

**STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN VIET NAM**

**Additional and updated information
to the issues raised by the Committee on the Rights of the Child
in connection with the consideration of the second periodic report of Viet Nam
(CRC/C/65/Add.20)**

PART I

A. Data and Statistics

Issue 1. Please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age, minority groups, urban or rural areas) covering the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 on the number and percentage (of the total national population) of children under 18 living in the State party.

TABLE 1. CHILD POPULATION (UNER 16) THROUGH THE YEARS

	1999	2000	2001
Total population (thousand)¹	76,596.8	77,635.4	78,685.8
<i>IN WHICH</i>			
<i>Female (thousand)</i>	38,945.5	39,496.7	40,001.6
<i>Female rate (%)</i>	50.80	50.80	50.84
<i>Urban Population (thousand)</i>	18,000.2	18,566.8	19,481.0
<i>Urban rate (%)</i>	23.50	23.90	24.76
Population growth rate (%)²	1.4	1.4	1.29
Children under 16 (thousand)³	27,422.9	27,794.5	27,262.8
<i>Children rate (%)</i>	35.8	35.8	34.6
<i>By gender</i>			
Male	14,212.6	14,394.7	14,146.6
Female	13,210.3	13,399.8	13,116.2
<i>By age</i>			
0 year	1,303.9	1,196.6	1,274.9
0-4 years	5,965.5	6,203.5	5,686.9
5 years	1,708.1	1,788.9	1,695.4
6-10 years	9,235.6	9,441.4	9,317.8
11-14 years	7,349.1	7,391.6	7,482.2
15 year	1,860.7	1,772.5	1,805.6
<i>By regions</i>			
Red River delta	4,823.1	4,848.5	4,717.0

¹ Source: General Statistics Office, 2001

² Source: General Statistics Office, 2001

³ Source: Committee on Population, Family and Children

North East	4,106.1	4,151.5	4,063.8
North West	943.9	968.7	960.6
North Central Coast	3,939.6	3,991.7	3,931.6
South Central Coast	2,380.1	2,411.6	2,377.5
Central Highlands	1,347.6	1,380.8	1,390.7
South East	4,244.7	4,310.7	4,262.9
Mekong River delta	5,637.9	5,731.0	5,558.8

(*) The 2001 population is estimated

TABLE 2. CHILDREN POPULATION UNDER 16 BY GENDER, REGION AND AGE GROUPS

Unit: thousand

	1999	2005 (estimates)	2010 (estimates)
Total population	76,596	82,493	87,353
Children	27,423	25,694	23,486
By gender			
Male	14,213	13,336	12,190
Female	13,210	12,357	11,296
By region			
Urban	5,356		
Rural	22,067		
By age			
0-5 years	8,978	8,527	8,799
6-10 years	9,236	7,699	7,077
11-14 years	7,349	7,570	5,898
15- under 16 years	1,861	1,897	1,712

Source: General Population Census 1999

TABLE 3. ETHNIC CHILDREN BY ETHNIC GROUPS AND ECOREGIONS FOR THE YEAR 1999

Unit: person

	Total	Tay	Khmer	Muong	Nung	Giarai	Ede	Bana	Cham	Others
Total	4,305,679	625,425	363,306	490,102	335,051	154,559	74,858	93,625	29,570	2,139,183
Red River delta	14,859	2,104	0	8,746	247	0	0	0	0	3,762
North East	1,561,352	565,728	56	74,596	283,921	0	15	0	0	637,036
North West	785,224	1,462	85	217,719	360	0	17	0	0	565,581
North Central Coast	504,188	267	89	180,104	15	35	319	16	23	323,320
South Central Coast	161,154	847	0	128	300	28	5,189	2,321	10,785	141,556
Central	441,117	21,739	103	7,376	15,464	154,496	69,215	91,288	251	81,185

Highlands										
South East	422,582	33,146	5,857	1,336	34,565	0	103	0	17,967	329,608
Mekong River delta	415,203	132	357,116	97	179	0	0	0	544	57,135

Source: Sample census results, General population census 1999, General Statistics Office

Issue 2. In light of article 4 of the Convention, please provide additional aggregated data (by region) for 1999-2002, budget allocation and trends (in percentages of the national and regional budgets) allocated to the implementation of the Convention, evaluating also the priorities for budgetary expenditures given to the following:

a. Education (including pre-primary, primary and secondary education)

(See the following table)

b. Health care (including different types of health services, including primary health care, vaccination programmes, adolescent health care and other health services for children)

(See the following table)

c. Children with handicaps

(See the following table)

d. Support to families and the protection of children who are in need of alternative care including the support of care institutions

(See the following table)

e. Juvenile justice

(See the following table)

Please also indicate the percentages of these allocations derived from international sources.

TABLE 4: OVERALL ALLOCATIONS OF INVESTMENT FOR CHILDREN

	1991	1995	2000 Plan	2005 Plan	
GDP growth rate (% p.a.)	6	9.3	5.5	7	
Expenditures for children/Budgetary expenditures (%)	8.42	11.04	12.21	15.29	
Expenditures for children/Social expenditures (%)	25.34	31.77	38.14		
Expenditures for children /Expenditures for target programmes (%)	-	22.22	14.37		

Issue 3. Please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age, minority groups, urban or rural areas) covering the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 on the:

a. Rates of infant and child mortality

Table 5. Rates of neonatal mortality (%0)

Unit: per thousand

Region	Rate of new natality (per thousand)
North Mountainous and Midlands	27.4
Red River Delta	17.7
North Central Coast	19.7
Central Coast	21.1
Central Highlands	37.4
South East	17.1
Mekong Delta River	22.1
Average	22.2

Source: Studying and Building strategy of the reduction of new natality by Thai Binh

Medical University

TABLE 6. RATES OF UNDER 1 AND UNDER 5 MORTALITY

Unit: per mill

	1999	2000	2001
General	36.7	31.2	29.5
Urban	18.3	20.1	20.4
Rural	41	34.6	32.5

Source:

- 1999: General population and housing census 1999, General Statistics Office

- 2000, 2001: Annual population fluctuation census, General Statistics Office

b. Proportion of children with low birth weight

TABLE 7. PROPORTION OF CHILDREN WITH BIRTH WEIGHT BELOW 2500 GR

Unit: %

Year	1999	2000	2001
Children with birth weight below 2500 grams (%)	7.97	7.30	7.10

Source: Ministry of Health, Health Statistics Yearbook 1999, 2000, 2001

c. Proportion of children affected by malnutrition

TABLE 8. PROPORTION OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 (WEIGHT BY AGE) AFFECTED BY MALNUTRITION

Year	1999	2000	2001
Proportion of children under 5 affected by malnutrition (weight /age) (%)	36.7	33.8	31.9
Red River delta	33.8	31.6	30.3
North East	40.7	37.6	35.8
North West			37.7
North Central Coast	42.6	40.1	38.6
South Central Coast	39.2	35.1	33.0
Central Highlands	49.1	40.9	38.4
South East	29.6	26.7	28.4
Mekong River delta	32.3	30.0	29.3

Unit: %

Source: Ministry of Health, Health Statistics Yearbook 1999, 2000, 2001

d. Number of orphans and abandoned children, and the number living in institutions: to be updated

e. Number of children in domestic and intercountry adoption programmes

TABLE 9. NUMBER OF ADOPTED CHILDREN

child and percent of male/female

Unit::

	2000	2001
Total of adopted children	1,528	2,881
Among which: Female	650	1,253
Female rate (%)	42.54	43.49
Number of intercountry adopted children		1,419
Female rate (%)		49.25

Source: Residence permit and Notary Department, Legal Record Verification, Ministry of Justice, 2000, 2001

f. Proportion of children killed by accidents: no available data

Issue 4. Please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age, minority groups, urban or rural areas) covering the years 1999-2001 on the:

- a. *Number of children with disabilities: no available data*
- b. *Number of children with handicap living at home and in institutions (no available data)*
- c. *Number of children with handicap enrolled in regular education or special education programmes*

Currently there are 70 special educational institutions for children with handicap with the total number of 6000 pupils, 71 social security centres nurturing and carrying out rehabilitation activities for approximately 4500 children⁴. Apart from that, there are some 67000 children who enjoy community-based rehabilitation and 32000 attending classes on integration⁵.

d. Budget allocation in favour of children with disabilities

Twenty percent of the budget allocated for the treatment, rehabilitation and integration of children with disabilities and their enrollment in special educational institutions are funded through the State Budget, the rest being through other social contributions and international assistance...⁶

Issue 5. With reference to child abuse, including sexual abuse, please provide disaggregated data for the period 199-2001 (by age, gender and types of violations reported), on the:

- a. *Number of cases of child abuse reported to police or social or other services: no available data*
- b. *Number and proportion of victims that have received counselling assistance in recovery*

TABLE 10. PROPORTION OF VICTIMS THAT HAVE RECEIVED COUNSELLING DURING 1995-2000

Unit::%

Children groups	Proportion of victims that have received counselling
Street children	64.03
With handicaps	5.41
who violate the law	2.87
Orphans	4.07
Abused children	2.18

⁴ Source: Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), 2002

⁵ Source: Ten-year Review report on the implementation of the Law on the Protection, Care and Education of Children, Viet Nam's Committee on the Protection, Care and Education of Children, 2001

⁶ Source: same as above

Dropouts	2.28
Other	19.16

Source: Committee on Population, Family and Children, 2001

TABLE 11. NUMBER OF COUNSELLING CENTRES

Unit:: center

1995	1996	1997	1998-2000	2002
1	6	18	64	72

Source: Committee on Population, Family and Children, 2002

Issue 6. Please provide disaggregated data (including by gender, age, and urban/rural areas) for the years 1999 to 2001 in percentages of the relevant age groups on the:

a. Rate of literacy below and over 18 years

TABLE 12. LITERACY POPULATION OVER 10 YEARS

	Nation-wide		Urban		Rural	
	Total (thousand)	Rate (%)	Total (thousand)	Rate (%)	Total (thousand)	Rate (%)
General	54,746	91.07	14,200	95.23	40,546	89.69
Male	27,463	94.21	6,981	97.05	20,482	93.28
Female	27,283	88.11	7,219	93.52	20,063	86.31

Source: Ministry of Education and Training, 2001

b. Percentages of children enrolling in pre-primary, primary and in secondary schools; number and percentage of drop-outs. (See the following table)

c. Average ratio of teachers per children in classrooms, with an indication of any significant regional or rural/urban disparities, as well as the number of teachers from ethnic minorities

TABLE 13. SOME EDUCATION DATA

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Total of minority in-house stay schools		49	52
Under central administration		7	10
Under provincial/municipal administration		42	42
Ratio of teachers from ethnic minorities			
Primary schools	10.91	10.29	11.08
Secondary schools	5.45	5.54	5.54
High schools	3.48	3.38	3.58
Children with disabilities/total number of children in schools			
Primary schools	0.52	0.40	0.47
Secondary schools	0.14	0.18	0.21

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	
High schools	0.09	0.12	0.14	
Number of children per class				
Kindergarten	14.24	10.04	14.32	
Pre-primary school	26.85	25.06	25.76	
Primary schools	31.23	30.52	29.55	
Secondary schools	41.31	40.8	40.69	
High schools	49.38	48.65	47.92	
Number of classes/classrooms				
Primary schools	1.58	1.51	1.46	
Secondary schools	1.52	1.50	1.50	
High schools	1.49	1.49	1.45	
Ratio of pupils per teachers				
Primary schools	29.52	28.03	26.33	
Secondary schools	27.62	26.32	25.72	
High schools	30.34	29.65	28.58	
Ratio of pupils from ethnic minorities (%)				
Primary schools	16.41	16.90	17.46	
Secondary schools	9.93	11.28	11.97	
High schools	4.93	5.48	6.35	
Ratio of female pupils (%)				
Primary schools	47.71	47.65	47.53	
Secondary schools	46.95	47.05	47.5	
High schools	46.81	46.75	46.76	
Pre-primary education				
	Ratio of pupils under 3 years (%)	5.47	5.63	13.6
	Ratio of 3-5 year pupils (%)	38.59	42.64	43.4
	Ratio of 5-year pupil (%)	63.16	62.27	88.8
Primary education				
	General enrollment ratio (%)	110.36	103.25	104.27
	Appropriate age enrollment (%)	97.56	93.21	91.62
	Ratio of 6-year children enrolling for 1 st class (%)	86.47	75.32	85.97
Secondary education				
	General enrollment ratio (%)	76.66	80.04	83.59
	Appropriate age enrollment (%)	65.19	70.00	74.83
Ratio of children completing schools				
	Primary schools	98.81	98.96	99.32
	Secondary schools	91.95	93.66	95.13
	High schools	94.98	87.62	93.35
Primary education				

		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
	Ratio of children repeating class (%)	3.27	2.79	2.29
	Drop-outs (%)	5.00	4.67	3.67
	Grade completion ratio (%)	91.73	92.54	94.04
	Ratio of transfers to higher schools (%)	97.30	94.24	97.24
	School completion ratio (%) (Education efficiency)	69.64	70.88	74.42
	Ratio of qualified primary school teachers (%) -	77.64	80.04	84.95
Secondary education				
	Ratio of children repeating class (%)	2.06	1.93	1.48
	Drop-outs (%)	8.68	8.51	7.3
	Grade completion ratio (%)	89.26	89.56	91.22
	Ratio of transfers to higher schools (%)	76.32	75.38	76.39
	School completion ratio (%)	68.78	69.36	70.01
High schools				
	Ratio of children repeating class (%)	1.21	1.32	1.18
	Drop-outs (%)	5.06	7.68	6.35
	Grade completion ratio (%)	93.73	91.00	98.47

Source: Centre for Information and Education Management, Ministry of Education and Training, 2001

Issue 7. Please provide disaggregated statistical data including by gender, age, minority groups and region, on adolescent health, including with regard to the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, early pregnancy, and drug abuse covering the years 1999 to 2001.

TABLE 14. RATIO OF HIV INFECTED CHILDREN TO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HIV INFECTED PEOPLE (%)

Group Age	1998	1999	2000	2001
Under 13	0.36	0.40	0.48	0.61
From 13 to 19	7.25	7.9	9.26	9.68

(Source: The Programme on AIDS Control and Prevention of the Ministry of Health)

TABLE 15. NUMBER OF DRUGS-USER CHILDREN

	1999	2000	2001
Drug abuse children	1,727	2,008	2,806

Source: MOLISA, 2001

Issue 8. Please provide appropriate disaggregated data (including by gender, age minority groups and type of crime) on children violating the law for the last three years (1999-2001), including:

a. The number of children who have allegedly committed a crime reported to the police

TABLE 16. RATIO OF CHILDREN VIOLATING THE LAW

	1999	2000	2001
Number of adolescents violating the law (1)	14,346	11,538	11,376
By age (%)			
Under 12 years (%)	2.08	2.45	2.39
From 12 to 14 years (%)	11.16	13.57	11.68
From 14 to 16 years (%)	33.44	35.89	35.55
From 16 to 18 years (%)	53.32	48.08	50.38
By literacy/education			
Illiterate (%)	9.49	11.01	7.64
Primary school (%)	32.52	30.56	27.16
Secondary school (%)	38.26	39.73	42.99
High school (%)	19.73	18.70	22.21
By types of crime			
Murder (%)	0.74	0.65	0.76
Robbery (%)	3.17	3.41	4.29
Extortion (%)	2.17	2.64	2.72
Rape (%)	2.23	2.18	2.41
Malicious infliction of injury (%)	11.21	10.55	11.4
Theft (%)	46.38	44.9	48.99
Snatching robbery (%)	2.41	3.31	2.81
Defraud/swindle (%)	1.03	1.54	0.90
Illegal gambling (%)	4.29	3.3	2.31
Drug abuse (%)	6.39	5.96	4.40
Illegal sale and possession of narcotics (%)	2.29	1.12	0.98
Other (%)	17.68	20.44	18.00
Adolescents in correctional institutions and detention facilities (1)			
Incoming to correctional institutions	1,419	1,467	1,591
Outgoing from correctional institutions	1,228	1,430	1,420
In detention (not including children living with parents)	996	565	658

Source: Ministry of Public Security, Supreme People's Procuracy, 2001

- b. *Where applicable, the number of children held in pre-trial detention and the average duration of such detention. (no available data)*
- c. *The number of children sentenced by Courts*

TABLE 17. ADOLESCENTS SENTENCED BY COURTS

	Proceedings started	From 14 to under 16 years	Female	Recidivists	Prosecuted	Suspended proceedings	Cases of penal liability exemption	Number of trials	Number of 5-year and higher sentences
1999	5,284	1,030	217	2,017	3,627	217	152	3,077	350
2000	3,908	489	145	1,612	2,828	265	138	2,771	267
2001	3,928	548	117	1,247	2,924	129	101	2,575	317

Source: Supreme People's Court, 2001

- d. *The nature of sanctions (fines, detention, community service, other) and the number of suspended sentences. (no available data on suspended sentences)*

TABLE 18. ADOLESCENTS VIOLATING THE LAW TO BE SUBJECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

	Total	Penal proceedings started (%)	Administrative sanctions (%)	Educating and supervising measures (%)				
				Among which				
				Family custody (%)	Education measures at districts, communes (%)	Public criticism (%)	Reformatory schools (%)	Therapeutic detoxification at the community (%)
2000	11,538	16.08	67.54	30.89	13.96	6.49	7.82	1.14
2001	11,376	15.44	73.51	31.18	11.59	8.40	9.62	1.38

Source: Criminal Police Department, Ministry of Public Security, 2001

- e. *Where the sanction is deprivation of liberty, please further specify the period of detention and the type (juvenile, adult or other) of detention facility in which children are held (no available data)*
- f. *The percentage of recidivism cases: (no available data)*
- g. *The number of reported cases of abuse and maltreatment of children that occurred during their arrest and detention: (no available data)*

Issue 9. *With reference to special protection measures, please provide and evaluate statistical data (including by gender, age, urban-rural areas) covering the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 on:*

- a. *The number of children involved in sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking, and the number of children provided with access to recovery and other assistance (See the above issues)*
- b. *The number of children involved in child labour (formal and informal sector)*

There are no cases of enslavement or similar treatment of children, using children as a form of debt offset or collateral, or forced labour including forced enlistment of children in armed conflicts in Viet Nam. Under-15 child labour is prohibited by Vietnamese law.

Viet Nam has yet to have an official system of statistics on child labour. This question deserves due attention in future and requires technical assistance from ILO⁷.

- c. *Number of street children*

Table 19. the number of street children

Year	1999	2000	2001
Street children	23,039	22,423	21,016

Source: MOLISA, 2001

B. General measures of implementation

Issue 1. *Please provide information on the reasons some of the recommendations contained in the Committee’s 1993 concluding observations (CRC/C/15/Add.3) not yet been implemented. Please indicate, in particular, what obstacles have hindered implementation and what measures are undertaken to ensure their implementation in the near future.*

It is affirmative that in the past years Viet Nam seriously considered and implemented those recommendations in the process of revising, amending and implementing relevant policies and laws. Namely:

- *Recommendation 1: “... particularly important for the Government Viet Nam to take all necessary steps, both nationally and also using international assistance and cooperation, to minimise the negative impact that the economic reforms may have on the most vulnerable group, i.e. children, of the Vietnamese society. Special attention should be paid to the protection of children belonging to different minority groups, children living in rural areas and children in urban areas who line and/or work on the street. In the latter case, there seems to be a need to further study the root causes of this phenomenon and develop appropriate strategies to resolve this problem”.*

⁷ Source: MOLISA, 2002

In the past years, fully aware of the challenges and negative impact that were created by the market economy and adversely affected children, Viet Nam made a tremendous shift to focus on child protection activities based on their rights and needs, while giving special attention to children with special circumstances, children belonging to ethnic minorities and children living in remote areas.

Among over one hundred legal documents enacted by the National Assembly and the Government, and hundreds of instruments issued by various Ministries and agencies with regard to the implementation of the rights of the child from 1999 to 2002, there are more than sixty instruments adjusting, amending, implementing and overseeing policies in favour of children with special circumstances, children living in remote areas and children belonging to ethnic minorities.

A series of measures have been undertaken in order to assist investments in underdeveloped areas, minimise the disparities among different regions/areas, different classes of the population, and to expand the network of social security and welfare in favour of vulnerable groups, including children with special circumstances, children living in remote areas and children belonging to ethnic minorities.

These significant efforts have enabled the efficient exercise of the fundamental rights of these groups of children.

During the period of 1998-2002, there was a considerable change in the awareness at all levels of government and the society with regard to the protection of children with special circumstances; many programmes of action were launched with a view to preventing, resolving this problem and assisting the integration of those children; a child protection campaign was successful launched with the participation of the whole society; many exemplary models were formulated. As a result, we managed to lower the number of children with special circumstances, and contain the number of children using narcotics, children subject to trafficking, street children, juvenile delinquents, abused children, etc.

Regarding health care, the population from communes with special circumstances, remote areas and the poor in general, including children, is entitled to free medical examination and therapy and health insurance. The current ratio of under one year children in mountainous areas and the Northern midlands who have had full vaccination is 94.27% as compared to 99.28% in the Red River delta, 95.6% in the Mekong River delta and 98.3% in the Central coast⁸...

In the field of education, the sector sets as its priority the improvement of school infrastructure and equipment in areas with special circumstances; encourages and facilitates children belonging to minority groups that have their own writing system to complete primary education programme partly through the official national language and partly through their own language, while improving the quality and efficiency of teaching the former; provides preferential and incentive policies in favour of pupils belonging to minority groups, such as reduction or exemption of tuition fee, provision of grants and text books; improves and strengthens the system of ethnic boarding

⁸ Information statistics, Ministry of Health, 2000

schools, while trying to increase the female students ratio; expands and diversifies illiteracy eradication and post illiteracy education programmes; encourages informal education forms such as joint classes and supplementary education classes; provides subsistence allowances for teaching staff in remote and minority areas; different forms of social engagement are carried out in various local areas, such as “Loads of rice to the child” in favour of children at pre-primary school age, or grant or patronage schemes in favour of pupils from poor families and from areas with special circumstances through the sponsorship of individuals and businesses... The number of primary school pupils belonging to minority groups increased from 12.22% (1995-1996) to 16.9% (1999-2000), whereas the number of secondary students of the same category grew from 5.67% (1995-1996) to 11.28% (1999-2000)⁹ ...

The results that Viet Nam has achieved in developing health care and education network in remote areas illustrate its tremendous efforts, given the low level of per capita income. They also mean that various Ministries/agencies, levels of government and social organisations have demonstrated great degree of support in favour of children in mountainous and remote areas and children with special circumstances. These achievements show the reduction of disparity in enjoying basic social services in favour of children and the priorities given to children in allocating the State budget. While utilising official development assistance and non-governmental assistance attained through strengthened international cooperation, the State gives preference to ethnic and remote areas and disadvantaged groups, particularly children.

However, in other fields, considerable disparity remains in terms of prerequisites for the quality enjoyment of the right to care, protection and development of children belonging to minority groups or living in remote areas as compared to those in urban areas, for instance, the infrastructure of clinics, the number of obstetricians and paediatricians, the ratio of malnourished children, the access to amusement and entertainment... differ from region to region. Apart from that, the situation of children living on the street, their life, health, dignity and honour being abused, being drawn to narcotics, contracting HIV/AIDS, violating the law, being trafficked, remains a concern. This shortcoming is the result of many reasons, but mainly because of the uneven development among regions/areas, repeated natural disasters that cause huge damage, inappropriate investments by some agencies and local governments, lack of due attention to preventive measures and negligence of some families and parents.

- *Recommendation 2: “The appropriate amendments should be made to the Penal Code in order to adequately reflect the provisions contained in ... the Convention as well as ... other international standards in this field... the Committee recommends that a training course for law enforcement personnel be organised by the Centre for Human Rights in Viet Nam”.*

During the past few years, Viet Nam made numerous efforts to implement this recommendation. The National Assembly enacted the Penal Code in 1999, the Government issued decrees giving guidance to implement the Code, including provisions on judicial matters relating to adolescents which had been revised and amended to adequately reflect relevant provisions of the Convention. These provisions

⁹ Information and Management Centre, Ministry of Education and Training, 2000

particularly embody the following principles: sanctions imposed on juvenile delinquents are mainly of educational and preventive nature, whereas trial and sentence, especially imprisonment, are only the last resort in exceptional cases due to the grave nature of the delict, the background factors of the wrongdoer and the necessity of prevention.

More judicial and punitive measures have been provided to permit the broadened application of sanctions that do not involve deprivation of liberty in cases of adolescents. Life and death sentences are not applicable to adolescents. In case where the general prescribed sentence for a given crime is capital punishment or life imprisonment, it shall be up to 18 year imprisonment for adolescents from 16 to under 18 years, and for the age ranging from 14 to 16 years the maximum sentence shall not exceed 12 years. Where the judgement is imprisonment, the verdict given by the courts in cases involving adolescents is less harsh than with grown-ups. Fines are not applicable to children under 16 years and supplementary sanctions do not apply to adolescents. Politburo's resolution 08/NQ-TW on a number of important tasks in the judiciary field stresses the necessity to consider the institution of special courts on matrimonial and familial matters in the system of people's courts.

Though Viet Nam has not yet held a training course for law enforcement personnel organised by the Centre for Human Rights in Viet Nam as the Committee recommended, during the past years, relevant Vietnamese authorities, collaborating with UN agencies and NGOs such as UNICEF, Radda Barnen, Plan International, Enfants – Etat de lieu (France) and other international organisations, managed to organise many training and drill courses for thousands of personnel including judges, procurators, police officers, people's jurors and child-related workers on the contents of the Convention, national laws, the "Riyadh Guidelines" and the "Beijing Rules".

- *Recommendation 3: "The text of the Convention should be translated into the languages of all minority groups and disseminated as widely as possible in order to sensitize the public opinion with respect to the protection of the rights of the child. The youth and non-governmental organizations could play an active role in creating an awareness about the Convention all over the country".*

As was pointed out in the report covering the period of 1993 to 1998, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and national laws are widely communicated in more details on mass media. Social organisations such as the Youth Organisation, Viet Nam's Women Association are the forces that actively participate in raising the awareness on the Convention among the public, especial the youth and children. Children are also particularly interested and actively engage in learning about the Convention and national laws. (See also issue 5).

Issue 2. Please provide information on any mechanism aimed at coordinating both at local and national levels the policies and programmes related to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The coordination of policies and programmes is conducted through these mechanisms:

a. At the national level:

- The Communist Party of Viet Nam issues directives and resolutions that set forth policies on the protection, care and education of children.
- The National Assembly institutionalises the coordination of policies and programmes in laws, ordinances, resolutions and the organisational structure of the Government.
- The coordination of policies and programmes is also realised through the mechanism of an inter-agency Committee with the participation of relevant ministries/agencies and social organisations, and chaired by a Minister under the direct guidance of a Deputy Prime Minister in charge of cultural and social affairs.
- It is also conducted through joint agreements among various ministries/agencies and between ministries/agencies and social organisations.

b. At the local level:

- Through the system of bodies of the Communist Party and the Government at local and grass-root levels.

In order to fully and earnestly implement the rights of the child starting from within the family and to enhance the capacity of the family in the country's development process, at the First Session of the Eleventh National Assembly, the Committee on the Protection and Care of Children was upgraded to the Committee on Population, Family and Children (Resolution 02/2002/QH11 of 5 August 2002). The Committee on Population, Family and Children is a ministerial-level governmental body charged with the responsibility of national management in the field of population, family and children, and tasked and empowered to do the following:

- Submit to the Government drafts of laws, ordinances and other legal norms, as well as policies, plans and programmes of action on population, family and children;
- Organise and provide guidance for the implementation of legal norms, policies plans and programmes of action on population, family and children;
- Design plans of coordination among ministries/agencies and other organisations in implementing tasks relating to population, family and children;
- Organise and provide guidance for the activities aimed at promoting the prosperity, equality, advancement, happiness and sustainability of family;
- Conduct international cooperation activities in the field of population, family and children;
- Organise and provide guidance for scientific research activities and applications in field of population, family and children;

- Inspect and handle complaints and deal with violations of laws on population, family and children according to its mandate;

The organisational structure of the Committee is as follows:

- The assistance to the Minister-Chairman in conducting the national management mandate is provided by a series of departments: Department on Population, Department on Family, Department on Children, Department of Communications and Education, Department of Planning and Finance, Department of International Cooperation, Department of Human Resources, Department of Legal Affairs, Inspectorate and the Chancellery.
- Other institutions belonging to the Committee: Population, Family and Children Science Institute, Training Centre for civil servants and personnel; Information Centre; Family and Children Journal; Family and Society Newspaper.

Issue 3. Please provide more information on the existing mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Further, please indicate if there is any mechanism which is mandated to receive and handle individual complaints from children.

The monitoring of the implementation of the Convention is ensured through the following mechanisms:

a) Legislation: The incorporation of the Convention provisions in national laws and the harmonisation between them is an important component of and the prerequisite for the realisation of the Convention's provisions.

b) System of national and local specialised bodies: The Committee on the Protection and Care of Children (presently - the Committee on Population, Family and Children) and the system of local Committees on the Protection and Care of Children (in 61 provinces and national cities, over 600 districts and more than 11 thousand communes all over the country) are mandated to carry out this task. In addition, the National Assembly also has a Committee on Youth and Children. A special role is played by many Centres of communications, education and consultation on the rights of the child located throughout the country (currently there are 72 such Centres). These are the bodies and organisations that monitor the implementation of laws on children.

c) Inspection: The Committee on the Protection and Care of Children (presently - the Committee on Population, Family and Children) has a system of inspection at both national and local levels to conduct regular inspections on the implementation of the Convention, national laws and other policies regarding children. Moreover, the Committee, together with other relevant authorities, establishes inter-agency inspection teams to conduct non-scheduled inspections when necessary. The outcome of the inspections is communicated to local authorities and relevant ministries/agencies, and reported to the State General Inspectorate – the highest specialised governmental body that directly reports to the Prime Minister. Apart from that, relevant ministries/agencies also have their own special system of inspection which covers some aspects of the implementation of the rights of the child in their own field. For example, inspectorates

in the field of labour, invalids and social affairs are instituted at all levels of government and are mandated to monitor the implementation of legal norms on child labour and social security for children with special circumstances.

d) *People's assessors* at local courts are mandated to ensure the interests of the child at related proceedings.

e) Children themselves have begun to participate in monitoring the implementation of their rights through their own organisations such as Child Stars, Pioneers Brigade, Children Communication teams (currently there are 12,988 such teams nation wide), Child Rights Clubs (654), different children's fora and, especially, the so-called Little Reporters Clubs (over 10 clubs) and their own newspaper – "Voice of children"¹⁰.

As regard the receiving and handling of complaints: Under the existing legislation on complaint handling, the heads of relevant bodies/organisations (chairpersons of People's Committee, heads of governmental bodies at different levels) shall be accountable for handling complaints according to prescribed procedures and their mandate. Whereas the chief inspectors at different levels of government shall verify any complaints relating to matters within the mandate of the head of relevant bodies at respective levels of government, and shall make conclusions and recommendations on their resolution. The inspectors of the Committee on Population, Family and Children exercise the mandate of ministerial inspection, their task is to "assist the Minister-Chairman of the Committee in receiving citizens and handling their complaints according to the existing legislation" (paragraph 2d, article 18, Decree 86/2002/ND-CP of 5 November 2002). Thus the Committee itself (at national level) and its subsidiary Committees on Population, Family and Children at local levels all bear the responsibility of receiving complaints directly relating to the protection of child rights and assisting their resolution. However, under the existing legislation on complaint handling procedures, adolescents shall exercise their right to complaint through their lawful representatives (article 2, Decree 67/1999/ND-CP). In practice, as being implemented at primary, secondary and high schools their respective Regulations all prescribe that *students have the right to make their complaints to the schools and different levels of education management on the decisions concerning themselves*.

Since 2000 the Committee's inspectors have been conducting a pilot project on "Model of inspection and monitoring of the implementation of child rights at grass-root levels" in 6 communes and towns. The project has started to produce some initial results – it has assisted local bodies in the early detection and timely intervention in and rectification of cases of violation of child rights such as failure to issue birth certificates within the legally stipulated timeframe, failure to enable all children to go to school, discrimination against children... The results of this project, if successfully multiplied, would bring even more desirable outcome.

¹⁰ Source: Committee on Population, Family and Children, 2002

Issue 4. Please provide information on progress made in plans to establish a database or a another system using child rights indicators that would gather information on the Convention's implementation.

Since 1996, Viet Nam has begun to develop a system of child rights indicators. In 1998, the system was completed comprising of 84 indicators, but limited to the groups of the rights to life, development and protection. Since 1998, the Committee on the Protection and Care of Children (presently - the Committee on Population, Family and Children) has been working with various bodies and branches such as statistics, judiciary, procuracy, health, education, justice, labour, invalids and social affairs... to collect information in order to publish annually a book entitled "Viet Nam child indicators". This book provides policy-makers with necessary information and data on the implementation of the rights of the child. In 1999, the Committee launched an experimental uniform application of these indicators in various ministries/agencies at both national and local levels. After 2 years, the project has been assessed and lessons have been drawn in order to revise and adjust these indicators to meet practical requirements in implementing the rights of the child. Viet Nam currently is planned to further improve the said 84 indicators in order to ensure consistent understanding of the concept, content and calculation method. At the same time, Viet Nam is undertaking studies on the development of indicators of child participation. Since this is a rather new issue to us, we very much appreciate assistance in building the concepts and definitions of the indicators.

Issue 5. Please indicate progress made in disseminating information on the principles and provision of the Convention to children of ethnic minorities, particularly in remote and mountainous regions.

In general, the communication and education of the Convention and Viet Nam's national policies and legislation have been frequently implemented in various mass media forms such as: child-protection, child-care columns on newspapers and journals (currently there are 635 newspapers and journals), on radio and television (currently there are 4 national television programmes and 93 provincial programmes)¹¹; 72 information, education and advisory centres of the Committee on Population, Family and Children in 61 provinces and cities; mobile legal-assistance teams of the judicial body sent to difficult and ethnic minority areas; workshops and seminars, training courses on the rights of the child and the integration of the rights of the child, the Convention's content, the national legislation into text-books as well as into the official lectures of Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy and the National Administration Institute. Particularly, children take an active part in inquiring into and disseminating the Convention and the national legislation through different contests and fora for children, Clubs of Little Reporters, Child Rights Clubs, children communication teams...

The texts of the Conventions and national legislation are translated into ethnic minority languages and dialects (Thai, H'Mong, Ede, Bana...). The communication of the Convention and the national legislation for the ethnic minority children has been done through thousands of national and local radio and television programmes on child in the

¹¹ Source: Committee on Population, Family and Children, 2002

languages of Khmer, Cham, Rak-Lay, Stieng, Bana, Jarai, Ede, K'ho, Sedang, H'Mong, Dao, Ray, Thai. The Convention and national legislation is published in the ethnic minority linguistic newspapers for the ethnic minority children (the Child and the Ethnic Minority Child with the total circulation of 3,341,476); and summarised in the forms of comics, leaflets, brochures, ethnic minority linguistic books (in Thai, Khmer, H'Mong, Bana, Jarai...) with hundreds of thousand of publications in the period of 1998 - 2002. Especially in many remote, ethnic minority regions, the Convention and national legislation is disseminated by the legal-assistance teams and a network of the ethnic minority collaborators of the Committee on Population, Family and Children through public speaker systems or directly to the households in Daklak, Jarai...; The Convention and national legislation is also summarised in the form of animation tapes like "Mai's story in the city" dubbed in Thai, Khmer, H'Mong languages¹².

The above-mentioned forms of communication have actively contributed to accelerating the dissemination of the Convention and national legislation at grass-root levels, particularly in remote areas. The outcome is (as of 2001) 98,8 percent of staff, 70,9 percent of children and 83 percent of custodian are aware of the rights of the child.¹³

However, the communication and education of the Convention and national legislation still lacks the coordination, integration among programmes and projects in the same place. The communication on the ethnic minority areas has not been carried out frequently due to the limited budget. Forms of communication should be more diverse as several ethnic minority groups have no written language. There exists an inadequacy of staff working in this field and documents teaching skills of communication in ethnic minority and remote areas.

Issue 6. Please indicate which are the issues affecting children that the State party considers to be priorities requiring the most urgent attention with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

In recent years, the adoption of "doi moi" policy, the promotion of sustainable economic growth, hunger eradication and poverty reduction, and social equality have gradually improved the material and spiritual life of Vietnamese people; the human resources development, public health-care, and living standard have been substantially improved, raising Viet Nam's Human Development Index to 0.696, ranking the 101st place of 162 countries in 2000.

Yet, Viet Nam is a poor country with a low per capita income; poverty still exists on a considerable scale and there are development gaps among regions. Together with the investment in resources for economic development, the Government has increased its investment in social programmes, especially hunger eradication and poverty reduction programmes which are considered successful in Viet Nam in the last ten years. Though the Government has adopted many preferential policies to further develop mountainous, remote, ethnic minority areas to narrow the gap between the rural and urban, changes in these areas have not yet reached the desired levels. There are many

¹² Source: Centre for Social information of the Committee on Population, Family and Children, 2002

¹³ Source: Committee on Population, Family and Children, 2001

reasons, among those are low education level and backward habits and customs in these areas which require investment amounting to as much as double or triple that in plane areas.

Viet Nam is now undergoing the transition to a market economy, eliminating subsidies. Viet Nam is now concentrating on, on the one hand, the promotion of economic development, and on the other, the promotion of even development among regions and population groups. The market economy, along with the globalisation and international integration, has brought about not only considerably favourable conditions but also adverse social impacts such as development gap among regions, more disadvantaged groups like children in extreme circumstances: the number of children living on the street, using narcotics, sexually abused, subject to trafficking, violating the law, accident victims, HIV/AIDS infected or affected is on the rise. The Government has set up a national programme to protect and care for these people. It requires a certain amount of time and sufficient resource. The participation of children, especially adolescents, in the policy-making of children-related issues will be of priority in the time ahead

Viet Nam is deeply aware that rapid technical and social changes in the 21st century are making large impacts on families - the natural and basic units of the society, from which the first, very important protection and care for children comes. The formulation of policies and programmes to enhance the capacity and role of families and to contribute to the improvement of the implementation of the rights of the child in families is regarded as a critical factor for the economic development, and for a stable and wholesome society. The Committee on Population, Family and Children (a ministerial-level body) was set up to promote the state management of family-related issues and is now focusing on designing a strategy on family in Viet Nam. This is a new area and Viet Nam needs to learn from the experience in other countries.

To continuously and successfully implement the rights of the child, apart from narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor, uneven development among regions and population groups, minimising adverse impact of the market economy and globalisation, enhancing the capacity of families, Viet Nam should disseminate and provide skills related to the implementation of the rights of the child as well as building, developing and promoting the capacity of those who work with the children.

PART II

Please provide the Committee with copies of the text of the Convention on the Right of the Child in all official languages of the State party as well as in other languages or dialects, when available. If possible, please submit these texts in electronic form.

Please see the attached document

PART III

Under this section, the State party is to briefly (3 pages maximum) up-date the information provided in its reports with regard to:

- *New bills or enacted legislation*

- *New institutions*

- *Newly implemented policies*

- *Newly implemented programmes and projects and their scope*

THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIET NAM'S POLICIES OF PROTECTION, CARE AND EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN

1. Circular 04/TT-TW of 30 July 1998 of the Standing Committee of the Politburo with regard to strengthening the guidance on the protection, care, education of the children .
2. Directive 55/CT-TW of 30 July 1998 of the Politburo with regard to strengthening the guidance on the protection, care, education of the children at party grass-root levels
3. The 9th Party Congress has set out Viet Nam's socio-economic development guideline and strategy for the time ahead, in which it emphasises: "The policy of protection, care of the children focuses on implementing the rights of the child, enabling the children to live in a safe, healthy environment, to grow harmoniously in physical, intellectual, spiritual, and moral terms; the orphan, disabled children and children in special circumstances have the opportunity to go to school".
4. The main goal of the 2001-2010 economic-social development strategy is to get Viet Nam out the underdevelopment; to improve visibly the material, cultural and spiritual life of the people, laying the foundation for Viet Nam to become a modern industrial country in the year of 2020. Human resources, scientific and technological capacity, infrastructure, economic power,... will be strengthened. The strategy also indicates the point of view that development has to be fast, effective and sustainable , development has to go hand-in-hand with social progress and equality.
5. The economic-social development plan for 2001-2005 is set to develop the economy rapidly and sustainably, stabilise and improve the people's life; transform the economic and labour structure to increase the social productivity; renovate drastically the education and training, science and technology, utilise the human element; create more jobs; on the whole, eradicate hunger, reduce the number of poor households; repel social evils...

BELOW IS THE LIST OF VIETNAMESE LEGAL NORMS PERTAINING TO THE PROTECTION, CARE AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN (FROM 1998-2002)

Constitution, Laws, Ordinances by the National Assembly and the Standing Committee of the National Assembly

1. Revised Constitution with some amended articles of the 1992 Constitution (adopted by the National Assembly in 2001)
2. Penal Code of 1999

3. Criminal Procedural Code (revised, amended in 2000)
4. Law on Marriage and Family of 2000
5. Labour Code (revised, amended in 2002)
6. Law on Vietnamese Citizenship
7. Education Law, December 1998
8. Law on Drug Control and Prevention, 2000
9. Revised Press Law as revised and amended in 1999.
10. Law on the Organisation of People's Court, 2002
11. Law on Organisation of the Supreme People's Procuracy 2002
12. Ordinance on Disabled Persons, 2000
13. Ordinance on Administrative Measures, 2002
14. Resolution 40/2000/NQ-QH 10 dated December 9, 2000 on the reform of the elementary education programme
15. Resolution 41/2000/NQ-QH 10 dated December 9, 2000 on implementation of secondary education proliferation
16. Resolution 2/2002/QH10 dated August 5, 2002 on the Establishment of the National Committee on Population, Family and Children

Regulations issued by the Government

1. Decree 76/1998/ND on the revision, amendment of provisions of Decree 39/CP-1996 on the railway traffic order.
2. Decree 78/1998/ND- CP on the amendment of provisions of the Decree 49/CP -1995 on Administrative Measures against breach of The Law on Traffic Order and Urban Traffic Order.
3. Decree 83/1998/ND-CP dated October 10, 1998 on Residence Register.
4. Decree 89/1998/ND-CP on Issuance of Regulation on Temporary Arrest and Detention.
5. Decree 104/1998/ND-CP dated December 13, 1998 on the enforcement of the Law on the Vietnamese citizenship
6. Decree 55/1999/ND-CP dated July 10, 1999 on the enforcement of the Ordinance on Disabled Persons

7. Decree 79/1999/ND-CP dated August 19, 1999 on the Incentive Policy of Socialisation of the Activities in Education, Health, Culture and Sports.
8. Decree 177/1999/ND-CP on the Issuance of Regulation on Organisation and Functions of Social and Charity Funds.
9. Decree 07/2000/ND-CP dated March 9, 2000 on the Social Aid Policy on subsidies given to the children without custodian.
10. Decree 43/2000/ND-CP dated August 30, 2000 on the Guidance on implementation of provisions of the Education Law.
11. Decree 59/2000/ND-CP dated October 31, 2000 on Implementation of Educational Measures in Commune, Ward, to adolescents violating the law
12. Decree 74/2000/ND-CP dated December 6, 2000 on trade and use of mother's milk substitutes to protect and encourage breast-feeding.
13. Decree 60/2000/ND- CP on execution of non-custodial reform
14. Decree 61/2000/ND - CP on execution of suspended sentences
15. Decree 12/2001/ND-CP dated March 27, 2000 on re-organisation of specialised bodies of provincial, city People's Committees under the central government and the district, town, city people's committee under the provincial governments..
16. Decree 25/2001/ND-CP dated May 31, 2001 on the issuance of regulations on establishment and functions of social security facilities to encourage organisations and individuals to found care centres for the children with special circumstances.
17. Decree 35/2001/ND-CP on the policy for teachers, education management staff working in the boarding schools in areas of extremely difficult socio-economic circumstances.
18. Decree 36/2001/2001- ND- CP on the road traffic order and urban traffic order.
19. Decree 52/2001/ND-CP dated August 23, 2001 on the guidance on execution of judicial measures to correctional schools.
20. Decree 70/2001/ND-CP dated October 3, 2001 on implementation of the Marriage and Family Law.
21. Decree 71/2001/ND-CP on the National Target Programmes for the period 2001-2005.
22. Decree 87/2001/ND-CP dated November 21, 2001 on administrative measures with respect to marriage and family.
23. Decree 88/2001/ ND-CP on implementation of compulsory senior primary education.

24. Decree 32/2002 / ND-CP on application of the Marriage and Family Law to ethnic minorities groups.
25. Decree 34/2002/ND-CP dated Mar 28, 2002 on order, procedure and regime of detoxification for drug users applicable to obligatory detoxification centres.
26. Decree 56/2002/ND-CP dated May 15, 2002 on detoxification in family and community.
27. Decree 68/2002/ND-CP dated Jul 10, 2002 on implementation of provisions of the Marriage and Family on marriage between Vietnamese and foreigners.
28. Decree 38/2002/ND-CP on application of the Law on Marriage and Family for ethnic minority people.
29. Decree 94/2002/ND-CP dated Nov 11, 2000 on the functions, responsibilities, powers and working mechanism of the National Committee on Population, Family and Children.

Decisions and Directives of the Prime Minister

1. Decision 70/1998/QD-TTg dated March 21, 1998 on subjects entitled to free, discounted school fee, including children with special circumstance.
2. Decision 05/1998/QD-TTg dated November 14, 1998 on management of the National Target Programme.
3. Decision 28/1999/QD-TTg dated February 23, 1999 on management and utilisation of aids of foreign NGOs.
4. Decision 1232/QD-TTg dated December 14, 1999 on approval of the list of communes with special circumstances and bordering communes within the socio-economic development programmes for mountainous and remote communes with special circumstances.
5. Decision 179/1999/ QD-TTg on the allowance regime for management of temporary correction centers.
6. Decision 206/1999/QD-TTg on the approval of the Education and Training Development Plan in the Mekong Delta up to the year 2000 and for the period 2001-2005.
7. Decision 26/2000/QD-TTg dated February 23, 2000 on regimes for veterans and their children infected by toxic chemicals used by the Americans during the war.
8. Decision 31/2000/QD-TTg on establishment of the Fund for Drug Control and Prevention.
9. Decision 494/2000/QD-TTg dated May 23, 2000 on the approval of the secondary teacher's training project.

10. Decision 26/2000/QD - TTg dated February 23, 2000 on regimes for veterans and their children infected by toxic chemicals used by the Americans during the war.
11. Decision 61/2000/QD-TTg dated June 5, 2000 on the Organisation of the National Committee on Prevention and Fight against AIDS, Drugs and Prostitution.
12. Decision 104/2000/QD-TTg dated August 25, 2000 on the approval of the National Strategy on rural clean water supply and sanitation up to the year 2020.
13. Decision 142/2000 /QD-TTg dated December 11, 2000 on the implementation of child adoption agreement between Viet Nam and France
14. Decision 149/2000/QD- TTg on preferential policy for the members of intellectual teams voluntarily involved in the development of rural and mountainous areas.
15. Decision 354/2000/QD- TTg on organisation of intellectual teams voluntarily involved in the development of rural and mountainous areas.
16. Decision 494/ 2000/QD-TTg dated May 23, 2000 on the approval of the secondary teachers training project
17. Decision 647/2000/QD-TTg dated July 12, 2000 on addition of communes to the List communes with special circumstances and bordering communes within the socio-economic development programmes for mountainous and remote communes with special circumstances.
18. Decision 818/2000/QD-TTg dated August 31, 2000 on appointment of the members of the National Committee for AIDS, Drug and Prostitution Control and Prevention
19. Decision 27/2001/QD - TTg on the Annual Labour and Job Census.
20. Decision 42/2001/QD-TTg dated March 26, 2001 Addition of communes to the List communes with special circumstances and bordering communes within the socio-economic development programmes for mountainous and remote communes with special circumstances.(Programme 135).
21. Decision 47/2001/QD-TTg on the approval of the University and College Network Planning for the period 2001-2010.
22. Decision 63/2001/QD-TTg dated April 25, 2001 on the establishment of the National Steering Committee on Compulsory Senior Primary Education.
23. Decision 64/2001/QD-TTg dated April 26, 2001 on issuance of the regulation on management and utilisation of aids of foreign NGOs.
24. Decision 72/2001/QD-TTg dated May 4, 2001 on the Viet Nam Family Day.
25. Decision 93/2001/QD- TTg on Month of Action on Drug Prevention and Control and People' Day of Drug Prevention and Control

26. Decision 186/2001/QD-TTg dated December 7, 2001 on the socio-economic development in the 6 Northern mountainous provinces with special circumstances for the period 2001 - 2005.
27. Decision 1637/2001/QD-TTg on Supply of Newspaper, Journals to Mountainous and Ethnic Minority people.
28. Decision 105/2002/QD-TTg on the regime for households affected by flooding on instalment of floors and houses made by population groups of the Mekong delta.
29. Decision 131/2002/QD-TTg on the establishment of Bank of Social Policy.
30. Decision 139/2002/QD -TTg dated October 15, 2002 on Medical examination and treatment for the poor.
31. Decision 155/2002/QD-TTg on the Policy for ethnic minority households on-site and households in the Central Highland provinces entitled to buy house on instalment.
32. Decision 158/2002/QD-TTg dated November 15, 2002 on the Regime of Incentives for Pupils, Student winning prizes in the Best Student, National Olympic, International Olympic, National and International Vocational Contests.
33. Decision 158/2002/QD-TTg on the approval of the project on fortification of classes and schools all over the country from pre-school to primary education toward the elimination of 3-shift situation in 2003 and no temporary thatch classes in 2005.
34. Decision 161/2002/QD-TTg dated November 15, 2002 on the pre-school education policies up to the year 2010.
35. Directive 06/1998/CT-TTg dated January 31, 1998 on strengthening of the Protection of Children, Prevention and dealing the problems of street children and children of labour exploitation.
36. Directive 21/1999/CT-TTg dated July 31, 1999 on stepping-up the activities toward the objectives of liquidating polio, eliminating infant tetanus, controlling measles in the year 2000.
37. Directive 34/1999/CT-TTg dated December 27, 1999 on stepping up the implementation of the objectives to the year 2000 for children. Review the National Programme of Action for Children for the period 1991-2000 and construct the National Programme of Action for Children for the period 2001-2010
38. Directive 03/2000/CT-TTg dated February 24, 2000 on advancing cultural, leisure and recreation activities for children
39. Directive 02/2001/CT-TTg dated March 9, 2001 on implementation of “The Year of Voluntary Society for Children with special circumstances” 2001-2002
40. Directive 09/2001/CT-TTg dated April 27, 2001 on organisation of the campaign toward the decade of the Disabled in Asia-Pacific.

41. Directive 13/2001/CT-TTg dated May 31, 2001 on the review of 10-year implementation of the Law on Children Protection, Care and Education.

42. Directive 17/2001/CT-TTg dated July 20, 2001 on the implementation of “the Second National Campaign for measles vaccination” for children at age of 9-10 in the two years 2002 and 2003.

43. Resolution 9/1998/NQ- CP dated July 31, 1998 on stepping up the task of prevention and fight against crime in the new context.

Decisions, Directives, Circulars of ministries/agencies

1. Decision 1143/2000/QD - LDTBXH dated November 1, 2000 of Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs on the standard of poverty.

2. Decision 18/2002/QD-BGDDT dated April 4, 2002 of the Ministry of Education and Training on the issuance of regulation on the graduate exams for complementary secondary and high school students .

3. Decision 448/2002/QD-BLDTBXH dated April 9, 2002 of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs on the issuance of the regulation on graduate exams, verification and certification of the official vocational students.

4. Decision 05/2002/QD-BGDDT dated March 11, 2002 of Ministry of Education and Training on the issuance of the regulation on specialised high schools.

5. Decision 07/2002/QD-BGDDT dated March 19, 2002 of Ministry of Education and Training on the issuance of the regulation on the type of self-study with guidance for complementary high-school students.

6. Decision 12/2002/QD-BGDDT dated March 27, 2002 on the revision of paragraph 2 and 3 of Article 11 of the Regulation on the graduate exams for primary students.

7. Directive 15/199/CT-BGD DT dated April 20, 1999 of the Minister of Education and Training on accelerating the renovation of teaching and study methods in teacher's training colleges.

8. Directive 25/1999/CT-BGD DT dated May 31, 1999 of the Minister of Education on strengthening the guidance and implementation of the task of labour protection in the fields of education and training.

9. Directive 15/2000/CT - BGD DT dated May 17, 2000 of the Minister of Education and Training on the enhanced pressing management measures to extra teaching and learning.

10. Directive 29/2001/CT-BGD DT dated July 30, 2001 of the Minister of Education and training on stepping up the teaching, training and application of information technology in the fields of education and training for the period of 2001 -2005.

11. Directive 08/2002/CT-BGDDT March 20, 2002 of the Minister of Education on the training of national defence teachers in high schools and vocational schools.

12. Circular 12/1999/TT-BTP dated June 25, 1999 of Ministry of Justice on the Guidance on implementing provisions of the Decree 83/1998/ND-CP dated October 10, 1998 of the Government on Residence Register.
13. Circular 21/1999/TT-BLDTBXH dated November 9, 1999 Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs on the list of occupations, works, and conditions for the employment of children under 15.
14. Inter-ministerial Circular 4/2001/TTLT/YT-TM-VHTT-UBBVCSTEVN dated March 14, 2001 on the Guidance on the implementation of Decree 74/2000/ND-CP dated December 6, 2000 of the Government on trade and use of mother's milk substitutes.
15. Circular 07/2001/TT-BVCSTE of the Viet Nam Committee in Children Protection and Care on guidance of the implementation of the Decision 72/2001/QD-TTg dated May 4, 2001 of the Prime Minister on the Viet Nam Family Day.
16. Inter-ministerial Circular 12/2001/TTLT-BYT-BGD DT dated June 7, 2001 of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Training on the Guidance on the implementation of open vaccination at pre-school and primary education facilities.
17. Circular 28/2002/TT-BTC dated March 26, 2002 of the Ministry of Finance on the Guidance on the management and utilisation of funding for free newspapers and journals in ethnic minority and mountainous areas.
18. Circular 17/2002/TT-BTCCBCP dated April 1, 2002 of the Government Committee on Organisation and Personnel on the guidance on the implementation of allowance regime for those who are responsible for the highly disabled persons in the state care facilities.
19. Inter-ministerial Circular 11/2002/TTLT-BGDDT-BTCCBCP-BTC-BLDTBXH of the Government Committee on Organisation and Personnel- The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs dated March 27, /2002 on the guidance the Decree 35/2001 dated July 9, 2001 on the policy for teachers, education management staffs at specialised schools in areas of extremely difficult socio-economic circumstances
20. Inter-ministerial Circular 13/2002/TTLT-BGDDT-BTC of the Ministry of Education and Training and Ministry of Finance on guidance of implementation of the Decision 194/2001/QD-TTg dated December 21, 2001 of the Prime Minister on the adjustment of policy scholarship and social subsidy for the ethnic minority pupils and students studying at the state schools.
21. Circular 01/2002/TT-BYT dated January 6, 2002 on the guidance on organisation and functions of the humanitarian examination and treatment centres.
22. Circular 14/2002/TT-BGDDT dated April 1, 2002 on the guidance for the provincial, city people's committees under the central government on implementing the Directive 14/2001/CT-TTg dated November 6, 2001 of the Prime Minister on renovation of education programme..

23. Circular 08/2002/TT-BNV of the Home Affairs Ministry dated November 16, 2002 on the guidance the Decision 149/2000/GQ-TTg of the Prime Minister on preferential policies for members of the young intellectual teams voluntarily involved in developing rural and mountainous areas .

New Policies

1. The Comprehensive Strategy on Growth, Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction approved by the Prime Minister (Governmental Document 2685/VPCP - HTQT dated May 21)
2. The National Policy of Accident Prevention for the period 2002 - 2010 (Decision 197/2001/QD - TTg dated December 27, 2001)
3. The Strategy on Protection and Care of People' health (Decision 35/2001/QD-TTg dated March 19, 2001)
4. The National Strategy on provision of clean water and rural sanitation up to the year 2010 (Decision 104/2000/QD-TTg dated August 25, 2000)
5. The Viet Nam Strategy on Population for the period 2001-2010 (Decision 147/2000/QD-TTg dated December 22, 2000)
6. The National Strategy on Care of Reproductive Health for the period 2001 -2010
7. The National Strategy on Education 2001-2010 (Decision 201/2001/QD-TTg dated November 28, 2001) focusing on renovation of educational substances appropriate to each area; expansion of staff of teachers, the network of classes and schools; encouraging all the society involved in the development of education.
8. The National Strategy on the Advancement of Women up to the year 2010 (Decision 19/2002/QD-TTg dated January 21, 2002 of the Prime Minister)
9. The National Strategy on Development of Medicine up to the years 2010 (Decision 108/198/QD-TTg)

Newly implemented projects

1. The National Programme of Action for the Children for the period 2001-2010 (Decision 23/2001/QD-TTg dated February 26, 2001)
2. Programme of Action for Protection of Children with Special Circumstances for the period 1999-2002 (Decision 134/1999/QD-TTg dated May 31, 1999) is to bring tremendous shift in the awareness and action of the whole society in preventing, reducing the number of children in need. The Programmes consist of 5 projects: Preventing and Dealing with the problems of street children and exploitation of child labour; Prevention the problems of children offended in their dignity, honour, children abused sexually, especially for commercial purpose; Prevention and Fight against Drug Child Users; Prevention and Fight against child abuse and child criminal;

Implementation of the task of dissemination, education, advice in various forms (such as information, education, advice centres...) to families and community on the protection and care of the children. Now 3-year implementation has been reviewed and recommendations are made to the Prime Minister to continue the Programme till the year 2010 with 6 projects. Apart from 5 above projects, there is an addition of project on capacity- building for those who are dealing with children with special circumstances.

3. The Programme of socio-economic development for mountainous, remote communes in extreme circumstances (Decision 135/1998/QĐ - TTg). This is the basic measure of strategy by which the Government focuses on the investment of infrastructure, staff training, population planning, production growth, for 2000 communes in the 1st place and then to 2325 communes including 2.200 communes in extreme circumstances (from 2001).

Notably are the measures in ethnic and mountainous area:

- Divide mountainous, high regions into 3 types : areas about to grow, stable areas, areas in need to choose the right policy;
- Building the infrastructure: Building centre of communes as a driving force for boosting the sub-region economic development; re-planning residential area suitable for road construction, electricity, school building, clinic, v.v..; Favourable regimes given to rural and mountainous enterprises: low land-use rate, tax-exemption, v.v..; The Government instructs Ministries, Bodies, Provinces, Cities to enable poor provinces to implement hunger eradication, poverty reduction; Allocation of land go hand-in-hand with allocation of forest, planting 5 millions ha of forest;
- Subsidising prices, transportation charges for basic commodities: iodised salt, oil, writing paper, medicine, fertiliser, pesticide, seeds, coal; Raising the people's intellectual level, human resources training: radio, television distribution, TV broadcasting to remote, border and island areas, television in the ethnic minority language; policy on education and teacher's training (344 boarding ethnic minority primary schools, including 9 central ones, 41 provincial ones, 190 district ones and 104 ones for groups of communes, etc.; There is the preferential regimes for ethnic staffs, and for encouraging staffs from the plane areas to work in mountainous areas; building new economic zones in mountainous areas, preferential treatment is given to ethnic minority students in entrance exams for universities or education facilities...

4. The National Target Programme on Hunger Eradication, Poverty reduction and jobs for the period 2001-2005 (Decision 143/2001/QĐ-TTg): building the infrastructure in poor communes, assisting production and branch development, assisting the poor through agricultural, forestry, aquamarine incentives and loan for production, cultivation and habitation settlements.

5. The National Target Programme on prevention of dangerous social and epidemic diseases and HIV/AIDS (Decision 190/2001/QĐ-TTg): implementing the projects on

prevention and fight against malaria, goitre, leprosy, tuberculosis, haemorrhage; implementation of open vaccination, child malnutrition; ensuring the food quality and hygiene and HIV/AIDS.

6. The Programme on Drug Control and Prevention in the period of 2001-2010

7. The Programme on the Prevention of Prostitution in the period of 2001-2005 (Decision 151/2000/QD-TTg dated December 28, 2000).

8. The National Programme on Nutrition in the period of 2001-2010 (Decision 21/2001/QD-TTg dated February 22, 2001).

9. The National Target Programme on Population and Family Planning up to the year 2005. The Decision 18/2002/QD-TTg dated January 21, 2002 on the approval of planning and re-allocation of population between areas; on continuance to strengthening health service for poor, difficult and remote areas.

10. To promote the cultural, leisure and recreational activities for children, the Ministry of Culture and Information is designing the master plan and policy to assist the development of cultural, leisure and recreational facilities for children.