and sustained growth. (Berliner et al, 2013) However, currently a 'shared growth' trend seems to be taking place, which can be attributed to an egalitarian redistribution of land, the liberalisation of agricultural markets, and booming low-skill labour. (Vredeseilanden, 2013c) On the **gender inequality** index, Vietnam ranks 58 out of 152 countries, with a score of 0.332, meaning that there is a 33.2% loss in potential human development due to gender inequality. (UNDP, 2014a) In the past years, Vietnam has made considerable progress by narrowing gender gaps in health and education. Women's participation in the labour force is high. Nevertheless, discrimination in wages and promotion is still an issue. (Freedom House, 2014) Furthermore, women are overwhelmingly responsible for the majority of housework tasks, typically working 10-12h more per week than men. Vietnam also has a relatively high incidence of gender-based violence. (ADB, 2012)

**Basic civil rights** as the right to self-determination and the right to live in dignity are guaranteed by the Constitution, but they remain subjected to the interests of the state. Some recent improvements were made, such as the intensified role of and mass organisations and the media, increasingly a channel for civil society covering sensitive political issues. Furthermore, Vietnam accepted 182 of the 227 recommendations made by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in its June 2014 review, and was consequently accepted to become a member of the council. Nevertheless, many human rights organisations continue to point critically towards Vietnam. The 2014 Human Rights Watch report, but also the EU, criticizes the detainment and treatment of political prisoners, the lack of independence of the judiciary system and of access to justice for common people, the oppression of religious groups that operate outside official, government-controlled religious institutions, the fact that 'politically unacceptable' meetings or marches are refused and the recent restrictions in press freedom despite the fact that the government has been heralding the media as an important actor. (EUEA, 2015; HRW, 2015)

Specifically with regards to **children's rights**, improvements over the last 20 years have yet to reach children of marginalised groups in remote regions. Significant progress has been made with regards to access to education for children everywhere; less progress has been made with regards to health care access for children despite this being free for all children under the age of 6. Furthermore, Vietnam has to deal with the growing issue of child prostitution, but also with issues such as child labour (involving 16% of children aged 5 to 14), street children (according to estimates about 65,000 throughout the major cities) and children not registered at birth (12% of all children). (Humanium, 2015)

### 3.5 Analysis of the environmental situation in Vietnam

Vietnam is ranked as the 16<sup>th</sup> most **biodiversity** rich country in the world. The country harbours 110 Key Biodiversity Areas and 65 Important Bird Areas. The country also counts two World Natural Heritage Sites, five Ramsar wetlands, eight UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and two ASEAN Heritage Parks. 164 terrestrial Protected Areas (PAs) cover 7.4% of the country's total land area, and 9 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) cover 4.9% of Vietnam's territorial waters. Vietnam's 15 terrestrial ecoregions and 3 marine ecoregions counts a great diversity of natural systems, including lowland tropical forests, riparian grasslands, estuaries, mangroves, etc.; which results from the country's diverse topography, climate, soils and geology, and its narrow but long north-south orientation. These ecoregions present high degrees of endemic species: estimates indicate that 10% of Vietnam's plants are endemic, as are 12 mammal species, 7 birds, 48 reptiles, 33 amphibians and 80 freshwater fish – most of them threatened or endangered. (de Queiros et al., 2013) Improving conservation measures to ensure the essential ecosystem services biodiversity provides, is of vital importance.

Approximately 49% (16 million ha.) of Vietnam is designated as **forest** land, of which 39% is actually under forest cover; this represents a significant increase from a low of 27% in 1990 (US Forest Service, 2011). This increase in forest cover resulted partly from a natural regeneration programme, and partly from the expansion of forestry plantations, which both have much lower levels of biodiversity<sup>5</sup> than primary forests. Only 6-8% of Vietnam's forest cover is primary forest. (Nguyen Quoc Dung, per. comm. 7 May, 2013) Approximately half of the 16 million ha. of classified forest land are production forests, intended for commercial activities such as rubber, timber and paper pulp production; 6 million ha. are protection forests, meant to protect ecosystem services, mitigate the impact of extreme events and avoid environmental degradation, such as soil erosion and desertification; and 2.3 million ha. is special use forest. Because of the depletion of forest resources (due to infrastructure development, agriculture, land grabbing, illegal logging, etc.) in Vietnam and the government's decision to "close its forests" to logging, the country has become a voracious importer of illegal timber from neighbouring countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia) to feed its wood processing industry, currently the sixth largest in the world and responsible for 20% of the country's export earnings (Nelleman and Interpol, 2012; EIA, 2011). This demand for illegally sourced timber has had devastating effects on biodiversity, local cultures and tropical forests in the region.

The **Mekong delta**, home to 17 million people and Vietnam's most important agricultural region (producing 52% of the country's rice) and equally the third largest industrial region in Vietnam, is facing existential threats. The mangrove cover in the Mekong Delta and Red River Delta combined has decreased from roughly 73,000 ha. to 60,000 ha between 1990 and today. Mangrove deforestation results largely from an increase in aquaculture in coastal regions of the Mekong Delta. The Mekong Delta also counts very biodiverse wetland areas, which play a vital function in food

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<sup>5</sup> While the increase in single species plantations helps stabilise soils, regulate the hydrologic cycle, store carbon and reduce the pressure on native forests by offering an alternative source of timber and fuel wood, their intrinsic biodiversity value is negligible when compared with that of tropical forests.

security and create conducive conditions for activities of various economic sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, waterways, tourism, and mining. However, in recent years, the area of the natural wetland ecosystems has been degraded severely due to aquaculture activities (creation of fishponds) and inappropriate wetland area management methods that are being applied (e.g. a system of levees has been built that controls flood risk, but also damages the ecosystem). All of this in turn influences the livelihoods of those living in the Mekong delta.

The Vietnamese Government signed several **international environmental agreements**, as The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Vietnamese government also undertakes several plans regarding biodiversity; as the National Strategy on Biodiversity Conservation to 2020, the National Strategy on Environmental Protection to 2010 and vision to 2020 (NSEP) and the Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy 2006-2020. However, the overlaps of those regulations between several administrative departments (e.g. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) are an important issue.

Over the past decades, Vietnam has become an important contributor to the **loss of regional biodiversity**. Firstly, the economic growth in the past decades, linked to with the growing industrialisation, challenges the environment. Increasing energy consumption led to the increased use of fossil fuels and exploitation of natural resources; the use of renewable energy sources remains limited for now. (UNDP, 2014b) Secondly, the rapid growth of Vietnam's urban population led to a situation in which the existing urban infrastructure is insufficient to guarantee environmentally compatible wastewater and solid waste disposal. Less than 10 per cent of wastewater in Vietnam's urban areas is treated. The environment is severely polluted, and the health of urban inhabitants, and of the rural population who live downstream, is endangered. Thirdly, Vietnam is both a destination and a transit country for the illicit endangered species trade (e.g. in rhino horns) and medicinal plants. (Mott 2006) A recent study by WCS (2012) revealed that the illegal wild animal trade from Vietnam to China includes many endangered and critically endangered species as well as species prohibited from trade under CITES. The magnitude of the illegal wildlife trade is such that Vietnam is ranked first in WWF's Wildlife Crime Scorecard (WWF, 2012). Fourthly, Vietnam imports large amounts of tropical timber from neighbouring countries to feed its wood processing industry. Compounding this is the high demand, both nationally and internationally, for some forest products, as well as for agricultural or commercial land. Meanwhile, the growing local population is placing increasing pressure on PAs as ever more people seek to secure livelihoods. Lastly, biodiversity is also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Vietnam is forecasted to be among the five countries most seriously affected by **climate change**; and the Mekong Delta as one of three deltas suffering most. (Cruz et al. 2007; Dasgupta et al. 2007; Nguyen 2009; World Bank 2010) According to the UNDP, about 22 million Vietnamese people will be affected if the earth's temperature rises with 2 degrees. According to the Department of Hydrometeorology and Climate Change Vietnam, in the last decade, Vietnam's average temperature increased nearly 0.1 degree Celsius. Climate change also leads to rising sea levels: in the past decade, the sea level rose 2.5 to 3 cm per year. If the earth's temperature rises with 2 degrees, 45% of agricultural land will be lost because of the rising sea level. (Howden et al. 2007; Tubiello and Rosenzweig 2008; Nelson et al. 2010). Estimates based on Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment (MONRE)'s emissions scenarios indicate that nearly 38% of the Mekong Delta could be flooded by 2100 (ARCBC.org.ph, n.d.). Coastal areas are vulnerable to extreme weather events and sea level rise. Cyclones, heavy rains and high winds can significantly increase tidal surges (up to 4 m

in certain parts of the Mekong Delta), contributing to flooding and saline intrusion. Some areas of the coast are already being eroded at a rate of 30 metres a year. Rising levels of saltwater intrusion are leading to saline soils which pose considerable challenges to agricultural production. These changes threaten the future of the Mekong Delta and its ability to provide the essential ecosystem services that the communities of the Delta and millions of people around the world depend on. The incidence of flooding, as a result of rising sea levels and tidal flow, has increased in recent years, reaching higher elevations and urban zones (MONRE, 2010). Since 2007, many studies have been made in order to assess the impacts caused by climate change on socio-economic and natural ecosystems in some provinces in the Mekong Delta. Ben Tre province was selected for the demonstration of a new adaptation approach: "Ecosystem-based Adaptation to climate change." This programme included a wide range of solutions, such as restoration of coastal mangrove forests, agriculture, fishery adaptation, improving management and rational use of freshwater, and on the governmental level the integration of climate change and climate change adaptation into the sectors' plan and zoning.

The causes of biodiversity and ecosystem degradation are hence numerous, but there are only **limited planning and management capacities available** to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the country's biodiversity. At the same time, policy makers and the business sector do not fully appreciate the intrinsic economic and cultural values of the protected landscapes. Law enforcement measures (e.g. related to illegal exploitation of timber for profit) are inadequate. Following de Queiros et al (2013), the root cause for the precipitous loss of biodiversity and tropical forest degradation in Vietnam is the country's dysfunctional environmental governance system in the context of a fast-evolving national and global economy.

### 3.6 Analysis of each intervention domain

#### 3.6.1 Agriculture

In the agricultural sector, Doi Moi reforms included the de-collectivisation of land and improvements in land titling; a policy shift abandoning collective farming in favour of individual household farming; removal of price controls on goods as rice and fertilizers; the provision of greater autonomy to the private sector, and the liberalisation of agricultural markets through the reduction of restrictions to exports and to internal trade. (East Asia Forum, 2012; Vredeseilanden, 2013c) The signing of trade agreements led to the integration of Vietnam in the global economy and to a significant rise in Vietnam's agricultural trade, particularly with ASEAN countries and the USA. In 2012, for instance, Vietnam exported around \$14 Billion USD of agricultural commodities. (Arita and Dyck, 2014) Agriculture continues to be the most important sector in the Vietnamese economy, agricultural output continues to expand and the sector remains a key contributor to exports (about 25% of export value). Nevertheless, the contribution of agriculture to the overall GDP has been declining in the past two decades. Since 2005, it has been circling around 18-20%. (General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2015b; Nguyen Duc, 2015; UN Data, 2015; Vredeseilanden, 2013c; World Bank, 2015a)

In terms of employment rates, agriculture continues to be the most important sector: it is the key source of income for the majority of Vietnam's total population, although employment rates in agriculture are slowly declining. In 2014, 47.4% of the Vietnamese population was employed in the agricultural sector, compared to 51.7% in 2005. (UNData, 2015; Vredeseilanden, 2013c) In rural areas, however, 70% of rural households continue to rely on agriculture (commodities and livestock) for their livelihoods: the sector hence continues to provide a safety net for the rural poor, and particularly for rural women. (ADB, 2012) In rural areas, up to 64% of women<sup>6</sup> versus 53% of men are engaged in agricultural production. Rice, coffee, tea, pepper, sugar cane, natural rubber, cashew nuts

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<sup>6</sup> Their high dependency on land and natural resources for livelihood generation makes these women more vulnerable and at risk of losing their income. (The United Nations of Vietnam, 2012)

and peanuts are among the most important agricultural crops they produce. Vietnam is currently the world's second largest coffee exporter (after Brazil) and the world's largest pepper exporter, but rice dominates Vietnamese production. (ADB, 2012; VIETRADE, 2014) The modernisation of the agricultural sector has pulled many Vietnamese out of poverty, led to improvement of farmers' incomes and assured national food security. (ARES-CCD, 2013; VIETRADE, 2014; Vredeseilanden, 2013c) However, Vietnamese farmers continue to face many **internal and external challenges**; addressing these is of vital importance to improve their income and livelihoods.

The quantity and quality of agricultural produce is often low, showing in low harvests, uneven quality of products, unsafe food sanitation, and low to non-existing capacities to create new added value. (VIETRADE, 2014) The majority of farmers in Vietnam rely excessively on pesticides: the need to address this food and biosafety issue grows every day, together with the rising quality and health expectations of domestic consumers and the awareness of health risks involved in the excessive use of pesticides. (ADB, 2012; VIETRADE, 2014) Furthermore, farmers also lack technical skills in production and post-harvest handling to (1) reduce wastage, and (2) meet ever increasing quality demands of higher value markets – both domestic and export. (Vredeseilanden, 2013b) Difficulty in achieving even national quality standards (let alone EuroGAP for export), limits smallholder farmers' access to markets. The ability of farmer organisations to supply supermarkets/modern markets is related to the combination of functions they make available to their members, especially with regard to promoting and controlling quality. This is very weak at the moment. (Vredeseilanden, 2015b) The difficulty to comply with the demands of modern, high value markets, is also related to the fact that farmers lack the information on who these private sector actors are, how they operate, and what they require. (Vredeseilanden, 2013a) Moreover, farmer organisations are usually not managed in a business manner, such that their financial and economic viability are low and in jeopardy; a shift towards business farmer organisations is necessary. Too often, farmer organisations and agricultural cooperatives focus on productivity, which was the main activity of the old-style cooperatives. (JICA, undated; Vredeseilanden, 2013a) A large proportion of the rural poor still lack access to institutional financial services, especially in mountainous and remote areas, although finance institutions have started to expand in the past few years. (ADB, 2012) Credit and financing are important elements of the business operation of farmers' organisations, and the difficulty to access this needs to be addressed. (Vredeseilanden, 2013a)

Rural infrastructure problems remain, including for instance a lack of efficient operational irrigation facilities<sup>7</sup>, but also the absence of paved rural roads<sup>8</sup>, complicating the marketing of agricultural produce. (ADB, 2012) However, a study of Rios, Masters et al (2009) about market participation in Vietnam found that households with higher productivity tend to participate in agricultural markets regardless of market access factors, suggesting that programs targeted at enhancements in farm structure and capital have the potential to increase both productivity and market participation, while investments in market access infrastructure seem to be relatively less important. (Vredeseilanden, 2013c) Another issue is the land conversion of arable land into urban and industrial land, which further reduces the already limited amount of arable land (28% in 2012). (ADB, 2012) Strengthening the control over land and natural resources for peasants, and specifically for women and ethnic minorities, continues to be a challenge. (ARES-CCD, 2013) Another external issue is that, due to the slow economic growth rate, as well as lower demand on the world market, prices of Vietnam's agricultural products have declined. (VIETRADE, 2014) The fluctuation of prices of agricultural commodities negatively affects farmers. (ARES-CCD, 2013)

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<sup>7</sup> Only 4 of the 6.6 million ha of land under rice cultivation has operational irrigation facilities. (ADB, 2012)

<sup>8</sup> Only 28,000 kilometers of about 104,000 kilometers of rural roads are paved. (ADB, 2012)

Across agriculture, industry and the services' sector, Vietnam's business community is seeking to advance up the value chain, and capture a higher proportion of earnings. Efforts have been mixed, particularly in the agricultural sector. (Vredeseilanden, 2013c) **Private sector** incentives and opportunities are limited. There are over 500 state-owned enterprises engaged in operations in the agriculture, natural resources and environment sector, and these stifle private sector opportunities; the majority of small businesses face difficulties in accessing both capital and technology. (ADB, 2012) Nevertheless, private sector efforts are increasingly apparent in various parts of the economy, with foreign invested enterprises playing an important part, including in the agricultural sector. (Vredeseilanden, 2013c) Government's policies are more and more favouring supermarkets. This could be a threat for smallholder farmers, if they are not organised well as a business actor in the chain. (Vredeseilanden, 2015b) Another serious issue is that sourcing policies of the private sector are not inclusive towards small-scale farmers: e.g. if the produce is not completely sold in outlets, then farmers do not get paid for all of it – this provides little security and little income.

The **sustainability** of Vietnam's export-oriented agricultural production is often put into question, not only because of the ineffective use of agricultural by-products as pesticides, but also because of the wasteful management of water resources. Groundwater levels are declining; pollution, industrial contamination of land and water resources and greenhouse gas emissions are increasing. (ADB, 2012; ARES-CCD, 2013; VIETRADE, 2014) Generally speaking, environment-friendly production practices are available, but still limited in use and overwhelmed by the government's intervention and subsidy for high production and high input approach. (Vredeseilanden, 2013a) Climate change poses resource-based challenges to agricultural production that are difficult for smallholder farmers to deal with. Lowland challenges include floods and inundations, droughts and susceptibility to catastrophic weather events such as typhoons. Upland challenges include poor soils, difficult terrain and high levels of erosion. Anticipated climate change impacts in Vietnam include: (i) flooding and salinity intrusion in the lowlands, and increased droughts during the dry season; (ii) increased temperatures, leading to increased water needs for agriculture; (iii) variable stream flows; (iv) increased incidence and prevalence of pests and diseases; (v) changes to planting patterns and cultivation calendars; (vi) increased forest fires; and (vii) rising sea levels, which may reduce rice production by 7%, and will reduce mangrove areas. (ADB, 2012)

Many of these issues are currently being recognised by policy-makers, which offers new opportunities. For instance, the **Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP)** clearly and explicitly recognises that environmental and natural resources issues have been given insufficient attention, and that agriculture will most likely provide a route out of poverty for the rural poor. In addition, the SEDP recognises that increased agriculture production and value adding will provide rural women with opportunities to improve household incomes and access to services, education and health facilities. SEDP indicates intensified support for rural areas and strong commitments to enterprise efficiency that should improve rural productivity and stimulate private sector investment. (ADB, 2012) However, more should be done to strengthen the position of small-scale farmers (and marginalised farmer groups, e.g. ethnic minorities and female farmers). (Workshop report, 2015)

### 3.6.2 Health

Health expenditures in Vietnam represent 6.6% of GDP, which currently ranks Vietnam 89th worldwide for health expenditures. According to the UNDP, Vietnam has made very impressive progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and has been successful in meeting some of them – such as MDG1 (eradication of extreme hunger and poverty), MDG4 (reducing child mortality) and part of MDG6 (malaria control), although the country is less well on track to meet the goal concerning the control of the HIV epidemic (in MDG6).

The **leading causes of overall mortality**, beside road injuries, are acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea and neglected tropical diseases (e.g. malaria and parasitic infections). Large disparities in health status exist between different geographical areas and population groups, especially ethnic minorities who usually live in remote and forested areas and are the most vulnerable groups in terms of health and socio-economic status. **Malaria**, which currently concentrates in mountainous and forested areas in Central and Central-Southern Vietnam as well as in border provinces with Laos and Cambodia, constitutes an example. The population at risk of malaria is currently estimated at about 22 million, with a total of 15,719 confirmed cases and 5 malaria deaths reported in 2014. Interestingly, 80% of the reported cases occurred in 9 central and southern “hot provinces” where the annual incidence peaked at 3.1/1000 population in 2014. Since 2012, the country is officially engaged in malaria elimination with the aim of eliminating malaria from all provinces by 2030. However this plan is currently threatened by three main challenges: (i) the spread of antimalarial drug resistance in both *P. falciparum* to artemisinin derivatives and *P. vivax* to chloroquine; (ii) increasingly uncontrolled population movements both internally between endemic and non-endemic provinces, and internationally to highly endemic areas in SEA and Africa; (iii) the hidden nature of the human parasite reservoir (asymptomatic and sub-microscopic infections) which requires highly sensitive diagnostic tools. Community based field trials are urgently needed to evaluate the potential for elimination as well as acceptability of different interventions.

**Foodborne parasite (FBP) infections** are prevalent in Vietnam as a result of a deeply rooted culinary culture of eating raw meat, fish and crustacean dishes and raw vegetables, traditional animal husbandry systems, aquaculture and environmental faecal contamination. FBPs are more prevalent in rural areas and in ethnic minority areas, though they can also occur in cities and towns. Generally, FBPs are underreported and there is a lack of specific diagnostic capacity at provincial and local levels. Only specialised laboratories in Research Centres and Universities have diagnostic tools available and facilities for patient care (e.g. NIMPE, IMPE QN). Recently the Vietnamese government has shown interest in *Taenia solium* control/elimination, but no concrete action plan has been undertaken yet. The World Health Organisation has been involved in investigations on the recent fascioliasis epidemic in Central Vietnam.

Currently, the major **infectious diseases** are bacterial diarrhoea, hepatitis A and typhoid fever (food/water-borne diseases), with dengue fever, malaria, and Japanese encephalitis representing the main vector borne diseases. While the incidence of communicable diseases has fallen in recent years, other emerging diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and dengue, as well as non-communicable diseases are becoming increasingly important due to the rapidly changing lifestyle related to economic development and massive population movements towards urban and peri-urban areas. Some newly emerging diseases (such as diabetes and high blood pressure) are linked to changing patterns of food consumption.

Other issues include a lack of understanding/ awareness about the risks associated with chemical/ pesticide overuse and the prevalence of cancer and other diseases; but also a lack of community awareness of the importance of oral hygiene and its link to the consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables and of the economic implications of poor oral health. Furthermore, the negative effect of (water/ air/ noise/ soil) pollution on health is an ever increasing issue of which there is little awareness. Access to good drinking water and good sanitation have an important impact on the health of the population; but still 25% of the total Vietnamese population has no access to improved sanitation, as open defecation continues to exist as a common practice (JMP, 2012). Problems related to children with disabilities are grossly underestimated. Especially in rural areas, children with disabilities are often hidden and left unattended, and children with poor eyesight are soon

considered as unfit for education – there are hardly any children wearing glasses. Similarly, there is no screening for diminished audition capacity.

In Vietnam the **accessibility of the health system** is limited due to geographical and socio-economic reasons, in combination with locally limited available services, human resources and limited emergency response capacity. According to the ADB (2005), gender inequalities in health care are less of an issue as compared to socio-economic (ethnic minorities/rich-poor) and geographical (urban-rural) inequalities. Indeed the last National Health Survey (2001-2002) showed that women in general use health services slightly more often (annual number of visits) than men. Culturally, children and mothers are usually given priority in terms of health care expenses at household level. Moreover, in terms of health care delivery, more than 70% of health workers at commune level were women, though directors of health facilities are mainly men. Over the past decades, these figures have probably increased more in favour of women health staff and directors.

Vietnam has a general ambulance call number (115), but responses are slow and the material is often only limitedly available or outdated. First aid training to the general public remains a major element in augmenting the public resilience to disasters and emergency situations. Recruiting and training particularly motivated citizens can add to the emergency care resources that are available at a later stage in the emergency situation. The Vietnamese Red Cross's intervention model involves amongst others helping to improve the health of the Vietnamese population by training lay people in first aid and equipping and assisting community volunteers in handling emergencies as road accidents or disasters. In urban areas, therapy (e.g. occupational therapy, physical therapy or speech-language therapy) is available, but there is a lack of curriculum, schools and lack of professionals; hence the therapy offered does not meet international standards. (Workshop Report, 2015)

It is important to note that the latest law on environmental protection in Vietnam No.55/2014/QH13, approved by the National Assembly of Vietnam on 23/6/2014, includes a special section on safe waste management. Moreover the MoH has established a special agency on health environment management which monitors biological waste management at all levels of the health sector. All medical and biological waste from provincial and community health centres has to be collected on a daily or weekly basis by specialised companies that have standard equipment (incinerators) and expertise to safely process this type of waste.

### 3.6.3 Education

The national educational system consists of formal education and non-formal education. Educational levels and training qualifications of the national educational system include:

- **Early Childhood Education (ECE)** with crèches and kindergartens (0-5 year olds);
- **General Education** with **primary** education, and lower and upper **secondary** education;
- **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**, i.e. professional secondary education and vocational training;
- **Higher Education** or tertiary education: undergraduate and postgraduate education with college, undergraduate, master's and doctor's degrees.

#### *Access to education*

- **ECE**

The Education sector has undergone rapid developments over the past 30 years. This is the case in the pre-primary education sub-sector where quantitative achievements have resulted in a remarkable growth in enrolment rates: the pre-primary net enrolment ratio in Vietnam has increased from 38.29% in 1999 to 73.51% in 2012 (for 5-year-old pupils). It must be noted, however, that despite the real progress, Vietnam still faces a rather low participation in ECE. This is partly due to

the lack of crèches and kindergartens. The system of public preschools is overloaded, both in urban and rural areas. On top of this lack of infrastructures, there is also a lack of services in mother tongue and a deficiency of a holistic approach to Early Childhood Development (ECD) services.

➤ **General Education**

In the **primary** education sub-sector, quantitative achievements have resulted in a remarkable growth in enrolment rates: the net enrolment ratio has increased from 96.87% in 1999 to 98.06% in 2012 (UNESCO). Enrolment rates in **secondary** education are not available for Vietnam. However, UNICEF indicators show that the net attendance ratio was 84% for girls and 78.3% for boys in 2012.

➤ **TVET**

The network of TVET institutes has been expanded and aligned to economic sectors, regions and localities. In 2011, nationwide, there were 136 vocational colleges, 308 secondary vocational training schools; 849 vocational training centres (of which 296/35.4% are non-public) and more than 1,000 other facilities (education – training, enterprises) participating in vocational training. In 2010, there were about 35,000 vocational teachers and trainers, more than 4 times as many compared to 2001. The total enrolment in vocational training also increased, from 887,000 students in 2001 to 1,860,000 in 2011. (MOLISA, 2012)

➤ **Higher Education**

Between 1999 and 2009, the number of universities increased from 153 to 376, of which 44 were 'non-public'; and the number of students in public and non-public universities<sup>9</sup> increased with 143%. The gross enrolment ratio has increased from 10.49% in 1999 to 24.6% in 2012. (VLIR-UOS, 2011)

### *Quality of education*

➤ **ECE**

Pre-service teacher training for ECE is offered by Teacher Training Institutes in every province. The Education Law stipulates that preschool and primary teachers must possess an upper secondary pedagogical diploma, to guarantee the quality of ECE. In-service training is provided by the provincial Departments of Education and Training (DOET).

➤ **General Education**

The PISA assessment (Progress in International Student Assessment) 2013, ranks Vietnam 17th among 65 nations, higher than Denmark, the UK or the Netherlands. This ranking is in part due to the expansion of the Early Childhood sector and improvements in good nutrition for under 5's, which have led to increased learning abilities of entrants to the primary sector. However, the PISA results do not reflect social or geographic disparities, which remain a cause of major concern in Vietnam. The MOET also recognises that – in order to reach sustainable quality - there are still major challenges, such as the improvement of classroom settings that identify and nurture the children's aptitudes. Recently, Vietnam started to implement the CPV's resolution on Fundamental and Comprehensive Education Renovation, which requires massive curriculum reform. The World Bank and UNESCO give high priority to this goal and support a system of child friendly schools assessing progress on a regular basis. In parallel, as part of its *National Education For All Action Plan*, the government launched a transition programme to move from half-day to full-day schooling by 2025. This is supported by the Belgian government. Vietnam has voted a law on Gender Equality (2006) and a National Strategy on Gender Equality (2011-2020) which apply to the education sector. Gender in terms of access to schools is not really an issue in Vietnam (except in some remote ethnic areas

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<sup>9</sup> Please note: as higher education institutes are autonomous organisations with a public interest, and cannot be considered as a purely governmental institutions, they are categorised as civil society in this JCA.

where some girls can still be slightly discriminated). Children rights can be put at some risk in ethnic and mountainous areas where minorities do not speak Vietnamese, while school is in Vietnamese.

#### ➤ **TVET**

Many of the elements to raise quality have recently been developed, e.g. skills standards, curriculum frameworks and pilot learner assessment. Teachers have received upgrading through various ad hoc programmes. Several key institutions have been strengthened and upgraded, in part with external assistance. The financial base has been widened through the introduction of cost sharing and tuition. Non-state training providers are becoming an important source for skill development. Contract training has been experimented on a small scale with encouraging results. Facilities at the intermediate and higher levels are reasonably distributed throughout the country. The government has also adopted a programme for agricultural training. Special attention is given to the development of favourable policies on undertaking vocational training for vulnerable groups of people like ethnic minorities, the poor, people with disabilities, demobilised soldiers, rural labour, etc.

#### ➤ **Higher Education**

State management mechanisms, through the education system in general and universities and academia in particular, remain inadequate; they fail to stimulate sufficient force for change to renew this level of education. The most important reason for this is the weak management in the administrative organs of the State and the universities and colleges themselves. Since economic growth has been prioritised, spending and investing in higher education have been socialised, which implies that private and social sources of funding are promoted for education. Hence, higher education is not fully accessible, affordable or acceptable. The solution is to promote the access to and quality of HE by promoting a safer, non-discriminatory learning and researching environment.

#### *Regional equity in education*

Despite significant progress, big discrepancies in **ECE, primary and secondary enrolment** rates exist between regions, with the North-West recording the lowest rates. ECE enrolment was for instance situated at around 60% in 2012 in the Northern Provinces. (Plan Vietnam, 2013) Disadvantaged and vulnerable children, including ethnic minority children, migrant children, children with disabilities, experience significant barriers to pre-primary and primary education. In particular, many ethnic minority children do not know sufficient Vietnamese, which is the only language of instruction in schools. Evidence suggests that such inequities are due to the fact that already disadvantaged groups have less access to good facilities, qualified teachers and sufficient instructional time. Access to **TVET** is equally limited for trainees from low income households, as a result of high tuition fees, particularly in private institutions. These inequalities also translate into **higher education** systems.

#### *Gender equity in education*

The government claims that gender parity has been achieved several years ago, which is what the official figures show (at least for primary level; data for secondary level are not available). According to NGOs and CSOs there are still, in spite of a closing gender gap in education, many examples of girls being denied access to schooling due to gender-related expectations, including early marriage. (Plan Vietnam strategic planning, no date) It has to be pointed out that gender norms and treatment of girls and boys varies among different social groups: there is no longer one unified gender norm in the whole of Vietnam. While among the more educated and better-off, girls and boys are treated fairly equally, this is not the case among poorer populations. When the family has fewer resources, priority for education is often given to boys. Particularly in TVET, female enrolment is low, only about 30% of total enrolment, implying inequitable access to skills development because of gender. Gender-related issues in TVET are lack of gender sensitive curricula and teaching methods; lack of qualified female teachers and role models in vocational training (as part of secondary education in general).

### **Key challenges**

A growing concern in Vietnam is related to the ways children can develop their attitudes and competencies to better meet the labour market. Another general and longstanding concern is linked to the geographic disparities in school quality and pupil learning achievement: areas present intractable challenges to improve the quality of learning achievement. It is important to emphasise that the MOET cannot be expected to overcome these disparities by itself, as they are due to a wide variety of economic geographic and social factors. Little attention seems to be given to environment education in basic schools. The Asia Foundation points a lack of awareness, capacity, materials, and funding. With regards to ECE and TVET, it is necessary to point out a few additional key challenges.

#### **➤ ECE**

Despite a growing enrolment rate, an important number of parents do not send their children in formal ECE due to a lack of sufficient financial capacity: while, in 2010, 80% of the children from the richest quintile of households were in preschool, only 36% of the children from the poorest quintile were in preschool. Children of ethnic minorities, and particularly girls in ethnic and mountainous regions, are even more prone to miss out on ECE. This is not only due to the financial or some social barriers, but also to long distances to school and the absence of their mother tongue as a medium of learning. Especially in rural areas, ECE has low quality standards: there is a lack of sufficient and good quality facilities and equipment, little ability to contextualise ECE to local contexts, lack of strong coordinating body across different actors at national and local levels, etc.

#### **➤ TVET**

The awareness among students, their parents and teachers of the relevance and importance of TVET for livelihood improvement and employability is relatively low. TVET training is important to meet labour market requirements in terms of occupational skills as well as creative thinking and higher order skills such as team-working ability and decision-making. However, the quality of TVET is not everywhere sufficient, and the level-based training structure and training occupations are partly outdated and inefficient, and not linked with the manpower demands of each sector. TVET is therefore not systematically meeting the demands of technical manpower of high quality for the production and labour market. The transfer from supply-driven vocational training (often with a narrow specialisation) to demand-driven vocational training (for broad occupations that could be applied across sectors and therefore requiring sufficient general education) is slow, as is the transfer for rural labour to the sectors of industry and services. Furthermore, the availability and qualification of TVET teachers are insufficient, especially industrial and enterprise experience and competence-based pedagogical skills are lacking. Close and institutionalised linkages between enterprises and vocational training institutions have not yet been established, despite the business community's role as TVET stakeholder. Additionally, mechanisms, policies and standards on management and development of vocational training institutes are not comprehensive or enforced, resulting in overcrowded classes and workshops and insufficient practical training; also, TVET continues to have inappropriate and outdated budgeting norms, whereby public financing is not linked to performance.

### **3.6.4 Labour and social protection<sup>10</sup>**

Between 2007 and 2015, Vietnam's labour force has increased by 15,8% as compared to the ASEAN rate of 14.2%. The labour force outside agriculture is growing, now counting more than half of the total labour force. About 37,8% of them are waged workers, a number that continues to rise. All economic sectors employ more men than women; in foreign invested enterprises, mainly in manufacturing, women constitute even 65,4% of the workforce. (General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2015a) On paper waged workers enjoy protection from labour exploitation thanks to the Labour Code, guaranteeing a minimum wage, safety at work, access to some level of social security systems

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<sup>10</sup> This subchapter includes the input of the regional JCA Decent Work.

and the right to negotiate with employers. On the other hand the Labour Code also serves investors through the introduction of labour flexibility. However, in practice, labour law enforcement is very weak and wages remain far below the needs of the workers. This has resulted in high levels of workers' exploitation, such as extreme and forced overtime, unlawful dismissals, underpayment,... Workers have therefore repeatedly organised spontaneous strikes and work stoppages.

The lack of labour law enforcement and the lack of formal registration of many SMEs also results in workers being informally employed (meaning either informal sector employment or unprotected forms of formal labour). It is estimated that 82% of employment in Vietnam is informal; informal employment can be found in agriculture, the informal sector, domestic enterprises and in industries such as construction, trade or hotel services. (Cling et al., 2010) Women are found more in labour intensive industries and vulnerable informal jobs. Workers in informal jobs are hardly protected by any labour or social protection laws and are not represented in any social dialogue. Therefore they are highly vulnerable to exploitation or economic shocks. They are the first to fall back into poverty.

Also un- and underemployment risk becoming major problems. For 2014, the employment to population ratio of the whole country was 76.4%, only 12.2% lower than the ratio in rural areas. The lack of skilled and qualified labourers is causing increasing bottlenecks in Vietnam's development. In 2012, nearly 53% of the total workforce lacked any type of vocational training. Vocational training for more a more adequate labour force should be drastically improved so as to deal with a potential Middle Income trap. The government's target of creating 8 million jobs between 2011 and 2015 will not be met; which is problematic in view of the large number of young women and men entering the labour force each year (about 1 million/year). However, and in spite of their good schooling, young workers (age 15-24) represented in 2013 47% of all unemployed workers; in rural areas mounting to even 55,3%, and more young women than men face unemployment. (Vietnam General Statistics Office, 2014) In 2014, youth underemployment was situated at 21.9% of the total underemployment. Youth employment is hence a major challenge for society. Another concern is linked to the involvement of 1/10 Vietnamese youngsters (age 5-17) in child labour –in agriculture, manufacturing, construction and services – to support their families. 5% of these children will never attend school, and 40% of them are girls. (ILO, MOLISA, General Statistics Office, 2014)

The coverage of the social protection system is still limited. In 2013, 4 out of 5 workers were not insured and 66% of all enterprises in Vietnam did not participate in social insurance. Many legal regulations and governance practices restrict the access of migrants to basic social services in urban areas. Rising inequality in Vietnam has made a number of specific groups increasingly vulnerable, to both old and new forms of poverty or exploitation. While ethnic minorities have traditionally been side-tracked from development, the industrialisation processes have created new forms of marginalisation and poverty, typical for growing economies. Besides the pulling factors of industrial development, also high unemployment in rural areas has given rise to a growing group of internal migrant workers who constituted (a likely underestimated) 7.7% of the total population in 2009 (Abella and Ducanes, 2011). An estimated 75% of them are concentrated in industrial zones, 60% of them are younger than 29 and more than half are young women. Because of their status (they cannot be registered), migrants are more vulnerable, have less access to information, essential services and social protection measures, or risk discrimination and exploitation by employers, landowners of middle-men. Migrants hence constitute the bulk of urban poor. This holds particularly true for women, due to their absence from decision-making at the local level, limited access to resources, and on-going discrimination based on deep-rooted patriarchal customs. 80% of them live in rented rooms with poor sanitation conditions and more than half do not have health insurance. Women are more often self-employed than men, while less present in the more rewarding formal jobs. As they combine work with the household chores, they face a double burden. More than men,

they are bound to send remittances back home and they need to deal with sexual harassment and social isolation. So most of them are trapped in a vicious circle, as they cannot seize opportunities for skill development and advancement. A particular group that is often singled out is migrant sex-workers. (ActionAid, 2012) Also people with disabilities are excluded from the employment system, and their specific needs are not covered by health and social insurance. (Workshop Report, 2015)

The concepts of labour market in terms of market determined employment levels and wage rates are relatively new for Vietnam and only appeared after the economic reforms under “doi moi”. Hence labour market institutions systems who deliver labour market information and services are underdeveloped. The Labour Code, which provides basic standards for employment, was first adopted in 1994 and since then frequently amended. It needs to be further reformed in order to take into account the rapidly growing role of the private sector. Wage policy, in particular minimum wage needs to be reviewed and the labour inspection system needs to become more efficient. Social dialogue and collective bargaining suffer from the limited representation of workers and employers and weak industrial relations institutions. In 2007, the national Industrial Relations Committee (NIRC) was set up as the tripartite social dialogue body. But as of today this is not functioning well at provincial levels, so the dialogue -especially in SMEs- remains poor. The legal framework for collective bargaining is not well adapted to the maturity of the economy. Out of a total of around 320.000 enterprises, only some 30.000 are unionised. Only one trade union is allowed and still controlled by the communist party, hence oriented on service delivery rather than on rights defence. Hence, spontaneous industrial actions, including wildcat strikes, have been increasing and affecting the country’s productivity and investment climate. Nevertheless, trade union rights such as defined by the ILO in the core labour standards, concern the rights to freedom of association and expression and are therefore crucial human rights. Similarly to other domains, the overall lack of respect to human rights standards can be observed when it comes to a top-down approach of rolling out economic and social policies in favour of investors. The growing influence of business on the state can also be seen in changes to Communist Party statutes to allow business people to be party members and the election of prominent business people to parliament. Also, the state remains central to the operating of the business environment, and this has provided opportunities for corruption, a widespread practice that renders social dialogue both necessary and difficult.

The fast industrial growth in Vietnam is also cause of a worrying impact on the environment. Already in 2008, a World Bank report urged the government to strengthen its policy for hazardous waste management. Water, air and land showed seriously polluted by residues from the production of fertilizers, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, metallurgy, electric devices, ... but also shoe wear and food processing. Seafood processing stood out because of its scale and pollution load. The government has stepped up its efforts since; currently about one quarter of all hazardous waste is being processed and law on protection of the environment is in place.

## 4. Description of the Vietnamese civil society, the decentralised authorities and the governmental institutions, and their most important financial partners

### 4.1 Description of the local civil society and their most important financial partners

#### 4.1.1 Civil society: a definition

In the *EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in Vietnam*, (EU, 2014) Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are defined as “a wide range of actors with different roles and mandates, [...] all non-State actors, not-for-profit structures, non-partisan and non-violent, through which people organise to pursue shared objectives and ideals, whether political, cultural, social or economic.” Norlund (2007) defines Civil Society as “the arena outside of the family, the state and the market where people associate to advance common interests”, adding that, in the Vietnamese context the boundaries between the state and civil society are very fuzzy.

#### 4.1.2 Description of civil society in Vietnam and their main financial partners

As a consequence of the Doi Moi and the Vietnamese government’s policy of ‘socialisation’, a more hospitable environment for citizen’s groups emerged. Tolerance for autonomous civil activity in Vietnam is low but increasing, although civil society remains a politically sensitive issue. (Sabharwal and Than Thi Thien Huong, 2005) One of the core characteristics of the Vietnamese civil society is that organisations are not independent from, but rather deeply entangled with the state and the CPV. (Norlund, 2007) CSOs in Vietnam can be divided into 5 categories: mass organisations, socio-political professional organisations, Vietnamese non-governmental organisations (VNGOs), community-based organisations (CBOs) and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs).

- Mass organisations are state-sponsored and represent different interest groups within the population. Examples include the Women’s Union, which has branches in every province and village and had 13.6 million members in 2007; the Farmers’ Association, which had about 8 million members in 2012; the Youth Organisation; the War Veterans Association and the Workers’ Organisations. (Norlund, 2007; World Bank, 2011) Increasingly, these mass organisations are also collaborating with INGOs to implement development programmes. (Sabharwal and Than Thi Thien Huong, 2005)
- The category of socio-political professional organisations includes different types of organisations, which can be divided into two groups. The first group, umbrella organisations, includes organisations like Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA), the Vietnamese Red Cross, religious organisations, and broader organisations like the Gardening Association. The second group consists of professional associations, such as trade unions or private sector actor groups. (Norlund, 2007)
- VNGOs are usually smaller organisations. The main types of VNGOs include, roughly: (1) organisations which deliver social services for the government in health or education, often charity based; (2) NGOs carrying out research (mainly in the north); (3) organisations that carry out social work programmes (particularly in the south); (4) organisations that try to reach marginalised groups and use new approaches; and (5) organisations that work in the manner of consulting companies for the government or donors to help, for instance, implement prepare programmes etc. VNGOs are often more innovative than other Vietnamese CSOs in terms of their programmes and methodologies, but are limited in impact and have very limited funding. The development-oriented VNGOs are particularly dependent on foreign donor funding; in a study of “issue-oriented” organisations in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City, foreign funding represented about 25 % of the total funding, but for VNGOs, the percentage is higher. (Norlund, 2007)

- In 2005, the number of CBOs in Vietnam was estimated at roughly 140,000; but the number of CBOs (and CSOs in general) has further increased since then. (Sabharwal and Than Thi Thien Huong, 2005) CBOs are formed for purposes related to people's livelihoods and can be service and development or livelihoods-oriented faith-based organisations, neighbourhood groups, family clans, recreative groups. (Norlund, 2007) Examples could be water-user groups or cow-farming groups in rural areas, or cultural groups or neighbourhood groups in the cities. These groups are small; some are self-generated, but others are also created around the activities of donors, INGOs or VNGOs. (Sabharwal and Than Thi Thien Huong, 2005)
- INGOs are largely engaged in implementing development programmes at the level of the commune/district and piloting innovative development intervention for poverty reduction. More recently there has been a trend amongst some of the more progressive INGOs to operate through VNGOs. (Sabharwal and Than Thi Thien Huong, 2005)

Generally speaking, poverty alleviation and community development are the traditional focus areas of Vietnamese CSOs. These activities have been particularly concentrated in remote or ethnic minority areas and largely financed by international donors or state resources. However, with the recent expansion of civil society has come a widening of scope to include a broader range of livelihood models and focus on areas such as education, gender equality, natural resource management, and climate change. (The Asia Foundation, 2012) CSOs' activities are of limited impact in terms of influencing public policies on issues like human rights, social policy and national budgeting. Citizen empowerment is the area where civil society has the most impact, particularly through informing and educating citizens, empowering women and supporting people's livelihoods. (Belgium Embassy Hanoi, 2010)

Funding sources of CSOs are quite diverse, ranging from international donors to private sector donations, central and local government projects, or sometimes even individual contributions. (The Asia Foundation, 2012) ODA is also an important provider of funding to CSOs, although a decrease in grant ODA is expected – this worries Vietnamese CSOs. When it comes to the extent of funding from EU Member States and the EU Delegation to CSOs, it has to be noted that this varies in terms of total volume, size of individual grants and funding mechanisms. Gradually, EU donors have expanded their support beyond service delivery, equally engaging in the strengthening of CSOs' capacities in terms of advocacy and policy processes, and also in forming alliances and networks to advance common goals. (EU, 2014) Regarding the multilateral donors the UN features prominently in Vietnam through its "ONE UN" piloting framework. (Belgium Embassy Hanoi, 2010) Most bilateral organisations, and some multilaterals as the UNDP and the ADB, use small grant schemes as the organising framework for engagement with CSOs, although this is not strategic in nature. (Sabharwal and Than Thi Thien Huong, 2005)

It should also be kept in mind that a recent nationwide study has identified strong contrasts in the structure, operations and outlooks of CSOs in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city (HCMC): the former being more often government rooted, mass organisations, involved with policy advocacy issues, and having more access to training and to donor funding, as compared to those in HCMC. The most important source of financing of the civil society in Hanoi is from international donors, while in HCMC it is mainly from individual and business donors. In addition, in both cities, there is an increasing trend for using market oriented strategies (merchandise sale, service fees) to reinforce funding sources.

## **4.2 Description of the decentralised authorities and the governmental institutions, and their most important financial partners**

### **4.2.1 Description of Vietnamese decentralised authorities and public institutions**

- Decentralised authorities

By law, Vietnam is a politically centralised country, organised into four levels: the central government of Hanoi, the provincial governments of the 63 provinces, the district governments of the 712 districts and the village governments of about 11,055 communes. Each level has a People's Board (executive arm) and a People's Committee (legislative arm). The members of the Board are elected by the inhabitants of the area, but candidates have to be approved by the level immediately higher than theirs. Overlapping memberships between the People's Board and Committee at all levels are current. All the Committees have budgetary and administrative responsibilities and are in charge of maintaining order and security in their jurisdiction. (ARES-CCD, 2013; Thanh Thuy Vu et al, 2014)

The process of decentralisation started on the fiscal, public administrations and regulations level since the 'Doi Moi', when the central government started assigning decision-making authority to sub-central governments. Decentralisation is hence mostly an institutional reform, top-down, and the degree of decentralisation is decided upon by the central government. (Thanh Thuy Vu et al, 2014) The responsibilities of state and sub-state governments are set out in the Law on Local Governments enacted in 1958, the Law on Organisation of the People's Council and the Administrative Committees at All Levels of Government of 1994, the Ordinance on Concrete Tasks of 1996, the Law on the State Budget of 1998, the Revised Law on the State Budget of 2003, and Law on the Issuance of Legal Documents by the People's Council and People's Committee of 2004. The provinces have major responsibilities compared to communes and villages. (Thanh Thuy Vu et al, 2014)

Local government autonomy, although not yet acknowledged in the constitution, is substantial in practice. The acts of autonomy of local governments (e.g. policy experimentation or innovation where regulations do not exist) are sometimes referred to as 'fence-breaking' or informal decentralisation. (Malesky, 2008 in Thanh Thuy Vu et al, 2014) From the perspective of the central government, these initiatives are illegal. 34 'fence-breaking' provinces and responsible officials were named in the Decision No. 1387 on 29 December 2005 and then punished; despite the fact that many policy innovations at the provincial level have later on been legalised. (Thanh Thuy Vu et al, 2014)

#### ➤ Public institutions

The CPV holds control of the executive and electoral process. The Central Committee (150 members) elects the 15-member Politburo at national party congresses every five years. The Politburo is the actual decision-making organ of the party. The Government applies the political decisions made and is accountable to the General Assembly. (ARES-CCD, 2013) The constitution recognises the National Assembly as "the highest organ of state power"; they appoint the president (chief of state) and the prime minister (head of government).

The Government is headed by a Prime Minister, and there are also 4 Vice Prime Ministers, 1 Deputy Prime Minister and furthermore Ministers on the following posts: National Defence; Public Security; Foreign Affairs; Justice; Finance; Industry and Trade, Labour; Invalids and Social Affairs; Transport; Construction; Information and Communications; Education and Training; Agriculture and Rural Development; Planning and Investment; Interior; Health; Science and Technology; Culture, Sports and Tourism; Natural Resources and Environment. Other main posts within the Government include: Head of the Office of the Government, Inspector-General of the Government, Governor of the State Bank, and Chairman of the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs. (ARES-CCD, 2013) The national machinery for gender equality encompasses various entities such as the Gender Equality Department, the National Committee for the Advancement of Women, Committees for the Advancement of Women in all government ministries and the Family Department within the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism. (World Bank, 2011)

A Reformed Law of gender equality No.76/2006/QH11 was approved by National Assembly in 2006 which recommends a minimum proportion of 30% female at all levels of the government institutions.

### 4.2.2 Main financial partners

Consultative Group Meetings between the Government of Vietnam and the international donor community in Vietnam are held bi-annually, to discuss the country's development process and ODA coordination. Some 51 donors including 28 bilateral and 23 multilateral were implementing regular ODA programmes in Vietnam in 2007 (MPI, 2007):

- Bilateral donors: Ireland, Britain, Austria, Poland, Belgium, Canada, Kuwait, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, South Korea, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the United States of America, Norway, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Finland, France, the Czech Republic, Spain, Thailand, Sweden, Switzerland, China and Singapore.
- Multilateral donors: the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, the Nordic Investment Bank, the Nordic development Fund, the OPEC Fund for International Development and the Kuwait Fund.
- International and intergovernmental organisations: the European Commission, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, the United Nations Development Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation, the ILO, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, and the World Health Organisation.

In the period 1993-2007, ODA has made a significant contribution to development investment, accounting for some 11% of total social investment and some 17% of investment from the State budget. (MPI, 2007) In recent years, ODA has been decreasing, and hence also its contribution to the state budget. (World Bank, 2015)

## 4.3 Description of the Vietnamese civil society, the decentralised authorities and the governmental institutions and their most important financial partners, per intervention domain

### 4.3.1 Agriculture

#### *Civil society*

- Relevant CBOs in this sector are water user groups, savings and credit groups, farmers' collectives etc. Most activities undertaken by the CBOs are financially sustainable. Their emergence is closely associated with donor/INGO development interventions. (Sabharwal and Than Thi Thien Huong, 2005)
- Farmer/agricultural cooperatives are collective organisations established or transformed under the Law for Cooperatives of 1996. Cooperatives' activities focus mainly on providing services to the farming community (e.g. post-harvest process of crops, improvement of rural infrastructure, etc.) and on facilitating market access. (FAO, 2015) In 2008, there were about 6,500 cooperatives active in agriculture, involving about 5,300,000 people. (Tu, 2011) These cooperatives provide the opportunity for a new generation of local leaders to seize economic opportunities by organising farmers to produce and market their goods collectively, and hence to improve their income and their livelihoods. (Sabharwal and Than Thi Thien Huong, 2005)
- Mass organisations as the Farmers Association (with 8 million members across Vietnam) and the Vietnam Women's Union (VWU) play an important role in the agricultural sector. The VWU, a quasi-governmental body functioning at the national, provincial, district and communal level

throughout the country, plays a key role in the rural financial market, organising and training women for income generation, saving and credit activities. (FAO, 2015)

- VNGOs involved in the sector.
- INGOs involved in this intervention domain, and their financial partners such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other bilateral donors. This can also include funding made available through specific programmes (e.g. youth job creation programmes or mitigation of the effects of climate change on agricultural production). (Workshop Report, 2015)

#### *Decentralised authorities and governmental institutions*

- Of the decentralised authorities, the People's Committees play important roles in the agricultural sector, on village, district and provincial levels.
- The main public institution involved in the agricultural sector in Vietnam is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The MARD is responsible for rural development and the governance, promotion and nurturing of agriculture and the agricultural industry, forestry, aquaculture, irrigation and the salt industry; and water management and flood control. It supervises the majority of agricultural research and development undertaken in Vietnam and maintains an agricultural R&D system for crops, livestock, water resources, and land use planning. Until September 2005, 32 agencies were placed directly under MARD or under state-owned enterprises under MARD's control. (Stads and Hai, 2006)
- Vietnam currently does not have public institutions in charge of trade facilitation and export of agricultural production. Trade facilitation policies are implemented by the Ministry of Transport (MOT; oversees transport infrastructure development management to meet the needs of the industrialisation of the country); the Ministry of Finance (MOF; manages borders, imports and exports); the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT; responsible for monitoring the policy environment, and for supervising imports and exports as well as logistic service activities). But also the MARD, the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), and the Ministry of Resources and Environment (MRE) play important roles in trade facilitation. (Duc Minh Pham et al, 2013)

### 4.3.2 Health

#### *Civil society*

- In the health sector, VNGOs mainly focus on strengthening the primary health care delivery as well as the training of health staff. For instance, the Vietnamese Red Cross' (VRC) activities include health training and disaster response activities. In a law of June 2008, the government positioned the VRC to provide first aid trainings and to certify aid trainers.
- International organisations and donors, and INGOs provided most of the funding for parasitic diseases control activities; the funds from the Vietnamese government are very limited.
- In spite of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Disabled People, there are still very few Disabled People's Organisations at provincial, district and communal level. An exception is the Disability Research and Capacity Development (DRD). (Workshop Report, 2015)
- The main actors involved in malaria control and elimination and parasitic diseases control activities all belong to the government.

#### *Decentralised authorities and governmental institutions*

The health system in Vietnam is a mixed public-private provider system. The public system plays a key role, especially in prevention, research and training. The private system, which has expanded rapidly in the past twenty years, remains largely a "parallel" system, i.e. not integrated in the official health system and often not complying with official guidelines. The public health care services are strengthened by several national health programmes (10 in total), addressing the most important public health problems such as malaria, TB, HIV...

Following the government policy for gender equity a minimum proportion of 30% female staff has to be employed and involved in decisional boards. In the health sector (both public and private), this minimum target is met as the proportion of female nurses and doctors tends to outweigh males.

### *Malaria*

- The National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) is headed by the Department of preventive Medicine of the Ministry of Health (MOH), and its activities are organised, coordinated and supervised by the National Institute of Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology, Hanoi (NIMPE) funded in 1957. The NIMPE is the leading specialised institute appointed by the MOH to provide technical advice, research, training, data analysis, international collaboration in the scientific research, and scientific communication. NIMPE is responsible for the day-to-day management of the control programs of parasitic diseases, in particular the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP). NIMPE is directly responsible for the implementation and the quality of the NMCP managed through the existing provincial, district and commune health services. From district level down, malaria prevention/control activities are integrated in the general health care services. NIMPE, Hanoi is relayed by two regional institutes with similar appointments for the Central and Southern provinces. The main financial partners of NIMPE are currently the MOH contributing about 2,8M US\$ annually and the Global Fund for Malaria, TB and AIDs/HIV with about 29M US\$ annually between 2015 and 2017.
- At all levels of society, the People Committee, representing the CPV, is actively involved in the supervision and implementation of all activities implemented at community level (Insecticide Treated Nets-distribution, spraying campaigns, screening campaigns, information campaigns...).
- Additionally, there are different international research teams or organisations conducting malaria research in collaboration with NIMPE (such as University of California San Francisco, Oxford University, WHO, Louvain Cooperation with ADB) and organisations that have expressed interest in collaborating on malaria elimination.

### *Parasitic diseases*

- The Parasitic Diseases control programme has not become a national health programme yet. The programme received funds through some other programs such as the National Nutrition Control Program and the National Programme for School Health Communication.
- The NIMPE is the leading institution for all parasitic diseases control in Vietnam, in collaboration with IMPE Quy Nhon, and IMPE HCMC; the latter also conducts separate research and control activities for parasitic diseases in the Central and Southern parts of Vietnam.
- Some other institutes such as the National Institute of Nutrition, the National Institute of Veterinary Research, the National Veterinary Diagnosis Centre, the Institute of Biotechnology, the Research Institute of Aquaculture No. 1, are involved in research activities for parasitic diseases control.
- Equally some organisations belonging to the educational system (pre-schools, primary school, Women's Unions, from central to commune levels) are involved in parasitic disease control activities.

### **4.3.3 Education**

#### *Civil society*

- There has been limited engagement between grassroots CSOs and the Government of Vietnam around education. However, nascent CSOs, including child-focused organisations, CBOs and other interest groups have started to improve their visibility and their effectiveness. They have had already a recognisable impact at community level, but their influence on public policy and

budgeting is still limited. The influence of newly born environmental organisations could be of major importance to push environmental education in primary schools.

- Given the political organisation of the country, mass organisations, connected to the CPV, play an important role in linking rights' holders (e.g. parents) and duty bearers (ministries and government at national and decentralised levels). A few Belgian NGOs already work closely with mass organisations such as Vietnam's Women Union. VWU plays an important role in raising awareness among ethnic minorities on the importance of ECE and primary school, especially for girls, disabled children and children from families that do not speak Vietnamese.

### *Decentralised authorities and governmental institutions*

#### ➤ **ECE & General Education**

Vietnam designed a 2003-15 National Education Plan which focuses on the following features from early childhood to lower secondary level (including non-formal education): development of a labour force capable of handling complex technologies; improving educational contents, pedagogical approaches, learning outcomes as well as teaching and learning attitudes; bringing disadvantaged children into school; reforming the current cycle for basic education into a 9-year cycle and decentralising the system. This plan thus clearly recognises decentralisation of educational management as a key factor; this process is aimed at both institutional decentralisation, to move political responsibility to lower levels of government, and fiscal decentralisation, to move the budget responsibility to lower levels of government. For instance, the provinces are expected to receive more freedom to allocate resources in line with the province's special needs.

In parallel, the Government and its partners worked closely to develop the Education Development Strategic Plan 2011-2020. The Local Education Group, which includes donors, international development organisations and CSOs, meets regularly under government leadership. ECE is an important component of the Education Development Strategic Plan 2011-2020, with the aim to accomplish the objectives of universal pre-school education for the 5 years old by 2015; at least 30% of kindergarten-age children and 80% of preschool-age children receiving education; and less than 10% of children in preschool institutions suffering from malnutrition.

The Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) received a Global Partnership for Education-grant of \$84.6 million in June 2012 for the implementation of the Vietnam Escuela Nueva project, an adaptation of the well-known Escuela Nueva programme in Colombia. The project introduces new teaching and learning practices in classrooms in 1,447 primary schools and reaches 440,000 children and is expected to bring about system-wide transformation through pedagogical innovation. However, little attention seems to be given to environmental aspects.

In its recent report on Vietnam, the World Bank stresses that equipping higher-skilled workers with the right cognitive and behavioural skills –currently very much needed– starts at the preschool level. For this reason, ECE has recently begun to receive more attention from the government. In general, the national government finances a quarter of the expenses on ECE and General Education.

#### ➤ **TVET**

Also TVET has recently received more attention from the government, which has claimed that human resources of high quality, including vocational and technically trained manpower, are one of the 3 pillars for socio-economic sustainable development in Vietnam. Increasing the quality of human resources is one of three breakthrough solutions for achieving goals of the SEDS 2011 - 2020. But the education and training systems have been subject to serious weaknesses that have given rise to shortages of skills in the economy (OECD, Southeast Asian Outlook 2013). This is why the SEDS strategy envisions an ambitious agenda for human capital development that includes strengthening foundational skills and vocational training, and expanding vocational training for vulnerable

populations. Furthermore, TVET will also need to adapt to the changing environmental demands of the labour market and the green economy (as the consequences of climate change move Vietnam into further increasing its development of a green economy). Developing and improving the quality of vocational training is hence primordial.

Two ministries play major roles in the provision of TVET: the MOET manages a quarter of the TVET programmes and is responsible for the Professional Secondary Schools (grade 10 to 12 or 13) and contributes to the provision of the informal Elementary Vocational Training. The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) is responsible for managing the Intermediate and Higher Vocational Training, and for overseeing TVET as managed by a range of ministries, state-owned enterprises, provincial and district governments and private providers (which is allowed since 1998). In general, the national government finances the full cost of vocational education.

### ➤ Higher Education

The government of Vietnam believes that investing in higher education will contribute to the further development of the country. This link has been established earlier. E.g. a World Bank study from 2007 also shows that investments in higher education positively contribute to economic growth. A positive link between research capacity and development has also been recognised. New knowledge through research is a crucial factor in being able to find solutions to local and global challenges. The Global Innovation Index 2014 also sees a positive correlation between a country's development stage and the percentage of the population that has completed higher education. (Brodén, 2012, 2015; Cornell University, INSEAD and WIPO, 2014; Romer, 1990; World Bank, 2007)

The MOET is the government ministry responsible for the governance of academic education and higher education (training) in Vietnam; and the 'professional' performance and regulation of educational institutions under it, but not for ownership or finance, except for the major public universities. Its aspirations for higher education are detailed in the Higher Education Reform Agenda (HERA). The main objectives of HERA are: an increase in the participation rate in higher education (or tertiary) institutions, which implies higher investments in infrastructure and training; increase in quality and/or efficiency of the system; the introduction or reinforcement of research in universities in order to better train future teachers, to capacitate present teachers and to enhance the quality of Vietnamese universities; improved governance of the higher education and research system at both national and regional levels, as well as of universities. HERA set the following targets for the higher education sector: (1) revenue from science and technology activities increased to 15% of total university revenue by 2010, and to 25% by 2020; (2) the proportion of university teaching staff with masters level degrees increased to 40% by 2010, and to 60% by 2020; (3) the proportion of university teaching staff with doctoral level degrees increased to 25% by 2010, and to 35% by 2020; and (4) the ratio of university students to teaching staff reduced to 20:1 by 2020. (ADB, 2010)

The government currently spends 1.05% of total government expenditure on tertiary institutions and pursues an active policy of human resources development and quality improvement of its academic staff (UNESCO, 2012). Budget expenditure increases, but it is not balanced with the growth in the number of students. In general, the national government finances the full cost of higher education. However, wages of teaching staff at all levels (including higher education) are low. To add to their income, many provide supplementary education on an informal basis or take on another job. The financial allocations to education fall hence far short of the requirements.

#### 4.3.4 Labour and social protection

##### *Civil society*

- Only one trade union is allowed to represent workers' interest, namely the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL), an institution that is closely linked to the CPV. In 2013, they had a total membership of 7.9 million workers, about half of them are women workers, organised in 113,000 local unions, mostly in administrations and state-owned enterprises. 85% of Vietnamese and 65% of the foreign enterprises do not have a workers' union. The VGCL dialogues with employers at company level with the aim of establishing collective bargaining agreements and sits in on the national tripartite meetings with government and employers' association.
- The Women Union is a mass organisation with 15 million members in 2011 and a mandate for women's rights protection. Amongst others, they promote the rights of female workers, particularly on issues of health care, maternity care, leave for child care and retirement. Its local affiliates have been active in organizing women, mainly in conducting charity and supporting woman-led micro economic models.
- Only about 10 VNGOs support workers in their communities with a focus on rights awareness building and provision of services, such as legal aid and vocational training. Many focus on women workers. Some others have specialised in labour research. Some have also taken up the issue of E-waste and hazardous working conditions in the electronics industry.
- There are about 80,000 formal companies and business associations in Vietnam, of which 10,000 are represented and served by the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, amongst others in facilitating dialogue among businesses and between businesses and governmental agencies. Foreign Invested Companies represent about 23% of Vietnam's total investment. The share and role of state-owned enterprises is declining. SMEs constitute the bulk of the private sector, most of them working informally within the domestic market.
- With regards to financing, both the VGCL and local labour NGOs can count on financial support from INGOs. The VGCL has built stronger international connections, resulting also in financial support from international trade unions.

##### *Decentralised authorities and governmental institutions*

- The Vietnamese Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) is in charge of drafting laws on labour and of labour law enforcement through labour inspection and attending to labour disputes. MOLISA also represents the government in tripartite meetings with the government and the VGCL. Together with the Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs (ILSSA), they have developed a Master Plan on main Social Issues for the period 2012 to 2020 with the intention to implement a social protection system for the entire population based on principles of universality, solidarity, equitability, sustainability, promotion of individual responsibility as well as prioritising the poor. This Master Plan has been replaced by Resolution no.15/NQ-TX and Decree 70/NQ-CP. (Workshop Report, 2015). The Ministry of natural Resources and Environment ensures the implementation of the law on Environmental Protection. The Department of Waste Management and Environmental Improvement deals with hazardous waste. Under MOLISA also operates the National Institute for Labour Protection that deals amongst others with occupational health and accidents in hazardous industries.
- At provincial, district and commune level, decentralised authorities play a role in social dialogue and dispute settlement.

## **5. Analysis of the local civil society, the decentralised authorities and the governmental institutions, and the strategies that are being considered to strengthen their positions**

### **5.1 Analysis of the local civil society and the strategies that are being considered to strengthen their positions**

#### **5.1.1 Analysis**

The Vietnamese civil society is very broad-based, but made up of a complicated mixture of organisations of different origin, structure, legitimacy, purpose and financing. The depth of membership is, on the contrary, substantially lower, because members are not very active. Also networks between organisations are very weak, which diminishes the impact of their activities, learning and advocacy, and the umbrella organisations do not provide sufficient support infrastructure. Capacity building and infrastructure are some of the organisations' most pressing needs. (Norlund, 2007)

In the early years, CSOs were often very clearly quasi-governmental, receiving core financial support from the state while occasionally carrying out semi-independent research. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the government institution charged with outlining the legal framework for organisations and permitting associations to be established; however, a clear legal framework currently does not yet exist. Vietnamese organisations have hence acquired their legal statuses in a variety of manners, registering under relevant ministries, agencies, departments, or with umbrella organisations such as the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA) or the Southeast Asia Research Association of Vietnam (SEARAV). (The Asia Foundation, 2012) In recent years, VUSTA became one of the most important umbrella organisations for professional associations and VNGOs. (Norlund, 2007) One of the issues ensuing from the lack of a clear legal framework for CSOs is that it creates an uncertain operating environment and reinforces the importance of personal networks in getting things done rather than a set of transparent procedures applicable to all NGOs. (The Asia Foundation, 2012)

As new organisations and networks appear, they start to shape the discussion of the state of civil society, and the fabric of civil society in Vietnam is gradually changing. This is also linked to the growing urban middle class and their internet use: access to information and general levels of awareness have increased. This has an impact on the State's monopoly on organising civil society, as part of the state system. (EU, 2014) However, the influence of civil society on government politics is limited. (ARES-CCD, 2013) The government encourages the daily activities of thousands of small organisations, but within the frame of a strict regulatory framework, based on a system of approval and on-going state supervision. (ARES-CCD, 2013) Nevertheless, the government also increasingly recognises that the complex nature of the development process requires contributions from many stakeholders; and that those of the CSOs can be particularly valuable.

Support to public services (focusing on socio-economic development, poverty reduction and community engagement) is regarded as an important form of CSOs' engagement in Vietnam. CSOs can play a constructive role in providing feedback to improve the effectiveness of government policies. Despite the 2003 "Grassroots Democracy" Ordinance which encourages citizens' participation in the management of public affairs, there has been a shortage of CSOs with a mandate to support increased dialogue between various stakeholders and the government. The "social responsibility" approach mainstreamed by the CPV emphasises the need to involve social actors in policy dialogues, but there is no comprehensive legal framework for its operation. The draft Law on Associations is still under revision by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which shows that the issue of an "independent" civil society remains politically sensitive. Even though CSOs' engagement in policy and law making is clearly still limited, a number of CSOs have established relations with government

partners and are gradually engaging. (EU, 2014) The relationship between the state and civil society in Vietnam is thus still very much an evolving relationship.

What follows below is a general SWOT analysis of the Vietnamese Civil Society, outlining the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

<b>SWOT Civil Society Vietnam</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Diversified nature based on human activity and creativity (origin, structure, legitimacy, purpose, financing)	Networks/umbrella organisations are weak and do not provide enough support to organisations
Influence on public policies upon invitation: constructive role in providing feedback to improve effectiveness of government policies	Capacity building and infrastructure are pressing needs
CSOs have some impact and influence (except in the field of Education)	Low depth of membership
Structures and policies are in place	Lack of clear framework for CSOs limits their potential to deliver services: uncertain operating environment; no transparent procedures
Growing and very diverse CSO network and collaboration between these CSOs.	Poor linkages / integration between different levels and sectors
	Limited funding for CSOs
	Lack of follow-up and service quality control: no, or ineffective, processes
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
Increasing recognition of government that complex nature of development process requires contributions from many stakeholders; incl. CSOs	Lack of coherence among numerous small initiatives launched by multilateral donors, bilateral donors, ...
Leverage bilateral and multilateral agreements to improve policies	Lower investment and less donors due to the country's relatively new MIC-status
Disseminate best practice	Bilateral cooperation can limit funding and innovation
Leverage government commitment to key sectors	Weak enforcement of policies, regulations, etc.
	Bureaucratic governmental processes exist that create difficulties for NGOs to access local funds and hinder community development

### 5.1.2 Strategies to strengthen their position

Engagement in this sector will require the donor community and the government to develop a common shared approach and strategy to support civil society to move from the margins into the mainstream of development practice and debate. (Sabharwal and Than Thi Thien Huong, 2005)

- According to Sinh (2002), “the three ways in which NGOs can play important role to strengthen the civil society are: (1) development of the communities; (2) nurturing of sustainable development in the communities; and (3) enhancement of bottom-up democratisation.” Certainly the third strategy has to be stressed.
- As equally outlined in the EU Roadmap for Civil Society, capacity building is critical to strengthen CSOs so they can perform their roles more effectively. This capacity building can be related to internal governance, sustainability and registration, improved service delivery for the most vulnerable groups of society, advocacy capacities, and so on.

- Another way to strengthen CSOs could be to support their organisational development, e.g., as Nordlund (2007) indicates, through training and organisational needs assessments in dialogue with the organisations.
- Specifically in the Vietnamese context, it is necessary to promote an improved enabling environment (socially, legally and economically) for social organisations, associations and movements, for instance an improved legal framework and more opportunities for dialogues between CSOs and the government, and a more structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies.
- Furthermore, it is important to strengthen CSO networks and partnerships with other stakeholders (public and/or private sector) to improve policy advocacy and programmes. (Workshop Report, 2015) CSO networking is important to develop information flows between various organisations, which in turn improves cooperation and coordination.

In view of the possible decline of grant ODA to Vietnam, CSOs will have to invest in diversifying their financial sources, explore private or corporate philanthropy, and, in order to do so, increase their visibility and credibility towards enterprises and corporations, the government and the public at large. (EU, 2014) However, many CSOs remain dependent on international donors, and struggle to access sufficient public or private funding to support their activities. (The Asia Foundation, 2014)

## 5.2 Analysis of the decentralised authorities and the government institutions and the strategies that are being considered to strengthen their positions

### 5.2.1 Analysis of the decentralised authorities and public institutions

The high degree of actual autonomy at the sub-central levels has intensified the conflicts between the central government and sub-central governments and also created intergovernmental competition for resources, especially from private and foreign invested capital, which are an important means to build greater autonomy for the latter. On the positive side, both formal decentralisation and informal decentralisation contribute to policy innovation and subsequently to enhancing the quality of governance in many aspects. (Thanh Thuy Vu et al, 2014)

What follows below is a SWOT analysis, outlining the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of the Vietnamese decentralised authorities and public institutions.

SWOT Decentralised Authorities and Public Institutions Vietnam	
Strengths	Weaknesses
Formal and informal decentralisation contribute to policy innovation	High degree of actual autonomy at sub-central level has intensified conflicts between central government and sub-central government.
Formal and informal decentralisation contribute to the quality of governance	Weak enforcement of policies, regulations, etc.
Decentralisation facilitates implementation of programmes	Decentralisation is not always effective
	Poor linkages/integration between different levels and sectors
Opportunities	Threats
Leverage government commitment to key sectors	Intergovernmental competition for resources, amongst others because of lower investment and less donors due to middle income status
Leverage bilateral and multilateral agreements to improve policies	

### 5.2.2 Strategies to strengthen their position

The following strategies have been identified to strengthen the condition of the decentralised authorities and public institutions in Vietnam (Workshop Report, 2015).

- Strengthen collaboration between the government and CSOs.
- Strengthen multi-actor collaboration in general.
- Improve collaboration between government ministries.

## 5.3 Analysis of the local civil society, the decentralised authorities and the governmental institutions, and the strategies that are being considered to strengthen their positions, per intervention domain

### 5.3.1 Agriculture

#### *Civil society*

<b>SWOT Civil Society – Agriculture</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Growing networks of CSOs in agriculture and natural resources management	Decreasing level of funding
Increasing collaboration & coordination among CSOs	Lack of CSOs with agricultural expertise and ability to work with farmers towards sustainability; limited adoption of sustainable and ecological agriculture methods and practices
Adequate land available to produce high level outputs	Lack of CSOs' ability to develop and support farmer organisations to access markets and operate in viable way
Ability of CSOs to develop and support farmer organisations to access markets and operate in viable way	Limited engagement of CSO in response to natural disasters and mitigating impacts
Consumers in Vietnam are more educated and willing to purchase sustainably produced food than they ever have been in the past, which constitutes an opportunity to tap the market	Weak voice in policy advocacy
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
CSO networks have the opportunity to develop and contribute to the development of the sector	Lower investments by bilateral donors since Vietnam has become a middle-income country
Concretise operational collaboration among CSOs/joint projects	Government's preference for high-input agriculture threatening sustainable agriculture in the long run
Private actors starting to tap on expertise and experience by CSOs in training, market linkages and partnerships	Government deals with chemical companies put small farmers in a vulnerable and susceptible situation and limit the government's' commitment to reducing chemical use
Work with private sector to support them to develop inclusive sourcing policies that are favourable to small holder farmers	Strong penetration of corporate interests in agriculture rendering small-scale farmers more vulnerable to inputs dependency (e.g. seeds, pesticides)

Take advantage of consumer interest in safely produced food to strengthen links between farmers and consumers, build the demand	Tapping funds from private actors with corporate social responsibility mandate
Work with farmers (male/female) to encourage land grouping to enable consistent, high quality, safe outputs are produced for national and international market	Limited investment in strengthening capacity to address weakness among CSOs regarding dealing with natural impact on agriculture (disasters)

The following strategies have been identified to strengthen CSOs in the agricultural and rural sector:

- Strengthen network building among CSOs for policy advocacy
- Capacity building in market-based solutions and interventions for farmer organisations
- Rights-based approaches to food security
- Consumer awareness training in relation to safe food production / building consumer trust through transparent practices
- Strengthen relationships between farmer cooperatives and private sector, e.g. via the LINK methodology

### *Decentralised authorities and governmental institutions*

<b>SWOT Decentralised Authorities and Public Institutions – Agriculture</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Good extension system in place (but human resources and funding are limited)	Agricultural trade facilitation is decentralised: different ministries, different government levels: overlaps lead to confusion
	Lack of uniform approach/ common understanding regarding trade facilitation between National Council on Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement and the National Committee for International Economic Cooperation
	Human resources and funding are limited
	System is not adequately funded and implementation is weak (prolonged process of registration/ permission for operation/ government admin process)
	Lack of integration of natural capital accounting and eco-system evaluation into agriculture sector development planning
	Lack of policy framework to influence investment on sustainable production
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
Identify diversified funding opportunities and resources to improve agriculture	Business environment and import-export environment has been slow to improve due to challenges facing the institutional framework
Government's will/ desire to boost agriculture	Import-export trades remains weak and outdated and unable to keep track of the high growth rate of trade, and ultimately because Vietnam lacks the capital and other crucial resources to implement its strategies. (Duc Minh Pham et al, 2013)

	Poor coordination of international donor funds for agriculture and rural development
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The following strategies have been identified to strengthen the condition of the decentralised authorities and public institutions in Vietnam in the field of agriculture:

- Encourage their participation in agri-networks for the purpose of sharing information and to identify synergies and avoid duplication where governmental information or presence is lacking
- Close collaboration with other government institutions (MARD, IPSARD, PACCOM, CASRAD) to gather information that impacts the agri-sector.
- Advocate for the development of agricultural policies that are focussed on sustainable development.

### 5.3.2 Health

#### *Civil society*

<b>SWOT Civil Society – Health</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
MOH takes into account recommendations from CSOs	Limited financial resources
Decentralisation allows the Department of Health (DOH) to implement CSOs' recommendations at local (provincial) level	Retention of trained staff
Agreement between MOH and the VRC for license for First Aid posts	Poor organisational governance of CSOs
CSOs remain optimistic and dynamic with regards to fundraising avenues	No service user organisation to control the quality of services
CSOs manage to attract young, technology driven leaders which have previously worked in INGOs	Disability is still considered a medical problem (=disease) with little treatment options and limited holistic approach to address it
CSOs play an important role to integrate FBD control activities within other diseases' control programmes in local communities	
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
Involvement of CSOs in the National Malaria Control Plan could lead to more effective malaria control/elimination strategies in terms of case management and surveillance, vector control, health information and education, and epidemiological surveillance system. This requires a strong political commitment in order to simplify the current regulations related to the registration and functioning of CSOs.	Decentralisation is not always effective; administrative and legal procedures are complex
CSOs play an important role to integrate FBD control activities within other diseases' control programmes in local communities.	More and more donors give funds in bilateral cooperation posing risks for lack of innovative models
DPOs, when existing, should disseminate different approaches towards the medical sector (individual/contextual barriers to be removed)	

The following strategies have been identified to strengthen CSOs in the health sector:

- Support closer collaboration with government actors
- Share about Foodborne parasitic diseases control activities and share funding
- Clear policy related to the function of CSOs for health care (FBD control, malaria control, etc.)
- Capacity building of DPOs

### *Decentralised authorities and governmental institutions*

<b>SWOT Decentralised Authorities and Public Institutions – Health</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
NMCP is being implemented (2011-2020/2030)	Very poor control and follow-up on service quality
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
Possible to implement programme model at provincial level to then advocate at national level due to decentralisation and budget allocated by the People’s Committee	Progressive reduction of government funds allocated to the NMCP

**In general**, the following strategies have been identified to strengthen the condition of decentralised authorities and public institutions in Vietnam:

- Improve collaboration between the MOH and the MOLISA, and also the corresponding departments (DOH / DOLISA) related to people with disabilities;
- Improve collaboration between all ministries and MOH related to health issues (e.g. Information, Education, Communication (IEC) material dissemination).

### **5.3.3 Education**

#### *Civil society*

<b>SWOT Civil Society – Education<sup>11</sup></b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
	CSOs’ impact (including child-focused organisations, community based associations and other interest groups) on public policy and budgeting is extremely limited
	Limited engagement between grassroots CSOs and the Government of Vietnam around child learning and development
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
Opportunity for INGOs to work with and support VNGOs;	Enabling factors for the participation of civil society are still weak
Partnerships with nascent environmental organisations to advocate on environmental education	
Work with mass organisations such as women’s Union to raise awareness within ethnic minorities on the importance of sending girls, disabled and non-Vietnamese speaking children to school (especially ECE)	

The following strategies have been identified to strengthen CSOs in the education sector:

<sup>11</sup> In view of limited CSO engagement in the field of education, 1 SWOT suffices to cover ECE, GE, TVET and HE.

- Strategically building up the capacity for local civil society actors to play a key role in creating demand for integrated services to fulfil children’s rights (ECCD, primary and secondary education) and engage in critical dialogue with government responsible agencies.
- Strengthen CSO mapping and capacity.
- Strengthen alliances with other stakeholders to support CSOs

*Decentralised authorities and governmental institutions*

<b>SWOT Decentralised Authorities and Public Institutions – Education ECE and General Education</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Decentralised system in place with sufficient teachers and staff and available policies and frameworks	Pre-service and in-service training of ECE lecturers, teachers and managers is slow in picking up the new curriculum and this remains of poor quality, which result in low teacher qualifications/competencies.
Less attention given to environmental education	Poor linkage between different levels and pre-service and in-service
	Weak coordination and collaboration between the different levels of governmental offices in charge of education (ministries, departments, bureaus)
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
The MOET is promoting the use of child-centred methodologies as a key strategy to enhance learning outcomes	Policies do not match practical needs/ Wrong focus: infrastructure at the expense of professional and curricula development
All stakeholders want to develop education	Context is not well considered in policies/ frameworks
Partnerships with nascent environmental organisations to advocate on environmental education; Work with mass organisations such as women’s Union to raise awareness within ethnic minorities on the importance of sending girls, disabled and non-Vietnamese speaking children to school (especially ECE)	Remaining issues in terms of access and equity include ECE enrolment and retention among disadvantaged groups, in particular ethnic minorities, girls, children with disabilities and children with learning difficulties.

The following strategies have been identified to strengthen Decentralised Authorities and Public Institutions in the education sector:

- capacity building of the provincial bureaus in charge of teachers training regarding the curriculum implementation in ECE and primary education , with a focus on in-service training;
- dissemination of information regarding ECE in remote and ethnic areas;
- improvement of the curricula contextualisation to meet local specificities.

<b>SWOT Decentralised Authorities and Public Institutions – Education TVET</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
The Government has recognised the need for a well-educated, trained and adaptable work force to sustain socio-economic growth and further reduce poverty. One of the main goals is to systematically improve the quality of education at all levels and in all forms.	Education management needs further strengthening at all levels to deliver quality education for all

Presence of WU that works towards the social and economic empowerment and advancement of women.	Education quality need to be improved to meet international standards and national development needs
	Low awareness of importance of TVET to skills development and livelihood improvement
	Low female enrolment in vocational training
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
Demographic opportunity: call upon education to continue an inclusive, innovative and sustainable development with a key role for national vocational and technical education system towards promoting employability of youth to meet today's and future needs of the labour market.	In terms of quality, there is a need to further enhance learning outcomes.
National/local governments, educational agencies and schools pay little attention to raise awareness of alternatives for a university education and even more so for the value and importance of TVET. The Women's Union with branches in communes can play a major role in raising awareness about career guidance issues.	An insufficient allocation of financial and human resources of the National and Provincial Women's Union.
Capacities in place as partners are mandated to implement the National Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development and the Action Plan to implement the National Strategy on Disaster Prevention, Control and Mitigation in the Education Sector.	Further need to devolve authority from the central administration to local institutions in order for them to define their own markets and train for them without undue bureaucratic interference, stimulate local initiative and mobilise resources.

The following strategies have been identified to strengthen the condition of the decentralised authorities and public institutions in Vietnam in the field of TVET:

- Ensuring that programs are Market Driven;
- Ensuring industry involvement in Vocational training;
- Strengthening management of vocational training institutes;
- Improving qualifications of teachers and lecturers;
- Increasing gender awareness in relation to vocational training;
- Facilitating communication among labour market actors and vocational training institutes.

<b>SWOT Decentralised Authorities and Public Institutions – Education</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Education is valued by parents, government, etc.	Limited infrastructure and funding
Availability of high quality staff	Curricula are not always autonomous
Strong representation of female students in all research areas.	Low rate of post-graduated education
	Research-based education not developed
	Little or no women in high-level administrative positions
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
Academic exchange and networking	Competition from foreign institutions
Opportunities for quality labour	Brain-drain from Vietnam
Leverage government's recognition of the sector of higher education	Low employability of graduates

Participation by CSOs in improving education	
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The following strategies have been identified to strengthen the condition of the decentralised authorities and public institutions in Vietnam in the field of education:

- Improve collaboration between MoET, MoST and NAFOSTED regarding needs and challenges within higher education.
- Improve collaboration between all institutes of higher education and research centres in Vietnam.

### 5.3.4 Labour and social protection

#### *Civil society*

<b>SWOT Civil Society – Labour and social protection</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Trade Union has a broad structure from the centre to grassroots level.	No effective representation of workers towards government or employers.
Trade Union has adopted policies to adapt themselves to the changes (for example, organise from bottom up and CBA).	Labour unions (especially local/enterprise level) lack independence and capacity to monitor labour law implementation and to negotiate with employers.
NGOs have activities that are complementary to those of the labour unions.	Labour unions (especially local/enterprise level) fail to provide good services to their members (e.g. info on labour rights).
Some NGOs are making link to other aspects of development, for example linking occupational health with environmental pollution in certain industries.	NGOs lack capacities to scale up their activities, and are sometimes too single-issue focused; other CSOs are small and weak.
	Women workers' issues and issues of informal workers are largely unattended.
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
Increasing cooperation with local officials to also address workers' issues outside the workplace.	Tight government control.
Internal debates (e.g. on the right to strike) grow.	Weak law enforcement.
International cooperation as a pushing factor to increase impact.	Lack of labour inspection.
Labour provisions found in general bilateral and multilateral agreements (EU, UN, Free Trade).	Challenge of regional and international integration.
Agreement (FTA), Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) could support improvements in Vietnam's labour laws.	No clear and effective mechanism to deal with discrimination against labour activists.
International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 98, 105 (VN plans to satisfy) .	Further integration in the global economy, combined with lack of regulatory frameworks, will attract more investment in polluting industries.
Promotion of more sustainable growth requires stronger regulation of the production, with potential positive impact on the workers.	

The following strategies have been identified to strengthen CSOs in the field of labour and social protection:

- Build awareness of workers on their rights to labour and social protection;

- Creation and strengthening of local unions at enterprise level, including local women leadership, effective democratic representation, social dialogue;
- Overall organisational development of labour actors;
- Promote cooperation between various actors: labour unions, NGOs, research organisations, local authorities,... for more effective labour rights defences;
- Increase international exchange, networking and cooperation for improved learning.

### *Decentralised authorities and governmental institutions*

<b>SWOT Decentralised Authorities and Public Institutions – Labour and social protection</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
In the past years: increasing cooperation with VNGOs about labour conditions/workers' issues	MOLISA not capable to inspect labour law application and under-resourced
MOLISA takes active role in design of ILO's Social Protection Floor	Not sufficient attention to situation of migrant workers or informal workers
	Lack of good statistical data
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
Local Authorities have interest in maintaining social peace, leading to their active involvement in dispute settlements	Promotion of policies of labour flexibilisation without protection
Vietnam engages on Social Agenda of ASEAN, i.e. Social Protection Floor	Government only pays lip-service to Decent Work Agenda or Inclusive Growth strategies
Vietnam shows commitment to Inclusive Growth strategy, applied to workers	Dependency of Vietnam on global economy and possible impact from economic crisis
	Further growth of number of new labour market entrants, pushing down wages, lack of jobs

Strategies to strengthen their condition:

- Promote cooperation between various actors: labour unions, NGOs, research organisations, local authorities,... for more effective labour rights defence.

## 6. Identification of the relevant development actors

In this chapter, an overview of all relevant development actors<sup>12</sup> (civil society, public or private sector) is provided for each intervention domain. The following key has to be kept in mind when reading the tables below:

- Actors: those in **bold** (5 per intervention domain) have been identified as major actors to bring change in the domain
- Change: do these actors promote change +; block change -; ambivalent or undecided + -?
- Interest: generally speaking, in what resides the importance of these actors?
- Influence of these actors: low \*; average \*\*; high \*\*\*
- Importance to success: how important are (collaborations with) these actors to reach results? low \*, average \*\*, high \*\*\*

It should be noted that the Vietnamese government and its different ministries/institutions were identified as key actor across all intervention domains, in view of their strong and direct leverage on policy (law) and implementation (staff, infrastructure). However, this does not mean that government bodies necessarily promote change: two particular areas of weakness can be identified within governmental institutions, whether centralised or decentralised, that have so far blocked or hampered change. Firstly, the lack of coordination between national and official institutions, which prevents effective implementation; secondly, the lack of quality data collection and data analysis that misleads policy drafting.

It can be argued that these weaknesses can be partially compensated through the actions of CSOs that have an important and wide-ranging role to play in terms of influencing law and policy, coordinating with decentralised authorities, capacity building, promoting good practice (e.g. sustainability) and behaviour change at community level.

The need to include for-profit actors into development issues should also be stressed: they hold financial power and are also increasingly aware of the important social responsibility they have. For this reason, private sector actors have also been included in this overview.

### 6.1 Relevant development actors in the field of agriculture

Actors	Change	Interest	Level of influence	Importance to success
<b>Relevant civil society actors in the field of agriculture</b>				
<b>NGOs (Plan, Centre Development International, WWF, Oxfam, SNV, etc.)</b>	+	Influence policy and legal framework, promote sustainable production, empower grass root, livelihood development,	**	**
Consumer groups	+	Demand for good quality products	*	*
<b>Research institutes</b>	+	Promote advanced technologies, knowledge transfer, improve production, protect the environment, etc.	**	**
Indigenous groups	-	Do not accept changes, stick to old practices	*	*

<sup>12</sup> It is important to note here that this is a general evaluation – opinions on the key actors in each field, their influence and their importance might differ across ANGCS involved in the same intervention domains.

Village communities	+ -	Not clear role in agriculture development, usually don't have any interventions on agriculture production	*	*
Women's groups	+	Support women in livelihood development; provide information and training; access to credit	*	**
Foundations (local credit group)	+	Lend to farmers for their production	**	**
<b>Associations</b>	+	Representation of farmers, transfer technology	*	*
Cooperatives (agricultural cooperation)	+	Promote production and farmers' networking	*	*
Environmental groups	+	Sustainability of agriculture and livelihood farmers	**	*
Farmer organisations	+	Livelihood improvement for farmers	*	***
National/ regional/ international networks and alliances	+	Information and knowledge sharing, joint advocacy, etc.	**	**
<b>Relevant decentralised authorities and public institutions in the field of agriculture</b>				
<b>Ministries (MARD, MOST, MOI, MPI)</b>	+	Strategy and policy development in general	***	***
Provinces	+	Implement government's policy and strategy	**	**
Sectorial governmental agencies	-	Provide technical support and sectorial cooperation	**	*
Central bank	+ / + -	Provide financial assistance for implementing strategy and policy	*	*
Public transport	+	Smooth agriculture product transportation	*	*
Public media	+	Provide information about new technology, market information for farmers	*	*
Diplomatic missions	+	Support for agricultural product import and export	**	**
UN-FAO	+	Perform development programs and projects	*	*
Agriculture and fisheries extension	+	Transfer technology	**	**
<b>Relevant private sector actors in the field of agriculture</b>				
Companies	-	} Influence on investment on agriculture and production practices	***	***
Multinationals	+			
Trade/professional associations	+			

<b>Banks</b>	-/+	Important financial power: key role since they can both block or promote change	**	***
Import-export – trans-pacific partnerships	+	Influence on investment on agriculture and production practices	**	***

## 6.2 Relevant development actors in the field of health

Actors	Change	Interest	Level of influence	Importance to success
<b>Relevant civil society actors in the field of health</b>				
<b>NGOs (e.g. Vietnamese Red Cross)</b>	+	Practice: technical support, coordination purpose	**	**
<b>Research institutes</b>	+	Practice: proper data collection	**	**
Indigenous groups	+	Attitude: change behaviour	*	***
<b>Village communities</b>	+	Attitude: change behaviour	*	***
<b>Women's groups</b>	+	Attitude: change behaviour at community level	*	*
Foundations	+	Financial: financial support	**	**
Clubs and associations	+	Attitude: change behaviour	*	**
Consumer groups	+	Attitude / practice: implementer	**	*
Religious groups	+ -	Belief / attitude: quality control	*	**
Charities	+ -	Financial: change behaviour	*	*
Environmental groups	+ -	Policy / practice: financial support and policy design	***	*
National/ regional/ international networks and alliances	+	Information and knowledge sharing, joint advocacy, etc.	**	**
<b>Relevant decentralised authorities and public institutions in the field of health</b>				
Government	+ -	Policy + funding: policy design	***	***
Ministries	+ -	Policy + funding	***	***
Provinces	+	Practice	***	***
<b>Governmental agencies</b>	+	Practice: implementation	***	***
Public transport	+	Practice	***	***
Public media	+	Communication: information dissemination	***	***
Diplomatic missions	+	Policy/advocacy: advocacy and financial support	**	***
International Institutions (4)	+	Advocacy + funding	**	***
<b>Relevant private sector actors in the field of health</b>				
Companies	+	Advocacy + lobby: policy advocacy	*	*
Multinationals	+	Advocacy + lobby: policy advocacy	**	*
<b>Trade/professional associations</b>	+	Practice: to develop and enhance capacity building and continuing education	*	*

## 6.3 Relevant development actors in the field of education

### 6.3.1 ECE, General Education, TVET

Actors	Change	Interest	Level of influence	Importance to success
<b>Relevant civil society actors in the field of education: basic education</b>				
NGOs / INGOs	+	Secondary education, pre-school, primary, TVET: implementing, facilitating, lobbying	*** school level *** provincial level ** national level	***
Research institutes	+	Mainly innovation, also building evidence for policy influencing	** national and provincial level	**
Trade Unions	+	Education in industrial context, lobby on education	** national and provincial government ** company	**
Indigenous and cultural groups	+	Education for ethnic minorities / culturally appropriate education; contextualisation	*** school level	**
<b>Village communities</b>	+	Education for local community; contextualisation and support	*** school level	***
<b>Women's groups</b>	+	Parenting: behaviour change for parents	*** village level	**
LGTB	-	Only needed if LGBT is a topic in a programme	*** village level	*
Foundations (local credit group)	+	Financial support	* (limited, at village level)	*
Clubs and Associations	+	All, behaviour change of members (parents)	* school/ student level * school level	*
Consumer groups	-	(To be avoided)	*	*
Cooperatives	-	Infrastructure and facilities	* (local level)	*
Religious groups	-		*	*
Charities	-	In-kind support	*	*
Environmental groups	+	Environment in education, behaviour change, capacity development	** (all levels)	*
National/ regional/ international networks and alliances	+	Information and knowledge sharing, joint advocacy, etc.	**	**
<b>Relevant decentralised authorities and public institutions in the field of education: basic education</b>				
Government and ministries ( <b>MOET</b> )	+/-	Sometimes blocking change; sometimes poor change management; funds for innovation are limited; conservative	If they decide to move: *** (national and provincial)	***

Provinces ( <b>DOET</b> )	+/-	Sometimes passive (waiting for instruction of ministry); sometimes pro-active; different from province to province depends on DOET.	** national level *** national and provincial	***
Sectorial government agencies	+ + -	Mass organisations (Women Union to sensitize and disseminate information)  Justice, health, safety, defence, tax  Some research / lobbying  Behaviour change of communities; communication; lobby for policy change	**  *  *  *	**  *  *  *
Central bank	-	No role	*	*
Public transport	-	No direct role	*	*
Public media	+	Communication; awareness raising	** national and provincial level	**
Diplomatic missions	+	Donor; lobbying	** national level	***
<b>International organisations, e.g. UN</b>	+	Implementation; policy drafting and lobbying; advocacy; networking	** national level	***
<b>Relevant private sector actors in the field of education: basic education</b>				
Companies and Multinationals	+	Infrastructure and all in neighbourhood of company, focussed on branding	** school	*
Trade/professional associations	-	Linking trainees with businesses	*	*
Banks	-	No role (except in a potential public/private deal)	*	*
Teacher training institutes	+	Teacher training	***	***

### 6.3.2 Higher Education

Actors	Change	Interest	Level of influence	Importance to success
<b>Relevant civil society actors in the field of education: university education</b>				
NGOs	+	Funding	*	**
<b>Research institutes</b>	+	Capacity and quality results, R&D	***	***
Foundations	+	Scholarships and funding	**	**
Public universities	+	Education , Research, Service to society	*** national, provincial, local	***

National/ regional/ international networks and alliances	+	Information and knowledge sharing, joint advocacy, etc.	**	**
<b>Relevant decentralised authorities and public institutions in the field of education: university education</b>				
Government	+	Policies and strategies, HRD	***	**
Ministries ( <b>MOET, MOST</b> )	-	Education, training and research/ institutional development	***	***
Provinces	+	Cooperation, local development	**	**
Sectorial governmental agencies	+	Supporting services, social services	**	**
<b>Central bank</b>	+	Financial power (loan, audit, credit)	**	**
Public transport	+	Transportation for students	*	
Public media	+	Information (publications, promotion)	**	*
Diplomatic missions	+	International cooperation (capacities)	*	**
<b>Regional and international institutions</b>	+	Can play a role in enhancing cooperation and integration/ Also research and Training	***	***
<b>Relevant private sector actors in the field of education: university education</b>				
<b>Companies</b>	+	Labour use: important partner as companies seek specific job skills and competences/ technology transfer and HRD / funding	***	**
Multinationals	+	Labour use (technology transfer and HRD) / funding	*	*
Trade/professional associations	+/-	Labour use, exchange	*	*
Banks	+	Financial (loan, credit, audit)	*	*

#### 6.4 Relevant development actors in the field of labour and social protection

Actors	Change	Interest	Level of influence	Importance to success
<b>Relevant civil society actors in the field of labour and social protection</b>				
<b>NGOs</b>	+	Promotion of rights-based approach via support and/or advocacy	*	**
Research institutes	+ -	Underpin strategy development and evidence based advocacy	**	**
<b>Trade unions</b>	+ -	Policy development, monitor and defend labour rights & law enforcement, Promote rights awareness	***	***

Village communities	+ -	Promote cooperation at community level	*	**
Women's groups	+	Promotion of gender equality	***	***
LGBT	+	Awareness raising, monitoring and collective defence of rights	*	***
Clubs and associations	+ -	Mobilising, organising, networking and campaigning: collective action	**	***
Consumer groups	+	Ethical consumption, consumer pressure	**	**
Cooperatives	+	Demonstrate alternatives	*	**
Charities	+	Alleviation of needs	*	*
Environmental groups	+	Promote green economies	*	**
National/ regional/ international networks and alliances	+	Information and knowledge sharing, joint advocacy, etc.	**	**
<b>Relevant decentralised authorities and public institutions in the field of labour and social protection</b>				
Government	+ -	Policy development and allocate resources for implementation	***	***
Ministries ( <b>MOLISA</b> )	+ -	Policy implementation and monitoring	***	***
Provinces / cities and towns	+ -	Policy development, implementation, monitoring	**	***
Sectorial governmental agencies (health, education, social security, etc.)	+ -	Policy implementation, service provision	**	***
Central bank	+ -	Service provision	**	*
Public transport	+ -	Service provision	**	*
<b>Public media</b>	+ -	Monitoring of policies, awareness building, public pressure	***	**
Diplomatic missions	+ -	Promotion international standards	**	**
International Institutions (UN)	+ -	Promotion international standards	**	**
<b>Relevant private sector actors in the field of labour and social protection</b>				
<b>Companies</b>	+ -	Law compliance and violation, employment creation	***	***
Multinationals	+ -	Promote ethical practices	**	**
Trade/professional associations	+ -	Defence of private sector interests towards stakeholders	***	**
Banks	+ -	Funding development model.	***	**

## 7. Identification of the possible types of partners of the ANGCS

In this section, each ANGCS has indicated possible types of partners with which collaboration could be possible in the future<sup>13</sup>. The table below provides a general overview; sections 7.1-7.4 provide an overview of the possible types of partners of all ANGCS per intervention domain.

Possible types of partners of ANGCS in Vietnam - general	
Types of actors	Names of ANGCS
<b>Civil society</b>	
VNGOs/INGOs	Aide au Développement Gembloux, APEFE, ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, ITG, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Oxfam, Rode Kruis, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Consumer groups	Aide au Développement Gembloux, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Vredeseilanden
Research institutes	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, Handicap International, ITG, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Oxfam, VLIR-UOS, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Indigenous and cultural groups	Dynamo International, ITG, Plan, WWF
Village communities	APEFE, Dynamo International, ITG, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Mekong Plus, Plan, Vredeseilanden, VVOB, WWF
Women's groups	Aide au Développement Gembloux, APEFE, ARES-CCD, ITG, Mekong Plus, Plan, VVOB, WWF
Foundations (local credit group)	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ITG, Vredeseilanden
Clubs and associations	Dynamo International, ITG, Mekong Plus, Oxfam
Cooperatives	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, ITG, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Environmental groups	ARES-CCD, ITG, WWF
Farmer organisations	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, ITG, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Mekong Plus, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Religious groups	Dynamo International
Charities	Dynamo International
Trade Unions	ARES-CCD, Oxfam
Networks and alliances	Dynamo International, Handicap International, ITG, Oxfam, Vredeseilanden, VVOB, WWF
Non-profit	Dynamo International, Handicap International, ITG, VVOB
CBOs	ITG, Oxfam, Plan, VVOB, WWF
<b>Public sector</b>	
Central government and relevant ministries	APEFE, ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, Handicap International, ITG, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Oxfam, Plan, VLIR-UOS, Vredeseilanden, VVOB, WWF
Provinces	APEFE, ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, Handicap International, ITG, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Plan, Vredeseilanden, VVOB, WWF
Sectorial governmental agencies	APEFE, ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, ITG, Oxfam, Plan, Vredeseilanden, VLIR-UOS, VVOB, WWF
Local governments (cities/towns)	Dynamo International, Handicap International, ITG, Mekong Plus, Oxfam, Plan, Vredeseilanden, VVOB, WWF
Public transport	ARES-CCD, ITG
Public media	ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, ITG, Mekong Plus, Oxfam, WWF
Diplomatic missions	ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, WWF

<sup>13</sup> This is merely an indication of possible partners; this list is not binding.

Regional and international institutions	ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, ITG, Oxfam, Vredeseilanden, VVOB, WWF
Agriculture and fisheries extension	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ARES-CCD, ITG, Mekong Plus, WWF
<b>Private sector</b>	
Companies	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ARES-CCD, Oxfam, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Multinationals	Vredeseilanden
Trade/professional associations	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ARES-CCD, VVOB, WWF
Banks	Vredeseilanden
Trans-pacific partnerships	Vredeseilanden
Teacher training institutes	ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, VLIR-UOS, VVOB

## 7.1 Possible types of partners of ANGCs involved in the field of agriculture

Possible types of partners of ANGCs in Vietnam - agriculture	
Types of actors	Names of ANGCs
<b>Civil society</b>	
VNGOs/INGOs	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ARES-CCD, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Consumer groups	Aide au Développement Gembloux, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Vredeseilanden
Research institutes	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ARES-CCD, VLIR-UOS, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Indigenous and cultural groups	WWF
Village communities	Mekong Plus, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Women's groups	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ARES-CCD, Mekong Plus, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Foundations (local credit group)	Vredeseilanden
Clubs and associations	Dynamo International, Mekong Plus
Cooperatives	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ARES-CCD, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Environmental groups	ARES-CCD, WWF
Farmer organisations	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ARES-CCD, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Mekong Plus, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Networks and alliances	Aide au Développement Gembloux, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Non-profit	Aide au Développement Gembloux
CBOs	Aide au Développement Gembloux, WWF
<b>Public sector</b>	
Central government and relevant ministries	ARES-CCD, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Provinces	ARES-CCD, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Sectorial governmental agencies	ARES-CCD, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Local governments	Mekong Plus, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Public media	ARES-CCD, WWF
Diplomatic missions	ARES-CCD, WWF
Regional and international institutions	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ARES-CCD, Vredeseilanden, WWF
Agriculture and fisheries extension	Aide au Développement Gembloux, Mekong Plus, WWF
<b>Private sector</b>	
Companies	Aide au Développement Gembloux, Vredeseilanden, WWF

Multinationals	Vredeseilanden
Trade/professional associations	Aide au Développement Gembloux, WWF
Banks	Vredeseilanden
Trans-pacific partnerships	Vredeseilanden

## 7.2 Possible types of partners of ANGCs involved in the field of health

Possible types of partners of ANGCs in Vietnam - health	
Types of actors	Names of ANGCs
<b>Civil society</b>	
VNGOs/INGOs	ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, ITG, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Rode Kruis
Consumer groups	
Research institutes	ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, Handicap International, ITG, Louvain Coopération au Développement, VLIR-UOS
Indigenous and cultural groups	Dynamo International, ITG
Village communities	Dynamo International, ITG, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Mekong Plus
Women's groups	ARES-CCD, ITG, Mekong Plus
Foundations (local credit group)	ITG
Clubs and associations	Dynamo International, ITG, Mekong Plus
Cooperatives	Dynamo International, ITG
Environmental groups	ITG
Farmer organisations	ITG, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Mekong Plus
Religious groups	Dynamo International
Charities	Dynamo International
Networks and alliances	Dynamo International, Handicap International, ITG
Non-profit	Dynamo International, Handicap International, ITG
CBOs	ITG
<b>Public sector</b>	
Central government and relevant ministries	ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, Handicap International, ITG, Louvain Coopération au Développement
Provinces	Dynamo International, Handicap International, ITG, Louvain Coopération au Développement
Sectorial governmental agencies	Dynamo International, ITG
Local governments	ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, Handicap International, ITG, Mekong Plus
Public transport	ITG
Public media	Dynamo International, ITG
Diplomatic missions	ARES-CCD, ITG
Regional and international institutions	Dynamo International, ARES-CCD, ITG
<b>Private sector</b>	
Companies	Dynamo International, ITG
Multinationals	ITG
Trade/professional associations	ITG

### 7.3 Possible types of partners of ANGCs involved in the field of education

Possible types of partners of ANGCs in Vietnam – education (basic and university)	
Types of actors	Names of ANGCs
<b>Civil society</b>	
VNGOs/INGOs	APEFE, Dynamo International, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Mekong Plus, Plan
Research institutes	Aide au Développement Gembloux, ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, ITG, VLIR-UOS
Indigenous and cultural group	Dynamo International, Plan
Village communities	APEFE, Dynamo International, Mekong Plus, Plan, VVOB
Women's groups	APEFE, Mekong Plus, Plan, VVOB
Clubs and associations	Dynamo International, Mekong Plus
Cooperatives	Dynamo International,
Farmer organisations	Aide au Développement Gembloux, Dynamo International, Mekong Plus
Religious groups	Dynamo International
Charities	Dynamo International
Networks and alliances	Dynamo International, VVOB
Non-profit	Dynamo International, VVOB
CBOs	Plan, VVOB
<b>Public sector</b>	
Central government and relevant ministries	APEFE, ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, ITG, Plan, VLIR-UOS, VVOB
Provinces	APEFE, Dynamo International, Plan, VVOB
Sectorial governmental agencies	APEFE, Dynamo International, Plan, VLIR-UOS, VVOB
Local governments	ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, Mekong Plus, Plan, VVOB
Public media	ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, Mekong Plus
Diplomatic missions	ARES-CCD
Regional and international institutions	ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, VVOB
<b>Private sector</b>	
Companies	Dynamo International
Trade/professional associations	VVOB
Teacher training institutes	Dynamo International, VLIR-UOS, VVOB

### 7.4 Possible types of partners of ANGCs involved in the field of labour and social protection

Possible types of partners of ANGCs in Vietnam – labour and social protection	
Types of actors	Names of ANGCs
<b>Civil society</b>	
VNGOs/INGOs	Dynamo International, Oxfam
Research institutes	Dynamo International, Oxfam
Indigenous and cultural groups	Dynamo International
Village communities	Dynamo International
Foundations (local credit group)	Dynamo International,
Clubs and associations	Dynamo International, Oxfam
Cooperatives	Dynamo International

Farmer organisations	ARES-CCD
Religious groups	Dynamo International
Charities	Dynamo International
Trade Unions	Oxfam
Networks and alliances	Dynamo International, Oxfam
Non-profit	Dynamo International
CBOs	Oxfam
<b>Public sector</b>	
Central government and relevant ministries	Dynamo International, Oxfam
Provinces	Dynamo International
Sectorial governmental agencies	Dynamo International, Oxfam
Local governments	Dynamo International, Oxfam
Public media	Dynamo International
Regional and international institutions	ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, Oxfam
<b>Private sector</b>	
Companies	Dynamo International

## 8. Identification of the future intervention domains of every ANGC, taking into account the relevant development actors

### 8.1 Future intervention domains and relevant partners per ANGC

Overview of relevant intervention domains and actors, per ANGC		
Name of ANGC	Intervention domains Discussed in JCA & <i>Additional</i>	Most relevant development actors / partners
<b>Aide au Développement Gembloux</b>	Agriculture, education  <i>Water, environment, social economy, civil society strengthening, gender, SMEs</i>	Private companies (market outlet, agri-inputs, distribution); other ANGCs (Mekong +); Research Institutions.
<b>APEFE</b>	Education	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, provincial departments of Education/Labour, TVET schools, community organisations, Women's Union.
<b>ARES – CCD</b>	Agriculture, health, education, labour and social protection  <i>Water, human rights, environment, social economy, civil society strengthening, gender</i>	VNGOs; government actors such as MOET, MARD, MOST; Vietnamese Universities
<b>Dynamo International</b>	Health, education  <i>Human rights, social economy, civil society strengthening</i>	Civil society (VNGO, INGO; village communities) Public sector (Local governments (cities/towns))
<b>Handicap International</b>	Health, education  <i>Human rights, environment, social economy, civil society strengthening, gender</i>	CSOs, Disabled People's Organisations, universities, Ministries, hospitals.
<b>Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde</b>	Health, education	MoH & NIMPE, Hanoi IMPEs (Quy Nhon, HCM city); Provincial health authorities; Provincial Malaria Stations; All type of CSOs involved in health and welfare improvement; Multi-sectorial approach in malaria elimination: transport, education, information, agriculture, construction, etc...
<b>Louvain Coopération au Développement</b>	Agriculture, health, education  <i>Social economy, civil society strengthening</i>	Farmer organisations, NGOs, small producer groups, land issue and agro-ecology networks, self help groups, village health support groups, local/national government, specialised government institutions, research institutes, operational health districts.

<b>Mekong Plus</b>	Agriculture, health, education, labour and social protection, village roads & bridges  <i>Water, environment, social economy, gender, integrated community development</i>	District authorities, mass movements, media, VUSTA, local NGOs
<b>Oxfam Solidarité – Solidariteit</b>	Labour and social protection  <i>Human rights, civil society strengthening, gender</i>	Trade Unions, Labour Defence NGOs, Research NGOs, Advocacy NGOs, CSO networks & alliances, community based workers groups, women workers groups, migrant workers groups, regional NGOs & networks.
<b>Plan België</b>	Education  <i>Human rights and children’s rights, civil society strengthening, gender</i>	Indigenous and cultural groups, village communities, women’s groups, CBOs, central government and relevant ministries, provinces, sectorial government agencies, local governments
<b>Rode Kruis Vlaanderen Internationaal</b>	Health  <i>Water/Sanitation, First Aid, Health education</i>	Vietnamese Red Cross
<b>VLIR-UOS</b>	Agriculture, health, education  <i>Water, environment, technology development</i>	Higher Education Institutions, Research institutions, academics
<b>Vredeseilanden</b>	Agriculture  <i>Environment, social economy, gender, national and international trade</i>	Farmer organisations, MARD, provinces, private companies, ...
<b>VVOB</b>	Education  <i>Environment</i>	The department of Teachers and Educational administrators (DTEA) at national level and the department of education and training (DOET) at province level. Teacher training Institutes (TTIs) at all levels (province, college or university level), the National Women’s Union (NWU) and the Provincial Women’s Union (PWU) in 5 provinces.
<b>WSM</b>	Labour and social protection  <i>Human rights</i>	View JCA Decent Work Asia
<b>WWF</b>	Agriculture  <i>Environment, civil society strengthening, gender</i>	WWF Vietnam

## 8.2 Model of change per intervention domain

For each intervention domain, general long-term and mid-term goals, and the possible future interventions and necessary preconditions to achieve these goals have been defined. (Workshop Report, 2015) The goals and interventions have been described in very general terms, and while an attempt has been made to provide complete models of change, they are not necessarily exhaustive, nor binding.

In all intervention domains, independently from each other, quality in production and service delivery and compliance with international standards has been identified as the ultimate goal to achieve within a 10-year framework. Several types of interventions are also shared across the four intervention domains. These include: advocacy, capacity building, strengthening CSOs at community, local (district/province) and national levels; but also evidence-based programmes, quality control and reaching international standards are recurrent interventions.

One of the main threats to the realisation of the long-term goal remains the non-enabling political environment that prevents policy review and effective implementation. This could be (partially) mitigated through the setup and monitoring of pilot projects and the strengthening of bilateral cooperation with regional and international institutions (universities, hospitals, professional associations, etc.).

### 8.2.1 Agriculture

**Long-term goal:** A dynamic agricultural sector where different stakeholders are providing quality and safe produce in a sustainable manner both for domestic and export markets, contributing to economic, social and environmental development.

#### Five key interventions:

1. Train farmers to improve practices and support the setup and running of farmer organisations (FOs).
2. Advocate to the Vietnamese government for changes in policies, adopting a more favourable stance towards small-scale producers.
3. Develop research in order to
  - Provide support and evidence for programmes and advocacy;
  - Pilot projects and conduct market analysis;
  - Support the dissemination of lessons learned and good practices.
4. Develop funding, amongst others by supporting the strengthening of win-win and lasting relationships between FOs and the private sector.
5. Develop quality control mechanisms to monitor programme implementation and to ensure food safety.

#### Mid-term goals and related preconditions and interventions:

1. **Producers and FOs possess capacities** for sustainable production and marketing of their produce.

Preconditions	Interventions
Understanding/ awareness of sustainable production/ farming techniques	Workshop training and experience sharing, e.g. field visits
Technical and business training for farmers	Knowledge building, organise training

Appropriate Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) standards in place – VietGap / Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) / Global GAP	Research applicability and appropriateness of standards
Potential for up scaling – provide enabling environment (governmental/financial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advocate to different levels of government</li> <li>- Support the link between farmers and financial institutions</li> </ul>

2. **Sustained demand** for quality and safe products by consumers.

Preconditions	Interventions
Quality control standards developed and maintained	Support FOs to implement standards
Consumer rights are protected and consumer trust maintained	Provide training to consumer groups
Produce is consistent and responding to market demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Market analysis and on-going market research</li> <li>- On-going promotion campaigns</li> </ul>
Strong link between FOs and market	Trade fairs/ exhibitions/ field visits

3. **Policies** by government are highly supportive of sustainable and ecological agricultural production systems.

Preconditions	Interventions
Government is open to advocacy	Advocate to government to develop pro-poor, sustainable development policies that are favourable to farmers
Different stakeholders share the same vision and are willing to advocate this vision	Engage different stakeholders in policy advocacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good planning to identify sites</li> <li>- Funding is available</li> </ul>	Put more pilot projects in place that can be used as evidence to influence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relevant research is being done</li> <li>- Commitment of research institutions</li> </ul>	Research institutions use evidence and research findings to lobby government: policy brief developed and submitted; research made public.

4. **Private actors are more inclusive** of farmers and FOs in their business operations.

Preconditions	Interventions
Farmers and FOs are empowered and confident to work with private sector actors	Training is provided to FOs
Private sector is supported to develop inclusive sourcing policies and corporate social responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Train private sector on CSR</li> <li>- Government provides incentive to private sector to be inclusive</li> </ul>
Financial support from financial institutions to provide incentive to private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involve financial institutions in relevant private sector activities</li> <li>- Identify financial institutions and influence them</li> </ul>
Commitment between FOs and private sector to work together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitate link between FOs and private sector</li> <li>- Demonstrate added value/ win-win benefits for both</li> <li>- Contract development</li> </ul>

## 8.2.2 Health

**Long-term goal:** The health system in Vietnam reaches international standards, especially in regard to NTDs, birth defects and road/food/workplace safety.

### Three key interventions:

1. Capacity building at all levels: professionals, universities, training of trainers (TOT), etc.
2. Quality control for the delivery of services and admin/finance management at all levels.
3. Support behaviour change at community level.

### Mid-term goals and related preconditions and interventions:

1. **Human resources/ professionals:** institutes and universities deliver international standard diplomas.

Preconditions	Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- English level of health professionals and students is improved</li> <li>- Professional English is taught in schools</li> <li>- Scholarship funding continues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity building (TOT, formal training, continuing training)</li> <li>- Scholarship funding</li> </ul>

2. **Technical:** lab services in hospitals, health stations and research institutes use innovative equipment.

Preconditions	Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equipment is available and authorised in Vietnam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Needs assessment</li> <li>- Training in use of equipment</li> </ul>

3. **Quality control:** system of control is in place related to finances, management and services.

Preconditions	Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health system must be transparent</li> <li>- MOH is willing to play an active role in supervision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Define Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)</li> <li>- Design tools for quality control</li> <li>- Conduct baseline surveys and evaluations</li> </ul>

4. **Behavioural change:** IEC allows change of behaviour at community level.

Preconditions	Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CSOs and mass organisations are willing to be active at community level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) survey</li> <li>- Capacity building of CSOs</li> <li>- Community based training programmes for laypeople (e.g. first aid, hygiene, sanitation) through a decentralised training structure using evidence-based localised materials</li> <li>- IEC design of message</li> <li>- Big promotional events</li> <li>- Media coverage and campaigns</li> <li>- Continuous hygiene promotion combined with improved sanitation at the local level results in improved health and has significant social economic returns.</li> </ul>

## 8.2.3 Education

### 8.2.3.1 ECE

**Long-term goal:** A basic education system where all children are enabled to develop their own individual skills and contribute to the economic, environmental and social sustainable development

of their communities either by pursuing their education for which they have acquired adapted skills or by getting involved in the community's social and economic growth.

**Three key interventions:**

1. Empowerment of rights holders (parents and community dwellers) to improve awareness on the importance of education for all children (especially girls, ethnic minority children, disabled children) and more specifically for pre-school access.
2. Capacity building of the local duty bearers to improve the quality of the teaching methodologies (especially in pre-schools) and access for minorities.
3. Advocacy towards local and national authorities to improve access to basic school (more specifically to pre-schools) for minority children and to improve teaching methodologies.

**Mid-term goals:**

**1. A comprehensive approach for early childhood development**

Preconditions	Interventions
An early childhood development system is promoted by the MOET and the MOLISA to integrate care aspects for those aged 0 to 6 (better care given by parents and community and better services provided by the authorities) and education aspects for 3-6/8 through school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Young parents and care takers information and training organised by communities and local authorities with the support of ministries and CSOs (and mass organisations such as Women’s Union)</li> <li>- Focus on ethnic minorities</li> <li>- Capacity building on parenting issues to local authorities</li> </ul>

**2. Relevant programme for pre-school (stimulating and culturally relevant)**

Preconditions	Interventions
Existence of a curriculum for ECE	Advocacy, networking, technical training at national level

**3. Parent/ community support**

Preconditions	Interventions
There currently is a lack of national/ provincial framework for parent involvement in pre-schools	Evidence-based advocacy, capacity development, model of parent involvement

**4. Pre-school teachers training**

Preconditions	Interventions
All teachers are trained pre-service	Support in-service training of teachers in place

**5. Enabling/ coordination/ collaboration environment**

Preconditions	Interventions
	Awareness training, advocacy, critical dialogue, exposure visits, peer learning

**8.2.3.2 General Education & TVET**

**Long-term goal:** Quality education for all children at all levels, meaning: a stimulating learning environment, more than just academic skills (include resilience, abilities, competencies, soft/ life skills) and inclusive (gender, disability, ethnic minority).

**Three key interventions:**

1. In-service training for faculty and other school staff (=intervention at the classroom/school level).
2. Help parents to support their children's education (=intervention at the home level).
3. Improve coordination and collaboration between different levels of education, and improve M&E and data collection (=intervention at the system level).
4. Advocacy for the improvement of environmental education in primary schools.

**Mid-term goals:**

1. **Professional development for teachers**
2. **Educational leadership**

Preconditions (for 1 and 2)	Interventions
The MOET is brainstorming/ frame working in-service. Before any action can take place the new frameworks should be clearly defined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teacher professional development: exposure visits, training, peer learning, harvesting results (pre-and in-service)</li> <li>- Evidence-based advocacy</li> <li>- School leadership strengthening</li> <li>- Strategic support and capacity building of TVET institutions (macro and meso level)</li> </ul>
Power for school leaders to decide on needs for in-services training for teachers	
Teacher evaluation/ performance appraisal has to change (very important)	

3. **Relevant curriculum** e.g. competence based, culturally relevant, integrating environmental consciousness

Preconditions	Interventions
Competence based curriculum	Advocacy, networking, technical training
And willingness of the MOET to work with environmental organisations to integrate environment issues in curriculum	

4. **Parent/ community support**

Preconditions	Interventions
There currently is a lack of national/ provincial framework for parent involvement in schools	Evidence-based advocacy, capacity development, model of parent involvement

5. **Child friendly learning environment – infrastructure**

Preconditions	Interventions
Need for research in Vietnam – evidence-based policies (collaboration with nascent environmental CSOs)	Model demonstration, evidence based advocacy, peer learning, harvesting of results

6. **Enabling/ coordination/ collaboration environment**

Preconditions	Interventions
	Awareness training, advocacy, critical dialogue, exposure visits, peer learning

**8.2.3.3 Higher Education**

**Long-term goal:** Achieve complete autonomy of universities to deliver quality education, better governance and quality research.

**Three key interventions:**

1. Capacity building focusing on leadership, governance, research, etc.
2. Open dialogue with authorities.
3. Lobby the authorities to change and improve the current policies.

**Mid-term goals:**

**1. Institutional strengthening**

Preconditions	Interventions
State policies	- Critical dialogue - Lobbying
Well-trained staff	Training (leadership)

**2. Capacity building (faculty/ highly qualified staff)**

Preconditions	Interventions
Language skills	- Training foreign language - Exchange ideas
Professional competence	- Training and practice - Research and Development

**3. Research-based education development (critical thinking, publications)**

Preconditions	Interventions
Suitable curricula	- Learning outcomes - Quality accreditation
Good infrastructure	Investment and cooperation
Qualified staff	Training and exchange

**4. Employability improvement (soft skills, applied knowledge)**

Preconditions	Interventions
Market needs	Survey, observation, alumni, social development
Industry participation	
Local government participation	

**5. Develop cooperation (domestic and international)**

Precondition	Intervention
Win-win principles	- Study / research visits
Sharing common values	- Workshop, meeting, discussions

**8.2.4 Labour and social protection**

**Long-term goal:** Improve working conditions and social protection and promote workers' rights according to international standards.

**Three key interventions:**

1. Advocacy on specific issues (better policies, better law protection and law compliance).
2. Promote CBO network coalition (linking local, national, and regional organisations).
3. Organising workers and providing capacity-building for worker's organisations so that they can defend themselves and be involved in advocacy related to law review and law drafting.

**Mid-term goals and related preconditions and interventions:**

1. **Empower workers** to realise their fundamental principles and rights at work and access to basic social services: visibility (informal workers including farmers), employability, working conditions, gender equality at work, and responsibility for environmental protection.

Preconditions	Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Multi-stakeholder cooperation/ coordination</li> <li>- Support/ input/ leverage international organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote CSO network/ coalition and linking local - national - regional - global levels</li> <li>- Promote good practices</li> <li>- Improve quality of services to workers.</li> <li>- Organise workers</li> <li>- Promote women leadership</li> <li>- Information and knowledge building on root causes, including their impact on human rights, working conditions, gender division of labour, environment</li> <li>- Promote formal recognition of CSO groups as partners in social dialogue.</li> </ul>

2. **Capacity building** for CSOs in promoting for workers' rights (law, policies, monitoring, networking, CBA, organising workers, advocacy campaigning).

Preconditions	Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal framework (labour, social protection, CSO) for improving process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advocacy CB on specific issues and strategies/ tactics</li> <li>- Evidence-based research on working conditions, environmental and gender impact, governance regulation, practices and gaps, etc.</li> <li>- Internal organisational analysis and organisational development, including gender components</li> </ul>

3. **Advocate** for better laws and policies on labour and social protection: better standards, extend coverage to all workers.

Preconditions	Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social partners' pressure on respecting labour rights</li> <li>- Financial and technical support</li> <li>- Broaden space for CSO to play their role</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advocacy (lobby, campaigns, media work) for laws and practices that better protect rights of workers.</li> <li>- Reach out to other sectors, including environmental groups.</li> <li>- Donor commitment to continuous support</li> </ul>

4. Promote **law compliance** (national and international) along the global supply chain.

Preconditions	Interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Workers aware of their rights, and have the skills to claim them</li> <li>- Effective law enforcement mechanisms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training / coaching / education</li> <li>- Dissemination of IEC documents</li> <li>- Legal aid and support to conflict management</li> <li>- Support to social dialogue, possibly via international pressure mechanisms in the supply chains.</li> </ul>

## 9. Analysis of the risks and opportunities per intervention domain

In this chapter, for each intervention domain the risks and opportunities related to the interventions indicated in chapter 8 are analysed.

### 9.1 Agriculture

Interventions	Risk	Opportunities
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Imposed trainings by the government but inappropriate to needs of farmers and contrary to sustainable and ecological agriculture (e.g. GMO, pesticide-dependent technologies).</li> <li>- Continued use by the government of cash subsidy to mobilise attendance of farmers in training further reinforces the farmers' dependency syndrome. In absence of the cash subsidy, attendance to trainings will be low.</li> <li>- Lack of local trainers on value chain development and market-based solutions in agriculture.</li> <li>- Diminishing public funding for training of farmers.</li> <li>- Lack of information and communication materials in local language.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enrich government training materials with experience and knowledge of CSOs involved in agriculture and rural development.</li> <li>- Involvement by the private sector in designing and conducting trainings for farmers and farmer organisations.</li> </ul>
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Passive resistance by the authorities and decision-makers (private and public) on advocacy drives by the CSOs.</li> <li>- Advocacy efforts and approaches by CSOs and stakeholders remain largely individualised and are not fully concerted.</li> <li>- Evidence to support advocacy actions inadequate.</li> <li>- Top-down decision structure could hamper influence by advocacy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give a voice to farmers and other stakeholders and support in their articulation.</li> <li>- Together with CSOs and farmer groups, engage also international stakeholders (e.g. embassies, donors) in advocacy calls.</li> <li>- Identify and mobilise 'advocacy champions' within the government (i.e., those supportive of the issues advocated by CSOs and farmer groups).</li> <li>- Capitalise on social media for policy advocacy drives.</li> </ul>
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research agenda driven by interests of private companies rather than real needs of farmers.</li> <li>- Poor quality research due to limited capacity in Vietnam could lead to: bias in the research (subjective results); lack of reference to previous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaborative research with reputable institutions to draw evidences for advocacy and policy changes.</li> <li>- Empower farmers in action and adaptive research to address their own issues.</li> <li>- Capacity building of nationals in research.</li> </ul>

	research findings; limited or non-representative sampling; narrow or inappropriate scoping; unsuitable methodology.	
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public funds subject to fraud and corruption at the national and local levels without adequate accountability measures.</li> <li>- Donor-driven funding instruments misdirect investments away from priorities of small-scale producers.</li> <li>- Fraud / corruption.</li> <li>- Inefficiency in budget expenditure in agriculture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen CSOs' role in ensuring accountability in public and private funds for agricultural development.</li> <li>- Mobilisation of savings and internal capital build-up by FOs.</li> <li>- Mobilisation of private funding for FOs.</li> </ul>
Quality assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quality assurance systems established by the government or other bodies are not trusted by the public or private sector.</li> <li>- Due to numerous agencies of the government involved in issuance of certification and quality control, there is confusion and a lack of coordination.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Growing demands of consumers for high quality products drives producers to improve their produce, and drives regulatory agencies to improve their coordination.</li> <li>- Government to recognise other certification tools and thereby broaden options for producers and private actors to apply various tools for product quality assurance and certification.</li> </ul>

## 9.2 Health

Interventions	Risks	Opportunities
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not yet approved</li> <li>- Revision/ review plan and budget in every year</li> </ul>	Planning for improvement of human health by 2016
Coordination / piloting	Not agreed between stakeholders	Need more local funding and locally specific planning
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No suitable trainers in Vietnam</li> <li>- Insufficient grants for scholarship</li> <li>- Professionals are not available to attend training</li> </ul>	Collaboration between Vietnamese institutions and their overseas partners

## 9.3 Education

### 9.3.1 ECE

Interventions	Risks	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve quality of teaching methodologies</li> <li>- Improve access for minorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While enrolment for children aged 5 is high, ethnic minorities and poor families make less use of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ethnic minority children and children from poor households face challenges very early in primary</li> </ul>

- Empowerment of rights holders	<p>these services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The quality of pre-school is not improved by teaching these young children to read and write. However, parents seem to be pressing pre-schools to teach their children to read and write.</li> </ul>	<p>education which could be addressed through more and higher quality preschool programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to promote appropriate early reading through pre-service, in-service and from the community side.</li> <li>- Recognises of the importance of community involvement in education.</li> </ul>
Advocacy towards local and national authorities to improve access to ECE (specifically for minority children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ECE still under development.</li> <li>- Limited coordination between big ECE projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOET attaches importance to improvement of quality of ECE and recognises its importance in helping to strengthen school readiness, subsequent learning outcomes, and ultimately, social inclusion and greater equality of opportunity. This is particularly true for disadvantaged children and children from ethnic minorities.</li> <li>- Prioritising ECE is also in line with the priorities of the National Women's Union which also has an important task with regards to the care and education of young children.</li> <li>- Education Sector Group meetings are held.</li> </ul>

### 9.3.2 General Education

Interventions	Risks	Opportunities
Teacher and professional development	MOET: short-term ad-hoc strategies (towards change)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The new curriculum might be an opportunity</li> <li>- Some thematic national projects on education</li> </ul>
Advocacy, networking, technical training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New curriculum but few changes</li> <li>- Still knowledge based instead of competence based</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good new curriculum might instil a need to change teaching practices</li> <li>- Alignment of different actors to lobby new curriculum</li> </ul>
Evidence-based advocacy, capacity development, model of parent involvement		National project on ECCD – promoting the role of parents and communities
Model demonstration,		New curriculum

evidence based advocacy, peer learning, harvesting of results		
Awareness training, advocacy, critical dialogue, exposure visits, peer learning	Sectorial management within education	

### 9.3.3 TVET

Interventions	Risks	Opportunities
Need to extend the Career Guidance approach on a nationwide scale, to train the trained DOET and PWU staff more in depth about the student-centred Career Guidance approach and to guide and support partners in implementation plans at school level.	The mismatch between the education and training and the skills needed on the labour market leads to a waste of resources from public and private (household) funds.	Mainstreaming gender issues in Career Guidance

### 9.3.4 Higher Education

Interventions	Risks	Opportunities
Critical dialogue and lobbying	May not be accepted	Consensus and engagement
Training (leadership)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of trainees</li> <li>- Lack of funding</li> <li>- Brain-drain</li> </ul>	Availability of experiences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training foreign language</li> <li>- Exchange ideas</li> </ul>	Training is provided to the wrong people: lack of evaluation of who would most benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Many trainers and language centres</li> <li>- Cooperation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training and practice</li> <li>- R&amp;D</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wrong target (see above)</li> <li>- No follow-up</li> <li>- Foreign language barrier</li> </ul>	Scholarships and cooperation

## 9.4 Labour and social protection

Interventions	Risks	Opportunities
Promote CSO network	No legal framework for associations	Improved technology, ASEAN integration
Organise workers/ Training	Economic crisis – workers prioritise employment	TPP, EU, FT agreements
Advocacy	Being stopped by authority	More and more actors are concerned about the issue
Evidence-based research	Research biased in favour of employers	Increased information sources
Public awareness and media engagement	Information confusion	Easier access to media
Donor commitment to continuous support	Middle income trap	Decent work agenda, social protection
Women leadership and gender analysis development	Prejudices continue to prevail in trade unions.	Increased peer pressure via exposure in the region
Reach out to other sectors, including environmental groups	CSOs remain single-issue based and refrain from cooperation across sectors	Social forums, regional network meetings etc. increasingly take place in Vietnam

# 10. Analysis of opportunities for synergy and complementarity between ANGCs, with the Belgian governmental cooperation and other organisations and their added value.

## 10.1 Opportunities for synergy and complementarity: introduction

This chapter gives an overview of potential opportunities for synergy and complementarity identified by the ANGCs active in Vietnam, and their added value. **Synergy** can be defined as the joint or concurrent action of various actors, which produces a wider impact than the impact that would result from the sum of each of the actors acting separately. **Complementarity**, on the other hand, refers to a combination of actions whose impact, although different, is mutually reinforcing.

Opportunities for synergy and complementarity exist at different levels and at different times throughout the planning and implementation of programmes.

- At the level of **information exchange**: Information exchange and mutual consultations are essential to establish synergies or complementarities between different actors. This information exchange can amongst others be related to the presence of actors in the same geographical area, shared thematic interests or partners two or more ANGCs have in common. It might lead to synergies on a more operational level.
- At the **operational level**: Programmes can be implemented by two or more organisations, in such a way that each ANGC maintains its unique and typical approach; but the combination of different approaches enriches the programme and also constitutes an advantage for each ANGC.
- At the **organisational level**: This could entail shared offices, logistics, ICT systems or personnel, if this constitutes an added value for both (all) organisations involved.

Opportunities for synergy and complementarity do not only exist between Belgian ANGCs, but can equally take place between Belgian ANGCs and VNGOs/INGOs, between Belgian ANGCs and the Belgian development cooperation (BTC until its closure in 2019, the Belgian Embassy), between ANGCs and the Vietnamese government<sup>14</sup> and even between ANGCs and the private sector. Furthermore, synergies and complementarities are not necessarily limited to a Vietnamese context, but could also exist within the Mekong region, since many themes are equally of interest in neighbouring countries such as Laos and Cambodia. In this chapter, the focus will be on synergies between ANGCs, between ANGCs and (inter)national organisations, and between ANGCs and the Belgian development cooperation.

In what follows, firstly, the general opportunities of synergy and complementarity will be explored. Secondly, relevant synergy opportunities will be outlined for each intervention domain identified in this JCA. Thirdly and lastly, intersectorial opportunities for synergy and complementarity will be described. The content of this chapter is not necessarily binding, nor exhaustive.

## 10.2 Synergies and complementarities and their added value: general

Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the level of <u>information exchange</u>			
Topic	Synergy between	Added value of this synergy	Status
Keeping each other informed of our work (and that of our partners) in Vietnam and in Belgium.	All ANGCs	This enhances the possibilities for synergies and is a good way to avoid duplications. This way, ANGCs will also rapidly mobilise other ANGCs whenever their	This is already done, but could happen on a more systematic basis.

<sup>14</sup> As the Vietnamese Government and the governmental institutions remain key partners to support policy reform and actual implementation at all levels.

		knowledge and expertise is deemed crucial in the development of new programmes. Furthermore this gives a possibility to promote linkages and alliances among partners to increase programme impact.	
<b>Platform for information exchange with VNGOs/INGOs.</b>	ANGCs and (inter)national organisations	The VUFO-INGO platform is important for knowledge sharing among Belgian ANGCs and (inter)national NGOs. The added value of this resides in the importance of knowing what each actor does, which makes it easier to identify possible coordinated approaches.	This type of information exchange is on-going, and will be continued in the future.
<b>Platform for information exchange with Belgian Embassy/ BTC.</b>	ANGCs and Belgian Embassy/ BTC	Information exchange on practical (legal) issues, but also topics of interest to both ANGCs and the BTC (human rights, environment, gender,...)	Dialogue between the Belgian ANGCs and the Belgian embassy is good and continuous. Besides frequent ad hoc meetings, the Belgian Embassy in Vietnam equally invites all ANGCs in Vietnam minimum twice a year. Also during these bi-annual meetings, the topic of possible synergies between ANGCs has been touched upon.
<b>Share information about the legal and policy framework with ANGCs who wish to register and operate in Vietnam.</b>	ANGCs established in Vietnam and those wishing to start/resume operations.	Time and resources-saving process; helps ANGCs to better fit programmes within the national priorities and to identify complementarities.	To some extent this is already done: could be more formalised.
<b>Joint advocacy to donors on their country development strategy.</b>	All ANGCs.	Donors, including Belgian Cooperation, become better informed of Vietnamese context, needs and priorities.	Some consultations exist; to be formalised and more systematic.
<b>Share the results of studies carried out.</b>	All ANGCs.	Could be time and resources-saving for other ANGCs.	To be formalised.
<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the operational level</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Conducting applied research to provide evidence for advocacy and knowledge generation and dissemination</b> could be better coordinated across ANGCs.	All ANGCs working on advocacy, knowledge generation and dissemination around particular topics.	Minimise duplication of effort by the researchers and the organisations, and equally share some of the financial or logistical burden.	To explore.

Mapping of partners to identify <b>common and complementary partners/ shared geographical zone.</b>	ANGCs, or ANGCS and (inter)national organisations working in the same geographic zones (not necessarily same topics)/ with the same partners.	Better coordination of projects/programmes and more effective support to partners.	To explore.
<b>Synergies on topics of interest to Belgian development cooperation:</b> (i) Green growth and climate change (ii) Governance and the rule of law (iii) Rights-based approaches.	ANGCs and the Belgian Embassy in Vietnam/ BTC.	Better coordination of projects/programmes, broader impact.	To explore, to create.
<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the <u>organisational level</u></b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Big events could be jointly organised.</b>	ANGCs, ANGCS and (inter)national organisations, ANGCs and BTC	Ensure greater coverage geographically and across sectors.	To explore.

## 10.3 Overview of opportunities for synergy and complementarity and their added value: per intervention domain

### 10.3.1 Agriculture

<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the <u>level of information exchange</u></b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
Sharing of <b>documentation and good practices on value chains and marketing.</b>	ANGCs, ANGCS and (inter)national organisations involved in agriculture.	Increased expertise through cross-fertilisation.	To create.
Sharing <b>information on healthy food consumption campaigns.</b>	ANGCs and (inter)national organisations involved in agriculture.	Mutually reinforcing campaign messages and approaches for beneficiaries.	To explore.

Information exchange on one or more of the following topics: - <b>Inclusive business models;</b> - <b>Safe Vegetables;</b> - <b>Certification;</b> - <b>Value chains and commodities (tea, rice, vegetables,...);</b> - <b>Farmer business organisations;</b> - <b>Sustainable agriculture farming systems;</b> - ...	ANGCs, (inter)national organisations, the Belgian government, or even private sector actors.	Exchange, learning investigation of potential areas for cooperation with private actors, with other (non) Belgian actors. Influencing policymakers.	To create.
Information exchange on <b>methodologies used to measure inclusiveness in value chains</b> (LINK, Sensemaker).	ANGCs, (inter)national organisations, private sector actors with interest in inclusive sourcing.	Exchanging relevant experiences, lessons learnt and best practices.	To create.
Information exchange on <b>climate change innovation and adaptation, and issues</b> related to production, post harvest, processing, transport of farming products.	ANGCs and BTC. (Inter)national organisations.	Creating awareness on climate change issues in agriculture; sharing best practices and lessons learnt.	To explore.
Information exchange on <b>gender in value chains/ agriculture.</b>	ANGCs, (inter)national organisations.	Sharing approaches, lessons learnt and impact, M&E tools, with regards to position of female farmers; share and learn from each other's expertise.	To explore.
<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the operational level</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Applied Research on environmental farming practices in rice, tea, vegetables.</b>	ANGCs, (inter)national organisations.	Minimise duplication of effort by the researchers and the organisations; dissemination of results.	To create.
<b>Training on Climate change adaptation practices.</b>	ANGCs, (inter)national organisations, BTC.	Brings in complementary expertise; larger scope.	To create.
<b>Joint programmes around topics such as control systems adapted to small-scale farmers, certain commodities,...</b>	With other ANGCs, VNGOs or INGOs.	Broader impact, wider geographical scope, brings in complementary expertise.	To explore.
<b>Pooling resources for trainings to partners.</b>	Belgian ANGCs and (inter)national organisations involved in the	Brings in complementary expertise; avoid duplications of trainings; potential cost reduction.	To explore.

	agricultural sector		
<b>Rights-based approach linked to agriculture:</b> - rights of small scale farmer livelihoods; - rights of consumers to safe healthy food.	ANGCs, ANGCs and (inter)national organisations and Belgian Embassy/ BTC.	Better coordination of projects/programmes, broader impact.	To explore.
<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the <u>organisational level</u></b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Organise (inter)national workshops/ seminars</b> on topics related to inclusive business models, certification systems, sustainable agriculture farming systems, etc.	ANGCs, (inter)national organisations, private actors.	Ensure greater coverage geographically and across sectors.	To explore.

### 10.3.2 Health

<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the <u>level of information exchange</u></b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
Information exchange on individual interventions related to <b>road safety</b> .	Health related ANGCs working around road safety (including Handicap International, Rode Kruis).	Knowledge and experience transfer; exchange lessons learnt and best practices.	To explore.
Information exchange on the <b>rehabilitation of disabled people</b> .	Handicap International, other ANGCs or (inter)national organisations.	Knowledge and experience transfer; exchange lessons learnt and best practices.	To create.
Information exchange on one or more of the following topics: - <b>First Aid Education</b> , - <b>Prevention</b> , - <b>Evidence Based Guideline Development</b> , - <b>WATSAN</b> , - <b>Emergency/Disaster Preparedness</b> , - ...	ANGCs in the health sector and Vietnamese and international organisations active in the health sector.	Knowledge and experience transfer; exchange lessons learnt and best practices; methodologies and processes.	To explore/ to create.
<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the <u>operational level</u></b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
Link the <b>rehabilitation of disabled people</b> with a <b>rights-based approach</b> .	ANGCs (such as Handicap International) and the BTC.	Wider scope/ impact.	To explore.
<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the <u>organisational level</u></b>			
No specific opportunities for synergy at the organisational level have been identified in the health sector.			

### 10.3.3 Education

<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the level of information exchange</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
Information exchange on <b>ECE-related topics</b> : importance of ECE; quality ECE with emphasis on inclusiveness; pre- and in-service ECE teacher training; differentiated, child-centred and play-based teaching and learning; role of parents in ECE, transition from ECE to basic education.	ANGCs (such as, but not limited to, Plan and VVOB) or (inter)national organisations involved in ECE.	Flow of information between ANGCs involved in education, in particular ECE.	To create.
Information exchange about <b>equity for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups/ ethnic minorities</b> , with a focus on girls, in ECE/GE/TVET.	ANGCs (such as, but not limited to, Plan and VVOB), or (inter)national organisations, involved in ECE/GE/TVET.	Better linkage between inclusive education (quality education for all) and the specific needs of vulnerable groups and minorities.	To create.
<b>Exchange visits</b> to programme sites (ECE, GE, TVET).	ANGCs.	'Fertilisation' of ideas through regular site visits in order to remain in touch with all levels of action: macro, meso and micro.	To explore.
<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the operational level</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Joint support in ECE teachers' in-service training</b> , e.g. thematic workshops.	All ANGCs and (inter)national organisations involved in ECE; in collaboration with the MOET and its decentralised structures.	Make use of the different methodologies used by different ANGCs regarding capacity development; wider impact and more efficient use of time and resources.	To explore.
<b>Twin-track approach in which several ANGCs team up to support a specific sector.</b>	For instance a twin-track approach of VVOB and Plan to support ECE sector.	Reinforcing each other's efforts through the recognition of each ANGC (e.g. Plan's focus on community development vis-à-vis VVOB's focus on system strengthening).	To explore.
<b>Include climate change/ green growth topics in education</b> ; For instance <b>disaster risk management and climate change adaptation</b>	ANGCs, BTC.	Use the formal education system as entry point for raising awareness on climate change and its consequences	To explore.
Jointly promote research on <b>climate change mitigation</b> ,	ANGCs such as, but not limited to and not necessarily,	Join forces to increase the evidence base.	Exists.

<b>natural resources, biodiversity.</b>	VLIR-UOS, ARES-CCD.		
<b>Joint promotion of active implication of girls and women in education</b> (ECE, General Education, TVET, Higher Education)	Possible synergies between all ANGCs in the education sector, (inter)national actors, the Belgian development cooperation.	Join forces to increase impact.	To explore.
<b>Develop joint strategies for going to scale and evidence-based advocacy</b> on a particular topic.	All ANGCs involved in education and specific sectors (such as ECE or TVET).	Join forces to increase the evidence base for priority actions and advocacy.	To explore.
Link <b>education</b> with a <b>rights-based approach</b> (children's rights).	ANGCs (e.g. Plan and VVOB), ANGCS and BTC.	Join forces to increase impact.	To explore.
<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the organisational level</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Joint or alternate coordination/chairing of exchange platforms and networks</b> , e.g. ECCD round table.	Belgian ANGCS or (inter)national organisations involved in ECE.	Profiling of the Belgian support and expertise in a specific domain.	To explore.
<b>Explore opportunities for common geographical coverage</b> , in provinces with high numbers of vulnerability and inequity.	ANGCs such as, but not necessarily, VVOB and Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase impact of different actions in one and the same geographical area;</li> <li>- Reinforce the importance of equity and inclusiveness.</li> </ul>	To explore.

### 10.3.4 Labour and social protection

<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the level of information exchange</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Sharing of information analysis and workers' campaigns</b> to actors in members of thematic JCA Decent Work.	Oxfam, ACV/CSC, ABVV/FGTB, WSM, or other ANGCS.	Vietnam's labour situation known at regional level; furthermore this gives a possibility to promote linkages and alliances among partners to increase programme impact.	To create.
<b>Sharing of analysis, workers' campaigns to regional networks, campaign groups</b> , etc.	ANGCs and Schone Kleren/achACT, Good Electronics, various regional networks.	Vietnam's labour situation known in (regional) campaign networks.	To strengthen.
<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the operational level</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
Generating <b>support for cases of labour struggle at regional or international level</b> .	Between ANGCS (Oxfam, ACV/CSC, ABVV/FGTB, WSM) and (inter)national organisations such as Schone	Increasing bargaining power.	To explore.

	Kleren/achACT, Good Electronics, various regional and international networks		
<b>Coordinated advise/support for strategy and policy development.</b>	Between ANGCs: Oxfam, ACV/CSC.	More convincing advocacy proposals.	To explore.
<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the organisational level</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Facilitation of operations</b> in Vietnam for members of thematic JCA Decent Work	Between ANGCs: Oxfam, ACV/CSC, ABVV/FGTB, WSM.	Increased efficiency.	To explore.

## 10.4 Overview of intersectoral opportunities for synergy and complementarity and their added value

<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the level of information exchange</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Development of knowledge, research and innovation</b> on - Agriculture topics - Health topics	ANGCs involved in (higher) education, health and agriculture sector.	This could improve the formulation of projects and programmes.	To explore.
<b>Information exchange on a “healthy environment”</b> , e.g. - Agriculture and health (pesticide overuse/ safe vegetables) - Health and environment (soil/air/water pollution because of industries) - Occupational health and safety	Between ANGCs active in health, agriculture, environment, labour; or between ANGCs and (inter)national organisations, or between ANGCs and the BTC/ Belgian Embassy.	Knowledge and experience transfer, exchange lessons learnt and best practices, methodologies and processes. Increased expertise through cross-fertilisation.	To explore.
<b>Sharing information on healthy food consumption campaigns.</b>	ANGCs and international organisations involved in the agricultural and health sector.	Mutually reinforcing campaign messages and approaches for beneficiaries. Joint impact is larger.	To explore.
<b>Early Childhood Care and Development:</b> initiatives in both education and child care (including nutrition, hygiene, vaccination, health...)	Flow of information between ANGCs involved in <b>education</b> (ECE), <b>health</b> (vaccinations, hygiene) and <b>agriculture</b>	Better coordination and integration between the care component and the education component towards a more comprehensive/ holistic approach; sharing best practices and making links.	To explore.

	(sustainable healthy food)		
Information exchange about <b>disaster risk management and climate change adaptation</b>	Belgian ANGCs or (inter)national organisations involved in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.	Exchange ideas on how to efficiently raise awareness on climate change and its consequences (in schools).	To explore.
<b>Green growth and climate change.</b>	Specific topic of interest to the Belgian Embassy in Vietnam. Some ANGCs have aligned with it, others use green growth-related topics as cross-cutting issues in their particular domain (including, but not limited to: Plan, Oxfam, Vredeseilanden, ARES-CCD, VLIR-UOS).	ANGCs (across sectors) and the Belgian Embassy/BTC could exchange on methodologies, processes, lessons learnt, best practices, ...	To explore.
<b>Governance and the rule of law</b>	ANGCs in different sectors (such as, but not limited to, Plan, Vredeseilanden, Oxfam, VVOB, Handicap International) and the Belgian development cooperation.	ANGCs (across sectors) and the Belgian Embassy/BTC could exchange on methodologies, processes, lessons learnt, best practices, ...	To explore.
<b>Training of ANGCs on topics relevant to all, such as: disability rights and equity</b>	ANGCs involved in specific topic and all other ANGCs.	Improving inclusion of people with disability in society thanks to inclusion in various sectors.	To explore.
<b>Training of ANGCs on topics relevant to all, such as: labour rights awareness</b>	ANGCs involved in specific topic and all other ANGCs.	Inclusion of labour market issues into agriculture, health, education sector.	To explore.
<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the operational level</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Development of knowledge, research and innovation;</b> on - Health topics (e.g. development of technical guidelines of the treatment of specific	Intersectorial synergies between ANGCs involved in education and research (such as VLIR-UOS), health (such as ITG) and	Interaction between research and action in the field. ANGCs in the field of health and agriculture can apply the findings of research of education ANGCs; their findings 'in the field' can be useful for	To explore.

diseases) - Agriculture topics (e.g. agriculture and climate change) <b>and putting this research into practice</b>	agriculture (such as Vredeseilanden).	the education ANGCs (feedback).	
<b>Food safety</b> (e.g. consumption campaign).	ANGCs in agriculture, health, education.	Mutually reinforcing way to approach beneficiaries.	To explore.
<b>Health ANGCs</b> can contribute to curriculum development of <b>higher education actors</b> .	Intersectorial synergy between health ANGCs and (higher) education actors.	Optimal use of available expertise; efficiency.	To explore.
<b>Linkage between Decent Work and Social Protection for People with Disability;</b> including awareness on disabled people's right in Occupational Health and Safety in the Workplace	ANGCs such as, but not necessarily limited to, Handicap International, Oxfam.	Forward linkages for workers suffering from workplace accidents, resulting in better support ex post; broader impact.	To explore.
<b>First Aid education in schools.</b>	Synergy between ANGCs involved in education and ANGCs involved in the health sector.	Efficiency.	To explore.
<b>Early Childhood Care and Development:</b> initiatives in both education and child care (including nutrition, hygiene, vaccination, ...)	Handicap International, Plan, health ANGCs, agriculture ANGCs.	More coherent, better informed approach to ECCD, in which care component and education component are integrated and coordinated.	To explore.
Linking <b>TVET and labour rights awareness</b> raising activities (e.g.: TVET info in workers' information centres, LR training in curricula...)	ANGCs such as, but not necessarily, Oxfam, APEFE, VVOB.	Increased outreach to beneficiaries.	To explore.
<b>Joint advocacy: developing joint strategies on the definition of poverty as multi-dimensional</b>	Belgian ANGCs.	Reaching a more critical influencing mass to inform the government policy agenda on poverty reduction.	To explore.
<b>Rights-based approach to several topics</b> (e.g. right to live in a healthy environment, right to safe food, children's & women's rights, ...).	ANGCs in different sectors and Belgian development cooperation.	More integrated, bottom-up approach to human rights.	To explore.
<b>Opportunities for synergy and complementarity at the organisational level</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Synergy between</b>	<b>Added value of this synergy</b>	<b>Status</b>
No specific intersectorial opportunities for synergy at the organisational level have been identified.			

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## Annex 2: list of involved local actors in the process

JCA Vietnam > involvement of local partners				
Name of local partner	Type of partner	Partner organisation of (ANGC)	Type of consultation	Year
VNUA (Vietnam National University of Agriculture)	Public University	ARES-CCD	Meeting and written consultation	2015
Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Association	Civil society	Dynamo International	Meetings/consultation/interviews	2015
Social Protection THAO DAN – in HCMC	Civil society	Dynamo International	Meetings/consultation/interviews	2015
Centre for Health Education and Community Development “FUTUR” – in HCMC	Civil society	Dynamo International	Meetings/consultation/interviews	2015
Vocational Training Centre for Street Children – in DA NANG	Civil society	Dynamo International	Meetings/consultation/interviews	2015
PHU SA project – in DONG THAP	Civil society	Dynamo International	Meetings/consultation/interviews	2015
Inspection and Activities for Youth-Executive Committee on HIV/AIDS – in Can Tho	Civil society	Dynamo International	Meetings/consultation/interviews	2015
Support Centre Vagrants, DOLISA – In Binh Thuan	Civil society	Dynamo International	Meetings/consultation/interviews	2015
UNICEF TP HCM Sub-Office – in HCMC	Civil society	Dynamo International	Meetings/consultation/interviews	2015
Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy	Private	Handicap International	Meetings	2015
General Office of Population and Family Planning – MOH	Public	Handicap International	Meetings	2015
Provincial Traffic Safety Committee (PTSC)	Public	Handicap International	Meetings	2015
NIMPE	Government	ITG	Meetings, review of information provided for the CCA	2015
Centre for Development and Integration (CDI)	SCO / NGO	Oxfam-Solidarity	Consultation workshop	2015
Institute for community health and development (LIGHT)	SCO / NGO	Oxfam-Solidarity	Consultation workshop	2015
Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL)	Mass Organisation	Oxfam-Solidarity	Consultation workshop	2015
Institute for labours and Social Sciences (ILSSA) (under MOLISA)	Government	Oxfam-Solidarity	Consultation workshop	2015
Vietnam Women’s Union	Mass organisation	PLAN	Meetings and consultations	2014
IPSARD (Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural	Government	Vredeseilanden	Meeting/ Focus group discussion	2015

Development)				
CASRAD (Centre for Agrarian Systems Research and Development)	Government	Vredeseilanden	Meeting/ Focus group discussion	2015
SNV Netherlands Development Organisation	Civil Society	Vredeseilanden	Meeting/ Focus group discussion	2015
SRD (Centre for Sustainable Rural Development)	Civil Society	Vredeseilanden	Meeting/ Focus group discussion	2015
CSEED (Centre for Community Socio-Economic and environmental Development)	Civil Society	Vredeseilanden	Meeting/ Focus group discussion	2015
CECAD (Centre for Environment and Community Assets Development)	Civil Society	Vredeseilanden	Meeting/ Focus group discussion	2015
Network Participatory Guarantee(PGS) Systems	Civil Society	Vredeseilanden	Meeting/ Focus group discussion	2015
ADDA (Agricultural Development Denmark Asia)	Civil Society	Vredeseilanden	Meeting/ Focus group discussion	2015
VinaGAP/BacTom Vietnam	Private Actor	Vredeseilanden	Meeting/ Focus group discussion	2015
Ecomart/Ecolink	Private Actor	Vredeseilanden	Meeting/ Focus group discussion	2015
Ministry of Education and Training	Government	VVOB	All forms of consultation, with different departments of the ministry and with national stakeholders and decentralised stakeholders	2014 2015
Vietnam Women's Union	Government	VVOB	All forms of consultation, both at national and decentralised level	2014 2015
WWF Vietnam – Thao Phan Minh	Civil Society	WWF	Consultation about environmental context	2015

### Annex 3: list of involved local actors in the workshop

Name of Participants	Title and organisation
Mr. Vu Dinh Ton	Professor, Vietnam National University of Agriculture (VNUA), Director of CEIDR
Ms. Nguyen Thi Dien	Professor, Vietnam National University of Agriculture (VNUA), Vice Dean of Social Sciences Faculty
Ms. Tran Hoai Thao Trang	Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD)
Mr. Tran Ngoc Hung	Fruits & Vegetables Research Institute (FAVRI)
Mr. Le Van Khoa	PhD, PGs (Associate Professor) Can Tho Uni, Director department scientific affairs, programme manager network bioscience for food (VLIR-UOS)
Mr. Hoang Huu Hanh	Hue University, Director Department International Cooperation, Programme Manager IUC Programme VLIR-UOS
Ms. Le Thi Thu Thuy	Director of Social Protection Centre Thao Dan
Ms. Luong Thi Thuan	Director, HCMC Child Welfare Association (HCWA)
Dr. Nguyen Xuan Xa	MD, Msc Epidemiology Deputy Head of Epidemio Department, NIMPE
Ms. Nguyen Thu Huong	MD, PhD - Vice Head of Parasitology Dep. NIMPE
Ms. Nguyen Thu Giang	Vice Director, Institute for Community Health and Development (LIGHT)
Ms. Pham Thi Thu Lan	Head of International Relations division, Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL)
Ms. Nguyen Thi Vinh Ha	Head of Department, Institute for Labour and Social Sciences – ILSSA (under MOLISA)
Nico Vromant	The Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB), Programme Manager
Ms. Dang Tuyet Anh	The Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB), Education Specialist
Ms Catherine Vasseur	Programme Director, Handicap International Vietnam
Trần Nhật Ly	Plan Vietnam
Le Thi Bich Hanh	Plan Vietnam
Trinh Trong Nghia	Plan Vietnam
Van Thu Ha	OXFAM
Nguyen Thi Tong	Vice Director of CDI
Tham Ngoc Diep	WWF, M&E
Eduardo A. Sabio	VECO Vietnam
Bianca Rayner	VECO Vietnam
Pham Quang Trung	VECO Vietnam
Phan Thi Kim Nhung	VECO Vietnam
<b>Support Staff</b>	
Ngo Thi Thu Phuong	VECO Vietnam
Leandro Rossi	VECO Vietnam
Nguyen Thuy Lien	Interpreter
Dang Nam Thang	Interpreter

## Annex 4: programmes and projects of the participating ANGCs

NGO	Title	Budget €	Donors	Date
<b>Aide au Développement Gembloux</b>	Agriculture Familiale et Souveraineté Alimentaire in Cambodia ANADYA Project in Laos	0	DGD EU	01/2014- 12/2016
<b>APEFE</b>	adéquation formation emploi Vietnam, Laos, Cambodge	500,000	DGD, WBI, OIF	2014-2016
<b>ARES-CCD</b>	Appui institutionnel à l'Université d'agriculture de Hanoi	1,403,848	DGD	2014-2019
	PFS 02 Master en économie et sociologie rurales	44,135	DGD	2015
	PFS 07 Master in Food Technology, Safety and Quality Management	147,987	DGD	2015
	Appui institutionnel à l'Université Pham Ngoc Thach (UPNT) HCM Ville	197,912	DGD	2015
	PRD - Mise en place d'un centre de compétences (recherche et formation) dans le domaine de la protection des substrats métalliques et de l'électrochimie au sein de l'Institut de Technologie Tropicale (ITT) de l'Académie de Science et de Technologie du Vie	N/A	DGD	2013 (start)
	PIC - Evaluation des risques et prévention des maladies respiratoires chroniques dans le sud du Vietnam	N/A	DGD	2012 (start)
	PIC - Soutien à l'enseignement, à la recherche et à la prise en charge multidisciplinaire des pathologies digestives de l'enfant à l'Hôpital Pédiatrique 2, Ho Chi Minh Ville, et dans son réseau	N/A	DGD	2012 (start)
	PIC - Prise en charge des urénopathies (PUN) et des malformations urogénitales (MUG) chez les enfants de moins de 6 ans	N/A	DGD	2009 (start)
	PIC - Improving management practices and food safety related to the use of chemicals for a sustainable freshwater aquaculture in the Mekong delta	N/A	DGD	2009 (start)
<b>DYNAMO International</b>	Intervention et prévention en faveur des jeunes de rue victimes d'abus sexuel et de maltraitances diverses au Vietnam	86,547	WBI	01/2011- 12/2012
	Encadrement et prévention des jeunes	51,639	WBI	01/2014-

	de rue exposés aux risques de grossesses non-désirées et de maladies sexuellement transmissibles »			12/2014
<b>Handicap International</b>	Le nombre d'accidents de la route liés à l'alcool et la gravité des accidents de la route en général est réduit.	417,315	NGO-Programs	01/2014-12/2016
	Le continuum prévention-identification-référencement précoce remplit les conditions nécessaires pour réduire les déficiences chez les nourrissons et les enfants en bas âge.	501,384	NGO-Programs	01/2014-12/2016
<b>Instituut Tropische Geneeskunde</b>	Contribute to evidence-based control/elimination strategies by developing high quality research capacities in Vietnam	450,000 Euro	DGD	01/2014-12/2016
<b>Mekong PLUS</b>	Integrated community development in Binh Thuân & Hau Giang provinces	3,500,000	Private, WBI, foundation	01/2011-12/2016
<b>Oxfam Solidarité / Oxfam Solidariteit</b>	Sustainable Local Economic Development: Farmers' representation and farmers' alternatives	443,299 + 48,332	DGD, Nationale Loterij	1/2011 - 12/2013
	Defending Worker's Rights for better working and living conditions in Vietnam.	236,431 + 90,000	DGD, WBI	1/2011 - 12/2013
	Marginalised workers in the ASEAN region have an increased bargaining power to claim better social protection and more social justice	1,987,630 (for Vietnam: 415,605)	DGD	01/2014-12/2016
<b>Plan Belgium</b>	1 projet : Un bon départ dans la vie: créer un environnement stimulant pour le développement des jeunes enfants dans les communautés du Nord Vietnam 2014-15	245,028	DGD	4/2013 - 6/2016
<b>VLIR-UOS</b>	CTG ICT Outreach project with Hue University	40,374	DGD	2014-2015
	Fourth International Conference on Food Science and Technology	19,965	DGD	2015-2015
	Artemia pond production: helping to solve the challenges of aquaculture in the 21st century	19,965	DGD	2012-2012
	Third International Conference on Food Science and Technology (INCOFST), theme "Food Nutrition Quality and Safety in South East Asian Countries: Current status and solutions"	19,976	DGD	2013-2013
	Ensuring seed supply of commercially important bivalve species in Central	299,840	DGD	2011-2015

	Vietnam by optimizing the larval production			
	Poverty reduction through research-based sustainable development in mountain karst areas in North-Eastern Vietnam.	306,491	DGD	2007-2012
	Searching novel and more convenient catalysts for treatment of motor bikes' exhaust gases	293,751	DGD	2009-2013
	Development of Phosphors and Metal oxides for use in High-Efficiency Lighting	99,902	DGD	2010-2014
	Fabrication of microwire Cu/(CoP, FeCoNi)/Au(glass) with giant magnetoimpedance (GMI) by electrodeposition technique and applications for magnetic sensors	99,750	DGD	2011-2015
	Advanced Studies in pond culture-keys to succes for sustainable artemia farming	99,851	DGD	2012-2016
	Development of semiconductor metal oxide nanowire sensors for toxic gas detection: toward prototype sensors and instruments for monitoring air pollution	99,948	DGD	2012-2016
	Visually impaired people assistance using multimodal technologies	98,761	DGD	2012-2015
	Development of label-free biosensors based on carbon ink electrode and quartz crystal microbalance devices for early diagnosis of prostate cancer: Toward instrument for monitoring cancers	101,940	DGD	2013-2017
	Research and application of Biomass gasification technology for electric/energy application of Vietnam remote areas	99,958	DGD	2013-2016
	Study on rice breeding for brown plant hopper resistance	99,975	DGD	2009-2013
	Development of different advanced organic and inorganic materials for heavy metal speciation and removal from aquatic systems	99,750	DGD	2009-2013
	Mitigating pesticide pollution in the Mekong Delta	99,907	DGD	2010-2014
	Enrichment of fermented dairy products with selected tropical fruits from the Mekong Delta region in Vietnam	98,711	DGD	2011-2014
	Increasing economic viability of the Vietnamese fresh fruit industry by	299,961	DGD	2015-2019

	reducing postharvest losses.			
	Assessment of the environmental and socio-economic impact after dam construction in the Mekong estuarine system: the case of the Ba Lai estuary.	203,496	DGD	2015-2018
	Zoobenthic biodiversity of Can Gio mangrove ecosystems and the dissemination of its status and importance to the local communities	66,918	DGD	2011-2013
	Exploring future university development cooperation in rural North Vietnam supported by existing partnerships: a harvest and seed approach	58,425	DGD	2011-2013
	Elaborating a framework for a joint research on reducing postharvest losses of longan and litchi cultivated in Vietnam	74,915	DGD	2012-2014
	Reducing the burden of Pertussis disease in very young infants in different epidemiological settings by augmenting maternal antibody concentrations during pregnancy	68,120	DGD	2012-2014
	A Joint Belgium - Vietnam Study on Packaged Membrane Bio-Reactor - from laboratory to the fast growing market of decentralised wastewater treatment in Vietnam	72,084	DGD	2012-2014
	Building up a New Master Programme in Physical and Theoretical Chemistry in Quy Nhon University, Vietnam	74,563	DGD	2012-2014
	Application of Sewage Plus Technology for wastewater treatment in Vietnam	74,922	DGD	2013-2015
	Developing family medicine through a network of continuing medical education among the family medicine graduates from Can Tho UMP	74,900	DGD	2013-2015
	Environmental and food reservoirs of antibiotic resistant organisms and its link with human disease	66,405	DGD	2013-2015
	The diagnosis of zoonotic and soil-transmitted helminth infections in Central Vietnam	74,982	DGD	2013-2015
	A joint structural research on platinum(II) complexes for antitumor activity and elaboration of the framework for training in crystallography	74,812	DGD	2014-2016
	Algal biomass production for bioproducts	74,315	DGD	2014-2016

	through treatment of wastewater of rubber processing plants in Vietnam			
	Applying Wireless Sensor Networks in agriculture: a hydroponic greenhouse as student lab and research environment for improving the quality of vegetable cultivation in the north of Vietnam	71,058	DGD	2014-2016
	Assessment on the neonatal hepatitis B vaccination coverage and attitude in the Mekong delta (ANBeCAM)	68,102	DGD	2014-2016
	Development and application of dry coating technology to prepare tablets containing berberin for colon targeting	74,802	DGD	2014-2016
	Enhancing food safety and security in Vietnam: Control of the spoilage and mycotoxin contamination of agro-products by moulds	72,612	DGD	2014-2016
	Evaluation of low-cost cellulosic materials from agricultural by-products for removal of heavy metals from polluted water sources	74,558	DGD	2014-2016
	Strengthening family medicine training with focus on physician/patient communication in north-east coastal region of Vietnam	74,960	DGD	2014-2016
	Strengthening research capacity in the field of valorisation of fruit and their by-products	74,042	DGD	2014-2016
	Strengthening Vietnamese postharvest capital	74,981	DGD	2014-2016
	Structural health monitoring programme to improve the management of natural resources in Vietnam	57,972	DGD	2014-2016
	Institutional University Cooperation with Hue University (HU) (Pre-partner)	100,000	DGD	2012-2013
	Institutional University Cooperation with Hue University (HU) (Phase I)	2,100,000	DGD	2013-2019
	Network Cooperation in Vietnam: Bioscience for Food (Pre-partner)	45,000	DGD	2012-2013
	Network Cooperation in Vietnam: Bioscience for Food (Phase I)	1,500,000	DGD	2013-2019
<b>Vredeseilanden</b>	Een leefbaar bestaan en structurele versterking van organisaties van familiale boeren en boerinnen in het Zuiden en het Noorden, door een eerlijke toegang tot markten en door ontwikkeling van	1,145,919	NGO-Programs	01/2011 - 12/2013

	duurzame landbouwketens.			
	Sub-sector development and inclusive modern markets in the Mekong Region: fresh fruits and vegetables, tea, rice	-	Non-DGD	01/2014 - 12/2016
<b>VVOB</b>	Participatory Agricultural Extension Programme	406,971	DGD	01/2011 - 12/2012
	Education Programme	1,741,142	DGD	01/2011 - 12/2013
	Career Guidance Programme	815,686	DGD	10/2011 - 12/2013
	Early Education Programme	2,236,000	DGD	01/2014 - 12/2016
	Secondary TVET	364,000	DGD	01/2014 - 12/2015

## Annex 5: executive summary

Deze Gemeenschappelijke Contextanalyse heeft haar wettelijke basis in de wet betreffende de Belgische Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (19/03/2013 gewijzigd door wet 09/01/2014) art 2- 6°/7 en het Koninklijk Besluit van 24 april 2014 art 14 § 1 & 2. De GCA Vietnam is het resultaat van een collectief proces van 16 Belgische ANGS: Vredeseilanden (lead), Aide au Développement Gembloux, APEFE, ARES-CCD, Dynamo International, Handicap International, Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde, Louvain Coopération au Développement, Mekong Plus, Oxfam Solidariteit, Plan België, Rode Kruis Vlaanderen Internationaal, VLIR-UOS, VVOB, WWF, Wereldsolidariteit en de GCA Waardig Werk Azië, alsook van de lokale vertegenwoordigers van de betrokken ANGS, hun partnerorganisaties, lokale thematische experts en vertegenwoordigers van de lokale overheid. Verder werden strategische actoren zoals diverse relevante overheidsinstellingen en internationale actoren die actief zijn in de gekozen hoofdthema's geconsulteerd. Gedurende het proces vonden er 3 overleg- en validatiemomenten plaats in België, en daarnaast 1 tweedaagse participatieve workshop in Vietnam.

De huidige en toekomstige interventies van de betrokken ANGS situeren zich in de volgende 4 domeinen: 1. *Landbouw*, 2. *Gezondheid*, 3. *Onderwijs*, 4. *Arbeid en sociale integratie*. De transversale thema's *gender* en *milieu* zijn in deze thema's ingebed waar en indien relevant. Er wordt een duidelijke link gemaakt naar het thema *Waardig Werk*, dat in meer detail beschreven wordt in de GCA Waardig Werk Azië. De huidige programma's bevatten reeds concrete vormen van samenwerking tussen de ANGS onderling, maar ook met andere internationale of lokale actoren en met de Belgische ontwikkelingssamenwerking.

Hoofdstuk 3 bevat een analyse van de politieke, economische, sociale en milieu-context in Vietnam. De Socialistische Republiek Vietnam wordt sinds de hereniging in 1975 geregeerd door de Communistische Partij van Vietnam. Vrijheid van meningsuiting, religieuze vrijheid blijven beperkt en kritiek op de overheid wordt onderdrukt; ondanks belangrijke versoepelingen op vlak van internetgebruik, politieke rechten en holebi-rechten. De *doi moi* in 1986 bracht belangrijke economische transformaties mee: de Vietnamese economie evolueerde van een centraal-geplande economie naar een socialistisch georiënteerde markteconomie. Door de snelle en stabiele economische groei van de voorbije decennia groeide Vietnam van één van de armste landen ter wereld uit tot een middeninkomensland, hoewel de economische crisis de vooruitgang wel stagneerde. De levensomstandigheden van de Vietnamese bevolking verbeterden ook sterk, maar etnische minderheidsgroepen, bewoners van afgelegen landelijke regio's, en gezinnen met een vrouwelijk gezinshoofd leven vaak nog in armoede. Ondanks de daling van de armoede, vergroot de ongelijkheid in het land. Op vlak van gendergelijkheid zijn er wel constante verbeteringen. Vietnam, en voornamelijk de Mekongdelta, is enorm vatbaar voor de gevolgen van klimaatsopwarming, o.a. overstromingen door de stijgende zeespiegel en de insijpeling van zout water, wat impact zal hebben op de ecosystemen en het leven rond de Mekongdelta. Vietnam is tegelijkertijd ook een grote bijdrager aan biodiversiteitsverlies in de regio, o.a. door ontbossing en illegale handel in wilde diersoorten. De plannen van de overheid om biodiversiteitsverlies tegen te gaan zijn om dit moment ontoereikend.

Verder bevat hoofdstuk 3 een analyse van alle interventiedomeinen. 1. *Landbouw* – 70% van de actieve bevolking op het platteland vindt werk in de landbouw. Zij worden geconfronteerd met diverse uitdagingen, gaande van pesticidevergiftigingen, tot lage kwaliteit, lage prijzen, de gevolgen van klimaatsverandering en onvoldoende toegang tot financiële diensten. De Vietnamese overheid beschouwt landbouw als een belangrijke weg uit de armoede voor de plattelandsbevolking, maar het beleid biedt momenteel niet voldoende ondersteuning aan kleine boeren. 2. *Gezondheid* – Malaria en parasitaire infecties zijn veelvoorkomend in Vietnam. Ondanks hoge investeringen in de

gezondheidssector, is er een grote kloof tussen verschillende regio's en bevolkingsgroepen: vooral etnische minderheden die wonen in afgelegen gebieden hebben minder toegang tot gezondheidszorg. Wat betreft de situatie van mindervaliden is er weinig officiële informatie, vooral dan in landelijke omgevingen. 3. *Onderwijs* – Zowel het voorschools, lager en middelbaar onderwijs, als het technisch-, beroeps en universitair onderwijs in Vietnam wordt beschreven. De inschrijvingsratio is, in al deze vormen van onderwijs, significant verhoogd de laatste jaren. Ook zet de Vietnamese overheid erg in op kwaliteitsverbetering van het onderwijs. Verdere inspanningen blijven nodig, o.a. wat betreft toegang tot onderwijs – vooral kinderen van etnische minderheden, migranten, kinderen met een handicap en meisjes uit arme gezinnen zijn kwetsbare groepen. 4. *Arbeid en sociale integratie* – Van de bevolking die niet in de landbouw werkt, werkt er ongeveer de helft in loondienst. Volgens de arbeidswet genieten zij o.a. van bescherming tegen uitbuiting, een minimumloon, sociale zekerheid en recht op onderhandelingen met de werkgever, maar in de praktijk wordt de wet niet vaak nageleefd, liggen de lonen laag en is uitbuiting wijdverspreid. Bovendien werken veel Vietnamezen in de informele sector, waardoor zij geen bescherming hebben: het betreft vooral vrouwen en migranten. Werkloosheid onder jongeren ligt met 47% erg hoog.

Hoofdstuk 4 beschrijft de civiele maatschappij in Vietnam, de publieke instellingen en de gedecentraliseerde autoriteiten, in het algemeen en per interventiedomein. Het kan gesteld worden dat in Vietnam de grenzen tussen de staat en de civiele maatschappij erg flou zijn: organisaties van de civiele maatschappij zijn niet onafhankelijk van de staat, maar er net diep mee verweven. De focus van de civiele maatschappij ligt voornamelijk op het bestrijden van armoede en gemeenschapsontwikkeling, en de activiteiten zijn voornamelijk geconcentreerd in afgelegen regio's bewoond door etnische minoriteitsgroepen. Sinds kort wordt er ook meer nadruk gelegd op klimaatsverandering, gendergelijkheid en uitdagingen gelinkt aan het onderwijssysteem. Op politiek vlak hebben ze weinig tot geen invloed.

In hoofdstuk 5 volgt een analyse van de civiele maatschappij en de overheid, ook per interventiedomein. Dit hoofdstuk beschrijft ook mogelijke interventiepistes die inspelen op thematieken rond het versterken van de civiele maatschappij. Deze interventies streven onder andere naar capaciteitsversterking van de betrokken organisaties op vlak van dienstverlening, bewegingsopbouw, belangenbehartiging, enz. – zodat zij hun diensten op een efficiëntere wijze kunnen aanbieden. Ook zal het aangaan van multi-actor *partnerships* met actoren uit diverse sectoren (privaat, publiek, internationaal, ...) gepromoot worden. Specifiek in de Vietnamese context wordt er ook ingezet op het promoten van meer mogelijkheden voor participatie en zeggenschap voor organisaties van de civiele maatschappij in het nationale beleid. Extra inspanningen worden er geleverd voor het betrekken van vrouwen, jongeren, etnische minderheden en andere fragiele doelgroepen binnen de bestaande organisaties. Verder worden er in dit hoofdstuk ook mogelijke interventiepistes beschreven die inspelen op de thematieken rond het versterken van de overheid. Zowel voor de civiele maatschappij als voor de overheid, wordt dit per interventiedomein uitgewerkt.

In hoofdstuk 6 worden de belangrijkste nationale, regionale en internationale actoren per interventiedomein beschreven. Het gaat hier zowel om NGO's als om onderzoeksinstellingen; overheden op lokaal, provinciaal en nationaal niveau; universiteiten; lokale ontwikkelingsactoren; internationale instellingen en financiële instellingen. Voor iedere actor wordt er aangegeven of ze verandering promoten, wat hun belang is, wat hun niveau van invloed is en hoe belangrijk samenwerkingen met hen zijn om resultaten te bereiken. Hoofdstuk 7 geeft weer, in het algemeen en per interventiedomein, welk type actoren de mogelijke toekomstige partners van de ANGS zijn.

Hoofdstuk 8 geeft de toekomstige interventiedomeinen van elke ANGS aan, waarbij expliciet de link wordt gemaakt met het mogelijke type partners van de ANGS. Verder bevat het hoofdstuk ook "modellen van verandering" voor elk van de interventiedomeinen. Er wordt per interventiedomein

een algemene doelstelling op lange termijn geformuleerd, samen met de belangrijkste interventies om deze te bereiken. Verder worden ook doelstellingen op middellange termijn (5 jaar) geformuleerd. Ook de voorwaarden en de interventies die nodig zijn om deze doelstellingen te bereiken, worden beschreven. In ieder interventiedomein wordt er aandacht besteed aan verbeteringen van kwaliteit – hetzij van productie, hetzij van dienstverlening –, maar ook aan de naleving van internationale standaarden. Gelijkaardige soorten interventies worden ook teruggevonden in de verschillende interventiedomeinen, zoals belangenbehartiging, capaciteitsversterking, kwaliteitscontrole, versterking van organisaties uit de civiele maatschappij op gemeenschaps-, lokaal en nationaal niveau; enzoverder.

De analyse van risico's en opportuniteiten van ieder interventiedomein in hoofdstuk 9 zijn gebaseerd op de analyse van de context (hoofdstuk 3 t.e.m. 5), de relevante actoren (hoofdstuk 6 en 7) en de geplande interventies (hoofdstuk 8). Over de sectoren heen kunnen de volgende opportuniteiten geïdentificeerd worden: multi-actor-samenwerkingen en (inter)nationale netwerken, toenemende bewustwording bij overheid en bevolking rond de impact van klimaatsverandering en de noodzaak om het milieu te beschermen, grote investeringen in onderwijs en gezondheid, meer engagement in de landbouwsector, integratie in de ASEAN en vrije markt-akkoorden. Over de sectoren heen zijn de belangrijkste risico's die gedistilleerd kunnen worden het niet-stimulerende politieke milieu voor de civiele maatschappij, maar ook het feit dat overheidsprogramma's niet steeds gericht zijn op de juiste noden van doelgroepen (bvb. noden van kleinschalige boeren/ noden van training rond vaardigheden voor de arbeidsmarkt), de terugtrekking van de internationale ontwikkelingssamenwerking uit Vietnam door de status als middeninkomensland, de economische crisis en diens gevolgen en de vatbaarheid voor de gevolgen van klimaatsverandering.

Hoofdstuk 10 duidt de opportuniteiten voor synergie en complementariteit aan tussen ANGS, tussen ANGS en (inter)nationale organisaties, tussen ANGS en de Belgische ontwikkelingssamenwerking, en tussen ANGS en andere actoren (private sector, Vietnamese overheid). In Vietnam werden enkele pistes aangegeven tijdens een eerste workshop met lokale actoren; nadien volgde er in België een vergadering waar concretere pistes werden geïdentificeerd op basis van consultaties van alle ANGS. Er werden zowel algemene opportuniteiten geformuleerd, als opportuniteiten per interventiesector en intersectorale opportuniteiten. Verder willen we ook onderlijnen dat synergiën zich niet noodzakelijkerwijs beperken tot Vietnam, maar kunnen uitgebreid worden tot synergiën binnen de Mekong regio, daar verschillende problematieken in Vietnam ook opduiken in buurlanden zoals Laos en Cambodja. Uitwisselingen van informatie en expertise, zowel thematisch als geografisch, gebeuren minstens op tweejaarlijkse basis tussen alle ANGS en de Belgische ontwikkelingssamenwerking in Vietnam. Het is belangrijk dat uitwisselingen tussen ANGS blijven bestaan eens de Belgische ontwikkelingssamenwerking zich terugtrekt uit Vietnam. Deze uitwisselingsmomenten zouden beter gesystematiseerd kunnen worden. Ook uitwisselingen tussen ANGS en INGO's vinden frequent plaats, in het VUFO-INGO centrum. Het uitwisselen van informatie kan ook aanleiding geven tot heel concrete samenwerkingen op operationeel niveau. Dit kan wanneer bepaalde actoren dezelfde partners delen, maar ook rond bepaalde thema's. Thema's waarrond veel interesse bestaat, zijn onder andere: klimaatsverandering; rechtenbenadering (van diverse onderwerpen: recht van kleine boeren op inkomen, recht van consumenten op veilig voedsel, recht van mindervalide mensen op werk, ...); verkeersveiligheid; gelijkheid (van meisjes/vrouwen, etnische minderheden, mindervaliden ...); ontwikkelen van onderzoek en innovatie i.v.m. landbouw, gezondheid, en dit onderzoek in de praktijk gebruiken; een gezond leven (gezond eten, gezond milieu, beroepsmatige gezondheid, ...); vroegkinderlijke zorg en ontwikkeling; werken rond arbeidsrechten in TVET-opleidingen; ... De intentie is er om huidige succesvolle synergiën verder te zetten, hier lessen uit te trekken en andere synergiën aan te gaan om op deze manier een zo groot mogelijke impact te hebben.