

UNICEF Evaluation Management Response Template

Evaluation Title: End-line Survey and Evaluation of the Integrated Early Childhood Development Programme of UNICEF Viet Nam 2017-2021

Region: EAP

Office: Vietnam Country Office (VCO)

Evaluation Year: 2022

Person-In-Charge for Follow-up to Management Response: Chief, CSDE Maharajan Muthu

Overall Response to the Evaluation:

UNICEF Viet Nam Country Office acknowledges the main findings of the evaluation of “the Integrated Early Childhood Development Programme 2017-2021”. We note both strengths of the programme and key recommendations to improve programme’s relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. We are particularly interested in the evidence that the “integrated” system of early childhood development in the three intervention provinces helped narrow disparities.

Planned Use of Evaluation:

- Key findings and recommendations of the Evaluation have been used for finalizing the Programme Strategic Notes of health, nutrition, WASH, child protection and education programmes and projects for period 2022-2026.
- Evidence provided by this Evaluation has been used to improve early childhood development programming with sub-national partners during 2022-2026.

UNICEF Evaluation Management Response Templates who will edit the Management Response in the EMR Tracker

RECOMMENDATIONS and ACTIONS:

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 1:

Organize multistakeholder conferences to use the programme evaluation results to inform policy and suggest future adjustments from the strengths and weaknesses of the pilot model; This includes working with the three provinces to identify successful lessons and discuss ways to turn plans to maintain and replicate programme’s outcomes into concrete actions.

Management Response: Agree

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Expected completion date	Implementation stage: Not started Underway Completed Cancelled	Actions taken	Supporting documents
<p>Conduct a multi-stakeholder workshop(s) on IECD programme review using preliminary findings of IECD end line survey and evaluation to (1) discuss the evaluation findings, recommendations; (2) develop a new project on IECD for period 2022-2026, using key findings and evidence of the IECD end-line survey and final evaluation.</p>	<p>UNICEF provincial focal points; section chiefs (CSD/EDU/CP) and Dien Bien, Gia Lai, and Kon Tum</p>	<p>Quang from CSDE section (focal point for Dien Bien province); Nhat from Education section (for Gia Lai province); and Y Duyen from Child Protection section (for Kon Tum province)</p>	<p>Oct – 2021 for Dien Bien 27 Nov 2021 for Gia Lai 12 Jan 2022 for Kon tum</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>1/Conducted a virtual IECD programme implementation review meeting between UNICEF and Dien Bien province. The meeting also discussed potential areas of focus for the new programme cooperation 2022-2026 (7th October 2021)</p> <p>2/Conducted a virtual IECD programme implementation review meeting between UNICEF and Gia Lai province. The meeting also discussed potential areas of focus for the new programme cooperation 2022-2026 (27th Nov 2021).</p> <p>3/Conducted a virtual IECD programme implementation review meeting between UNICEF and Kon Tum province. The meeting also discussed potential areas of focus for the new programme cooperation 2022-2026 (12 Jan 2022).</p>	<p>03 provincial IECD end of programme implementation Review Reports (by Dien Bien, Gia Lai, and Kon Tum)</p> <p>UNICEF’s areas of focus in the new CPD and project documents in the new CPD cycle between UNICEF and the provinces (Gia Lai, Dien Bien)</p>

Support the three provinces to document the results, experiences and lessons learnt from the provincial IECD programme 2022-2016 for publication.	UNICEF provincial focal points of Dien Bien, Gia Lai, and Kon Tum; UNICEF section chiefs of the respective sectors	Quang/CSDE; Nhat/Edu; and Y Duyen/CP	May 2022	Completed	Provided technical support to Dien Bien and Gia Lai PMUs to document the achievements, lessons learnt from the IECD programme 2017-2021	Provincial Reports on achievements and lessons learnt from the IECD programme (by Dien Bien /Gia Lai and Kon Tum)
Formally share the final evaluation report to MOLISA/MOH/MOET	CSDE section	Lesley Miller (Deputy Representative - Programme), Maharajan Muthu (Chief of CSDE)	Jun 2022	Completed	The report was shared via official email with relevant staff of MOLISA, MOH and MOET	Emails from UNICEF

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 3:

Continue to invest in capacity building activities for relevant stakeholders when possible, especially in the area of health and nutrition.

Management Response: Agree.

Comments: UNICEF has made it a strong component in the new Country Programme Document (CPD) and the work plans (WP) with relevant partners during the programme cycle 2022-2026, and with a focus on subnational programming.

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Expected completion date	Implementation stage: Not started Underway Completed Cancelled	Actions taken	Supporting documents
1. Design a specific result on capacity building for provincial staff in health and nutrition sectors in the 2-year work plans 2022-2003 with Dien Bien and Gia Lai provinces.	CSDE section	Maharajan Muthu (Chief of CSDE), Do Hong Phuong, Nguyen Dinh Quang (CSDE)	Aug 2022	Underway	Discussed with the managers of Dien Bien and Gia Lai provinces on areas for capacity building in the 2-year work-plan 2022-2023.	The final CPD and AWP of Dien Bien, Gia Lai and Soc Trang provinces.

2. Support the National Institute of Nutrition (Ministry of Health) to conduct an IYCF training programme (<i>offline and online where is possible</i>) for provincial and district health officers of Dien Bien, Gia Lai and Soc Trang provinces and other provinces.	CSDE section in collaboration with the National Institute of Nutrition, Ministry of Health (NIN /MOH)	Do Hong Phuong, Nguyen Dinh Quang (CSDE)	July 2023	Not started		
3. Support a training programme on IYCF for commune and village health workers in Dien Bien, Gia Lai and Soc Trang provinces.	CSDE section in collaboration with the NIN /MOH	Do Hong Phuong, Nguyen Dinh Quang (CSDE)	July 2023	Not started		

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 4: Technology can be further leveraged in order to generate more widespread impacts. It would be strategic to make good use of technology in order to eliminate geographical barriers to people living in remote and isolated areas, such as various local social media channels (Zalo, Viber, Facebook etc.) and other social media devices could be used for disseminating IECD messages.

Management Response: Agree

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Expected completion date	Implementation stage: Not started Underway Completed Cancelled	Actions taken	Supporting documents
Conduct a KAP study (knowledge, attitude, and practices) on WASH and nutrition in new project sites to guide improvement of effective social and behaviour change communication	CSDE-Communication/ WASH specialist	Chu Huu Trang/Nguyen Thi Hien Minh	Dec 2022	Underway	Weekly follow up on the implementation of the KAP study performed by a consultant firm.	

focussing on ethnic minority populations.						
Support development of sentinel-based nutrition surveillance as a pilot for checking nutrition situation among the most disadvantage population, and for early warning in case of emergency for timely response in which, innovation digital technology will be applied in data collection, transmission, and reporting the data	CSDE	Nguyen Dinh Quang	Dec 2022	Underway	Monthly follow up with the government counterparts	

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 4. The design of any future programme should take into accounts cross-cutting issues like climate change, economic shocks, and gender equality.

Management Response: Agree

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Expected completion date	Implementation stage: Not started Underway Completed Cancelled	Actions taken	Supporting documents
Ensure strong intent and interventions on cross-cutting issues (CC, resilience against shocks and gender) in the design of the CPD and sectoral programming.	CSDE section	Lesley Miller (Deputy Representative, Programme), Hoa Ngo (Chief of Planning, Monitoring and	May 2022	Completed	- Cross-cutting issues, such as response to climate change, economic shocks and gender equality were mainstreamed in the CPD 2020-2026 and PSNs. Separate output on climate change under CSDE	CPD 2022-2026, SPNs, Project Documents.

		Evaluation), Ly Phat Viet Linh (CSDE - DRR specialist)			outcome of the CPD and strongly planned in other sectoral outcomes including on education and WASH - These cross-cutting issues were integrated in the project documents with all partners for period 2022-2026.	

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 6:

In order to establish highly practical and not overly ambitious objectives, it is important to carefully consider financial factors and pay greater efforts in doing costing for each intervention package.

Management Response: Agree

If recommendation is rejected or partially accepted, report reasons:

Actions planned	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Expected completion date	Implementation stage: Not started Underway Completed Cancelled	Actions taken	Supporting documents
For selective intervention packages on WASH and nutrition that have potentially high impact, design a costing study as an activity group under respective 2022-2023 WPs and following WPs for policy advocacy purposes	CSDE section	Maharajan Muthu (Chief of CSDE), Do Hong Phuong, Nguyen Dinh Quang, Nguyen Thi Minh Hien (CSDE section, Nutrition and WASH teams), and	July 2023	Not started		

		Dien Bien PMU				
Support the development and implementation of an advocacy strategy for scaling up selective WASH and nutrition good practices and intervention models in Dien Bien and Gia Lai provinces under government's financing system.	CSDE section	Maharajan Muthu (Chief of CSDE), Do Hong Phuong, Nguyen Dinh Quang, Nguyen Thi Minh Hien (CSDE section, Nutrition and WASH teams), and Dien Bien PMU	July 2023	Not started		