

AN ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN NINH THUAN PROVINCE

Ninh Thuan UNICEF
Provincial People's Viet Nam
Committee

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The research was completed by a research team consisting of Edwin Shanks, Nguyen Tam Giang and Duong Quoc Hung.

Findings of the research were arrived at following intensive consultations with local stakeholders, during fieldwork in late 2010 and a consultation workshop in Ninh Thuan in June 2011. Inputs were received from experts from relevant provincial line departments, agencies and other organisations, including the Department of Planning and Investment, the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Provincial Statistics Office, the Department of Finance, the Social Protection Centre, the Women's Union, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Provincial Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, the Committee for Ethnic Minorities, representatives from the districts of Bac Ai and Thuan Bac and Phan Rang-Thap Cham City and representatives from the communes of Phuoc Dai and Cong Hai and My Hai ward.

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Preface

This Analysis is part of a series of provincial situation analyses that UNICEF Viet Nam has initiated to support provinces under the Provincial Child Friendly Programme. The initiative aims to inform the provinces' planning and budgeting, including Socio-Economic Development Plans (SEDPs) as well as sectoral plans, in order to make them more child-sensitive and evidence-based.

The Analysis of the Situation of Children provides the first holistic picture of the situation of girls and boys in Ninh Thuan province, including an in-depth analysis of the remaining challenges that children face. It also examines the possible causes of the situation of children in the province, and analyses them in the context of the South Central Coast region and Viet Nam as a whole. The report aims to contribute towards establishing a stronger knowledge base on children by compiling and analysing information and data on children's issues that exist but have not yet been consolidated or comprehensively analysed.

The Analysis' findings confirm the province's remarkable progress across a broad spectrum of children's issues, in line with its socio-economic development achievements in recent years. However, there are areas where disparities still exist and progress is needed. This is particularly the case for disadvantaged population groups such as the Raglay ethnic minority and mobile fishing communities, but also in areas such as child stunting and malnutrition, malaria prevention, water and sanitation, transition from primary to secondary education, social protection and child protection.

It is our intention that this Situation Analysis will be a frequent reference document for Ninh Thuan Province during the process of planning and implementing the province's SEDPs and sectoral plans, and for development partners working in the province.

> Vo Dai Vice Chair

Ninh Thuan Provincial People's Committee

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UNICEF Viet Nam

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Abbreviations

ADB Asian Development Bank

AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

ARI Acute Respiratory Infections

CLTS Community Led Total Sanitation

CRC Convention on the Rights of the Child

CPFC Committee for Population, Family and Children

CWD Children with Disabilities

DOET Department of Education and Training

DOF Department of Finance

DOH Department of Health

DOLISA Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs

DPC District People's Committee

DPI Department of Planning and Investment

GSO General Statistics Office

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

HCM City Ho Chi Minh City

IBCC Integrated Behaviour Change Communication

IDU Intravenous Drug Users

IEC Information, Education and Communication

IMR Infant Mortality Rate

IT Information Technology

MCNV Medical Committee of the Netherlands

MMR Maternal Mortality Rate

MOET Ministry of Education and Training

MOH Ministry of Health

MOLISA Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs

NCERWASS National Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

NTP National Target Programme

ODA Official Development Assistance

PCERWASS Provincial Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

PCFP Provincial Child Friendly Programme

PMTCT Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission

PPC Province People's Committee

PSO Province Statistics Office

RWSS Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

SEDP Socio-Economic Development Plan

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

VCT Voluntary Counselling and Testing

VHLSS Viet Nam Households and Living Standards Survey

VND Viet Nam Dong

Exchange rate: 1 USD = VND 20,800

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. This report provides an analysis of the situation of children in Ninh Thuan Province, in the South Central Coast Region of Viet Nam. The overall objective of the study is to provide the Government of Viet Nam, the development community and the public at large with up-to-date information on children's issues and priorities in the province. The specific objectives are: (i) to consolidate statistical data and analyse the situation of children in the context of social and economic development trends in the province; (ii) to identify relevant issues affecting knowledge of child rights and the advancement of these rights; and (iii) to provide recommendations to improve the situation of children by ensuring the provincial Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) and sector plans, including budgets, are responsive to children's issues.
- 2. The analytical approach adopted by the study has three main elements. Firstly, the study analyses children's issues according to clusters of child rights that relate to different areas of sector activity, including the rights to health and survival, development and education, protection and participation. This conforms to the definition of child rights given in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in Viet Nam's Law on Child Protection, Care and Education. Secondly, the study makes a structured analysis of programming and budgeting for child-related concerns in the provincial SEDP and sector plans and programmes in the period from 2006 to 2010. The aim is to identify those aspects that are comparatively well covered, and those that are under-resourced and not adequately addressed in existing sector plans, programmes and services. Thirdly, the study makes an institutional capacity assessment, and capacity gap assessment, with respect to the institutional responsibilities and arrangements for child care and protection.
- The report is divided into six main chapters. Chapter 2 sets the scene by describing salient aspects of the geographical setting, demographic characteristics, poverty context and provincial economy in Ninh Thuan. It also highlights the major patterns of intra-provincial disparity and household vulnerability that affect the situation of children. These include differences between urban and rural and upland and coastal areas, differences in the socio-economic situation of different ethnic minority groups, and climate change and environmental vulnerability. Chapter 3 makes an analysis of social sector programming and budgeting for children. This includes budget trends in the overall provincial budget and the development investment budget included in the annual SEDP, funding for the National Target Programmes and institutional arrangements, and funding for social protection policies and programmes. The following chapters provide a detailed analysis of each sector and clusters of child rights, including child health and survival (Chapter 4), child development and education (Chapter 5), child protection (Chapter 6) and children's participation (Chapter 7). Reference is made throughout to statistical data tables that have been compiled in Annex 1.
- 4. This Executive Summary has two main parts. The first part summarises the distinguishing characteristics of socio-economic development in Ninh Thuan and major trends and issues in relation to each sector and cluster of child rights. The second part provides a tabular summary of the institutional capacity assessment and main recommendations for enhancing the integration of children's issues and concerns in the provincial SEDP and sector planning for the period 2011 to 2015. Reference is made in square brackets to chapters and sections of the main report where a full presentation and analysis of each issue can be found.

Results under the Plan of Action for Children in Ninh Thuan from 2001 to 2010

3 4 5 6	Indicator Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) Under-five child mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) Underweight children under five years of age (%) Infants with low birth weight (<2,500g) (%) Pregnant women with tetanus vaccination (%) Fully immunised children under one year of	target by 2010 <25 <32 <70 <20.0	(4.4) (4.6) (40.5) (36)	2005/06 5.8 5.9 14.4 30.6	2009 2.6 [22.6] 3.3 43.5 24.4	2010 5.6 4.9 <40	Sources (A) B [C] (A) B (A) B
2 3 4 5 6	Under-five child mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) Underweight children under five years of age (%) Infants with low birth weight (<2,500g) (%) Pregnant women with tetanus vaccination (%)	<32 <70 <20.0 <5.0	(4.6) (40.5)	5.9 14.4	3.3	4.9 <40	(A) B
3 4 5 6	live births) Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) Underweight children under five years of age (%) Infants with low birth weight (<2,500g) (%) Pregnant women with tetanus vaccination (%)	<70 <20.0 <5.0	(40.5)	14.4	43.5	<40	` '
456	Underweight children under five years of age (%) Infants with low birth weight (<2,500g) (%) Pregnant women with tetanus vaccination (%)	<20.0 <5.0	,				(A) B
5	age (%) Infants with low birth weight (<2,500g) (%) Pregnant women with tetanus vaccination (%)	<5.0	(36)	30.6	24.4	00 5	
6	Pregnant women with tetanus vaccination (%)					23.5	(A) D
			(8)	4.7	4.6	4.4	(A) B
7	Fully immunised children under one year of	>90	(83.8)	98.7	94.6	94.3	(A) B
	age (%)1	>95.0	(99.8)	98.5	99.5	97.6	(A) B
8	Rural population with safe water supply (%)	85.0	(43)	55.0	-	79.04	(A) E
9	Urban population with safe water supply (%)	90.0	(82.5)	-	-	50	(A) E
10	Rural population using sanitary latrines (%)	70.0	(38)	-	-	61.5	(A) E
11	Urban population using sanitary latrines (%)	90.0	(45)	-	-	-	(A)
12	Schools with clean water and sanitation (%)	100	-	-	-	90.0	Е
13	Children at kindergarten by five years of age (%)	95.0	(50.3)	(76.5)	96.9	97.1	(A) F
14	Children from 3 to 5 years of age attending pre-school (%)	-	(35)	(41.56)	60.8	57.32	(A) F
15	Primary net enrolment rate (%)	99.0	-	-	74.9	75.3	G
16	Primary school completion rate (%)	95.0	-	-	-	-	
17	Lower secondary completion rate (%)	75.0	-	-	-	-	
18	Disabled children enrolled at school (%)	80.0	-	-	26.5	-	Н
19	Orphaned children being cared for (%)	100	(7.45)	-	66.3	-	(A) H
	Number of children with disabilities having operation/rehabilitation	(70)	25	228	-	147	А
21	Number of children in hazardous work	-	200	2	0	0	А
22	Number of children using drugs	-	0	0	0	0	А
23	Number of children committing serious crimes	-	1	-	-	-	А
	Children with birth certificate by five years of age (%)	90.0	-	93.0	-	98.0	А
25	Communes/wards with a cultural venue and recreation point (%)	100	-	-	-	20.0	J
	Communes/wards and districts with playgrounds (%)	100	-	-	-	7.7	J

Sources: A Provincial People's Committee (2010) Plan of Action for children 2011-2020 (Draft); B Department of Health (2010) Data provided during fieldwork; C Ministry of Health (2011) Health Statistics Yearbook 2009; D National Institute of Nutrition/Nutrition Surveillance System; E Provincial Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (2011) Results of implementation of sets of monitoring indicators for rural water supply and environmental sanitation in Ninh Thuan Province; F Department of Education and Training (2010) Analysis and assessment of education and training development situation in Ninh Thuan Province up to 2010; G DOET (2010) Data provided during fieldwork; H DOLISA (2009) Report on implementation of mandates in 2009 and orientation, mandates and solutions in 2011; J Department of Planning and Investment (2010) Compiled Socio-Economic Statistics 2006-2010.

¹ Full immunization includes three vaccines against Hepatitis B, Polio, Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus, and one against Tuberculosis and Measles.

Major findings of the study

- Economic growth and potential [Chapters 2.1 and 2.4]. Ninh Thuan is a predominantly rural and agricultural province situated in the South Central Coast Region of Viet Nam. The province achieved 10.04 per cent growth in GDP in the period 2006 to 2010, while GDP per capita increased from VND 4.8 to 10 million over the same period. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries currently account for 42.6 per cent of GDP by current prices, followed by services (35.2 per cent) and industry and construction (22.2 per cent). Agricultural land occupies one-fifth of the provincial land area, while irrigated paddy land occupies only 5.2 per cent. The limited area under paddy cultivation is due to the lack of suitable land and water resources for irrigation. The dry climate and soils of Ninh Thuan do, however, provide good growing conditions for several commercially valuable vegetable and fruit crops. Over half of the provincial land area is classified as forest, almost half of which is classified as 'protection forest' and 'special use forest' (47 per cent). The coastal waters of Ninh Thuan are one of the most important on-shore fishing grounds in the country, supplying significant stocks of seafood and the province has good potential to develop its fishing industry and coastal tourism.
- 6. The unique geo-climatic situation of the province also makes it an ideal location for the production of wind and solar energy, and the province was recently selected as the first location for development of the nuclear power industry in Viet Nam. Rural infrastructure conditions are comparatively good in Ninh Thuan. Since 2006, all urban wards and rural communes have had vehicular road access, electricity grid connections, and health clinics, as well as kindergartens and primary and lower secondary schools.
- 7. **Demographic composition and ethnicity** [Chapter 2.2]. Ninh Thuan is the sixth least populated province in the country, with a population of 564,129 in 2009, of which 63.9 per cent is rural and 36.1 per cent urban. The province has 34 ethnic groups, and ethnic minority people comprise 23.5 per cent of the population. The main ethnic groups are Kinh (76.5 per cent), Cham (11.9 per cent), Raglay (10.4 per cent) and Co Ho (0.5 per cent). Cham and Raglay belong to the Malayo-Polynesian ethno-linguistic group and share a long and close history in the region. While Cham are concentrated in lowland areas, Raglay and Co Ho primarily live in upland districts and communes. The province contains about 43 per cent of all Cham people and 49 per cent of all Raglay people living in Viet Nam.
- 8. Sex ratio at birth [Chapter 2.2]. According to the 2009 Census, Ninh Thuan has a sex ratio at birth (SRB) of 110.8 male births per 100 female births, similar to the national rate (110.5) but higher than the average for the North and South Central Coast Region of 109.7. There is, however, a marked difference between the urban SRB in Ninh Thuan of 114.2 and the rural SRB of 109.2. The provincial SRB declined from 116.4 in 2006 to 108 in 2008 and rose again to 110.8 in 2009. There has been a nationwide concern with the rise in the SRB in Viet Nam in recent years. According to the General Statistics Office, several signs of a rising proportion of male births were noticed in estimates derived from annual population surveys conducted by the GSO since 2000, while indirect estimation techniques reveal that the inception of the SRB rise in Viet Nam can be dated to 2005. The analysis of 2009 Census data shows that there are strong regional differences in the SRB. While there are no significant differences between urban and rural areas, higher SRB levels are closely correlated with education levels and with indicators of better housing quality and ownership of household assets. The recent GSO report suggests that while the SRB among the

- poorest quintile of the population is at a normal biological level, it rapidly increases with better socio-economic conditions among the more prosperous quintiles. The difference between Ninh Thuan's urban (114.2) and rural SRB (109.2) is possibly correlated with better socio-economic conditions in urban areas.
- 9. **Poverty context** [Chapter 2.3]. There have been steady reductions in poverty in Ninh Thuan over recent years. According to the Government poverty line, the poverty rate declined from 22.3 per cent in 2006 to 19.3 per cent in 2008. Provincial figures give a lower poverty rate of 13.27 per cent in 2008, reducing to 10.86 per cent in 2010. While the poverty rate closely matches the regional average (and rate of decline) for the North and South Central Coast, it continues to be higher than neighbouring provinces. There are, however, large differences in the poverty rate between urban/rural and lowland/upland areas and between ethnic groups. According to the new Government poverty line introduced in 2011, the poverty rate ranges from 7.42 per cent in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City to 23.6 per cent in Thuan Bac, 28.16 per cent in Ninh Son, and 66.72 per cent in Bac Ai districts. The largest number of poor households or highest poverty density is found in Ninh Son (with 23.8 per cent of all poor households in the province), followed by Bac Ai (17 per cent) and Ninh Phuoc (16.9 per cent). Bac Ai District has both the highest poverty rate, by a wide margin, and a comparatively large number of poor households.
- 10. **Patterns of intra-provincial disparity and vulnerability** [Chapters 2.4 and 2.5]. There are several major patterns of intra-provincial disparity and vulnerability that affect the situation of children in Ninh Thuan, as follows:
 - Household incomes. According to data provided by the Viet Nam Housing and Living Standards Survey (2008), the average per capita monthly income in Ninh Thuan grew by 79 per cent from VND 389,900 in 2004 to VND 699,200 in 2008. The figure for 2008 is lower than both the national average (VND 995,000 per month) and the regional average (VND 728,000). Per capita incomes amongst the poorest economic quintiles in Ninh Thuan are amongst the lowest in the country: the poorest (Quintile 1) households in Ninh Thuan had the seventh lowest monthly income nationwide in 2008, while for all economic quintiles combined, Ninh Thuan ranked in the 19th lowest position out of 64 provinces and cities. This is reflected in the comparatively large income gap between the poorest and richest economic quintiles in Ninh Thuan. Monetary poverty is largely amongst Raglay households. One recent estimate indicated that about 49 per cent of Raglay households in the province are still poor, whereas only 7.6 per cent of Kinh households and 8.3 per cent of Cham households are poor.
 - Geographical and administrative areas. There are large differentials in some socio-economic indicators between geographical and administrative areas of the province. To a large extent, poverty amongst ethnic minorities, such as the Raglay and Co Ho, correlates with these geographical differences. However, in terms of basic socio-economic infrastructure provision and physical access to social services, these localities are not necessarily more disadvantaged. Remote location, agricultural production constraints and difficult access to services and markets therefore only partly explain these patterns of intra-provincial disparity. It is also important to consider underlying factors that influence the social and economic position of disadvantaged ethnic minority groups such as the Raglay.
 - Raglay ethnic minority group. Many women and children's indicators show that the Raglay ethnic minority group is in a particularly disadvantaged situation,

including under-five child malnutrition rates and other maternal and child survival indicators; levels of secondary school attendance and completion; adult educational attainment and literacy; and employment opportunities for young people. Given that the Raglay constitute 10 per cent of the province's population and a sizeable proportion of poor people in the province, this is a key aspect in our analysis of the situation of children.

- Mobile fishing households. Many households are engaged in coastal fisheries in Ninh Thuan. Some are mobile households that live in temporary residential locations and move between fishing grounds along the coast in Ninh Thuan and neighbouring provinces. There are some particular child care and protection issues amongst this community, including school drop-out, child labour, household registration and birth registration. The precise number of households involved is unknown and further research is needed to fully understand the circumstances of children in these coastal fishing communities and mobile households.
- **Poor households in urban and peri-urban areas**. Specific issues related to children are also found amongst some poor households in urban and peri-urban areas. This is particularly amongst former farming families that have lost agricultural land as a consequence of land acquisition for public utilities and are subsequently in a difficult economic situation. This may affect child nutrition and make it difficult for families to keep their children in school. A certain degree of poverty has thus been created by the urbanisation process, which can have an impact on children's well-being.
- 11. Climate change and environmental vulnerability [Chapter 2.6]. The South Central Coast Region is recognised as highly exposed to the potential impacts of climate change. The main physical vulnerabilities are likely to include increased rainfall variability, increased incidence of oceanic storms and periods of drought in some localities. The main socio-economic vulnerabilities in this region include the large numbers of people dependent on rain fed agriculture and on coastal fisheries and aquaculture. In recent years, both lowland/coastal and upland areas have been subject to periodic drought conditions and flooding. Droughts are reported to have multiple impacts on communities. The primary impacts include disruption to aquaculture, crop and livestock production, loss of jobs and incomes, but also the withdrawal of children from school and health problems in some localities. Due to the dry climatic conditions and the scarcity of underground water resources, salinisation is also a major problem affecting water supply for both domestic use and agriculture in lowland areas.
- 12. **Provincial revenue and social sector expenditures** [Chapters 3.1 and 3.2]. There has been a 40.3 per cent increase in provincial revenue from VND 1,519 billion in 2006 to a preliminary figure of VND 2,131 billion in 2009. Ninh Thuan still relies on transfers from the central state budget, which constituted 62.8 per cent of provincial revenue in 2006 and 60.5 per cent in 2009, while the proportion of local revenue has increased from 17.8 per cent in 2006 (VND 271 billion) to 23.5 per cent in 2009 (VND 501 billion).
- 13. Total provincial expenditures increased by 36.2 per cent from VND 1,429 billion in 2006 to a preliminary figure of VND 1,946 billion in 2009. The largest proportional increase has been in social sector expenditures (education and training, health, social welfare, culture), which have risen by 114.2 per cent in this period (from VND

327.8 to 702.3 billion). Health sector expenditures have increased by about 109 per cent (from VND 50.1 to 104.6 billion), while social welfare expenditures have increased by 176 per cent (from VND 32.7 to 90.2 billion) and education by 86.6 per cent (from VND 206.7 to 385.6 billion). As of 2009, education and training accounted for 20 per cent of total provincial expenditures, followed by health (6.4 per cent) and social welfare (3.1 per cent).

- 14. **National Target Programmes** [Chapter 3.3]. The National Target Programmes are one of the primary means through which government policies and state budget resources are concentrated on achieving social development objectives and strengthening social service provision; as such, they are an important focus for the analysis of programming and budgeting for children. Total expenditure on the NTPs in Ninh Thuan in the period from 2006 to 2010 was in the order of VND 678.2 billion; of which about 44.9 per cent was for recurrent expenditures including service delivery improvements and 44.1 per cent for capital investment. State budget resources made up 75.5 per cent of NTP funding, with 71 per cent coming from the central state budget. Non-public resources constituted 24.5 per cent of NTP funding, specifically for the NTP on Social Diseases, Epidemics and HIV/AIDS and the NTP on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation.
- 15. Funding for child care and protection policies [Chapter 3.4]. Many sectors and agencies are involved in different aspects of child care and protection, which makes it inherently difficult to piece together a comprehensive picture of budgetary allocations to these activities. Moreover, child protection services are still scarce and hence, child protection is often reduced to monetary assistance. Child protection is funded through several mechanisms, including: (i) financial support for children in need of special protection through Decree No.67/ND-CP (2007) and Decree No.13/ND-CP (2010), for either care in the community or at public or non-public social protection centres; (ii) the Child Protection Fund of the province, which in 2009 amounted to VND 280 million, with donations from various charitable organisations, businesses and individuals; in addition to which, 45 communes and wards organised their own child protection funds in 2009; (iii) support from various charitable and religious organisations and hospitals to provide health consultations and free treatment for children, particularly those with disabilities; and (iv) the Youth Union and Women's Union are actively involved in various aspects of child care and protection, which represents an additional source of support, particularly in the form of activities organised at community level and providing a direct link to individual households.
- 16. Decree No.67 and Decree No.13 brought together previously fragmented legislation and sets of procedures for social assistance to families and children. Between 2007 and 2010, about VND 68.6 billion was disbursed under these policies. In 2009, 1,758 children received support through Decree No.67, representing about 23 per cent of the total number of recipients. Within the province, the distribution broadly correlates to the population of each administrative area, following an indicative per capita budget allocation. Nonetheless, some poorer districts have received a proportionally higher share than others: Ninh Phuoc and Bac Ai have 22.2 per cent and 4.3 per cent of the province population, respectively, yet these districts have received 27.5 and 7.1 per cent of available funding. This may suggest that targeting on a needs-assessment basis is effective. Decree No.13, introduced in 2010, has widened the pool of eligible recipients; consequently the preliminary expenditure for 2010 has doubled, and the number of recipients has increased from about 7,800 in 2009 to just over 10,000 in 2010.

- 17. Institutional arrangements for child care and protection [Chapter 3.5]. In recent years, the provincial authorities in Ninh Thuan have consolidated the legislative framework for child care and protection. Following the cessation of the Committee for Population, Family and Children (CPFC) in 2008, institutional responsibilities for child care and protection have been reassigned to the newly established Child Protection Section under DOLISA, the Sub-Department of Population and Family Planning and other sections under the DOH, and to the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism. The Child Protection Section in DOLISA has overall responsibility for state management of child care and protection, including overseeing the implementation of government policies, planning of projects and programmes, inspection of child rights and legal issues, and monitoring and compilation of statistics on children's issues. The Sub-Department of Population and Family Planning under DOH has responsibility for reproductive healthcare policies and programmes and population monitoring.
- 18. In May 2011, the province issued Decision No.980/QD-UBND (04/05/2011) on the establishment of the Steering Committee for Child Care and Protection in Ninh Thuan. Under the Provincial People's Committee, with DOLISA as the standing member, this committee includes 23 members who are representatives of provincial departments, mass organisations, and the District People's Committees. The main functions of the committee are to assist the Provincial People's Committee to provide a unified direction for the implementation of all laws, conventions, policies and programmes related to children; to oversee inspection and evaluate implementation of these policies and programmes and to make proposals for their adjustment and adaptation; and to make proposals for legal aspects of policy documents issued by provincial sectors and districts which are not covered by current laws on children.
- 19. Access to quality healthcare for women and children [Chapters 4.1 to 4.3]. There have been widespread improvements in the provision of healthcare services for women and children in Ninh Thuan over the last few years, which are reflected in positive trends in health indicators. According to a five-year review report by the Department of Health, between 2006 and 2010, the rate of children under one year of age with full vaccination has exceeded 97 per cent, the rate of pregnant women with at least two tetanus vaccinations has exceeded 96.5 per cent, and the rate of women of child-bearing age with tetanus vaccinations has reached 99.2 per cent. The deployment of mobile vaccination teams has effectively extended child vaccination to remote communes, villages and schools, and there has been effective control and prevention of common infectious diseases amongst children. As of 2010, the DOH reports that the rate of pregnant women receiving three pregnancy check-ups was 92 per cent, while the rate of women delivering with professional assistance or in health facilities reached 97 and 95.6 per cent respectively. According to the Nutrition Surveillance System, there has also been a steady reduction in the rate of children under five years of age who are underweight, from 30.58 per cent in 2005 to 23.5 per cent in 2010.
- 20. Despite many improvements there continue to be a number of outstanding problems in the health status of women and children, and continuing capacity constraints in the healthcare system. In particular, there are large intra-provincial differentials in many public health service delivery indicators and health status indicators between different administrative areas and population groups. The upland districts and communes have a weaker health system and more problematic health conditions. In 2010, 89 per cent of communes or wards in Ninh Hai District and 81 per cent in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City reached national health standards in 2010. As yet, however,

no communes in Bac Ai and Thuan Nam districts have reached these standards. Maternal and child health indicators amongst the Raglay ethnic minority group continue to be poorer than amongst other groups.

- 21. Local healthcare network and staffing situation [Chapter 4.1]. These intra-provincial differences are also reflected in the staffing situation. While a majority of communes/wards in the province now have midwives and/or assistant doctors, the rate is substantially lower in Bac Ai. In 2010, doctors were present in 41.5 per cent of all communes/wards in the province, yet only in 29 per cent of upland communes. In recent years, the network of health collaborators at grassroots level has been strengthened: all villages have health workers and village-based skilled midwives have been recruited and trained to work in 14 upland communes in three districts. Despite these improvements, the lack of human resources continues to be a challenge for the health service. In particular, it is difficult to retain doctors in the system, and salaries and allowances for commune health staff and village collaborators are insufficient to fully establish and maintain the network.
- 22. **School health check-ups.** The Preventative Health Centre organises check-ups for primary and secondary school pupils annually, as well as monitoring the environmental conditions in schools. The District Health Centres organise check-ups for nursery and kindergarten schools. Dentistry check-ups are also provided for primary school children. There is, however, a need to increase the coverage, regularity and funding provided for these school health activities. As of 2010, only 37.7 per cent of primary schools in the province have staff trained in healthcare, and dentistry check-ups have been provided in only 13.7 per cent of primary schools. Funding for such activities appears to be intermittent and the level of activities varies from year to year according to available resources.
- 23. **Maternal and infant mortality rates** [Chapter 4.1]. There are discrepancies in the available data on the infant mortality rate (IMR) and maternal mortality rate (MMR) in Ninh Thuan. Figures reported through the reproductive health system show a reduction in the IMR from 5.8 per 1,000 live births in 2006 to 2.6 in 2009. These figures, however, report only infant deaths at birth and in the health facilities. Population statistics give a more accurate picture of the overall IMR. According to the Ministry of Health (MOH), in 2009 the IMR in Ninh Thuan was 22.6 per 1,000 live births, 6 points higher than the regional average for the North and South Central Coast. Provincial and district health officials also acknowledge that the reported figures for the MMR are lower than the actual rate. The available MMR figures are irregular, but show an increase from 14.4 maternal deaths per 100,000 births in 2006 to over 40 in 2009. It is likely that this increase is due to improved quality of MMR monitoring and reporting since Ninh Thuan is one of seven provinces currently included in the MOH MMR auditing project. In addition, an increase in the number of mothers delivering in health facilities has also improved monitoring and reporting
- 24. **Child health insurance** [Chapter 4.2]. Considerable efforts have been made by the Provincial Social Insurance, local government authorities and mass organisations to extend child health insurance across all areas of the province. Following introduction of new policies in September 2009, over 30,000 cards were issued in the last quarter of 2009. By the end of 2010 about 55,000 cards have been issued, covering over 95 per cent of children under six years of age. Additionally, there has been a steady increase in the provision of diagnosis and treatment for children under six years of age, from 39,567 turns in 2005 (VND 1,801 million) to 110,298 turns in 2008 (VND 7,124 million). In some localities, delays have been experienced in the compilation

and submission of the registration lists for child health insurance by the commune/ ward authorities, but these delays are not widespread. The referral system within the province (from commune to district to province) is reported to work smoothly and children are prioritised within the system. Some problems are reportedly encountered when people bypass the referral system and go straight to a higher level, or when going outside the province for treatment (for example to Ho Chi Minh City). The main reported difficulties relate to the lack of doctors and facilities for diagnosis and treatment in the commune/ward clinics, which impacts on the quality of services, rather than difficulties in use of the health insurance cards per se. Monitoring the patterns of health insurance card usage is, however, still limited.

- 25. **Maternal and child nutrition and under nutrition** [Chapter 4.4]. While there have been steady reductions in the rate of underweight children, the child stunting rate remains persistently high, with only a marginal decline from 32.7 per cent in 2005 to 31.6 per cent in 2010. Ninh Thuan continues to have higher rates of child malnutrition than the average for the South Central Coast. Within the province, there are large differences in child malnutrition rates between administrative areas and population groups. In 2010, the rate of underweight children in Bac Ai District (39.2 per cent) was more than double that in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City (13.85 per cent). This issue is most pressing within two particular population groups: firstly, amongst poorer ethnic minority households in the uplands (primarily amongst the Raglay and Co Ho); and secondly, amongst some labourer households in urban/peri-urban areas.
- 26. In Ninh Thuan, as in other provinces, high rates of child stunting and under-nutrition amongst women and children continue to present a major health burden. The primary causes and measures to tackle under-nutrition are covered in the national nutrition programme. The programme includes child malnutrition prevention, micronutrient supplementation and de-worming for young children (six to 59 months of age), as well as promotion of good feeding practices for infants and young children, including breastfeeding. According to the DOH, there has been good progress in expanding Vitamin A supplementation and de-worming to reach about 98.5 per cent of eligible children in the province. Through various projects, local collaborators have been trained in an integrated approach to cover reproductive health and nutrition. However, there are resource constraints on scaling-up this integrated approach to cover all communes and villages and a lack of regular allowances to support nutrition collaborators in all localities.
- 27. At the same time, it is important to address underlying causative factors that contribute to maternal and child under nutrition. These are often locally and contextually specific. In Bac Ai District, seasonal food shortages underlie the persistently high rate of under nutrition amongst the Raglay. These patterns of household food insecurity and the lack of nutritious complementary foodstuffs for pregnant women and young children are associated with a number of other causative factors, including: (i) the lack of a 'home garden' tradition to grow vegetables and fruits around the household; (ii) the primary value attached to livestock as a store of household wealth and occasional cash income, rather than as a source of household nutrition; (iii) the reliance of poor households on occasional wage-labour to provide cash for the purchase of staple foodstuffs; and (iv) increasing food prices in recent years which continues to put pressure on whether poor households in this area can adequately cover nutrition needs.

- 28. Water supply [Chapter 4.5]. Ninh Thuan is the province with the lowest rainfall in Viet Nam, and many localities and households suffer annually from water shortages as well as from periodic drought. Domestic water supply is primarily reliant on surface water resources. In the past, lowland and coastal areas tapped underground water sources, however many of these have become unusable because of high salinity. As such, the provision of safe water supply for both urban and rural areas is a high priority for provincial authorities. According to the 2009 Census, only 77.4 per cent of all rural and urban households in Ninh Thuan have access to safe water; lower than the regional average for the North and South Central Coast (89.7 per cent) and the national average (86.7 per cent). Provincial figures indicate that, as of 2010, 79.04 per cent of rural people use appropriate clean water, while 50 per cent of rural people use water classified as safe according to MOH quality standards. According to district data, the rate of rural people using appropriate clean water ranges from 53.82 per cent in Bac Ai up to 87.88 per cent in Ninh Hai. The rate varies substantially between communes, with a few communes in upland and coastal areas still experiencing considerable water shortages.
- 29. **Environmental sanitation** [Chapter 4.5]. According to the 2009 Census, 62 per cent of all rural and urban households in Ninh Thuan use appropriate sanitary latrines; higher than the regional average for the North and South Central Coast (47.3 per cent) and the national average (54 per cent). Provincial figures indicate that, as of 2010, 61.48 per cent of rural households use appropriate sanitary latrines. Here again, these rates vary widely from district to district, ranging from a very low figure of 17.86 per cent in Bac Ai up to 73.74 per cent in Ninh Hai. Considerable improvements have also been made in providing water supply and sanitation facilities to schools. As of 2010, about 84.56 per cent of all public schools had received improved facilities.
- 30. Children's access to safe water and sanitation. Using data from the 2009 Census, it has been estimated that 22.6 per cent of children under five years old in Ninh Thuan still do not have access to improved water, ranking Ninh Thuan in 24th position out of 63 provinces and cities. At the same time, 38 per cent of children do not have access to improved sanitation, placing Ninh Thuan in 53rd position nationwide. These figures indicate that there is still considerable effort needed to extend cover to all the children in the province.
- 31. **Child injury prevention** [Chapter 4.6]. Provincial figures, as reported through the health sector, indicate that there were 3,007 injuries to children under 15 years old in 2009. Of the total reported injuries in the population as a whole, 11.8 per cent were amongst the five to 14 age group and 41 per cent were in the 15 to 19 age group. The majority of child fatalities are due to drowning or road accidents. The Provincial Board for Injury Prevention was established in 2002, and oversees all injury prevention activities in the province. In 2009, provisions for child injury prevention were strengthened through Plan No.3783/2009/KH-UBND (dated 25/09/2009). Despite these efforts, many respondents during this research reported that child injury prevention activities remain quite fragmented in the province. There are many sectors and agencies that need to be involved, but the roles, responsibilities and coordination mechanisms between them are not fully established.
- 32. **HIV/AIDS** and children [Chapter 4.7]. In common with other provinces in the South Central Coast, Ninh Thuan has a comparatively low prevalence of HIV/AIDS. According to the Ministry of Health, in 2009 the cumulative HIV infection rate in Ninh Thuan was 36.4 per 100,000 inhabitants, the sixth lowest nationwide. At the

- same time, however, Ninh Thuan had the fourth highest rate of new HIV infections nationwide, at 33.94 per 100,000. This may be partly due to an increase in voluntary testing and the identification of previously undetected cases, although it is likely that the actual rate is, indeed, higher.
- 33. This clearly indicates the need for heightened public awareness and strong preventative measures to avoid the emergence of epidemic patterns as previously seen in other parts of the country. The health authorities are vigilant about the potential increase in mother-to-child transmission, but there is still a low level of voluntary testing amongst both men and women generally, and specifically amongst pregnant women. The provincial authorities have considerably intensified HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention activities in recent years. About 25.2 per cent of funding under the NTP on Social Diseases, Epidemics and HIV/AIDS has been allocated to this and to the establishment of an HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Centre. In 2010-2011, attention was given to strengthening all aspects of public information and awareness, including the coverage of high-risk groups, surveillance and monitoring, expanding and increasing the quality of voluntary testing, counselling and treatment services, and increasing staff capacity.
- 34. **Quality and equity in education and training** [Chapter 5]. The major policy issues facing the education and training sector in Ninh Thuan relate to how to improve access to education for all pupils at all levels of education following the social equity principle, while at the same time enhancing the quality of education and training. These issues include:
 - How to provide universal general education for pupils from all ethnic groups in mixed ethnic communities, while at the same time responding to the particular learning needs and priorities of children from different backgrounds, including addressing language barriers for ethnic minority children at preschool and primary levels;
 - How to provide targeted (financial) assistance to pupils from poor households and ethnic minority households to facilitate their school attendance, without creating a negative impact on community cohesion or creating a sense of dependency;
 - How to provide equal access to vocational skills training for teenagers and young adults from all population groups (ethnic groups and poor and non-poor households) in a way that is appropriate to their particular needs, interests and livelihood opportunities;
 - At the same time, the arrangement of educational facilities in the province needs
 to provide maximum access for children of all ages and in all localities, while
 also responding to the demands of generating a well-trained labour force for the
 development of services, industries, tourism and commerce.
- 35. Given a situation of limited budgetary resources, these are major underlying issues that need to be considered in the medium-term strategy and financing for the education and training sector. It is noted by DOET that although 20 per cent of the provincial budget goes to education and training, about 90 per cent of these budgetary resources are used for recurrent expenditures, leaving a modest amount for other expenditures and for improving the quality of education and training.

- 36. Pre-school and early childhood education [Chapter 5.1]. The rate of children of nursery age attending nursery classes has increased from 9.72 per cent in 2007-08 to 11.16 per cent in 2009-10, the majority of which attend non-public facilities. The proportional rate of children attending nursery classes is much higher in urban areas, while nursery school attendance is still limited in most rural communes and villages. The proportion of children attending kindergarten by age five reached 97.07 per cent in 2009-10, with 57.32 per cent of children from three to five years of age attending kindergarten. Concerted efforts have been made to increase pre-school attendance amongst ethnic minority children in remote areas. Data are not available for the locations or population groups within which pre-school attendance between the ages of three to five is still limited. Public kindergarten classroom facilities have been considerably improved throughout the province in recent years, although many still lack safe playgrounds.
- 37. **Primary and secondary education** [Chapters 5.2 and 5.3]. There have been steady improvements in access to and the quality of primary and secondary schooling in Ninh Thuan over the last several years for both girls and boys. Figures on primary and secondary school enrolment rates suggest that efforts to encourage children to maintain schooling have yielded positive results. In 2000, MOET certified Ninh Thuan as meeting national standards of universal primary education and, as of 2009-10, 100 per cent of districts and commune/wards have managed to maintain these standards. In September 2010, Ninh Thuan was further certified by MOET to have achieved universal lower secondary schooling in 100 per cent of communes and wards. However, in terms of universal primary education at appropriate age, only 38 out of 65 communes and wards (57 per cent) had met the national standard by 2010. It is reported that there is a high rate of repetition of the early grades of primary schools, especially amongst Raglay children (up to 40 per cent).
- 38. **Gender balance and ethnic minority schooling.** Overall, attendance rates at primary and lower secondary level show good gender balance, amongst both the general population and ethnic minorities. At upper secondary level, the proportion of girls increases substantially (about 58 per cent in 2009-10) amongst the general population and ethnic minorities, which may reflect a higher drop-out rate and discontinued schooling amongst boys, and this may be a cause for some concern. The proportion of ethnic minority pupils declines from 28.4 per cent at primary level, to 23.8 per cent at lower secondary and 18.4 per cent at upper secondary levels. This is a common pattern found in other provinces with a large ethnic minority population. Difficulties in the transition of ethnic minority girls to secondary level are not as pronounced in Ninh Thuan when compared with other provinces; rather, the evidence suggests that it is the high rate of discontinued schooling amongst ethnic minority boys that is the greater problem. The overall number of ethnic minority pupils attending upper secondary school has, however, increased from about 2,300 in 2006-07 to 3,600 in 2010-11.
- 39. Patterns of educational attainment and completion [Chapter 5.4]. The 2009 Census provides insights into the issues facing the education and training sector and people's education in different provinces. With respect to the highest educational attainment of persons over five years of age, Ninh Thuan has a high proportion of people who have not completed primary school (30.8 per cent), when compared to the national average (22.7 per cent) and the regional average (22.2 per cent). A comparatively low proportion of persons over five years of age have completed lower secondary school in Ninh Thuan as their highest educational attainment (14.1 per cent), with national and regional averages of 23.7 and 25.9 per cent, respectively.

Similarly, a low percentage – 12.9 per cent – has completed upper secondary school as their highest educational attainment in Ninh Thuan. Furthermore, the 2009 Census indicates lower levels of adult literacy in Ninh Thuan as compared to national and regional rates. The literacy rate amongst females over 15 years old in Ninh Thuan is recorded at 83.3 per cent, which is amongst the lowest in the country. Functional literacy and numeric skills continue to be weak amongst many Raglay households, especially amongst adult women.

- 40. Factors influencing educational attendance and attainment [Chapters 5.4 to 5.7]. There has been a steady decline in drop-out rates at all levels of schooling in recent years; however, there is a large margin of difference between drop-out figures reported from different provincial sources. The highest rates of drop-out and discontinued schooling are found in amongst the Raglay and Co Ho ethnic minorities, amongst children of some poor households in urban/peri-urban areas, and amongst the mobile fishing communities. Provincial and district officials, teachers and parents identify a wide range of causative factors for the high drop-out rates and discontinued schooling amongst these population groups, including:

 (i) household poverty;
 (ii) a lack of parental awareness regarding the value of education;
 (iii) language barriers for ethnic minority children;
 (iv) weak academic performance;
 and (v) negative peer pressures and impacts of modern lifestyles, amongst others.
- 41. **Financial support for poor pupils** [Chapter 5.7]. Following Decision No.112/2007/QD-TTg, support is provided to pupils from poor families to attend kindergarten and primary school, to communes and villages under Programme 135 Phase II. According to provincial officials, this policy has created favourable conditions for increased school attendance. A number of issues and difficulties have arisen during implementation of this policy that relate to equity in the targeting mechanism and the potential for creating a sense of dependency amongst the beneficiaries. It is frequently mentioned that difficulties have been encountered in the selection of eligible households because the distinction between 'poor' and 'near-poor' households is very narrow. This can have several consequences; a sense of injustice can arise in the distribution of these payments, causing tensions within the community. Further, there is reported evidence that children have in some cases been withdrawn from school because they have not received the support, and that it becomes harder to mobilise children from villages not receiving financial support to attend school.
- 42. This issue raises a fundamental question about the appropriateness of different forms of targeted financial assistance to support children's education amongst poor families. In some parts of the world, the provision of cash transfers to poor households made on the condition that they maintain their children in school has been found to be an effective mechanism. However, in close-knit rural communities such as in Ninh Thuan, it has been found that this can have unintended impacts on community cohesion and on school attendance. In practice, local authorities and schools in Ninh Thuan have opted to equalise support for all pupils and to arrange for school-meals rather than making cash payments directly to households.
- 43. **Data and information on child protection** [Chapter 6.1]. During this research it was found that the available statistics on some child protection indicators in Ninh Thuan are fragmented and do not give a full picture of the current situation. There is also a lack of in-depth qualitative information and understanding about some critical child protection issues. These data gaps and inconsistencies relate to both:

- (a) baseline monitoring of the child protection situation in the general population, particularly with respect to children with disabilities and working children; and (b) regular administrative data collection and reporting on children under care and protection (for example under Decree No.67 and Decree No.13). This makes it difficult to make a full assessment of the proportion of the total numbers of children in need of special protection that are actually receiving adequate care and protection.
- 44. **Children in need of special protection** [Chapter 6.2]. In 2009 there were 2,900 orphaned children and children without stable family conditions in the province, of which 1,924 children (66.3 per cent) were receiving support for care in the community by relatives or guardians, at the public and non-public social protection centres, or were infants under 18 months old living with foster families. Under Decree No.13 (2010), the target groups for social assistance have been expanded to include poor single parent families. Even so, these figures suggest that up to 30 per cent of children without stable home conditions are not receiving social assistance, and the situation of these children is uncertain.
- 45. Children living with disabilities [Chapters 6.2 and 6.3]. In 2009 there were just over 2,900 children with disabilities in the province, including 885 children affected by chemical agents. Of the 2,017 children with disabilities not stemming from the effects of chemical agents, 17 children (0.8 per cent) were placed in social protection centres, with 92 per cent under care in the community, and only 145 children (7.2 per cent) received support through Decree No.67. In 2008 about 17.7 per cent of children with disabilities were attending school, increasing to 26.5 per cent in 2009. Data and information on the situation of children with disabilities in Ninh Thuan is fragmented. Comprehensive data are available on the numbers of children with severe disabilities that have received free operations and material support for care, rehabilitation and mobility through various programmes. On the other hand, disaggregated data on the numbers of children living with different types of disability and their distribution in the province population are not readily available. Limited qualitative information is available on the circumstances of these children, on the adequacy of social assistance, or on education and development opportunities. Filling these gaps in information and understanding should be a high priority in the coming years.
- 46. **Birth registration and early marriage** [Chapter 6.4]. Birth registration has become a routine for parents in Ninh Thuan. Improvements have been made to the procedures for household registration and birth registration. The local government authorities, mass associations and commune/ward legal officers have made a great effort in providing information and encouraging parents to obtain birth registration for their children. There is also increased awareness amongst parents themselves about the importance and benefits of birth registration. According to the report on the Plan of Action for Children, the proportion of children that have birth registration by age five increased from 93 per cent in 2005 to 98 per cent in 2010. Figures provided by the Department of Justice show that the rate of children registered on time (within 60 days of birth) ranges from 48.6 per cent in 2006, to about 52 per cent in 2007 and reaching a high of 65 per cent in 2008, before declining back to 52 per cent in 2009.
- 47. Despite these improvements, birth registration still faces some difficulties. There continues to be a large number of delayed registrations, especially amongst coastal fishing households and ethnic minority households. It is notable that from 2006 to 2009, between 9 and 11 per cent of birth registrations were made without parental marriage certificates. According to revised procedures, it is now possible to

- register births in only the mother's name, which is critical for births occurring from unregistered and/or early marriage. Nowadays, early marriage occurs primarily within the Raglay community. District level officials say that early age marriage was frequent in the past, but has become less of an issue in recent years. Even so, they point out that it is difficult to get accurate information. Early marriages are not officially registered because people are aware that it is illegal.
- 48. **Working children** [Chapter 6.5]. According to provincial and district officials, child labour is not a major problem in Ninh Thuan. Children from poor rural and urban households are commonly withdrawn from school either temporarily or permanently to assist their families with domestic or agricultural work, or to look after younger siblings. There are, however, very few reported cases of children involved in hazardous types of work or forced labour. Nonetheless, this is one of the least understood child protection issues in Ninh Thuan. There is a lack of specific data on the numbers of rural or urban children or teenagers who may be involved in different types of wage labour in agriculture or in local enterprises. Similarly, no data are available for children who may be involved in hazardous forms of work, as defined by Government regulations. This is an important priority for improved data collection and understanding.
- 49. Some teenagers discontinue schooling to obtain paid work, either in the locality or occasionally in urban centres and neighbouring provinces. It appears that the high drop-out rate of boys in particular from upper secondary school is motivated by the need or desire to obtain paid employment. Some are influenced by their peers and the desire to earn cash for consumer items and leisure activities. Other children obtain work out of economic necessity. Poor Kinh households with several children may adopt a strategy whereby one elder child is sent out to work to support the family and younger siblings who are still attending school. In coastal areas, some children earn money by cooking for fishermen, repairing fishing gear or sorting fish. Amongst the Cham ethnic group, some boys leave school early to earn a living, often being employed by neighbouring farmers to look after cattle and sheep. Poor Raglay households are especially reliant on occasional wage labour, a majority of which is obtained in the locality. Most young Raglay men are confined to un-skilled work within the province (for example manual work on construction sites), as very few have the necessary contacts and skills to migrate further afield to obtain work.
- 50. Child abuse at school and violence at school [Chapter 6.6]. Of all the child protection issues, children themselves express most concern about domestic violence and violence at school. While recognising that the number of reported cases of child abuse is less in Ninh Thuan than some other localities, officials from DOLISA say that there is likely to be a more substantial number of un-reported cases. Some local officials state that child abuse is on the increase, but this may reflect greater awareness and attention to this issue. Families often prefer to go through an informal reconciliation process rather than officially reporting abuse to the police or local authorities. This highlights the need for increased awareness-raising amongst local communities on the importance of addressing different forms of child abuse. It is likely that there is widespread incidence of low levels of domestic violence, which can have a detrimental psychological and emotional effect on children. However, there has not been a sufficiently comprehensive study on domestic violence against children in the province to understand these patterns more fully. Parent groups in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City express concern about the emerging issue of school violence, citing a few recent cases of students being violent towards teachers. They propose strengthened cooperation between the schools and local authorities on this matter. They also propose that support for parents of children with behavioural

difficulties is needed to prevent the incidence of violence between pupils.

- 51. Children in conflict with the law and legal aid for children [Chapter 6.7]. According to the Legal Aid Centre under the Department of Justice, in the period from 2005 to 2010 there were 202 cases of children in conflict with the law in Ninh Thuan which were handled by the Centre. A majority of these were cases of: (a) theft and robbery (mostly theft of livestock in rural areas and theft or robbery of assets in urban areas) and (b) criminal intent and wilful damage related to under-age drinking and gang conflict (primarily in urban areas). With regard to legal aid advice and support, mobilisation of the mobile legal aid teams has improved awareness amongst rural people and ethnic minorities about various aspects of the law, as well as contributing to the provision of information on health insurance and birth registration. Such awareness raising activities, however, are confined to those communes and villages under Programme 135 and are not carried out so extensively in other parts of the province.
- 52. Social and economic situation of the Raglay people [Chapters 2.7, 5.5 and 7.5]. One of the major social and economic development concerns in Ninh Thuan relates to the situation of the Raglay. It is suggested that in order to help improve material and economic standards of living amongst Raglay households and communities in general, and specifically to address children's health, education and protection concerns, it is necessary to consider the broader and deeper aspects of the participation of young Raglay people in the modern-day economy and society. This need for a broad perspective and approach to supporting social and economic development concerns amongst the Raglay is appreciated by provincial leaders and is already reflected in many provincial policies and programmes. There is scope for broadening and strengthening these efforts. In this respect, there are both positive trends and some potentially worrying signs of the difficulties faced by young Raglay people in making this adjustment. On the positive side, in recent years there has been a reduction in the poverty rate in districts with a large Raglay population. Pre-school and primary school enrolment rates have been increasing and there have also been improvements in maternal and child health indicators amongst the Raglay. At the same time, there are indications that some Raglay teenagers and young adults – perhaps especially boys – are finding it difficult to establish a new role for themselves and productive livelihoods in the modern-day context. The factors that contribute to this are examined at various points in this report.

Main Recommendations for SEDP and Sector Plans

+	CROSS-CUTTING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	C DEVELOPMENT ISSUES
	Issues	Institutional Capacity Gaps – Priorities and Recommendations for SEDP and Sector Plans
. .	Ethnically disaggregated data for key women and children's indicators	• Data and research. Introduce ethnically disaggregated monitoring and data reporting for certain key women's and children indicators in order to develop a better empirical understanding of patterns of intra-provincial disparity between administrative areas and population groups. It is recommended that the most critical indicators for which ethnically disaggregated data are needed include: (i) maternal and child nutrition status; (ii) reproductive healthcare and child survival indicators; (iii) school enrolment, repetition, drop-out and completion rates; and (iv) child protection issues such as birth registration, child abuse and early marriage. Such data should be disaggregated according to the major ethnic groups in the province (Kinh, Cham, Raglay or other), by sex and according to administrative area (district, commune).
1.2	Addressing the increasing Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)	Data and research. Conduct study to better understand the factors lying behind the recent rise in the SRB and changes in sex selection practices amongst different population groups in Ninh Thuan.
	[Chapter 2.2]	* Human resources and skills. Provide training and information for health sector staff at all levels (including private health practitioners) to increase their awareness of the issues surrounding the SRB and how to address this in the community.
		* Behaviour change communication. Strengthen IEC work on the issues surrounding sex selection amongst the general public, as well as amongst government agencies and mass organisations, including underlying rights aspects.
		Policy and regulatory framework. Ensure that private health units and practitioners are fully aware of and follow correct ethical standards in providing prenatal screening and abortion services.
6.7	Situation of children in coastal fishing communities [Chapters 2.5, 5.2 and 6.4]	• Data and research. Conduct study to better understand the situation of children in coastal fishing communities, including the numbers of children in mobile fishing households. Focus this study on identifying response mechanisms to key issues for children in this population group, such as: (i) household registration and birth registration; (ii) access to primary healthcare; (iii) school drop-out; and (iv) child labour and other child protection concerns.
		* Policy and regulatory framework and cross-sector coordination. Promote coordination between administrative areas and sectors to resolve residency issues amongst the mobile fishing population.
4.	Mitigation, preparedness and response measures to drought and flooding	Service content and quality. Conduct applied research with the participation of local communities to broaden the range of technical options for households to cope with fluctuations in crop and livestock production conditions and periodic domestic water shortages.
	[Chapter 2.6]	* Human resources skills and capacities. Build the capacity of local authorities and communities on disaster mitigation, planning and response, and on how to manage local environmental systems and resources more effectively.
		* Policy and regulatory framework. Review and adjust measures to safeguard particularly vulnerable groups, such as old people and children, in these situations.

5	CHILD HEALTH AND SURVIVAL		
	Issues		Institutional Capacity Gaps – Priorities and Recommendations for SEDP and Sector Plans
2.1	Shortage of doctors and health collaborators in some districts and communes [Chapter 4.1]	*	Incentive systems. Provide appropriate incentives to ameliorate the shortage of doctors in some districts and communes which is resulting in a lack of human resources for regular diagnosis and treatment for children in these localities, with a focus on Bac Ai and Thuan Nam districts, where no communes have attained national health standards. Ensure sufficient allowances are maintained for local health collaborators, in particular for those working on child nutrition and malnutrition amongst difficult-to-reach population groups.
2.2	Monitoring infant and maternal mortality rates	*	Data and research. Improve data and understanding on maternal and infant mortality (MMR/IMR). In addition to more accurate statistics on the IMR and MMR, there is a need for better qualitative understanding of the factors lying behind patterns of maternal mortality and of infant mortality, both at birth and after birth, in different population groups in the province.
		*	Organisational development and cross-sector coordination. Strengthen monitoring systems and arrangements for maternal and infant mortality, including closer coordination between the agencies responsible for reproductive health care and population monitoring.
2.3	School health check-ups [Chapter 4.1]	*	Funding and financing mechanisms. Provide sufficient annual funding, through the Preventative Health Centre and District Health Centres, to ensure the complete coverage and regularity of school health check-ups and dentistry check-ups and advice to all schools.
		*	Human resources and skills. Intensify training to ensure that 100 per cent of primary schools in the province have staff that are trained in healthcare (currently at 37.7 per cent).
4.2	Monitoring child health insurance card usage [Chapter 4.2]	*	Data and research. Introduce more detailed monitoring of patterns of child health insurance card usage in order to identify potential gaps in insurance coverage and service provision (especially with respect to types of treatment not covered by either health insurance or the NTPs). Also monitor the proportion of poor or non-poor pupils who have school health insurance in order to confirm these observations.
		*	Organisational development and cross-sector coordination. Strengthen capacity for monitoring child health insurance card usage and identify organisational responsibilities for this.
		*	Service content and quality. Propose policy and service adaptations as required based on more detailed monitoring.
2.5	Reproductive healthcare facilities and services	*	Human resources and skills. Extend the network of village-based skilled midwives to other ethnic minority communes and remote villages to sustain province-wide improvements in the level and quality of reproductive healthcare services.
	[Chapter 4.3]	*	Information, education and communication. Strengthen the provision of appropriate and sensitive reproductive healthcare advice for teenagers, combined with HIV/AIDS awareness, in conjunction with secondary schools, in both urban and rural areas.
		*	Cross-sector coordination and collaboration. Promote collaboration between DOH (Sub-Department for Population and Family Planning), DOET and others to strengthen reproductive healthcare advice for secondary school children.

6] and children 7] Ssues ation of pre-school 5.1, 5.3 and 5.7]	 Data and research. There is a need for more comprehensive statistics on the child injury situation generally, and specifically to analyse the major patterns and causes of child injury in different population and age groups within the province. Cross-sector coordination and collaboration. While some districts and communes/wards have established injury prevention boards, in some cases their activities are not regular and there is a need to increase the sense of responsibility of each locality 	to take charge of these activities. Many localities in the province have not yet invested adequately in safe playground spaces for children. Better coordination is also needed around the Communes Safe for Children approach, combined with increased funding to make injury prevention activities more effective in each locality.	Policy and regulatory framework. With respect to road and traffic safety, there is a need to strengthen efforts to promote behaviour change amongst the general public, combined with stronger observance and enforcement of traffic regulations (recent Government legislation has tightened the regulations and penalties relating to child helmet use through Decision No.34/2010/ND-CP).	 Behaviour change communication. Public education and community mobilisation around all aspects of road and traffic safety is essential to address the high rate of child injuries resulting from traffic/road accidents, and to promote behaviour change amongst parents and the general public. 	* Cross-sector coordination and collaboration. More intensive coordination will be required to tackle road and traffic safety for children, for which a multi-stakeholder approach is essential, including DOLISA, DOET, the Department of Public Security and the local police, the district authorities, mass organisations, parent's associations of schools, and other relevant bodies.	Service content and quality. Prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) programme needs to be better linked with Reproductive Health (RH) and Maternal and Child Health (MCH) as an integral part of the antenatal care.	Cross-sector coordination and collaboration. Strengthen the existing cross-sector activities and mechanism to facilitate the work between DOH, DOET and DOLISA.	PMENT	Institutional Capacity Gaps – Priorities and Recommendations for SEDP and Sector Plans	Service content and quality. One main concern for the education sector in the SEDP period (2011 to 2015-20) is the universalisation of pre-school education. This involves increasing the rate of full-day kindergarten school attendance. Consolidating the network of public and private pre-schools and enhancing teacher qualifications will therefore be important to fulfil this objective. Supportive policies will be required on investment and staffing.	 Data and research. Conduct survey to identify the population groups within which pre-school attendance between the ages of 3 to 5 is still limited, in order to identify appropriate supportive policies for promoting pre-school attendance. 	* Human resources skills and capacities. Increase the contingent of qualified pre-school teachers, the current shortage of which is one of the main capacity gaps in the education sector.	Funding and financing mechanisms. Ensure sufficient resources are allocated to meet the objectives under Decision No.239/2010/QD-TTg on the universalisation of pre-school education of integrating full-day pre-school attendance with the provision of regular and nutritious midday meals to help reduce the malnutrition rate for children under five. Promote collaboration between DOET, DOH through the Preventative Health Centre and others to develop a strategy for integrating nutrition objectives in universal pre-school education.
Child injury p [Chapter 4.6] [Chapter 4.7] CHILD EDUG Ist Universalisat education [Chapters 5.7]	Child injury prevention [Chapter 4.6]					HIV/AIDS and children		CHILD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT	Issues	Universalisation of pre-school education [Chapters 5.1, 5.3 and 5.7]			

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	Issues	Institutional Capacity Gaps – Priorities and Recommendations for SEDP and Sector Plans
4.	Basic population monitoring on social protection and child protection indicators [Chapter 6.1]	Data and research. Give high priority to strengthening the system of regular data collection on the child protection situation in the general population, and the compilation, analysis and reporting of these statistics. This should be combined with in-depth surveys on those aspects of child protection for which there is insufficient qualitative understanding. At the same time, there is a need for more consistent regular reporting on the support provided to children in need of special protection as specified under Decree No.13.
2.4	Children in need of special protection [Chapters 6.2 and 6.3]	Data and research. Improve data and information on the numbers and situation of children in need of special protection, including children deprived of family care, abused children and children living with disabilities, on the level and adequacy of social assistance and on their education and development opportunities. Service content and quality. Some applications for social assistance are made for Raglay children whose mothers have died and who are being taken care of by relatives. According to Raglay customary law, fathers do not have the right to raise children if the mother dies and in this situation the father will often leave the family. These children live with maternal relatives (sisters or grandparents). This creates a special situation for the care and protection of orphaned children and children with a single parent amongst the Raglay. In the guidelines under Decree No.67 and Decree No.13 it is not fully clear whether these children who are living with relatives – who themselves may have three or more children – are eligible for social assistance. This is subject to local interpretation of the guidelines. It is suggested that there is a need to clarify the eligibility criteria under Decree No.13. There is further need to implement models of alternative care, including community-based care for children deprived of parental care, for children affected by HIV and AIDS, for children in conflict with the law and for children with disabilities.
6.4	Birth registration and early marriage [Chapter 6.4]	
4.	Improved data and understanding of the child labour situation and introducing remedial measures	elimination of child marriage, birth registration, and negative social traditions resulting in harm to children. Data and research. Conduct a survey to address the lack of statistical information and detailed understanding of the patterns of child labour. Particular attention should be given to determining the numbers and circumstances of children involved in hazardous forms of work.
	[Chapter 6.5]	Policy and regulatory framework. Introduce direct regulatory interventions to ensure withdrawal of children from hazardous work and strengthen preventative measures to reduce the flow of children into child labour, including: (i) continued improvement of secondary school access; (ii) enhanced remedial measures whereby children temporarily removed from school can catch-up and complete schooling; and (iii) continued awareness raising amongst local communities and parents.

4.	5.	Child abuse and violence at school [Chapter 6.6]	 * Data and research. A number of reasons suggest there is a nascent or growing problem of children who suffer from various forms of physical or psychological abuse at home, bullying at school or conflict between children. There is insufficient information, however, to quantify the magnitude of this problem, or to fully understand the circumstantial factors. Research should be undertaken to understand this situation more fully. Based on this, preventative measures may include: * Behaviour change communication. Increased public awareness around these issues, and strengthening appropriate preventative measures against violence in schools. * Service content and quality. Provide more counselling services for children. Support for piloting school-based counselling and/or social work unit. Strengthen the coordination and cooperation between the social welfare and education sector. * Policy and regulatory framework. Continued strict enforcement of administrative and judicial sanctions against perpetrators of child abuse whether at home, in schools or elsewhere. 	from various ficient information, should be undertaken ropriate preventative counselling and/or
4.	9.4	Development of the social work system (following Decision No.32/2010)	Organisational development and staffing. Over the next few years, introduction of social work structures according to Decision No.32/2010/QD-TTg will provide an important opportunity to build a more comprehensive child protection system. Based on the analysis made in this report, it is recommended that social work structures may be developed along the following lines:	ording to Decision m. Based on the ig lines:
		[Chapter 6.10]	 Local collaborators and peer educators. The network of collaborators will need to be strengthened and adapted to the particular population characteristics of the province. For ethnic minority communities (such as Cham and Raglay), as well as for specific population groups such as the mobile coastal fishing communities, it is recommended that particular attention should be given to recruiting collaborators from within these communities to work as peer educators. Amongst the Raglay, it will be important to recruit both male and female collaborators, in order to address the specific child protection and development concerns that exist for girls and boys in this community. 	oted to the particular well as for specific on should be given will be important to troncerns that exist
			 Specialised service units. Not all child care and protection services can or should be provided through the regular contingent of commune staff and local collaborators. There are some aspects requiring specialised capacity that cannot be provided by these local staff, nor would this be the most cost-effective strategy. Examples of these types of specialised service units include: (i) counselling services for children and (ii) advisory and service units for children with disabilities and parents and guardians of children with disabilities. 	egular contingent of be provided by these sunits include: (i) and guardians of
			* Human resource skills and capacities. An intensive training and coaching programme will be required to equip the commune social officers and local collaborators with the necessary knowledge and social work skills, including counselling and case management skills, combined with appropriate incentives (including monetary incentives and other types of incentives) to encourage them to become fully engaged in their work.	ip the commune g and case entives) to

	Institutional Capacity Gaps – Priorities and Recommendations for SEDP and Sector Plans	rt the diversification of the options available for local ranising and conducting their own recreation activitie	financing mechanisms. Increase the resources made available for youth clubs of various kinds to strengthen and activities, by designing their own entertainment and learning programmes (such as producing their own videos which		healthy Internet clubs' in urban areas, where a variet children, as well as ensuring access for poor childrer andary schools and residential clusters, with possible development of the commune learning centres.	financing mechanisms. Expand the provision of safe recreation facilities in kindergarten and primary schools. Decision No.239/2010/QD-TTg it is necessary to ensure adequate equipment and toys for the realisation of the new ucation curricula, and to step-up the application of information technology at pre-school institutions so that by 2015 set of pre-school pre-school institutions so that by 2015 and others access to information technology. This provides the opportunity to instil favourable learning
	Institutional Capacity Gaps - Priorities and	Policy and regulatory framework. Develop policies to support the diversification of the options available for local communities and teenagers to become more actively and directly involved in organising and conducting their own recreation activities.	* Funding and financing mechanisms. Increase the resources made available for youth clubs of various kinds to strengthen and diversify their activities, by designing their own entertainment and learning programmes (such as producing their own videos which	can be used in peer-education and outreach programmes).	* Community based initiatives. Support the establishment of 'healthy Internet clubs' in urban areas, where a variety of educationally friendly and Internet-based learning activities are provided for children, as well as ensuring access for poor children. This may be through: (i) small grants to promote collaboration between secondary schools and residential clusters, with possible support and sponsorship from local businesses and enterprises and/or; (ii) development of the commune learning centres.	* Funding and financing mechanisms. Expand the provision of safe recreation facilities in kindergarten and primary schools. According to Decision No.239/2010/QD-TTg it is necessary to ensure adequate equipment and toys for the realisation of the new pre-school education curricula, and to step-up the application of information technology at pre-school institutions so that by 2015 at least of pre-schools have access to information technology. This provides the opportunity to instil favourable learning attitudes and access to information technology. This provides the opportunity to instil favourable learning.
CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION	Issues	Shortage of conducive recreation facilities and out-of-school learning opportunities for children and		[Chapter 7.4]	*	*
2.		5.1				

5.2 Participation and development of Raglay children, teenagers and young adults

[Chapter 7.5]

- *Data and research.* Conduct a research study to better understand the gender dimensions to the current processes of social change amongst the Raglay, and how families are adapting, so that more gender sensitive social policies can be designed. ...
- supporting the emergence of 'role models' from within Raglay society itself. Women's leadership capacity needs to be enhanced, for Policy and regulatory framework. Strengthen the existing efforts to build up a contingent of young Raglay people who can progressively take on local positions of leadership. This is in terms of 'formal leadership capacity' (for example promoting more Raglay women and men to management positions at commune and district level) as well as 'non-formal leadership capacity' by example, by supporting more girls completing secondary school to become teachers and health workers. ...
- Human resource skills and capacities. Increase the contingent of Raglay teachers at all levels of general education to enhance the effectiveness and quality of education for Raglay children. •
- required to more fully understand the particular needs and interests, aptitudes and aspirations of this target group; in order to adapt both the topics of training and the training methods accordingly. Crucially, such programmes should ideally be designed and led by a committed pool of Raglay trainers. Training of core groups of children on life skill education, child protection and communication/ to better equip Raglay teenagers and young adults with economic and life skills that are appropriate to them. Research would be Human resource skills and capacities. Introduce more innovative approaches to non-formal education and vocational training acilitation skills to facilitate child participation, peer education and creative communication activities. .
- Policy and regulatory framework. Determine ways in which customary family law and civic law amongst ethnic minority groups may be integrated more fully with national laws and policies, in order to build on the strengths of these customary laws. *
- enhance the relevance and effectiveness of peer-education programmes, as well as providing them with a vehicle through which : make their own films and television programmes on topics related to child care and protection, culture, or other topics and issues Behaviour and social change communication. Provide resources for young Raglay people to make their own communication of interest to them. Directly involving beneficiaries in the development of behaviour change communication materials is a way to materials in the Raglay language. For example, this may be done by supporting schools and school children or youth clubs to understand and contribute to their own society. .

2



1. Introduction

1.1 Research objectives and questions

Over the last decade the Government of Viet Nam has embarked on a process of decentralising planning and budgeting responsibilities to the provincial government authorities. It is recognised however, that the capacity of the provincial government administrative system and sector agencies to manage the socio-economic development planning process in the most effective ways, to allocate resources, and to execute projects and programmes that achieve results for the poorest, most marginalised, and most vulnerable sections of society is still weak. Despite having greater decision-making and budgetary authority, not many opportunities have been utilised by local government authorities to maximise available resources to address local concerns. The prioritisation of children's concerns requires evidence-based planning and budgeting for children through the Socio Economic Development Plan (SEDP) process. Unfortunately, although they exist at a provincial level, data and information on social issues and on children in particular are not always in a systematic and consolidated form, which can be used to analyse the full picture in each locality.

This study provides a Situation Analysis of Children in Ninh Thuan Province in the South Central Coast Region. The overall objective of the study is to provide the Government of Viet Nam, the development community and the public at large with up-to-date information and understanding on children's issues and priorities in the province. The specific objectives are: (i) to consolidate statistical data and analyse the situation of children in the context of social and economic development trends in the province; (ii) to identify relevant issues affecting knowledge on child rights and the advancement of these rights; and (iii) to provide recommendations to improve children's situation that can be incorporated into the provincial Socio Economic Development Plans and sector plans.

1.2 Analytical framework and research methodology

Analysis of child rights according to sectors. The analytical approach adopted by this study has three main elements. Firstly, children's issues are analysed according to clusters of child rights that relate to different areas of sector activity. These include: (1) the rights to survival – including healthcare, water supply and sanitation and shelter; (2) the rights to development – including education and learning; (3) the rights to protection – including care of children in need of special protection, child labour, and legal aspects of child protection; and (4) the rights to participation – including the right to contribute ideas to the family, community and to the process of decision-making on children's issues. This conforms to the definition of child rights in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Vietnamese Law on Child Protection, Care and Education, and the National Plan of Action for Children (2001-2010).

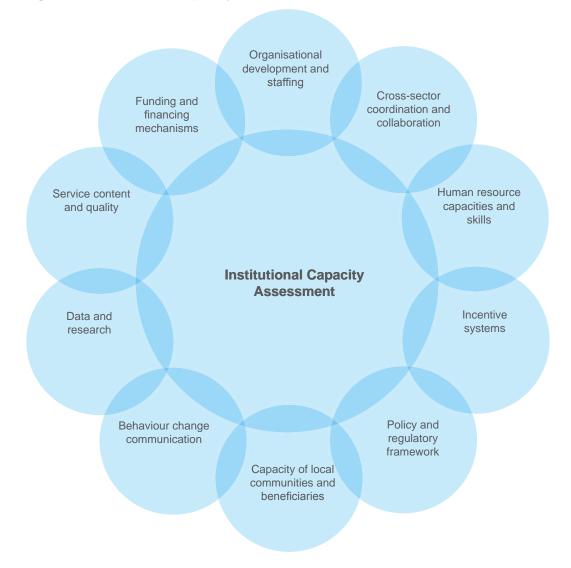
Analysis of programming and budgeting for children. Secondly, the study combines this rights-based approach with a structured analysis of programming and budgeting for child related concerns in the provincial SEDP and sector plans and programmes. This includes a review of progress and achievements over the last SEDP period from 2006 to 2010, in order to identify those aspects which are comparatively well covered, and those which are under-resourced and not adequately addressed in existing programmes and services. Budget information has been compiled from the SEDP and data provided by the Department of Finance and sector reports.

Research Questions

- What are the major nationwide, regional and local socio-economic trends that impact the quality of life of children in the province, both today and in the future?
- What are the major issues and challenges facing children and families in the province today and what are the causes of these issues and challenges?
- What are the capacity gaps of rights-holders to claim their rights and what are the capacity gaps of duty-bearers to fulfil these claims?
- How have the government and province responded to children's issues, what are the existing policies and programmes supporting children, and how effective have they been?
- Have the government and province given a sufficient proportion of their budget resources and public investments to the realisation of children's rights?
- What are the key issues that policy makers should take into account when planning for the provincial annual and five-year SEDP?

Institutional capacity assessment. Thirdly, the study makes an institutional capacity assessment – and capacity gap assessment – with respect to the institutional arrangements and responsibilities for child care and protection. In this respect, we adopt a broad definition of 'institutions', as relating to organisational development, the regulatory environment, and human resources development (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Institutional capacity assessment framework



Data and information sources. The study combines quantitative and qualitative information sources (Figure 2). Qualitative information and understanding has been collected from primary sources during fieldwork, as well as from provincial reports and background research studies.

Statistical data has been collated from secondary sources, including national, provincial and local sources. Where possible, time-line data have been presented to analyse trends over time. As far as possible, the data have been cross-checked and validated from several sources. Inconsistencies have been identified where they occur, as well as gaps in currently available statistics. Reference is made throughout the report to the statistical data tables presented in Annex 1.

Figure 2. Sources of quantitative and qualitative information

Quantitative information sources Qualitation Compilation of statistics from national surveys and data-bases (such as 2009 Population and Housing Census, Nutrition Surveillance System) Meetings authoritie authoritie mass as as as as as an accompilation of province statistics on children indicators, and compilation of budgetary information from the Province SEDP

Comparison of province socio-economic indicators with neighbouring provinces in the region and nationally

Analysis of trends over time and comparison of differentials within the province according to geographical area or social group

Qualitative information sources

Meetings and interviews with province and district authorities, technical departments / sections and mass associations

Focus group discussions with commune / ward authorities, mass associations, teachers and health workers, school children, parents and elders

Review of the analysis of 'advantages', 'difficulties' and 'solutions' in province and district reports

Review of research studies and other secondary information

1.3 Fieldwork locations and research participants

The study covers the entire province in terms of background statistical data collection and overall analysis and discussion of the results. Meetings and focus group discussions were held with a wide range of agencies at provincial level, in two rural districts (Thuan Bac and Bac Ai) and in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City (see list of agencies below). Fieldwork was conducted in two rural communes and one urban ward (Table 1). These locations were selected to be broadly – but not fully – representative of different demographic and socio-economic conditions in the province. Phuoc Dai is a rural commune in the upland district of Bac Ai, characterised by a high poverty rate, low population density and a majority Raglay ethnic minority population. Cong Hai is a more densely populated commune, situated alongside Highway 1 in a lowland area of Thuan Bac District. My Hai is a densely populated urban ward in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City, with a majority Kinh population.

Table 1. The research locations

Commune/ward	Phuoc Dai Commune Bac Ai District	Cong Hai Commune Thuan Bac District	My Hai Ward Phan Rang-Thap Cham City
Area (hectares)	11,344	7,400	275
Population (2010)	3,388	7,500	4,339
Population density (persons/km²)	29.87	101.3	1,580
Number of households	792	1,560	1,023
Poor households (%)	64.2 (2010)	9.7 (2010)	8.9 (2009)
Under-five child malnutrition rate (%)	25	23.4	16
Ethnic groups (%)	Raglay 95 Kinh 5	Raglay 64 Kinh 35 Cham 1	Kinh 99.9 Hoa 0,01

Sources: Data provided during fieldwork by commune/ward People's Committees.

Research participants. In total, 184 people participated in the research including 46 provincial participants, 38 district and township participants, 68 commune and ward participants, and 42 children (of which 49 per cent were female). The agencies and participant groups involved in the research are listed below. At the commune/ward level, separate focus group discussions were held with the commune/ward authorities, mass association representatives, health workers and teachers, groups of parents and secondary school children.

Statements made by children are included at several points in the report. These are not direct quotations, but transcriptions from the focus group discussions. In all cases, children were freely asked if they wished to participate in the group discussions, and they were asked to sign a letter of confirmation that their ideas and opinions could be used in the report.

Provincial level

- Provincial People's Council
- Provincial People's Committee
- Party Propaganda and Education Committee
- Department of Planning and Investment
- Department of Finance
- Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
- Department of Health
- Department of Education and Training
- Centre for Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation
- Provincial Statistics Office
- Provincial Women's Union
- Provincial Youth Union
- Provincial Ethnic Committee
- Department of Justice
- Department of Public Security
- People's Court
- Provincial Social Insurance
- Social Protection Centre

District and commune or ward level

- District People's Committee
- Planning and Finance Section
- Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Section
- Education and Training Section
- Health Section
- Preventative Health Centre
- District Hospital
- Youth Union
- Women's Union
- Commune/ward People's Committee
- Village leaders
- Commune/ward health centre
- Mass association representatives
- Commune/ward schools
- Local pagodas
- Secondary school children
- Parents' groups and elders in the community

1.4 Research limitations

This study builds up a composite picture and understanding of the situation of children in Ninh Thuan Province, based on existing quantitative data and qualitative information. It should be noted that the research has not attempted to gather new primary data. It is therefore limited by gaps in currently available data and information; such data and information gaps and inconsistencies are identified in the report and recommendations are given for priorities for improved monitoring, further research and analytical work to fill these gaps.

The major limitations encountered during this research are as follows:

- Firstly, there is a lack of sufficiently disaggregated statistical data to develop a full picture and understanding of the patterns of intra-provincial disparity between administrative areas, ethnic groups, and income groups, as well as gender disaggregated data. Of these, the major limitation is the lack of ethnically disaggregated data, particularly in health and education, which would allow a fuller analysis to be made of salient differences in the situation of children between the main ethnic groups in the province. This is one main priority for the future. Province and district officials are generally well aware of the major patterns of intra-provincial disparity in their locality, for which circumstantial or qualitative understanding is often available, but there is often a lack of hard data to support the analysis and to confirm trends. During this research, it was not possible to collect and analyse a large amount of data from commune level, which would have allowed us to at least partly fill this gap in understanding. Moreover, the selection of fieldwork locations was only intended to be broadly representative, rather than covering the full spectrum of conditions in the province.
- Secondly, in monitoring and evaluation reports prepared by different sectors that have been reviewed for this research, there is often a lack of assessment of the effectiveness and impacts of different policies and programmes on the situation of women and children. There are several aspects to this. For example, linkages are often not drawn between resource allocation (to different policies and programmes) and outcomes in terms of changes to women's and children's indicators and well-being. Similarly, the effectiveness of new methods and technical interventions made in different sectors (which may be introduced through donor-supported projects or government programmes) is rarely assessed. During this research, through discussions with local officials, it was possible to explore these outcomes and impacts to a certain extent, but it was not possible to provide a more comprehensive evidence-based analysis because monitoring data is often insufficient.



2. Development Context

This chapter sets the scene for our analysis of the situation of children by describing salient aspects of the geographical setting, demographic characteristics, poverty context and provincial economy in Ninh Thuan. In doing so, comparisons are made between the socio-economic situation in Ninh Thuan and neighbouring provinces and other regions of the country. Attention is also given to highlighting major patterns of intra-provincial disparity and household vulnerability that affect the situation of children. These include differences between urban and rural and upland and coastal areas, differences in the socio-economic situation of different ethnic minority groups, and climate change and environmental vulnerability.

2.1 Geographical setting

Province location. Ninh Thuan Province is situated in the South Central Coast Region of Viet Nam, bordering the provinces of Khanh Hoa to the north, Binh Thuan to the south and Lam Dong to the west (Map 1)². The province has a land area of 3,358 km² with 105 km of coastline. Administratively, there is one major urban centre (Phan Rang-Thap Cham City) and six rural districts, with 18 urban wards and townships and 47 rural communes (Table 2)³. Topographically, the province is divided into three main zones: (i) a central valley of the Cai River, alongside which Phan Rang-Thap Cham City is situated at the centre of the province; (ii) a low-lying coastal plain (including Thuan Bac, Ninh Hai, Ninh Phuoc and Thuan Nam districts); and (iii) low mountains which occupy about 60 per cent of the provincial land area in Bac Ai and Ninh Son districts, with six peaks that rise to an altitude of over 1,000 metres above sea level. Ninh Thuan is conveniently located on National Highway No.1 and on the main railway linking the north and south of the country and is only 80km from Cam Ranh airport in Khanh Hoa Province.

Climatic conditions and water resources. Ninh Thuan is one of the driest provinces in the country. The average annual rainfall ranges from about 600-700mm per annum in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City to just over 1,000mm per annum in upland areas⁴. The semi-arid conditions create water shortages in most years and periodic drought conditions in some years; most recently, the province was severely affected by drought in 2004, which continued into 2005 and 2006. At the same time, the province also experiences periodic flooding events – most recently in November 2010, when about 800mm of rain fell in three days, exceeding the average annual rainfall and causing widespread flood damage. One recent study found that while rainfall in Ninh Thuan has been increasing for some decades, there are indications of increasing inter-annual rainfall variability; this could be the reason for the increasing incidence of drought conditions, combined with the increased demand for water for irrigation and domestic use⁵.

Agriculture and forest resources. According to land use data provided by the Provincial Statistics Office⁶, one-fifth of the provincial land area (20.8 per cent) is classified as agricultural, while irrigated paddy land occupies only 5.2 per cent. The limited area under paddy cultivation is due to the lack of suitable land and water resources for irrigation. The dry climate and soils of Ninh Thuan do, however, provide good growing conditions

In national surveys and statistics, Ninh Thuan is mainly categorised as belonging to the South Central Coast Region (for example in the GSO Statistical Yearbook and 2009 Population and Housing Census), while some surveys and statistical compilations place Ninh Thuan in the Southeast Region (for example the MOH Health Statistical Yearbook and the Viet Nam Housing and Living Standards Survey).

³ Provincial Statistics Office (2011) Statistical Handbook 2010 of Ninh Thuan Province (Summary)

⁴ Oxfam in Viet Nam and the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Kyoto University (undated) *Drought Management Considerations for Climate Change Adaptations in Ninh Thuan.*

⁵ Oxfam in Viet Nam and the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Kyoto University (undated) Ibid.

⁶ Provincial Statistics Office (2010) Statistical Yearbook 2009.

for several commercially valuable crops including grapes, maize and short rotation vegetable crops such as garlic, carrots, chillies and tomatoes. The natural conditions are also suitable for livestock production, including sheep and cattle, which are important components of the local economy.

Table 2. Comparative district socio-economic indicators, 2009-2010

·				·			
Indicators	PR-TC City	Thuan Bac	Thuan Nam	Ninh Hai	Bac Ai	Ninh Son	Ninh Phuoc
Population and poverty rate							
Number of communes/wards (2010)	19	6	8	9	9	8	9
Situation	Lowland	Lowland and upland	Lowland	Lowland and upland	Upland	Upland	Lowland
Total population (2010)	163,474	38,187	55,252	90,383	24,578	72,201	127,044
Population density (people/km²)	2,059	120	98	356	24	94	371
Ethnic minority population (2009)	2.2	66.8	28.6	9.0	89.5	23.5	33.0
Cham ethnic minority (%)	1.3	8.2	23.3	8.3	0.6	4.2	30.9
Raglay ethnic minority (%)	0.2	58.4	5.2	0.6	86.5	13.8	1.82
Total households (2009)	43,000	8,818	12,247	22,575	5,455	19,052	-
Number of poor households (2009)	2,274	1,587	1,029	1,918	2,530	3,429	-
Poverty rate (2011)	7.4	23.6	13.8	10.7	66.7	28.2	12.5
Health indicators in communes a	nd wards (0	C/W)					
C/W with health clinic (%)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
C/W with doctor (%)	19	67	37	45	33	25	78
C/W with midwife/delivery nurse (%)	100	66	100	100	66	100	100
C/W meeting health standards	81	67	0	89	0	62.5	44.5
Underweight children under five years of age (%)	13.85	26.49	-	24.73	39.20	25.69	19.25
Rural population with safe water supply (%)	-	79.27	64.92	87.88	53.82	82.59	81.41
Rural population with safe water supply (%)	-	43.02	52.72	73.74	17.86	67.39	65.46
Education indicators							
C/W with kindergarten (%)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
C/W with primary school (%)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
C/W with lower secondary school (%)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Commune/ward infrastructure							
Vehicular road access to centre (%)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Electricity grid connection (%)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Level of economic activity							
Number of enterprises (2008)	385	13	80	56	10	42	-
Sales of goods and services (VND billion)	3,470	163	315	362	67	322	382

Sources: DPI (2010) Compiled socio-economic statistics 2006-2010; Provincial Statistics Office (2010) Statistical Yearbook 2009; DOLISA (2010) Data provided during fieldwork; Provincial Statistics Office (2011) Statistical Handbook 2010 of Ninh Thuan Province (Summary); Preventative Health Centre (2010) Data provided during fieldwork; Provincial Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (2011) Results of implementation of sets of monitoring indicators for rural water supply and environmental sanitation in Ninh Thuan Province.

Over half the provincial land area is classified as forest land (55.5 per cent), almost half of which is protected forest and special-use forest (47 per cent). The province has two national parks (Phuoc Binh and Nui Chua), both of which are valued for their unique biodiversity and which have some potential for ecotourism. The coastal waters of Ninh Thuan are one of the most important on-shore fishing grounds in the country, supplying significant stocks of seafood and the province has good potential for developing the fishing industry and coastal tourism.

Industrial potential and rural infrastructure. The unique geo-climatic situation of the province makes it an ideal location for the production of wind and solar energy. According to the Ninh Thuan Economic Development Office, there are 14 potential sites for wind energy production in Ninh Phuoc and Thuan Bac districts⁷; and in 2010 Electricity Viet Nam (EVN) gained the government's approval to build a 30 megawatt wind energy plant in the province. In 2010, approval was also given for the construction location of two nuclear power plants in Ninh Thuan, in Ninh Hai and Thuan Nam districts, which are expected to come online in 2021 and 2022⁸. Rural infrastructure conditions are comparatively good in Ninh Thuan (Table 2). Since 2006, all urban wards and rural communes have vehicular road access and electricity grid connection to the commune centre, while the rate of rural households using electricity increased from 93.5 per cent in 2002 to 97.5 per cent in 2008⁹. As of 2010, all rural communes and urban wards have health clinics, as well as kindergarten, primary and lower secondary schools (Table 2).

2.2 Demographic characteristics and trends

Ninh Thuan is the sixth smallest province in the country according to population size. According to the 2009 Population and Housing Census (2009 Census), the population of the province stands at 564,129, of which 63.9 per cent is rural and 36.1 per cent urban (Annex 1.1 to 1.4)¹⁰. The female population comprises 50.16 per cent, and children under 16 comprise 30.7 per cent of the current population. The average population density is 168 persons per km², which is below the average of 196 per km², recorded in the North and South Central Coast Region. The average rural population density is 175.3 persons per km², ranging from 24 per km² in Bac Ai District to 371 per km² in Ninh Phuoc District (Table 2).

Ethnic minorities. In total, 34 ethnic groups are represented in the province. Ethnic minorities comprised 22 per cent of the population in 1999 and 23.5 per cent in 2009 (Annex 1.3 and 1.6). The main ethnic minority groups are Cham (11.91 per cent of the population in 2009), Raglay (10.43 per cent), Co Ho (0.5 per cent) and Hoa (0.33 per cent). Cham and Raglay both belong to the Malayo-Polynesian ethno-linguistic group and share a long and close history in the region, while Co Ho belong to the Mon-Khmer ethno-linguistic group. Cham are concentrated in lowland parts of the province, while Raglay and Co Ho primarily occupy upland districts and communes:

 Of the 67,274 Cham people, 57.7 per cent live in Ninh Phuoc and 18.9 per cent in Thuan Nam districts, where they form 30.9 and 23.3 per cent of the district population respectively, with smaller populations of Cham found in all other districts. The province contains about 43 per cent of all Cham people living in Viet Nam.

⁷ Portal of the Ninh Thuan Economic Development Office (EDO).

⁸ Decision 3849/QD-BCT (20/07/2010) of the Ministry of Industry and Trade approving the construction location scheme of Ninh Thuan 1 nuclear power plant; and Decision 3850/QD-BCT (20/07/2010) of the Ministry of Industry and Trade approving construction location scheme of Ninh Thuan 2 nuclear power plant.

⁹ DPI (2010) Compiled Socio-Economic Statistics 2006-2010.

¹⁰ Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010) The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Major Findings.

- Of the 58,911 Raglay people, 37 per cent live in Thuan Bac and 35.5 per cent in Bac Ai districts, where they form 58.4 and 86.5 per cent of the district population respectively, while smaller populations of Raglay are found in villages in all other districts. The province contains about 49 per cent of all Raglay people in Viet Nam.
- Of the 2,860 Co Ho people, 98.6 per cent live in rural communes of Ninh Son District, while 57 per cent of 1,852 Hoa people live in the urban wards of Phan Rang-Thap Cham City.

Age profile of the population. Over the last decade there have been shifts in the age profile of the population, comparable to many other provinces in Viet Nam (Figures 3 and 4 and Annex 1.5). Children under the age of 15 made up 40 per cent of the population in 1999. In 2009, this figure had dropped to 30.4 per cent. The labour force in Ninh Thuan has increased in recent years and will continue to do so over the next decade. In 1999 about 53.5 per cent of the provincial population was of labour age (15 to 60 years); this has risen to 58 per cent in 2009.

In contrast to some other provinces that have seen a decrease in the Crude Birth Rate (CBR) over recent years, the CBR in Ninh Thuan has increased from 18 per mille in 2005 to 19.2 per mille in 2009, reaching a high of 20.5 per mille in rural areas. The 2009 Census indicates that the average household size is 4.1 persons, a little higher than the national and regional average of 3.8 persons (Annex 1.2). According to the Population Change, Labour Force and Family Planning Survey of 2009, 36.6 per cent of households in Ninh Thuan are comprised of more than five members, compared to the national and regional average of about 31 per cent (Annex 1.7). These trends can be explained by the continuing high rates of birth and large household size, in particular amongst Raglay communities.

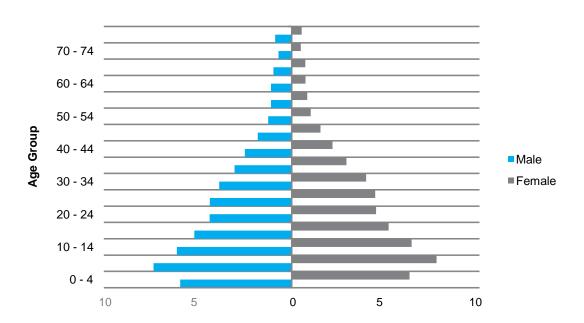
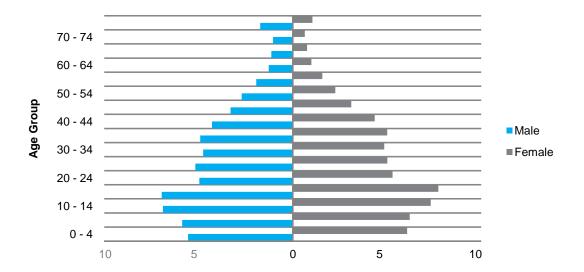


Figure 3. Population pyramid, 1999

Source: Provincial Statistics Office (2009) Data provided during fieldwork

Figure 4. Population pyramid, 2009



Source: Provincial Statistics Office (2009) Data provided during fieldwork.

Sex ratio at birth. According to the 2009 Census, Ninh Thuan has a sex ratio at birth (SRB) of 110.8 male births per 100 female births, similar to the national rate (110.5) but higher than the average for the North and South Central Coast Region of 109.7 (Annex 1.2). The provincial SRB declined from 116.4 in 2006¹¹ to 108 in 2008¹² and rose again to 110.8 in 2009¹³. There is nationwide concern with the rise in the SRB in Viet Nam in recent years. According to the General Statistics Office, several signs of a rising proportion of male births were noticed in estimates derived from annual population surveys conducted by the GSO since 2000, while indirect estimation techniques reveal that the inception of the SRB rise in Viet Nam can be dated to 200514. The analysis of 2009 Census data shows that there are strong regional differences in the SRB. While there are no significant differences between urban and rural areas, higher SRB levels are closely correlated with education levels and with indicators of better housing quality and ownership of household assets. The recent GSO report suggests that while the SRB among the poorest quintile of the population is at a normal biological level, it rapidly increases with better socio-economic conditions among the more prosperous quintiles¹⁵. In Ninh Thuan, data from the 2009 Census shows there is a difference between the urban SRB (114.2) and the rural SRB (109.2), which is possibly correlated with better socio-economic conditions in urban areas.

According to a recent report by UNFPA, the increase in the SRB in Viet Nam over the last decade appears to be related to 'supply factors' rather than related to an increasing preference for sons¹⁶. That is to say, increased economic mobility has allowed many couples to access modern sex determination technology for the first time, which has in turn allowed them to adapt their reproductive behaviour to the desire to bear sons. As

¹¹ UNFPA (2007) Viet Nam Population situation 2006. New Data: sex ratio at birth.

¹² Ministry of Health (2010) Health Statistics Yearbook 2009.

¹³ Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010) The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Completed results.

¹⁴ General Statistics Office (2011) Sex Ratio at Birth in Viet Nam: new evidence on patterns trends and differentials.

¹⁵ General Statistics Office (2011) ibid.

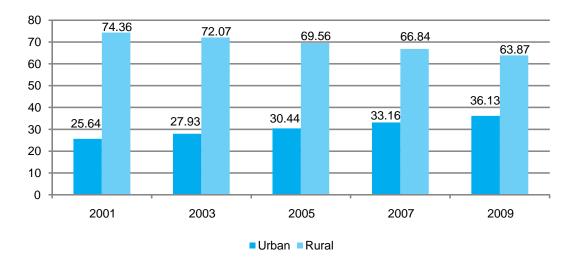
¹⁶ UNFPA (2009) Recent Change in Sex Ratio at Birth in Viet Nam; a review of evidence.

noted in this UNFPA report, quantitative information from birth registration records and census data is adequate to get an overall picture of the SRB. However, from a qualitative point of view, the practice of sex selection in Viet Nam is still poorly understood. The report recommends that more sociological research is needed to better document and understand the factors lying behind this recent change in sex selection practices. This is true for Ninh Thuan, where insufficient information is available on which population groups in urban areas are making these changes in reproductive behaviour. This needs to be combined with increased awareness-raising on this important issue amongst government agencies, the health service, mass organisations and the general public.

The GSO report states that prenatal sex selection is a manifestation of acute gender bias, which may have profound and long-term impacts on society, on family structures and marriage systems, especially as young men will find themselves in surplus in relation to the dwindling proportion of women of the same generation¹⁷. The report highlights the difficulties of devising effective policy solutions, but that these need to include a combination of: (i) more regular and intensive monitoring to understand trends and differentials; (ii) the enforcement of ethical practice in both public and private health facilities; (iii) strengthening the legal system to ensure gender equality; and (iv) more active campaigning for gender equality and to target deep-rooted attitudes towards women and discriminatory sex-selection practices.

Urbanisation processes and migration. Over the last decade there has been a 10 percentage point shift in the rural and urban population in Ninh Thuan, with the rural share declining from 74.36 per cent in 2001 to 63.87 per cent in 2009 (Annex 1.4 and Figure 5). This is primarily due to the expansion of urban areas and a certain amount of intra-provincial rural-to-urban migration. According to the 2009 Census, while there has been a moderate amount of in-migration from other provinces (11.1 per 1,000 inhabitants), there has been increased out-migration of 44.2 per 1,000 inhabitants, resulting in a net migration rate of -31.1, close to the regional average¹⁸.

Figure 5. Proportion of urban and rural population in Ninh Thuan Province, in percentage, 2001-2009



Source: Provincial Statistics Office (2009) Data provided during fieldwork.

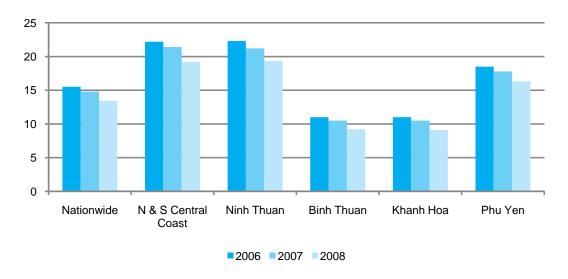
¹⁷ General Statistics Office (2011) ibid.

¹⁸ The 2009 Census measures the migration in the five years preceding the census date.

2.3 Poverty status and trends

There have been steady reductions in poverty in Ninh Thuan over recent years. According to national statistics, the poverty rate declined from 22.3 per cent in 2006 to 19.3 per cent in 2008 (Annex 1.8)¹⁹. Provincial figures give a lower poverty rate of 13.27 per cent in 2008, reducing to 10.86 per cent in 2010 (Annex 1.9). While the poverty rate in Ninh Thuan closely matches the regional average (and rate of decline) for the North and South Central Coast, it continues to be higher than neighbouring provinces (Figure 6).

Figure 6. National, regional and provincial poverty rates: a comparison, in percentage, 2006-2008



Source: General Statistics Office (2010) Statistical Yearbook of Viet Nam 2009.

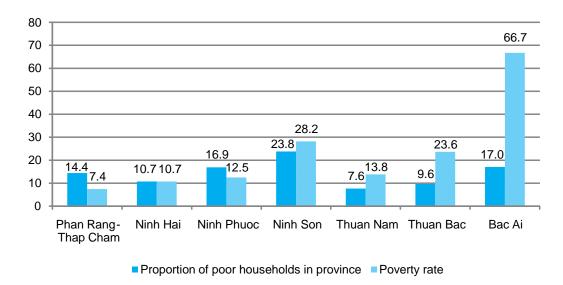
Intra-provincial poverty rates. These vary widely between urban-and-rural and lowland-and-upland areas. According to the new Government poverty line in 2011²⁰, the poverty rate ranges from 7.42 per cent in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City up to 23.6 per cent in Thuan Bac, 28.16 per cent in Ninh Son and 66.72 per cent in Bac Ai districts (Figure 7 and Map 1)²¹. The highest proportion of poor households – or highest poverty density – is found in Ninh Son (with 23.8 per cent of all poor households in the province), Bac Ai (17 per cent) and Ninh Phuoc (16.9 per cent).

¹⁹ The poverty rate is calculated by household income. The Government's poverty line for the period 2006-2010 was VND 200,000 per capita per month for rural areas and VND 260,000 per capita per month for urban areas.

²⁰ Decision No.09/QD-TTg (30/01/2011) promulgating the criteria for poor and near-poor households applying to the period 2011 to 2015. According to this Decision rural poor households have an income below VND 400,000 per capita/month, while poor urban households have an income lower than VND 500,000 per capita/month.

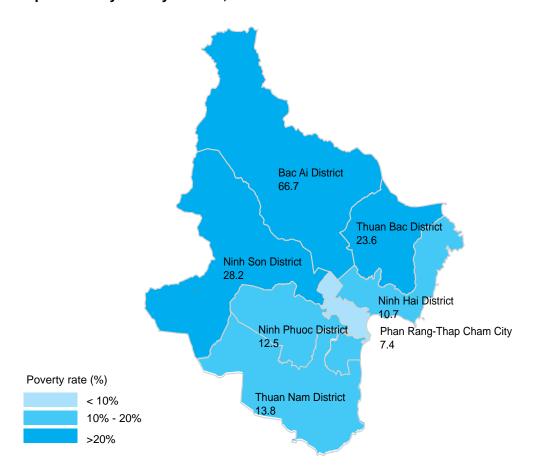
²¹ Provincial People's Committee Decision No.948/QD-UBND (28/04/2011) recognising poor households and near-poor households in Ninh Thuan Province in the period 2011 to 2015.

Figure 7. Proportion of total poor households in province and poverty rate by administrative area, in percentage, 2011



Source: Provincial People's Committee.

Map 1. Poverty rate by district, 2011



Source: Provincial People's Committee (2011) Decision No.948/QD-UBND (28/04/2011) recognising poor households and near-poor households in Ninh Thuan Province in the period 2011 to 2015.

Child poverty. As described in the Viet Nam Household and Living Standards Survey report for 2008 (VHLSS 2008), children have special needs to ensure their comprehensive development physically, intellectually and emotionally²². The conventional method used to measure child poverty focuses on children living in households defined as poor according to the monetary poverty line. This method has limitations because it does not indicate whether children's diverse basic needs are being met. A multi-dimensional approach is therefore needed to measure and understand child poverty more fully. The VHLSS 2008 assessed child poverty as the proportion of children deprived of their basic needs in at least two of the six following domains: education, health, shelter, water and sanitation, child labour and social protection (Annex 1.10).

According to this survey, 19.4 per cent of children in the South Central Coast Region suffer from multi-dimensional poverty, which is the same as the child poverty rate according to the monetary poverty line (Table 3). This is lower than the nationwide rate of 28.9 per cent. These are regional data that do not provide disaggregated understanding of the child poverty situation at provincial or sub-provincial level. They do, however, give broad indication of the domains and causative factors that may be associated with child poverty in each region.

Table 3. Monetary and multi-dimensional child poverty rate by domains and regions, 2008

	Monetary		Multi	-dimensio	nal child	poverty rate	(%)	
Region	child book	Total	Education	Health	Shelter	Water and sanitation	Work	Social protection
Red River Delta	12.0	10.4	8.8	55.3	1.4	18.7	5.5	10.9
North East	32.5	35.8	15.4	58.6	24.8	50.8	14.5	5.0
North West	55.5	64.6	29.3	67.1	44.7	85.5	27.0	2.4
North Central Coast	32.1	23.3	13.8	69.1	8.9	38.9	12.7	6.6
South Central Coast	19.4	19.4	11.1	56.2	8.3	41.0	6.7	5.2
Central Highlands	33.5	38.7	18.5	48.3	23.3	66.0	11.1	2.7
South East	5.5	14.8	14.6	42.5	8.1	16.7	6.3	11.7
Mekong River Delta	15.5	52.8	26.2	43.4	39.2	70.4	10.1	13.6
National	21.0	28.9	16.1	52.9	17.4	42.9	9.8	8.8

Source: General Statistics Office (2009) Results of the Survey on Household Living Standards 2008.

2.4 Local economy, household incomes and expenditures

Provincial economy. Ninh Thuan achieved 10.04 per cent growth in GDP in the period 2006 to 2010, while GDP per capita increased from VND 4.8 to 10 million in the same period (Annex 1.11)²³. GDP growth reached 14.1 per cent in 2006, dropping to 8.4 per cent in 2008 and 7.0 per cent in 2009, associated with the downturn in the global economy. Looking at a proportional breakdown by economic sector, agriculture, forestry and fisheries currently accounts for 42.6 per cent of GDP by current prices, followed by services (35.2 per cent) and industry and construction (22.2 per cent). From 2006 to 2010, there has been a 79.5 per cent growth in GDP output at constant prices in industry and construction, followed by 50.5 per cent growth in services and 16.3 per cent

²² General Statistics Office (2010) Results of the Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey 2008.

²³ Department of Planning and Investment (2010) Compiled Socio-Economic Statistics 2006-2010.

in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. There are, however, substantial differentials in the level of economic activity between urban, lowland and upland areas – in, for instance, the number of active enterprises, retail sales of goods and services, and associated employment and income-earning opportunities (Table 2).

Per capita incomes and the household economy. According to the VHLSS 2008, the average per capita monthly income in Ninh Thuan grew by 79 per cent, from VND 389,900 in 2004 to VND 699,200 in 2008, equalling VND 4.7 to 8.4 million per annum (Annex 1.12 to 1.14). The average monthly per capita income in 2008 was lower than both the national average (VND 995,000) and the regional average (VND 728,000). Of particular note, per capita incomes amongst the poorest economic quintiles in Ninh Thuan are amongst the lowest in the country. According to VHLSS 2008 data, Quintile 1 households in Ninh Thuan had the seventh lowest monthly income nationwide in 2008 (VND 205,000), while for all economic quintiles combined, Ninh Thuan ranked in 19th lowest position out of 64 provinces and cities. This is reflected in the comparatively large income gap between the poorest and richest economic quintiles in Ninh Thuan (Annex 1.13), and is a further indication of the depth of poverty faced by the poorest population groups and households in the province.

While agriculture, forestry and fisheries accounts for 40 per cent of GDP and occupies over 70 per cent of the provincial population, employment in agriculture enterprises only accounts for 7.8 per cent of the employed labour force²⁴. This suggests that the majority of farming activity is still household based. According to the VHLSS, the proportion of monthly income derived from agriculture, forestry and fisheries has declined substantially from 32.4 per cent in 2004 to 21.1 per cent in 2008. This does not necessarily indicate a shift of labour out of agriculture, but rather a lack of competitiveness of the agriculture sector itself²⁵. This potentially affects the future livelihood and employment opportunities of poor rural young people.

2.5 Major patterns of intra-provincial disparity

Differentials according to geographical and administrative area. As shown in Table 2 above, there are large differentials in some socio-economic indicators between geographical and administrative areas of the province. To a large extent, poverty amongst disadvantaged ethnic minorities, such as Raglay and Co Ho, correlates with these geographical differences. In terms of settlement location and agriculture production conditions, Raglay generally occupy the most difficult (upland) districts, communes and villages. However, in terms of basic socio-economic infrastructure provision and physical access to social services, these localities are not necessarily more disadvantaged. All rural communes in Ninh Thuan have vehicular road access and electricity connections to the commune centre, as well as kindergarten, primary and lower secondary schools. Remote location, agricultural production constraints and difficult access to services and markets therefore only partly explain these patterns of intra-provincial disparity. It is also important to consider underlying factors that influence the social and economic position of disadvantaged ethnic groups such as Raglay (see Section 2.7).

Raglay ethnic minority. Many social and economic indicators show that the Raglay ethnic minority group is in a particularly disadvantaged situation. This is with respect to household poverty rates and per capita incomes; under-five child malnutrition rates and other maternal and child survival indicators; levels of secondary school attendance and

²⁴ Provincial Statistics Office (2010) Statistical Yearbook 2009.

²⁵ In comparison, the proportion of monthly income derived from agriculture in the neighbouring province of Lam Dong increased from 35.6 per cent in 2004 to 36.6 per cent in 2008.

completion; adult educational attainment and literacy; and employment opportunities for young people. Given that Raglay constitute 10 per cent of the provincial population and a sizable proportion of poor people in the province, this is one of the main aspects in our analysis of the situation of children.

Mobile fishing communities. Many households are engaged in coastal fisheries in Ninh Thuan. Some are mobile households that live in temporary residential locations and move between different fishing grounds along the coast in Ninh Thuan and neighbouring provinces. There are some particular child care and protection issues amongst this community, including school drop-out, child labour, household registration and birth registration (Section 6.4). The precise number of households involved is unknown and further research is needed to fully understand the circumstances of children in these coastal fishing communities and mobile households.

Poor households in urban and peri-urban areas. Some poor households in urban and peri-urban areas exhibit specific issues related to child health and education. These are most visible amongst former farming families that have lost agricultural land as a consequence of land acquisition for public utilities, and subsequently find themselves in a more perilous economic situation. Economic instability may affect child nutrition and make it difficult for families to maintain their children in school. Sufficient employment is not available for all these households, and they may not have used land compensation payments effectively. The processes of urbanisation have thus created a certain degree of poverty, which can negatively impact on children's well-being.

2.6 Climate change and adaptation and environmental vulnerability

The South Central Coast Region is recognised as being highly vulnerable to the potential impacts of climate change²⁶. The main physical vulnerabilities are likely to include increased rainfall variability, increased incidence of oceanic storms, storm surges and flooding, and periods of drought in some localities. The main socio-economic vulnerabilities in this region include the large numbers of people dependent on rain fed agriculture and on coastal fisheries and aquaculture. As noted in Section 2.1, there has been a gradual increase in annual rainfall in Ninh Thuan over recent decades, together with increased rainfall variability from year to year.

One recent study investigated adaptations to climate change in relation to the impacts of drought in Ninh Thuan²⁷. This study found that in both lowland/coastal and upland areas, respondents ranked droughts and floods as the first and second most prevalent disasters, respectively. Droughts are reported to have multiple impacts on communities. The primary impacts include disruption to aquaculture, crop and livestock production, loss of jobs and incomes, but also the withdrawal of children from school and health problems in some localities (Table 4). Secondary impacts recorded by this survey include increased incidence of gynaecological health problems amongst women and increased prevalence of diarrhoea among children.

²⁶ World Bank (2010) The Social Dimensions of Adaptation to Climate Change in Viet Nam.

²⁷ Oxfam and the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Kyoto University (undated) ibid.

Table 4. Primary impacts of drought reported by four communities in Ninh Thuan

	Coast	al area	Uplan	d area
Respondents	Long Binh	Hoa Thanh-Nam Cuong	Da Ba Cai	Ma Ro
Male	 (1) Unprofitable aquaculture; (2) Unprofitable livestock husbandry; (3) School drop-outs; (4) Loss of jobs; (5) Lack of food for livestock. 	(1) Crop failure;(2) Unprofitable livestock husbandry;(3) Lower income from animal produce;(4) Loss of income;(5) School drop-outs.	(1) Crop failure;(2) Unprofitable livestock husbandry;(3) Loss of income;(4) Death of vegetation;(5) Loss of jobs.	(1) Crop failure;(2) Unprofitable livestock husbandry;(3) Loss of income;(4) Death of vegetation;(5) Loss of jobs.
Female	(1) Unprofitable aquaculture;(2) Unprofitable livestock husbandry;(3) Lack of food for livestock;(4) Health problems;(5) School drop-outs.	(1) Crop failure;(2) Loss of income;(3) Unprofitable aquaculture;(4) Loss of jobs;(5) School drop-outs.	(1) Crop failure;(2) Unprofitable livestock husbandry;(3) Lack of animal fodder;(4) Decline in household water;(5) Loss of income.	(1) Crop failure;(2) Unprofitable livestock husbandry;(3) Death of natural vegetation;(4) Loss of income;(5) Loss of jobs.

Source: Oxfam in Viet Nam and the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Kyoto University (undated) Drought Management Considerations for Climate Change Adaptations in Ninh Thuan.

This study also makes a detailed assessment of the root causes of these various impacts and associated mitigation and response mechanisms (Annex 1.18). These mitigation and response mechanisms include: (i) increasing the range of technical options for households to cope with fluctuations in crop and livestock production conditions and periodic domestic water shortages; (ii) building the capacity of local authorities and communities to manage local environmental systems and resources more effectively; particularly building the capacity to manage disaster planning and response; (iii) increasing the capacity for women to take part in these initiatives; and (iv) measures to safeguard particularly vulnerable groups such as old people and children.

Salinisation of water resources in lowland areas. Due to the dry climatic conditions and the scarcity of underground water resources, salinisation is a major problem affecting water supply for both domestic use and for agriculture in lowland areas of the province. The provision of safe water supply for the increasing population in lowland/coastal districts and in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City is therefore a major priority for the province (Section 4.5). In particular, water supply continues to be a major difficulty in Bac Ai District where only 53.8 per cent of rural people use appropriate clean water (Table 2). Concern has also been raised about environmental contamination caused by large-scale industrial salt production in Thuan Nam²⁸. This scheme is the largest industrial salt production zone in Viet Nam, covering 2,500 hectares with annual production of 300,000 tons. Recently, more than 400 households in two villages in Phuoc Minh Commune have suffered severe water shortages due to salinisation of domestic water sources and loss of agricultural

^{28 &}quot;Local people struggle from water contamination caused by salinisation" *Tien Phong Online. March 3, 2011.*

land and crops. It is reported that these households now have to purchase water at a price of VND 45,000 per cubic metre. As a consequence, poverty has increased in this locality. This is an illustration of aspects of environmental vulnerability that can have major impacts on household livelihoods and the situation and welfare of children.

2.7 Social and economic situation of the Raglay people

As indicated above, one of the major social and economic development concerns in Ninh Thuan relates to the situation of the Raglay ethnic minority group. At the outset, therefore, it is beneficial to touch upon the historical and contemporary factors that contribute to the patterns of disadvantage and social change amongst this particular ethnic group, which can be used as a reference point in the analysis made in subsequent sections of the report.

In this respect, despite the fact that the Cham and Raglay share a long and close history, there are salient differences in the situation of these ethnic communities today. This is not only in terms of socio-economic indicators and levels of engagement with the modern economy; there are also differences in the 'intangible' cultural assets of these communities. While there is similarity in the two languages, the Cham have a written script that is widely understood and used, whereas there is no written script for the Raglay language, despite their rich and diverse oral culture. Through their economic and religious networks, the Cham also have a higher level of social mobility and connectivity with other regions and countries, whereas these external relations are comparatively limited for Raglay.

Traditionally, Raglay practiced extensive forest-based land use systems involving rotational swidden farming and hunting. Up until the early 20th Century, the focus of Raglay society was the *palay* (village) which was the fundamental residential unit, as well as being a social institution – as the focus of economic, political, social and cultural life (Box 1)²⁹. Raglay society and kinship relations are organised according to matrilineal lines of descent and inheritance and exogamous marriage between clans such as the *chamale* (jungle rope), *pinang* (areca nut), kator (sorghum) *and pupor* (kitchen cinders). Upon marriage, Raglay boys traditionally move to live with and become part of the bride's family, while inheritance rights mainly follow the matrilineal line. The eldest brother of the oldest woman in the clan most usually assumes the position of head of the clan *(gia lang)*, and these male clan-elders are the focus of decision-making and political life in the *palay*.

²⁹ Phan Xuan Bien et. al. (1998) Culture and Society of the Raglay People in Viet Nam.

Box 1. Settlement patterns and village institutions amongst Raglay

During the 20th Century, the palay – as both a residential unit and a social institution of Raglay communities – was disrupted by historical events, such that it only exists in a fragmented way today. A series of disruptions that extended from the period of French colonial occupation, through occupation by the Southern Regime and the wars of liberation and unification, and extending into the post-independence era all contributed to the fragmentation of Raglay communities. During the regime of Ngo Dinh Diem in the south of Viet Nam, an attempt was made to relocate ethnic minority communities in the region to form special economic zones and to establish strategic villages (ap chien luoc) as a way of organising people to fight against the liberation forces of the Viet Cong. In this period, however, the Raglay became an important ally for the Viet Cong in the war against America.

Following independence, disruption of the palay continued through the series of fixed-cultivation and settlement programmes that were intended to stabilise the lives of ethnic minorities by abolishing swidden farming and establishing more stable residential clusters. In the neighbouring Central Highlands, this was followed by the acquisition of fertile agricultural land by state production enterprises and later by migrant farmers. The poor quality of agricultural land utilised by Raglay, however, meant this trend had minimal impact. Large areas of land in Ninh Thuan are, however, currently under protected-forest status, which means that Raglay now have limited usage rights over forest resources that previously formed the basis of their traditional livelihood systems.

The repeated physical relocation of many Raglay villages has resulted in disruptions to the palay as a social institution. In the period from liberation in 1975 to around 2000, the clan heads and village elders (gia lang) were usually selected as the head of the village. Nowadays, in the lowlands, the head of the village tends to be a younger person and Party member, while some of the gia lang are the Party secretary of the village. In the uplands, in the former resistance areas, the gia lang are often still the village heads.

Source: (i) Phan Xuan Bien et. al. (1998) Culture and Society of the Raglay People in Viet Nam; (ii) Personal communication – research assistant during fieldwork.

In recent years, the provincial authorities in Ninh Thuan have made considerable investments in improving social and economic infrastructure in communes and villages occupied by Raglay. Intensive efforts have also been made to improve social service delivery and provide extension programmes for agriculture and livestock production. Even so, in the modern-day context, it is frequently commented that Raglay lack the 'entrepreneurial spirit' and 'economic know-how' of the neighbouring Kinh and Cham people. Many elder Raglay people, in particular elder women, lack functional literacy, and numeric and household cash management skills, which places them at a disadvantage in economic and market transactions. There are also indications that young Raglay people face many difficulties in gaining the education and developing the life-skills that will enable them to obtain productive employment and to adjust to and take advantage of new social opportunities.

The matrilineal kinship system of the Raglay confers a particular set of gender expectations (for example, in the social and economic position of boys when they marry into the bride's family), which influence the care and protection of children in some specific ways. At the same time, many gender roles – in the division of domestic and agricultural labour and household decision-making – are conventionally organised within the Raglay family³⁰. While equal weight is given to education of girls and boys, girls still face difficulties in expanding their social and economic horizons. On the other hand, the traditional role of Raglay boys and males in forest-based livelihood systems has been undermined and they face difficulties in interacting with labour markets and maintaining stable employment for new sources of income.

³⁰ Nguyen Thi Phuong Yen (2007) Gender division of labour in families of the Raglay and Co Ho people.

It is apparent that the situation of children and opportunities for young people are influenced by these deeper aspects of the adjustment of Raglay society. Addressing the specific issues of healthcare, education and child protection in this community has to take these deeper considerations into account. Moreover, as discussed further in Chapter 7, this relates to broader aspects of 'participation' of young Raglay people in modern-day society and the economy.

CHAPTER 3 PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING FOR CHILDREN



3. Programming and Budgeting for Children

This chapter makes an analysis of social sector programming and budgeting for child related services in the period from 2006 to 2010. This includes: (i) budget trends in the overall provincial budget and the 'development investment budget' included in the annual Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP); (ii) funding allocations to the National Target Programmes (NTPs); (iii) funding for social protection policies and programmes; and (iv) institutional arrangements for cross-cutting child care and protection issues. This provides the basis for more detailed analysis of each sector and clusters of child rights in the following chapters.

3.1 Provincial budget and social sector expenditures

Provincial revenue. According to the Provincial Statistics Yearbook, there has been a 40.3 per cent increase in provincial revenue from VND 1,519 billion in 2006 to a preliminary figure of VND 2,131 billion in 2009 (Figure 8 and Annex 1.19). Ninh Thuan Province is still largely reliant on transfers from the central state budget, which constituted 62.8 per cent of provincial revenue in 2006 (VND 954 billion) and 60.5 per cent in 2009 (VND 1,287 billion). The proportion of local revenue has increased from 17.8 per cent in 2006 (VND 271 billion) to 23.5 per cent in 2009 (VND 501 billion). The amount of revenue from non-state sector sources has increased from VND 294 billion in 2006 (19.4 per cent) to VND 342 billion in 2009 (16 per cent).

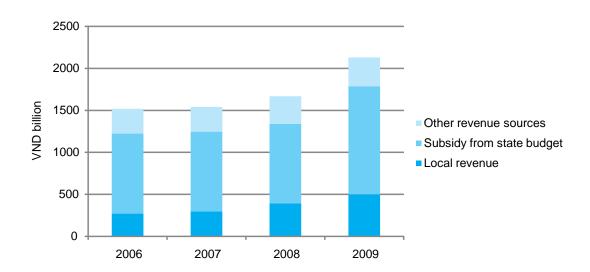


Figure 8. Provincial revenue sources, 2006-2009

Source: Provincial Statistics Office (2010) Statistical Yearbook 2009.

Provincial expenditures. Total provincial budget expenditures have increased by 36.2 per cent from VND 1,429 billion in 2006 to a preliminary figure of VND 1,946 billion in 2009 (Figure 9 and Annex 1.20). The largest proportional increase has been in social sector expenditures (including education and training, health, social welfare, and culture), which have risen by 114.2 per cent in this period, followed by development investment expenditures, which have risen by 98 per cent.

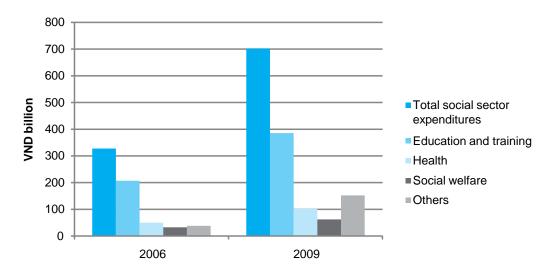
Social sector expenditures. Overall social sector expenditure increased from VND 327.8 billion in 2006 to a preliminary figure of VND 702.3 billion in 2009 (Figure 10 and Annex 1.20). In this period, health sector expenditures have increased by about 109 per

cent (from VND 50.1 to 104.6 billion), while social welfare expenditures have increased by 176 per cent (from VND 32.7 to 90.2 billion) and education by 86.6 per cent (from VND 206.7 to 385.6 billion). According to preliminary figures for 2009, the social sector accounted for about 36 per cent of total provincial expenditure, with the education and training sector accounting for 19.8 per cent of provincial expenditure, followed by health (6.4 per cent) and social welfare (3.19 per cent).

1000 900 800 700 **VND** billion Development 600 investment budget 500 State administration 400 Economic services 300 ■ Social services 200 Other expenditures 100 0 2006 2009

Figure 9. Provincial expenditure by category, 2006 and 2009





Source: Provincial Statistics Office (2010) Statistical Yearbook 2009.

3.2 Socio-Economic Development Plan

The SEDP provides figures on the annual development investment budget of the province (Annex 1.21)³¹. This budget plan primarily includes 'investment capital' (vốn đầu tư)

³¹ It should be noted that the data referred to in this section are SEDP budget planning figures, and not implemented expenditure or final liquidation figures.

and some 'service delivery expenditures' (*vốn sự nghiệp*), but does not incorporate all recurrent expenditures (*chi thường xuyên*) of the local authorities (such as salaries and regular operating expenditures)³². Table 5 provides a summary of the development investment budget for 2008 to 2010 and illustrates that the largest proportion comes from non-state economic sectors (63 to 64 per cent) including private enterprises and the household economic sector. The National Target Programmes (NTPs) and large projects (such as Programme 135) constitute a relatively small proportion of the overall investment budget, declining from 1.71 per cent in 2008 to 1.47 per cent in 2010.

Investment for specific national and provincial objectives. This category represents about 7.7 per cent of the development investment budget. A breakdown of the areas of investment and support is given in Annex 1.22. Some are national priorities determined at central level, such as for regional socio-economic development³³, tourism and industrial park infrastructure and housing support for poor and ethnic minority households. Others are provincially determined priorities that may vary from year to year. Resources are also provided for investment in health and education infrastructure, which supplements other sources of funding for these sectors.

Table 5. Provincial Development Investment Budget, SEDP 2008-2010

Pudget esterory	Yea	r (VND billior	1)
Budget category	2008	2009	2010
Total	4,000	4,520	6,160
Funding from non-state economic sectors	2,560	2,900	3,900
Centrally managed budget	435	500	620
Specific national/provincial objectives	308	350	473
Concentrated infrastructure investment	160	160	130
National Target Programmes and large projects	69	81	91
Investment from lottery revenue	16	16	23
Other funding sources	500	0	922

Source: Compiled from Ninh Thuan Provincial SEDP for 2008, 2009 and 2010.

3.3 National Target Programmes

The National Target Programmes (NTPs) are one of the primary means through which government policies and state budget resources are concentrated on achieving social development objectives and strengthening social service provision; as such, they are an important focus for our analysis of programming and budgeting for children. Total expenditure on the NTPs in Ninh Thuan in the period from 2006 to 2010 was in the order of VND 678.2 billion; of which about 44.9 per cent was for recurrent expenditures including service delivery, and 44.1 per cent for capital investment (Table 6 and Annex 1.23)³⁴.

There is no direct or precise English language term for 'vốn sự nghiệp' which is an important category in the Vietnamese budgeting system. As suggested by the Viet Nam Institute for Finance Research, the term 'service delivery' may best describe the contents of this budgeting category. In practice, a proportion of 'vốn sự nghiệp' may be used as recurrent budget (chi thường xuyên). It also includes discretionary funding for sector departments and local authorities for budget items such as: investment in materials, facilities and equipment; operations and maintenance; information and communication activities; testing implementation 'models'; and allowances for local collaborators working at community level. As such, 'vốn sự nghiệp' is an important category of financing for improving the quality of service provision.

³³ Politburo Resolution No.39/2004/TW (16/08/2004) on socio-economic development and national security and defence in the north and south central coast region in the period to 2010.

³⁴ Provincial People's Committee (2010) Report on implementation of the National Target Programmes in the period 2006-2010 and issues and solutions for the programmes in the period 2011-2015 in Ninh Thuan.

State budget resources made up 75.5 per cent of NTP funding, with 71 per cent coming from the central state budget. Non-public resources constitute 24.5 per cent of NTP funding, specifically for the NTP on Social Diseases, Epidemics and HIV/AIDS and the NTP on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (Annex 1.23). Some other provinces have more substantial sources of local revenue that can be used to supplement implementation of the NTPs. For instance, the recent study on the situation of children in An Giang Province found that about 65 per cent of NTP funding in the period 2006 to 2010 was mobilised from non-public sources, which enabled the province to supplement resources for the poverty programmes and HIV/AIDS in particular³⁵.

NTP on Education and Training. This NTP has received VND 217.2 billion, of which 100 per cent has been allocated to service delivery (Figure 11). The project on school facilities accounts for 39 per cent of the funding, followed by the project on improvement of vocational training capacity (25 per cent) and education in mountainous areas (12 per cent). The provincial teacher training college and ethnic minority boarding schools have been upgraded and 265 new classrooms for kindergarten and lower secondary schools have been constructed³⁶. This NTP does not, however, represent total programmatic funding for this sector, as substantial resources for investment in schools infrastructure and facilities have also come from the Concretisation of Schools Programme, as well as from various donor-supported projects.

Table 6. Funding allocations to the National Target Programmes, 2006-2010

	Total	Fundi	ng sources million)	(VND		Tỷ lệ	
National Target Programme	(VND million)	Central budget	Provincial budget	Other budget sources	In comparision with NTPS	State budget	Recurrent expenditure
Total	678,237	481,851	30,193	166,193	-	-	-
Investment Budget	373,751	187,680	20,427	165,464	55.1	55.6	-
Service Delivery Budget	304,660	294,171	9,766	729	44.9	99.7	-
NTP on Poverty reduction	28,994	28,944	0	0	4.3	100	100
NTP on Employment	7,030	7,030	0	0	1.0	100	22.3
NTP on Population and family planning	21,706	21,706	0	0	3.2	100	100
NTP on Social Diseases, Epidemics and HIV/AIDS	36,590	30,795	5,066	729	5.4	98.0	63.1
NTP on Rural water supply and sanitation	332,551	146,660	20,427	165,464	49.0	50.2	3.0
NTP on Education and training	217,240	214,440	2,800	0	32.0	100	100
NTP on Culture	24,765	22,865	1,900	0	3.7	100	43.0
NTP on Food safety and hygiene	3,751	3,751	0	0	0.6	100	100
NTP on Drug control	2,900	2,900	0	0	0.4	100	100
NTP on Prevention and control of crime	2,710	2,710	0	0	0.4	100	100

Source: Department of Planning and Investment and Department of Finance (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

NTP on Prevention of Social Diseases, Epidemics and HIV/AIDS. This NTP has received VND 36.6 billion, of which about 63 per cent has been allocated to service delivery and 37 per cent to infrastructure and facilities (Figure 12). In total, about 19

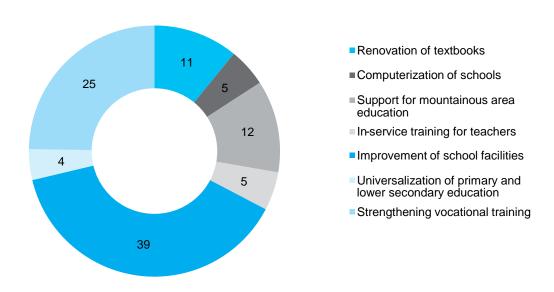
³⁵ An Giang PPC/UNICEF (2012) An Analysis of the Situation of Children in An Giang Province.

³⁶ Provincial People's Committee (2010) ibid.

per cent has been allocated to those three projects which have the most direct impact on child health and survival, including malnutrition prevention (12.3 per cent), universal vaccination (4.7 per cent), and reproductive healthcare (2.1 per cent). Considerable resources have also been allocated to the project on malarial control, which has had effective results in recent years (see Section 4.1), while 26.6 per cent has been allocated to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. Infrastructure investments with NTP funding have been concentrated on improving facilities for care and treatment of tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and on mental healthcare (constituting 39.8 per cent of total funding).

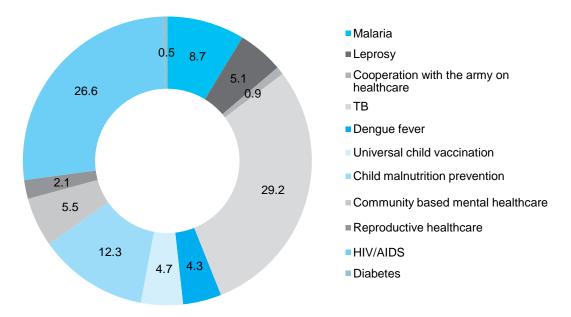
According to the MOH, in 2009 the estimated total health budget of the province was VND 81,146 billion (Annex 1.25). The per capita health expenditure was in the order of VND 143,400 (equivalent to USD 7.17). This falls well short of the USD 34 considered by the World Health Organization as the minimum per capita expenditure required to deliver essential health services. While per capita budget allocations are standard, these do not fully take into account the additional cost associated with universal coverage and effective healthcare provision in the remote rural areas. They also make it difficult to undertake short-term (annual) and medium-term (five-year) strategic planning to respond to changes in healthcare requirements arising from structural demographic changes (such as health spending composition for each population group); changes in disease prevalence and incidence; or for emergency preparedness and epidemiological security.

Figure 11. Breakdown in funding under the NTP on Education and Training, in percentage, 2006-2010



Source: Department of Planning and Investment and Department of Finance (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

Figure 12. Breakdown in expenditure under the NTP on Epidemics, Social Diseases and HIV/AIDS, in percentage, 2006-2010



Source: Department of Planning and Investment and Department of Finance (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

NTP on Population and Family Planning. This NTP has received VND 21.7 billion, of which 100 per cent has been allocated to service delivery. According to the provincial report, resources under this NTP have been used for training over 900 local collaborators in population and family planning in 63 communes and wards, and establishing centres for counselling and population statistics in Bac Ai and Thuan Bac districts, which has helped to improve the network and out-reach capacity of population and family planning services in the province³⁷.

NTP on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation. This NTP has received VND 332.5 billion, of which 97 per cent has been for infrastructure and 3 per cent for service delivery. About 6.14 per cent (VND 20.42 billion) has come from the provincial budget and 49.75 per cent (VND 165.4 billion) from other fund sources: this reflects the high priority given by the provincial authorities to improving rural water supply and sanitation. In recent years, considerable improvements have been made in the provision of water supply and sanitation for schools and health clinics throughout the province, as well as in household water supply and sanitation. It is notable that the proportion of total NTP funding allocated to this NTP in Ninh Thuan is higher than in some other provinces; at the same time, the proportion allocated to service delivery under this NTP is lower in Ninh Thuan than in some other provinces³⁸.

3.4 Funding for child care and protection

Diversity of funding mechanisms, sectors and agencies involved. Many sectors and agencies are involved in different aspects of child care and protection. This makes it inherently difficult to piece together a comprehensive picture of budgetary allocations to these activities. Moreover, unfortunately most interventions are still limited to social

³⁷ Province People's Committee (2010) ibid.

³⁸ The Situation Analysis studies in Dien Bien and An Giang provinces found that the proportion of NTP-RWSS funding for service delivery was 10.5 per cent and 8.4 per cent respectively, more than double the amount in Ninh Thuan.

assistance or monetary support and not yet focused on social welfare. As reported by DOLISA for 2009³⁹, child care and protection is supported through a range of funding mechanisms, involving the public sector, mass organisations and socialisation funding from the private sector and charitable organisations. These include:

- Financial support for children in need of special protection through Decree No.67/ ND-CP⁴⁰, for either care in the community or at public or non-public social protection centres. In 2009, it was reported that about 1,758 children received support through Decree No.67, representing about 23 per cent of the total number of recipients (Table 7).
- The provincial Child Protection Fund totalled VND 280 million in 2009, with donations
 from various charitable organisations, businesses and individuals. This was used for
 providing material support for children in poor households and in remote and ethnic
 minority villages, for children with disabilities, and for upgrading the facilities of some
 kindergarten and primary schools. In addition, 45 communes and wards reported
 organising their own child protection funds in 2009.
- Support from various charitable and religious organisations and hospitals in Ho Chi Minh City, to provide health consultations and free treatment for 4,173 children, of which 208 were children with disabilities having free operations.
- New Year gifts and financial support for poor families, and for children in difficult family circumstances, with about 21,780 children receiving such support in 2009.
- In addition, the mass organisations are actively involved in various aspects of child care and protection. The Youth Union, for example, promotes learning encouragement and provides some material assistance for children from poor and disadvantaged households to attend school. In addition, they organise and support cultural activities for children and child protection work in a number of areas, including HIV/AIDS awareness. Activities supported by the Women's Union and Youth Union represent a major source of assistance for child care and protection, particularly in the form of activities organised at community level and in providing a direct link to individual households.

Social protection policies. Since 2007 there has been a consolidation of the financing and fund allocation procedures for social protection, following Decree No.67/ND-CP, supplemented by Decree No.13/ND-CP in 2010⁴¹. Decree No.67 brought together previously fragmented legislation and sets of procedures for social assistance to families and children. These decrees cover care both in the community and at the provincial social protection centres. For care in the community, the fund allocations are made on a needs assessment basis – the commune/ward authorities submit lists of eligible households to receive support, which are verified by the district Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Section and the Planning and Finance Section.

During this research, budget allocations under Decree No.67 and Decree No.13 at provincial level, and in the research districts, have been compiled to give an indication of funding patterns and priorities for social protection. According to figures provided by DOLISA, between 2007 and 2010 about VND 68.6 billion has been disbursed (Table

³⁹ Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (2009) Report on implementation of mandates in 2009 and orientation, mandates and solutions in 2010.

⁴⁰ Decree No.67/2007/ND-CP (13/04/2007) on policies to support targets under social protection.

⁴¹ Decree No.13/2010/ND-CP (27/02/2010) on adjusting and supplementing a number of articles in Decree No.67/2007/ND-CP on policies to support targets under social protection.

7). Within the province, the distribution broadly correlates to the population of each administrative area, following an indicative per capita budget allocation. However, some districts have received a proportionally higher share than others: Ninh Phuoc, for example, is home to 22.2 per cent of the province's population and Bac Ai to 4.3 per cent, yet these districts have received 27.5 and 7.1 per cent of the funding respectively. This may suggest that targeting on a needs basis is effective. In the period covered by Decree No.67 from 2007 to 2009, the annual expenditure was between VND 12.4 billion and VND 14.7 billion. During this period support was primarily targeted towards poor households. Decree No.13 has widened the pool of eligible recipients; consequently the preliminary expenditure for 2010 has doubled to about VND 28.9 billion and the number of recipients has increased from about 7,800 in 2009 to just over 10,000 in 2010.

Table 7. Funding for social assistance policies under Decree No.67 and Decree No.13 by administrative area, 2007-2010

Administrative	Total	Proportion of	Recipients	and funding u No.13 (2007		o.67 and
area	population	population (%)	Total number of recipients	Proportion of recipients (%)	Total funding (VND million)	Proportion of funding (%)
Total	564,993		34,689		68,643	
Phan Rang-Thap Cham	161,730	28.6	9,636	27.8	18,484	26.9
Thuan Bac District	37,769	6.7	1,307	3.8	2,632	3.8
Thuan Nam District	54,662	9.7	1,532	4.4	3,487	5.1
Ninh Hai District	89,420	15.8	6,012	17.3	11,929	17.4
Bac Ai District	24,304	4.3	2,183	6.3	4,853	7.1
Ninh Son District	71,432	12.6	4,510	13.0	8,382	12.2
Ninh Phuoc District	125,676	22.2	9,509	27.4	18,876	27.5

Source: Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

3.5 Institutional arrangements for child care and protection

This section considers those aspects of child care and protection about which cross-sector coordination and collaboration is required. These are summarised in Table 8 below.

Organisational arrangements. With the cessation of the Committee for Population, Family and Children (CPFC) in 2008, institutional responsibilities for child care and protection have been reassigned, primarily to the newly established Child Protection Section under the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs; the Sub-Department of Population and Family Planning and other sections under the Department of Health; and to the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

The Child Protection Section in DOLISA was established in 2008 through Decision No.149/QDUB-NT (21/05/2009)⁴² and Decision No.21/QD-SLD (31/07/2009)⁴³. This section has overall responsibility for state management of child care and protection, including overseeing the implementation of government policies, planning of projects and programmes, inspection of child rights and legal issues, and monitoring and compilation

⁴² Decision No.149/QDUB-NT (21/05/2009) of the Province People's Committee approving the scheme to finalise the organisational structure and staffing of DOLISA in Ninh Thuan Province.

⁴³ Decision No.21/QD-SLD (31/07/2009) by the Director of DOLISA to promulgate regulations on functions and mandates of child care and protection sections under DOLISA in Ninh Thuan Province.

of statistics on children's issues. The Sub-Department of Population and Family Planning under DOH, and the Population and Family Planning Centres at district level, have responsibility for implementation of reproductive healthcare policies and programmes and population monitoring.

Legislative framework. In recent years, based on national laws and policies, the provincial authorities in Ninh Thuan have also consolidated the legislative framework for child care and protection. Amongst others, relevant recent legislative documents include:

- Decision No.1749/QD-CT-UBND (13/06/2005) approving the scheme on prevention and solutions of homeless children in Ninh Thuan in the period 2005-2010;
- Decision No.134/QD-UBND (26/05/2008) providing free-of-charge birth registration;
- Decision No.3602/QD-UBND (17/06/2008) approving the scheme on administrative reforms using the one-door approach (which is relevant to birth registration procedures);
- Directive No.22/CT-UBND (27/10/2009) on strengthening child protection work;
- Plan No.5114/KH-UBND (11/12/2009) on care and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS to 2010 with a vision to 2020;
- Decision No. 919/QD-UBND (10/05/2010) and Decision No.1417/QD-UBND (12/07/2010) approving funds for purchase of child health insurance for children under 6 years old.

Committee for Child Care and Protection. In May 2011, the province issued Decision No.980/QD-UBND (04/05/2011) on the establishment of the Steering Committee for Child Care and Protection in Ninh Thuan⁴⁴. Under the Provincial People's Committee, with DOLISA as the standing member, this committee includes 23 members who are representatives of relevant provincial departments, mass organisations and the District People's Committees. The main functions of the committee are to assist the Provincial People's Committee to provide unified direction for the implementation of all laws, conventions, policies and programmes related to children; to oversee inspection, review and evaluate implementation of these policies and programmes and to make proposals for their adjustment and adaptation; and to make proposals for legal aspects of policy documents issued by provincial sectors and districts which are not covered by current laws on children.

⁴⁴ According to Official Letter No.358/LDTBXH-BVCSTE (10/02/2011) of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs on guidelines for child care and protection in 2011.

Table 8. Institutional responsibilities for cross-sector child care and protection issues

Sub-sector/child care and protection issue	Overall coordinating body and/or mechanism (under the Provincial People's Committee)	Main responsible and implementing agencies	Supporting agencies and socialisation partners	Commune/ward staff and local collaborators (under the Commune People's Committee)
Overall state management for child care and protection	Steering Committee for Child Care and Protection (established May 2011).	Child Protection Section under DOLISA; Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Section at district/township level.	DOH, DOET, DOJ, DPS and mass organisations.	Commune DOLISA staff/children officer, mass organisations and community collaboratos.
Care for children in need of special protection	Steering Committee for Child Care and Protection (established May 2011).	Child Protection Section under DOLISA; Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Section at district/township level.	Provincial Social Protections Centres (one public and four private); DOET, mass organisations. Charitable and religious organisation and local businesses (for socialisation efforts).	Social cadres; community collaborators; Women's Union; Youth Union.
Population, family planning and reproductive healthcare	Steering Committee for Child Care and Protection (established May 2011). Currently no specific coordination mechanism.	Sub-Department of Population and Family Planning under DOH; Population and Family Planning Centres at district/ township level.		Midwives and/or junior delivery doctors (in 100 per cent of communes and wards); village based skilled midwives; population officers.
Child injury prevention and monitoring	Provincial Board for Injury Prevention. Provincial Transport Safety Committee.	Child Protection Section under DOLISA (with responsibility for state management of child injury prevention initiatives, monitoring and reporting).	Preventative Health Centre (compiling statistics on child accidents and injuries); Department of Public Security and local police; Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism; DOET.	Some communes and wards have established injury prevention boards. Women's Union; Youth Union.
Universal health insurance for children under six years of age	Currently no specific coordination mechanism. Regular review meetings of responsible and supporting agencies.	Provincial Social Insurance (head office and district branches).	DOH and local health service units (hospitals and clinics); Department of Justice (for information activities); mass media (provincial TV and radio); Department of Finance.	Population officers; mass organisations; village heads; local collaborators.
Birth registration	Currently no specific coordination mechanism.	Department of Justice.	Mobile birth registration teams.	Legal aid officers; village midwives (for certifying home births); Women's Union.

Children in conflict with the law	Currently no specific coordination mechanism.	Department of Public Security, Legal Aid Centre under the Department of Justice and the People's Court each responsible for addressing and monitoring respective aspects.	DOLISA, Youth Union.	Local police, DOLISA staff, legal aid officers; Youth Union.
Children living with HIV/AIDS	Steering Committee on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS.	DOH; HIV/AIDS Prevention Centre; DOLISA. Department of Education and Training.	Mass organisations, security forces, health information and communication centres, hospitals and district health centres under DOH.	Local health units; mass organisations.
Learning promotion	Currently no overall coordination mechanism.	No overall coordinating agency. Youth Union; Department of Education and Training.	Religious organisations and local businesses (through socialisation efforts). Mass organisations.	Commune People's Committee. Learning promotion associations; Youth Union.



4. Child Health and Survival

4.1 Access to quality healthcare for women and children

Overall improvements. There have been widespread improvements in the provision of healthcare services for women and children in Ninh Thuan over the last few years, which are reflected in positive trends in health indicators (Table 9). According to a five-year review report by the Department of Health (DOH), between 2006 and 2010, the rate of children under one year of age with full vaccination has exceeded 97 per cent, the rate of pregnant women with at least two tetanus vaccinations has exceeded 96.5 per cent and the rate of women of child-bearing age with tetanus vaccinations has reached 99.2 per cent⁴⁵. The deployment of mobile vaccination teams has effectively extended child vaccination to remote communes, villages and schools and there has been effective control and prevention of common infectious diseases amongst children. As of 2010, the DOH reports that the rate of pregnant women receiving three pregnancy check-ups, the rate of women delivering with professional assistance, and delivering in health facilities reached 92, 97 and 95.6 per cent, respectively⁴⁶. According to the Nutrition Surveillance System, there has also been a reduction in the rate of children under five years of age who are underweight from 30.58 per cent in 2005 to 23.5 per cent in 2010 (Annex 1.29).

At the same time, there continue to be a number of outstanding problems in the health status of women and children, as well as resource constraints and weaknesses in the healthcare system:

- There are large intra-provincial differentials in many public health service delivery indicators and health status indicators between different administrative areas and population groups. The upland districts and communes have a weaker health system and more problematic health conditions. Maternal and child health indicators amongst the Raglay ethnic minority group continue to be poorer than amongst other groups.
- There are discrepancies in the available data on infant mortality and maternal mortality in Ninh Thuan. There is a need to improve the monitoring system for the collection of more accurate statistics on the MMR and IMR, combined with better qualitative understanding of the factors lying behind patterns of maternal mortality and of infant mortality both at birth and after birth in different population groups.
- While there have been steady reductions in the rate of underweight children, the rate
 of stunting remains persistently high, with only a marginal decline from 32.7 per cent
 in 2005 to 31.6 per cent in 2010. Ninh Thuan continues to have higher rates of child
 malnutrition than the average for the South Central Coast.
- There are limited resources for addressing child health concerns that lie outside the National Target Programmes, in particular for Acute Respiratory Infections and for the prevention of iodine deficiency, which remains high in the upland population.
- The health service has limited resources to adequately monitor some health parameters, such as iodine deficiency status, effectiveness of de-worming interventions, and more intensive monitoring of child malnutrition status amongst different population groups.

⁴⁵ Department of Health (2010) Report on the Review of Results of Implementation of the Five-Year Health Plan 2006-2010.

⁴⁶ DOH (2010) ibid.

Table 9. Population, maternal and child health indicators, 2006-2010

			Year			
Indicators	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 (preliminary)	Source
Population						
Population growth rate (%)	12.94	12.68	12.45	14.20	12	i
Crude birth rate (‰)	17.97	17.68	17.33	19.20	18.9	i
Reproductive health						
Pregnant women with ≥3 pregnancy check-ups (%)	86.9	78.9	91.6	91.8	92	i
Pregnant women with TT2 vaccination (%)	98.7	95.8	99.4	94.6	94.3	ii
Communes with midwife or assistant doctor (%)	59	62	62	62	62	i
Deliveries with skilled assistance (%)	97.6	97.8	97.5	97.8	97.2	ii
Deliveries at health facilities (%)	93.7	95.5	95.3	94.5	95.6	ii
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000 live births)	14.4	0	37.3	43.5	<40	i
Infants with low birth weight (<2500g) (%)	4.7	5.8	4.9	4.6	4.4	ii
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	5.80	5.76 (5.02)	2.89	2.60	4.90 (2.4)	ii (i)
Under-five child mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	5.90	6.05 (5.27)	3.17	3.30	5.60 (3)	ii (i)
Universal vaccination						
Fully immunised children under one year of age (%)	98.5	92.6	98.0	99.5	97.6	ii

Source: (i) DPI (2010) Compiled Socio-Economic Statistics 2006-2010; (ii) DOH (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

Local healthcare network and staffing situation. Public health service delivery indicators are shown in Table 2 (above) and Annex 1.24 and 1.25. There continue to be large differentials in capacity between different administrative areas of the province. Whereas 89 per cent of communes/wards in Ninh Hai District and 81 per cent in Phan Rang—Thap Cham City reached national health standards in 2010, no communes in Bac Ai and Thuan Nam districts have yet reached these standards. A majority of communes/wards in the province now have midwives and/or junior delivery doctors; the rate is substantially lower in the upland districts of Bac Ai and Thuan Bac. According to socio-economic statistics compiled by DPI, 41.5 per cent of all communes/wards in the province have doctors in 2010, compared to only 29 per cent of upland communes. These figures represent only a marginal increase from the 26 per cent of upland communes with doctors in 2006⁴⁷.

In recent years, the network of health collaborators at grassroots level has been strengthened. All villages currently have village health workers; and in May 2010 the province issued a decision that there should be two health workers for each village. Many communes also have collaborators working on population, malnutrition, HIV prevention and health communication. With support from UNFPA, 38 village-based skilled midwives have been recruited and trained to work in some upland ethnic minority communes, including nine communes in Bac Ai, three in Thuan Bac and two in Ninh Son districtsf⁴⁸.

⁴⁷ DPI (2010) Compiled Socio-Economic Statistics 2006-2010.

^{48 &}quot;Reaching Out to Minorities with Midwives who Speak the Language". UNFPA website. September 20, 2010.

Despite these improvements, according to the DOH, the lack of human resources continues to be a challenge for the health service⁴⁹. In particular, it is difficult to retain doctors in the system, and salaries and allowances for commune health staff and village collaborators are insufficient to fully establish and maintain the network. District health officials in Bac Ai said that it is difficult to recruit doctors because of the lack of benefits for them to work in the remote communes. These staffing constraints have an impact on the provision and quality of services.

Parents in Phuoc Dai Commune, for example, report that sometimes they cannot reach medical staff outside office hours, as there may not be anyone at the commune clinic if they have an emergency at night or at the weekend: "They often came late during the weekend... They may say 'You can bring your children here on Monday or Tuesday, why this weekend?" (Parents' group, Phuoc Dai Commune). This may be due to the fact that some health staff do not live in the communes, so may be absent, despite the fact that the clinic should have someone on duty at all hours. In Cong Hai Commune there is one doctor, three nurses and one midwife, who are able to address basic health needs. Nonetheless, people living in the commune report that they usually buy medicines at nearby pharmacists for common ailments, as some households do not have motorbikes and they need to reduce transportation costs: "With colds or flu, they go to pharmacists to buy medicine. It is too far to go to the district health centre for a check-up and prescription with high transport costs." (Elderly group, Cong Hai Commune).

School health check-ups. The Preventative Health Centre organises annual check-ups for primary and secondary school pupils. They also monitor environmental conditions in schools and make recommendations for improvements to be made by the education and training sector in order to ensure the health of school pupils (Annex 1.27). The District Health Centres organise check-ups for nursery and kindergarten schools. Dentistry check-ups and advice are also provided for primary school children. There is, however, a need to increase the coverage, regularity and funding provided for these school health activities. As of 2010, for instance, only 37.7 per cent of primary schools in the province have staff trained in healthcare, and dentistry check-ups have only been provided in 13.7 per cent of primary schools. Funding for these activities appears to be intermittent and the level activity varies from year to year according to available resources.

Health communication and education. The Provincial Centre for Health Communication and Education became operational in November 2002. A network of communication collaborators has been established from province to commune and village levels, and this has contributed to improvements in healthcare awareness and positive changes in health behaviour. Local people are better informed about public health services and have better access to these services. In recent years, new approaches to integrated behaviour change communication (IBCC) have also been introduced. However, scarce funding limits these activities and the forms of communication, in particular for mass media and person-to-person communication. More communication equipment is required at all levels. According to the Provincial Centre for Health Communication and Education, coordination between health communication and education work and professional activities is not fully synchronised, causing some gaps and overlaps, which reduces the effectiveness of these activities. There is also a lack of funding and capacity to carry out Knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) surveys and surveys on the application of knowledge on health behaviour.

Universal vaccination. The local authorities have given high priority to extending full vaccination to all children in the province. According to provincial statistics, between 2006

⁴⁹ DOH (2010) ibid.

and 2010, the rate of full vaccination for children under one year of age has been over 97 per cent; while only 92.6 per cent was achieved in 2007 due to the shortage of vaccine supplies (Table 9)⁵⁰. Data provided by the Ministry of Health suggest a somewhat lower rate of full vaccination at 91.4 per cent in 2009, as compared to 99.5 per cent quoted by the province (Figure 13 and Annex 1.26). Good progress has been made in the upland areas through the deployment of mobile vaccination teams that visit commune clinics, villages and schools. In 2010 the new DPT-HepB-Hib (pentavalent five-in-one) vaccine was introduced to all districts⁵¹; this eases the schedule for both parents and the health service and may encourage some parents to continue the vaccinations.

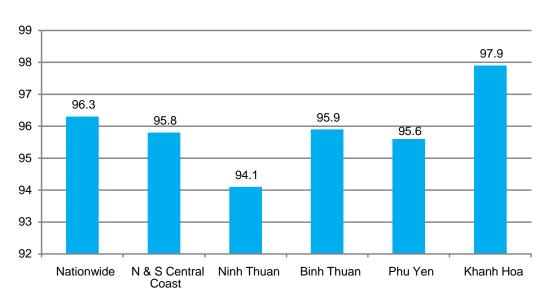


Figure 13. National, regional and provincial rates of full vaccination of children under one year of age, in percentage, 2009

Source: Ministry of Health (2011) Health Statistics Yearbook 2009.

In Thuan Bac and Bac Ai districts, commune and village health workers send written invitations, or give notification through the village heads to parents so that they can bring their infants to the commune clinic for weighing and measurement every month and also for inoculation. There are some reported difficulties. Parents who work in mountainous fields or forests cannot bring their children to the clinics on vaccination days. If information is transmitted through loudspeakers or local radio, some people may not listen, and some may not attend village meetings for information. In addition, the vaccine storage system is still unsatisfactory in some localities, so health staff cannot always bring vaccines to the remote villages. In those cases, village health workers invite each household to the clinic.

It is widely acknowledged that there has been a shift in public awareness about the importance and benefits of vaccination, especially amongst ethnic minorities. For example, as noted by a commune health worker in Cong Hai Commune: "In the past, they said injections made their bodies hot and sick so they did not come for inoculations. Now they realise the effect of modern medicines, so they no longer visit village physicians." It is also important to use a combination of mass media and face-to-face communication methods: "If communication work relies on TV only, they cannot understand. We have to visit their households, or integrate relevant information in meetings on population

⁵⁰ DOH (2010) ibid.

⁵¹ Through the GAVI Programme and the national vaccination project.

and social affairs." In Cong Hai, it is reported that a few parents still remain unaware of their children's entitlements, thus do not register their children at birth. The provision of birth registration, child health insurance and child vaccination is closely linked. Progress in this area very much depends on the commitment of the village heads, population collaborators and village health workers to continuously remind parents.

Maternal and infant mortality rates. There are discrepancies in the available data on infant mortality (IMR) and maternal mortality (MMR) in Ninh Thuan. Higher IMR figures are reported in provincial population statistics and lower figures are reported through the reproductive health system. Figures reported through the reproductive health system show a reduction from 5.8 per 1,000 live births in 2006 to 2.6 in 2009 (Table 9). These figures, however, only report infant deaths at birth and in the health facilities, whereas the population figures give a more accurate picture of the overall IMR. According to the MOH, in 2009 the IMR in Ninh Thuan was 22.6 per 1,000 live births, 6 percentage points higher than the regional average for the North and South Central Coast (Figure 14 and Annex 1.26). Provincial and district health officials also acknowledge that the reported figures for the MMR are lower than the actual rate. The available MMR figures are irregular, but show an increase from 14.4 maternal deaths per 100,000 births in 2006 to over 40 in 2009. It is likely that this increase is due to improved quality of MMR monitoring and reporting since Ninh Thuan is one of seven provinces under the MMR auditing project of the MOH. An increase in the number of deliveries in health facilities has also improved monitoring.

25 22.6 21.0 20 17.2 16.5 16.0 15.0 15 10 5 0 Ninh Thuan Binh Thuan Phu Yen Khanh Hoa Nationwide N & S Central Coast

Figure 14. National, regional and provincial Infant Mortality Rates, in percentage, 2009

Source: Ministry of Health (2011) Health Statistics Yearbook 2009.

Provincial and district officials widely recognise that improving the monitoring system for IMR and MMR is a very high priority. There are currently several difficulties in the system. Firstly, as stated by health staff in Bac Ai District, in a situation where a number of births still take place at home, it is practically difficult to monitor this situation (see Section 4.3). Until recently, there has also been a lack of village health workers to gather these statistics. The provincial decision in 2010 to recruit additional village health workers and the placement of skilled village midwives in ethnic minority villages will undoubtedly improve this situation.

More fundamentally, some district officials say that there are still difficulties in the scope and definition of IMR monitoring (at birth, after birth, at health facilities, or at home). As well as improving the monitoring system for the collection of more accurate statistics, there is a need for improved qualitative understanding of the factors lying behind patterns of maternal mortality, and of infant mortality both at birth and after birth, in different population groups. There is a panel for reviewing the causes of infant and maternal mortality in each locality, but currently this panel does not have sufficient qualitative or quantitative information to fully understand the current situation or on which to base appropriate preventative measures.

Malarial risks and prevention. Ninh Thuan is one of the provinces with the highest incidence of malaria. According to the MOH, in 2009 Ninh Thuan had the ninth highest rate of malarial infection in the country, at 286.9 cases per 100,000 inhabitants⁵². Malaria occurs all year round, with two peaks in June and October. Following the nationwide epidemic in 2001, when there were 755 cases recorded in Ninh Thuan, the DOH has organised effective measures for the surveillance, early detection and prevention of malaria to prevent further epidemics⁵³.

Malarial incidence is primarily concentrated in the upland districts of Bac Ai and Ninh Son. In these districts, proximity to forested areas and forestry activity has been identified as a strong risk factor for malarial infection. One recent survey found that despite the relatively high malaria burden among the Raglay and their general awareness that mosquitoes can transmit fever (84.2 per cent awareness), the use of bed nets, distributed free of charge by the malaria control project, remains low in the forest fields where malaria risk is highest⁵⁴. This study found that bed-net use was 84.6 per cent in the villages but only 52.9 per cent in the forest fields, while 20.6 per cent of the respondents slept unprotected in both places. This study concluded that further success in malaria control will necessitate research into the specific socio-cultural contexts for implementing the malaria control policies and programmes in each population group.

Another study reports on the results of a malaria surveillance system that was set up in Bac Ai and Ninh Son districts, consisting of passive case detection at community level through the system of village health workers and bi-annual surveys of malarial incidence (conducted between 2004 and 2006)⁵⁵. This study found that there was a high incidence of clinical cases of malaria amongst children under nine years of age, which also indicates that transmission occurs in the villages that are close to or within forested areas. Through the introduction of insecticidal bed-nets and passive case detection by the health workers, the prevalence of malarial infection and the incidence of clinical cases decreased substantially, by more than 70 per cent and 50 per cent, over the two-and-a-half-year study period. This indicates that a major impact can be made by early detection through community-based monitoring and other preventative measures.

4.2 Child health insurance

Considerable efforts have been made by the Provincial Social Insurance, local government authorities and mass organisations to extend child health insurance across all areas of the province. Following introduction of the new policy in September 2009, over 30,000 cards were issued in the last quarter of 2009. By the end of 2010 about

⁵² Ministry of Health (2011) Health Statistics Yearbook 2009.

⁵³ Department of Health (2005) *Implementation of sector activities in 2001-2005 and the five-year health plan for* 2006-2010

Grietens, K.P. et. al. (2010) Low perception of malaria risk among the Raglay ethnic minority in south-central Viet Nam: implications for forest malarial control.

⁵⁵ Ngo Duc Thang et. al. (2009) Rapid decrease of malaria morbidity following the introduction of community-based monitoring in a rural area of Viet Nam.

55,000 cards have been issued, covering over 95 per cent of children under six years of age. In addition, there has been a steady increase in the provision of diagnosis and treatment for children under six, from 39,567 turns in 2005 (VND 1,801 million) to 110,298 turns in 2008 (VND 7,124 million)⁵⁶.

Public information. The provision of public information takes three forms: (i) training for the commune/ward leaders, population cadres, mass association representatives, village heads, and local collaborators, who are in turn responsible for informing parents in their locality; (ii) through the provincial radio and TV channels and loudspeaker systems at village level; and (iii) through the network of Social Insurance agents. There are differences in the understanding of the insurance procedures and entitlements between parents from richer and poorer areas. Even so, it was found that a majority of commune/ward officials and parents are generally well informed about the insurance procedures.

Registration and card distribution. The village heads and population collaborators draw up registration lists. These are compiled by the commune/ward People's Committee and submitted to the district authorities, which pass them on to the district and provincial Social Insurance Board for issuance and distribution of the cards. Various delays and difficulties have been encountered in the registration process; in particular, there have been some delays in the compilation and submission of the registration lists by the commune/ward authorities.

In Phuoc Dai Commune, for instance, the screening and processing of applications is late in some cases. Some parents register late (by one or two months), and some others still do not care about the benefits of health insurance. Some cases are delayed as a result of name errors: "Some people have several names as a result of differences between birth certificates and household registration books or different ways of transcription from Raglay into Vietnamese. Some people hold several health insurance cards. Some dead people still have valid cards while newborn babies do not." (Commune health worker, Phuoc Dai Commune). But in some cases, the commune social officer processes applications late: "Some people come to the chair or the deputy chair of the Commune's People's Committee and express their complaints. They are referred to the social officer who promises to deliver cards in a few days, which unfortunately never happens." (Parent's discussion group, Phuoc Dai Commune).

Use of health insurance cards. In this respect, reported difficulties relate mainly to the lack of doctors and the lack of facilities for diagnosis and treatment in the commune/ ward clinics, which impacts on the quality of services, rather than difficulties in use of the health insurance cards per se. The referral system within the province (from commune to district to province) is reported to work smoothly and children are prioritised in the system; but some problems are encountered when people go directly to a higher level, without going through the referral system, or when going outside the province for treatment, for example, to Ho Chi Minh City.

Health insurance for school pupils. Urban and wealthier families are the primary purchasers of health insurance for school children, for which an insurance premium of 30 per cent is available. In My Hai Ward, the proportion of school pupils with insurance is considered an indicator for evaluating school achievement, thus creating pressures for both schools and households. Some parents say this is considered to be a 'school-related fee' that, in addition to other fees, may discourage poorer households from sending children to school. Figures are not available, however, for the proportion of poor or non-poor pupils who have health insurance in order to confirm these observations.

⁵⁶ PPC Ninh Thuan (2010) Plan of Action for Children 2011-2020 (Draft).

Monitoring insurance card usage. Statistics are currently not available for the proportion of children that have used the health insurance cards one or more times, or not at all; or for the breakdown in different types of regular or occasional treatment received. It is recommended that more detailed monitoring and compilation of these statistics should be undertaken in order to get a fuller picture of the patterns of insurance card usage and to identify potential gaps in service provision. Furthermore, some aspects of primary healthcare for children, such as regular surveillance for Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI), are not covered by either health insurance or the National Target Programmes. It would be instructive to monitor the proportion of clinic/hospital visits related to these types of ailments more closely, both for regular surveillance and treatment.

4.3 Reproductive and maternal healthcare

Province-wide improvements in reproductive and maternal healthcare indicators have been noted in Section 4.1 and Table 9 above, including the proportion of pregnant women undertaking regular prenatal check-ups and deliveries with skilled birth assistance and/or in health facilities. There are, however, differences in these indicators between administrative areas and population groups within the province. For instance, in Bac Ai District, of a total of 405 births in the first nine months of 2010, only 81 per cent were with skilled birth assistance, of which 87 per cent of deliveries took place in public health facilities and 13 per cent with skilled birth assistance at home⁵⁷. These figures indicate that about 20 per cent of births were without professional assistance in this period. Moreover, only 36.5 per cent of pregnant women received three or more pregnancy check-up in the three periods of pregnancy, as recommended by the new MOH guidelines. In Thuan Bac District in the same nine-month period, 92 per cent of deliveries took place with professional assistance and 74.4 per cent took place in public health facilities⁵⁸. These figures are indicative of the generally lower levels of reproductive healthcare provision and lower quality of these services in these rural areas as compared to other parts of the province.

Box 2. Village-based skilled midwives in the Raglay community

UNFPA is supporting a programme to recruit and train local ethnic minority women to become village-based skilled midwives. This programme works to improve antenatal and primary healthcare services at village and commune levels, thus contributing to reducing maternal and child mortality among ethnic minority people. Understanding the language, the culture and the belief system of an ethnic group is crucial to gaining trust and to encouraging women to receive appropriate health services. Until recently, for example, Raglay women delivered in the forest, far away from health facilities and assisted only by their mothers and traditional birth attendants. Before giving birth they used to build a shelter close to a tree where they delivered. They stayed in this basic refuge for at least three days. After the delivery, they collected and boiled tree bark that they believed would help to stop the bleeding. Although the practice of drinking the liquid persists, most pregnant women now prefer to have skilled birth attendants to be present at their deliveries. This is due to the awareness raising campaigns on safe motherhood carried out by local authorities and mass organisation, and the work of ethnic minority midwives. Community-based referral teams have been set up to transfer pregnant women or mothers and their babies to the commune clinic when needed. Breast-feeding clubs have also been set up where mothers can access information on nutrition, child and maternal health, hygiene and injury prevention.

Source: "Reaching Out to Minorities with Midwives who speak the Language". UNFPA. September 20, 2010.

⁵⁷ Bac Ai Health Centre (2010) Report on district reproductive health activities in the first nine months of 2010.

⁵⁸ Thuan Bac District Health Centre (2010) Report on health indicators in the first nine months of 2010.

Village based ethnic minority midwives. The placement of trained midwives has considerably improved the level and quality of services for ethnic minority women in some localities, particularly in providing a regular link with the commune clinic, the provision of advice and information and more regular antenatal and postnatal check-ups, assisting with safe deliveries at home, and facilitating response to emergency situations during birth if required (Box 2). However, these skilled midwives have so far been recruited in only 14 out of 47 rural communes in the province and only work in some villages in these communes. Extending this network to other ethnic minority communes and remote villages will be important to sustain province-wide improvements in the level and quality of reproductive healthcare services.

4.4 Maternal and child nutrition and under nutrition

National and regional comparisons. According to the Nutrition Surveillance System, trends in the nutrition status of children under five years of age in Ninh Thuan broadly follow nationwide trends (Table 10 and Annex 1.29). The rate of underweight children has continued to show a steady decline from 30.6 per cent in 2005 to 23.5 per cent in 2010 (Figure 15). Nonetheless, Ninh Thuan continues to have a higher rate of underweight children compared to neighbouring provinces and the national average. Stunting rates have remained persistently high, showing only a marginal decline in Ninh Thuan from 32.7 per cent in 2005 to 31.6 per cent in 2010 (Figure 16). This places Ninh Thuan in 22nd position amongst 64 provinces and cities for the rate of children with stunting. These figures reflect the nationwide concern with the health impacts and socio-economic impacts of maternal and infant under nutrition.

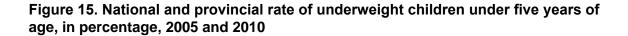
Table 10. Comparative child malnutrition rates, 2005 and 2010

Pagion/		2005				2010		
Region/ province	Underweight total	Moderately underweight	Stunting total	Moderate stunting	Underweight total	Moderately underweight	Stunting total	Moderate stunting
Nationwide	21.3	19.5	24.4	17.4	17.5	15.4	29.3	18.8
South Central Coast	25.9	22.6	29.3	19	19.8	17.6	31.4	19.3
Ninh Thuan	30.6	26.4	32.7	19.1	23.5	19.5	31.6	18.4

Source: National Institute of Nutrition (2005 and 2010) Nutrition Surveillance System.

Intra-provincial differences. Within the province, there are large differences in under-five child malnutrition rates between administrative areas and population groups (see Table 2 above). In 2010 the rate of underweight children in Bac Ai District (39.2 per cent) is more than double that in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City (13.9 per cent).

According to provincial health officials, there are two population groups within which maternal and child under nutrition is most pressing: firstly, amongst poorer ethnic minority households in the uplands (primarily amongst the Raglay and Co Ho). Secondly, amongst some labourer households in urban/peri-urban areas. These are primarily former farming families who are shifting to new types of economic activity but who currently have limited capital for production, and poor living standards. According to health officials in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City, up to 30 per cent of newly born infants in urban wards are not breastfed early enough or for adequate duration.



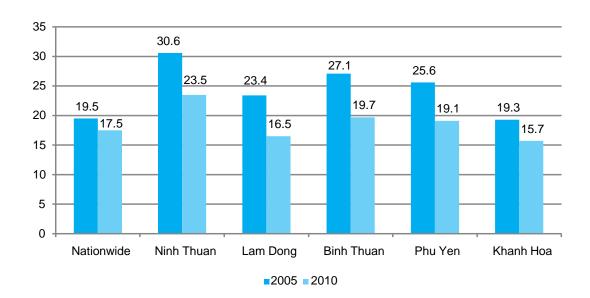
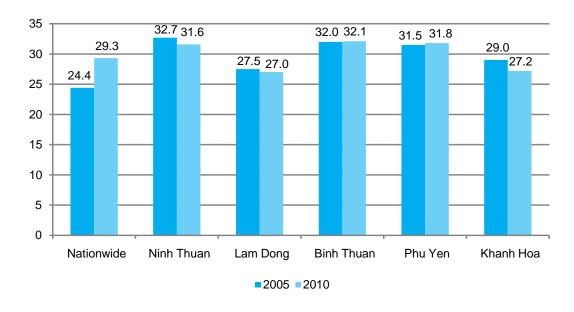


Figure 16. National and provincial rate of children under five years of age with stunting, in percentage, 2005 and 2010



Source: National Institute of Nutrition (2005 and 2010) Nutrition Surveillance System.

Addressing the causative factors of undernutrition. The primary causes and measures to tackle undernutrition are covered in the national nutrition programme, which includes child malnutrition prevention, micronutrient supplementation and de-worming for young children (six to 59 months of age), and promotion of good feeding practices for infants and young children - including breastfeeding. According to the DOH, there has been good progress in expanding Vitamin A supplementation and de-worming to reach about 98.5 per cent of eligible children in the province. Through various projects, local

collaborators have been trained in an integrated approach to cover reproductive health and nutrition. However, there are resource constraints on scaling-up this integrated approach to cover all communes and villages in the province, and a lack of regular allowances to support nutrition collaborators in all localities. It is also recognised that amongst the Raglay it takes a longer period of time and a more concerted effort to instil changes and improvements in breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices than in some other ethnic groups.

The high child stunting rate and under nutrition amongst women and children continue to be a major health burden in Ninh Thuan as in other provinces. Further improvements in the out-reach capacity and quality of basic maternal and child nutrition care services are needed to address this situation, through a combination of targeted interventions and improved feeding practices. Short-term measures are needed to address micronutrient deficiencies amongst particularly vulnerable groups. There is a need to strengthen knowledge and practice in the preparation of meals for pregnant women and small children to improve the nutritional quality, and to reduce iodine deficiency and nutritional anaemia in children and mothers. This needs to be combined with improving the quality of related health care services (pre-natal examinations, personal hygiene and de-worming). More detailed surveys should also be conducted to monitor and understand the nutrition status and specific nutritional issues amongst women and children in different population groups in the province.

Food security concerns. At the same time, it is important to understand and address the underlying causative factors that contribute to maternal and child under nutrition. These are often locally and contextually specific. In Bac Ai District, the lack of basic household food security underlies the persistently high rate of under nutrition amongst the Raglay. According to the participatory monitoring studies conducted in two communes in Bac Ai, each year a substantial proportion of households still suffer from occasional or regular food shortages (Table 11). For some households, regular food shortages last for four to five months each year.

Table 11. Frequency of household food shortages in two communes in Bac Ai, 2007-2009

			Comn	nune		
Frequency of annual food shortage	Р	Phuoc Dai		Phuoc Thanh		
Shortage	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Once or twice (%)	13.2	5.0	11.4	3.5	0.0	13.6
Occasionally (%)	55.3	50.0	45.7	29.8	32.7	27.3
Regularly (%)	31.6	45.0	42.9	66.7	67.3	59.1
Number of months of regular food shortage	-	5.0	5.2	-	4.3	4.0

Source: Oxfam GB (2009) Summary Report on Participatory Poverty Monitoring in Two Communes in Bac Ai District, Ninh Thuan. Survey of 120 households in 4 villages (Ta Lu 1, Ma Hoa, Ma Du and Da Ba Cai) 2007-2009.

These patterns of household food insecurity – and the lack of nutritious complementary foodstuffs for pregnant women and young children – are associated with a number of other causative factors. These relate to traditional characteristics of Raglay livelihood systems, household economic conditions, and natural conditions in the uplands, including:

• The lack of a 'home garden' tradition to grow vegetables and fruits around the household; and frequent water shortages and drought conditions in the uplands that limit the introduction of micro-irrigation for home garden production systems;

- The primary value attached to livestock as a store of household wealth and occasional cash income, rather than as a source of household nutrition;
- Limited household income and the reliance of poor households on occasional wage-labour to provide cash for the purchase of staple foodstuffs, but which may not be sufficient for the purchase of complementary nutritious foods;
- While physical access to markets is generally good, there is limited range of marketable produce to exchange for nutritious foodstuffs;
- Lastly, increasing food prices in recent years, and the lack of alternative income sources, continues to affect the ability of poor households to adequately cover their nutrition needs.

The provincial and district authorities have given high priority to addressing these various livelihood constraints over the years, through activities including agriculture extension programmes and the provision of subsidised credit for production. Much emphasis has been given to improving livestock production systems, especially cattle production, which is a sector in which the Raglay have a strong tradition and comparative advantage in the currently expanding livestock economy. Even so, there are still some limitations in these efforts. Credit facilities, in terms of loan-duration and credit-ceilings, are still prohibitive for long-term development of livestock production. Some farmers have suffered from livestock deaths, which puts them into debt, while some have also had a bad experience with dealing with middlemen and livestock traders. These points illustrate the underlying importance of improving cash management skills amongst Raglay households so they can interact with markets on more favourable terms. Despite the inevitable challenges, an integrated approach to addressing household nutrition and the diversification of household food supply and income sources needs to be maintained and strengthened.

4.5 Water supply and environmental sanitation

As described in Section 2.1 above, Ninh Thuan has the lowest average annual rainfall in the country, ranging from about 700mm per annum in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City to just over 1,000mm per annum in upland areas. Domestic water supply is primarily reliant on surface water resources. While in lowland and coastal areas underground water sources were tapped in the past, many of these have become unusable because of salinisation. Many localities and households suffer annually from water shortages as well as from periodic drought. In response to this situation, the provincial authorities in Ninh Thuan have given high priority to improving water supply for both urban and rural areas throughout the province.

Improvements in data and monitoring systems. In the past, one of the major difficulties in the water supply and sanitation sector in Viet Nam has been the lack of adequate monitoring data. Different technical standards were used by different agencies monitoring access to improved water supply, water quality and sanitation indicators, resulting in a lack of directly comparable data sets. Since 2010, Ninh Thuan has introduced a new set of monitoring indicators, according to guidelines under Document No.3856/2008/BNN-TL⁵⁹ of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and technical standards on domestic water quality, as issued by the MOH under Circular No.05/2009/TT-BYT⁶⁰. The new indicators have been applied to all rural communes, health clinics and schools. For the first time, therefore, a comprehensive data set is available to examine the current situation in rural areas.

⁵⁹ Document No.3856/BNN-TL (25/12/2008) on rural water supply and sanitation monitoring and evaluation indicator set.

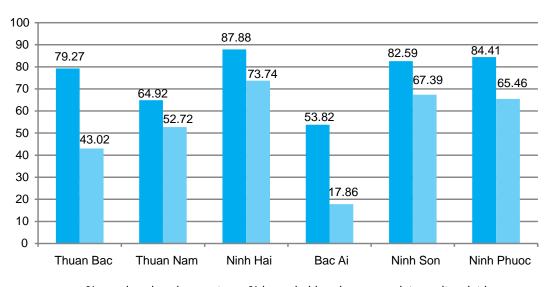
⁶⁰ Circular No.05/2009/TT-BYT (17/06/2009) on issuance of National Technical Regulations on domestic water quality.

Table 12. Rural water supply and environmental sanitation indicators, 2010

	Indicator	Per cent	
1	Rural population with access to safe water supply	79.0	
2	Rural population with clean water according to MOH quality standards	49.5	
3	Schools with safe water supply and hygienic sanitation facilities	84.6	
4	Health clinics with safe water supply and hygienic sanitation facilities	96.2	
5a	Markets with safe water supply and hygienic sanitation	62.2	
5b	Commune offices with safe water supply and hygienic sanitation	92.0	
6	Rural and urban households with hygienic latrines	57.0	
7	Households with sanitary livestock housing	34.9	
8	Village industries with waste processing system	66.7	
9	Water supply systems with sustainable operations	68.3	
10	Different models of water supply systems management:		
	Community managedPCERWASS managedPrivate enterpriseBusiness enterprise	32.9 63.4 0 3.7	

Source: Provincial Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (2011) Report on results of implementation of the monitoring indicators for clean water and environmental sanitation in Ninh Thuan Province.

Figure 17. Rural peopple's using water and rural households using hygienic latrines by district, in percentage, 2010



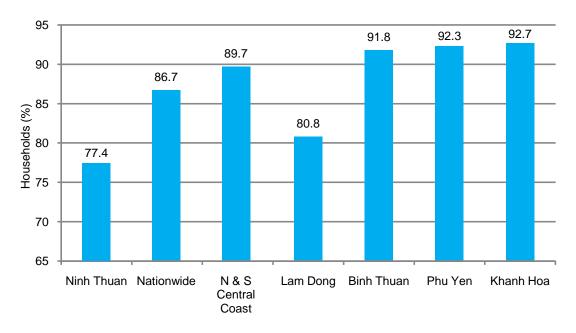
■% people using clean water ■% households using appropriate sanitary latrines

Source: Provincial Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (2011) Report on results of implementation of the monitoring indicators for clean water and environmental sanitation in Ninh Thuan Province.

Water supply situation. According to the 2009 Census, 77.4 per cent of all rural and urban households in Ninh Thuan have access to safe water (Figure 18 and Annex 1.16); this is lower than the regional average for the North and South Central Coast (89.7 per cent) and the national average (86.7 per cent). Provincial figures indicate higher rates. The report on the Plan of Action for Children states that, as of 2008, 95.1 per cent of

urban households and 81.4 per cent of rural households have access to safe water (based on figures provided by the Provincial Statistics Office)⁶¹. According to the new set of monitoring indicators, as of 2010, 79.04 per cent of rural people use appropriate clean water, while 50 per cent of rural people use safe water according to quality standards of the MOH (Table 12 and Annex 1.30)⁶².

Figure 18. National, regional and provincial rates of household access to safe water (urban and rural), in percentage, 2009



Source: Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010) The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Major Findings.

According to district figures, the rate of rural people using appropriate clean water ranges from 53.82 per cent in Bac Ai up to 87.88 per cent in Ninh Hai (Figure 17 and Map 2). The rate varies substantially for different communes, with a few communes in both upland and coastal areas still experiencing considerable shortages and difficulties in water supply⁶³.

⁶¹ PPC Ninh Thuan (2010) Plan of Action for Children 2011-2020 (Draft).

⁶² Provincial Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (2011) Report on results of implementation of the monitoring indicators for clean water and environmental sanitation in Ninh Thuan Province.

⁶³ Such as Phuoc Diem Commune in Thuan Nam (28.59 per cent of people using appropriate clean water), Ma Noi Commune in Ninh Son (31.68 per cent) and Phuoc Thanh Commune (20.19 per cent) and Phuoc Trung Commune (25.33 per cent) in Bac Ai District.

Bac Ai District 53 82 Thuan Bac District 79 27 Ninh Son District 82 55 Ninh Hai District 87.88 Ninh Phuoc District Phan Rang-Thap Cham City Proportion of people using clean water (%) 0 - 65 Thuan Nam District 66 - 80 64.92 81 - 100 n/a

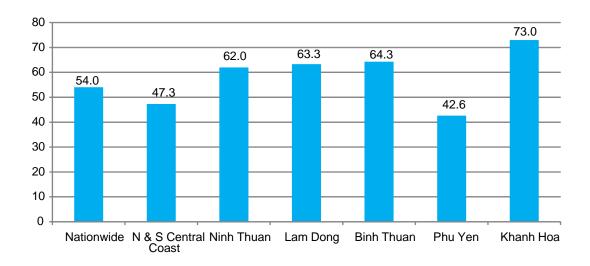
Map 2. Proportion of rural people using safe water by district, 2010

Source: Provincial Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (2011) Report on results of implementation of the monitoring indicators for clean water and environmental sanitation in Ninh Thuan Province.

Rural water supply was a critical problem in the past, but recent investment in new schemes has considerably improved this situation. PCERWASS currently manages 40 schemes in the province. In upland areas, such as Bac Ai and Ninh Son, rural water supply is primarily through gravity fed systems, while water supply schemes in lowland district and communes use treated surface water. The priorities for the future are to increase the proportion of rural households with improved water supply (with the target of 95 per cent in 2015) that use safe water according to the MOH quality standards (75 per cent by 2015) and to increase water supply through reservoir infrastructure, particularly for urban and coastal areas.

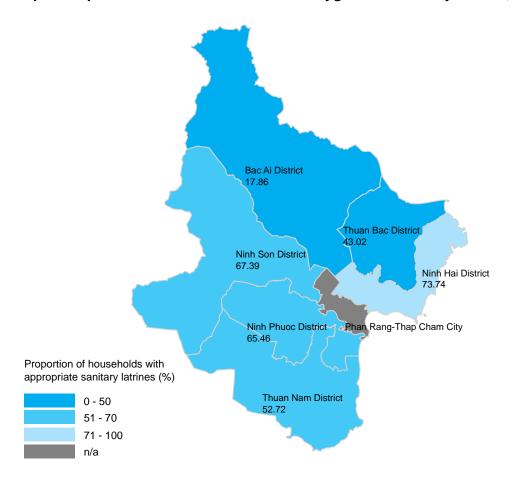
Household sanitation. According to the 2009 Census, 62 per cent of all rural and urban households in Ninh Thuan use appropriate sanitary latrines (Figure 19 and Annex 1.16), which is higher than the regional average for the North and South Central Coast (47.3 per cent) and the national average (54 per cent). The report on the Plan of Action for Children states that the overall rate of urban and rural households with sanitary latrines has increased from 41.5 per cent in 2001 to 68.9 per cent in 2008.

Figure 19. National, regional and provincial rates of households with hygienic toilet facilities (urban and rural), in percentage, 2009



Source: Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010) The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Major Findings.

According to the new set of monitoring indicators, 61.48 per cent of rural households use appropriate sanitary latrines as of 2010 (Annex 1.30). Here again, these rates vary widely from district to district, ranging from a very low figure of 17.86 per cent in Bac Ai up to 73.74 per cent in Ninh Hai (Figure 17 and Map 3).



Map 3. Proportion of rural households with hygienic latrines by district, 2010

Source: Provincial Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (2011) Report on results of implementation of the monitoring indicators for clean water and environmental sanitation in Ninh Thuan Province.

Water supply and sanitation in schools. In recent years, considerable improvements have been made in providing water supply and sanitation facilities in schools, with the support of several donor-funded projects. As of 2010, about 84.56 per cent of all public schools in the province have improved facilities, with the intention of reaching 100 per cent in 2010-2011 (Table 12). In Phan Rang-Thap Cham City, some people express concern about the increasing number of privately-funded kindergartens with unsatisfactory sanitary conditions, as well as with the monitoring of this situation. For example, it was observed that one kindergarten in My Hai Ward has no clean water supply, which presents potential health risks for children at this school.

Children's access to safe water and sanitation. According to the 2009 Census, 22.6 per cent of children under five years of age in Ninh Thuan still do not have access to improved water (placing Ninh Thuan in 24th position amongst 63 provinces and cities). At the same time, 38 per cent of children do not have access to improved sanitation (placing Ninh Thuan in 53rd position amongst 63 provinces and cities). These figures indicate that there is still a considerable way to go in extending cover to all children in the province.

4.6 Child injury prevention

Data on child injuries. Provincial figures, as reported through the health sector, record 3,007 injuries to children under 15 years old in 2009 (with 19 fatalities). The vast majority of these – 2,690 or 89.5 per cent – were due to animal bites and stings. The five to 14 age

group accounted for 11.8 per cent of total reported injuries, with 41 per cent occurring in the 15 to 19 age group⁶⁴. As of December 2010, about 1,950 child injuries were reported for 2010, showing a reduction of 35 per cent compared to 2009⁶⁵. A majority of child fatalities as reported through these child injury statistics are due to drowning or road accidents.

As officials from both DOLISA and DOH mentioned during this research – and as illustrated in the figures presented above – there are still difficulties and inconsistencies in the collection and compilation of child injury statistics. These include: (i) not all cases of child injury are treated by the public health system, which means that the reported figures are lower than actual figures, in particular for minor injuries and for remote rural population groups; (ii) some injuries are reported to the commune and ward clinics and some to the district and provincial hospitals and there is some difficulty in aggregating the figures and avoiding double-reporting; (iii) child fatalities due to injury are under-reported because some are handled by the police; and (iv) there is an inconsistency in definition of age-brackets for child injury reporting by DOLISA and DOH.

Institutional arrangements for child injury prevention. The Provincial Board for Injury Prevention was established in 2002 and oversees all injury prevention activities in the province. In 2009, provisions for child injury prevention were strengthened through Plan No.3783/2009/KH-UBND (dated 25/09/2009) on child injury prevention in the period 2009-2010. Some districts and communes/wards have also established injury prevention boards. The Department of Education and Training, the Department of Health, the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism and provincial mass media have collaborated to organise a wide range of awareness raising activities related to child injury prevention; as well as training for teachers on safe schools. In addition, more intensive child injury prevention activities have been piloted in 10 communes in three districts with the support of UNICEF.

Despite these efforts, many respondents during this research have stated that child injury prevention activities remain quite fragmented in the province. There are many sectors and agencies that need to be involved – but the roles, responsibilities and coordination mechanisms between them are not fully established. According to DOLISA⁶⁶, there are several aspects in particular that need to be strengthened:

- While some districts and communes/wards have established injury prevention boards, in some cases their activities are not regular.
- Improved coordination is needed between the concerned provincial departments, agencies and mass organisations, combined with increasing the sense of responsibility of each locality to take charge of these activities.
- Better coordination is needed around the Communes Safe for Children approach (safe house/safe school/safe community) combined with increased funding to make child injury prevention activities more effective in each locality.
- Many localities in the province have not yet invested adequately in safe playground spaces for children and there is a lack of nursery facilities in most rural communes.
- Training for child injury prevention activities is not regular or sufficiently focused.
- Lastly, the collection and compilation of statistics is not sufficient or standardised.

⁶⁴ PPC Ninh Thuan (2010) ibid.

⁶⁵ Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (2010) Report on results of child injury prevention in 2010.

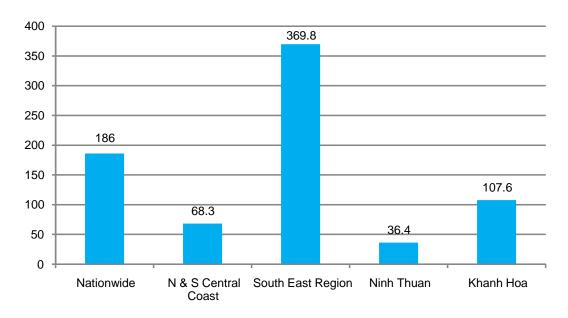
⁶⁶ DOLISA (2010) ibid.

4.7 HIV/AIDS and children

Current situation. In common with other provinces in the South Central Coast, Ninh Thuan has a comparatively low prevalence of HIV/AIDS as compared to provinces and cities in some other regions of the country. According to the Ministry of Health, in 2009 the cumulative HIV infection rate in Ninh Thuan was 36.4 per 100,000 inhabitants, the sixth-lowest nationwide (Figure 20 and Annex 1.28). At the same time, Ninh Thuan had the fourth-highest rate of new HIV infections nationwide at 33.94 per 100,000 (Figure 21). This may be partly due to an increase in voluntary testing and the identification of previously undetected cases. Nonetheless, this clearly indicates the need for heightened public awareness and strong preventative measures to avoid the emergence of epidemic patterns as in other parts of the country.

According to the Department of Health, there have been 864 identified cases of HIV in Ninh Thuan since 1995⁶⁷. HIV infections are primarily amongst males in the 20 to 29 age group and transmission is primarily associated with intravenous drug use and heterosexual transmission. There have been 299 newly identified cases in the period from 2006 to 2010 including eight children under 16 years old⁶⁸. It is likely, however, that the actual rate is higher. The health authorities are vigilant about the potential increase in mother-to-child transmission, but there is still a low level of voluntary testing amongst both men and women generally and specifically amongst pregnant women. The proportion of people living with HIV/AIDS who are under management and treatment has increased from 80 per cent in 2006 to 91 per cent in 2010.

Figure 20. National, regional and provincial cumulative HIV infection rates per 100,000 inhabitants, 2009

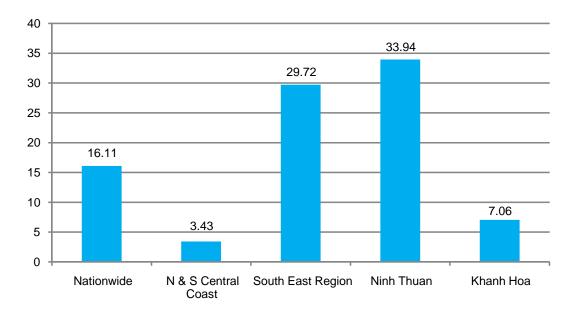


Source: Ministry of Health (2011) Health Statistics Yearbook 2009.

⁶⁷ DOH (2010) Report on the Review of Results of Implementation of the Five-Year Health Plan 2006-2010.

⁶⁸ DPI (2010) Compiled Socio-Economic Statistics 2006-2010.

Figure 21. National, regional and provincial rates of new HIV infections per 100,000 inhabitants, 2009



Source: Ministry of Health (2011) Health Statistics Yearbook 2009.

HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention efforts. The provincial authorities have intensified HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention activities in recent years. About 25.2 per cent of funding under the NTP on Social Diseases, Epidemics and HIV/AIDS has been allocated to this and to the establishment of an HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Centre (see Section 2.3 above). Awareness and prevention activities are guided by the Steering Committee on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS and Control of Drug Use and Prostitution. This coordinates the activities of 26 provincial departments, mass organisations, security forces, health communication and training centres, hospitals and district health centres. According to the plan for 2010, attention is being given to strengthening all aspects of public information and awareness, the coverage of high-risk groups, surveillance and monitoring, expanding and increasing the quality of voluntary testing, counselling and treatment services, as well as increasing staff capacity⁶⁹. In 2010 the Department of Education and Training was active in extending HIV/AIDS awareness activities to a majority of schools in the province following a rights-based approach⁷⁰.

⁶⁹ Steering Committee on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS and Control of Drug Use and Prostitution (2010) *Plan for HIV/AIDS prevention activities in Ninh Thuan in 2010.*

⁷⁰ DOET (2010) Plan for the month of HIV/AIDS prevention in 2010.



5. Children's Education and Development

This chapter begins with a statistical summary of trends over time and the current situation of pre-school, primary and secondary education in Ninh Thuan. These data have been compiled from various sources, including reports from DOET⁷¹, finding from the 2009 Census (Annex 1.35)⁷², socio-economic development statistics compiled by DPI and data from the Ministry of Education and Training (Annex 1.36 to 1.40)⁷³. Leading on from this, in-depth analysis is made of certain aspects of the quality of education and learning, adult educational attainment and functional literacy, factors influencing educational attainment and completion, education amongst Raglay and Cham ethnic minority communities, and learning promotion and educational support policies and mechanisms.

At the outset, it should be noted that comprehensive and generally consistent data are available for the education and training sector in Ninh Thuan. The aspects around which some data gaps and inconsistencies have been noted are: (a) some inconsistencies in the figures for primary school enrolment rates; (b) inconsistencies in official reporting of drop-out rates at primary and secondary level; (c) a lack of ethnically disaggregated and gender disaggregated data for enrolment and drop-out rates; and (d) a lack of data on education of children with disabilities.

5.1 Pre-school and early childhood education

Nursery schooling. According to figures provided by DOET, the rate of children of nursery age (0-2) attending nursery classes has increased from 9.72 per cent in 2007-08 to 11.16 per cent in 2009-10, over 80 per cent of which attend non-public facilities (Table 13). The proportional rate of children attending nursery classes is much higher in urban areas, while access to nursery facilities and nursery school attendance is still limited in many rural communes and villages.

Kindergarten. As of school year 2007-08 onwards, all communes and wards in the province have kindergartens. In 2009-10 there were 72 schools of which 83 per cent were public and 17 per cent non-public schools, with a majority of non-public schools (92 per cent) being in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City⁷⁴. About 80 per cent of children attend public kindergartens. The proportion of children attending kindergarten by age five reached 97.07 per cent in 2009-10, while the rate of children from three to five years of age attending kindergarten reached 57.32 per cent (Table 13). Concerted efforts have been made to increase pre-school attendance amongst ethnic minority children in remote areas; for instance, in Bac Ai District, it is reported that in 2010 about 62 per cent of three to five year old children attended kindergarten, which matches the provincial rate⁷⁵. Data are not available for the location or population groups within which pre-school attendance between the ages of three to five is still limited. It is recommended that further research is needed to understand the factors that may contribute to this.

Public kindergarten classroom facilities have been considerably improved throughout the province in recent years, although many still lack safe playgrounds. As of school year 2009-10, 100 per cent of children in nursery schools received full vaccination and

⁷¹ Department of Education and Training (2010) Analysis and assessment of education and training development situation in Ninh Thuan Province up to 2010.

⁷² General Statistics Office (2011) Education in Viet Nam: An Analysis of Key Indicators (Viet Nam Population and Housing Census 2009).

⁷³ Ministry of Education and Training (2010) Education and Training Statistics for School Year 2009-2010.

⁷⁴ Provincial Statistics Office (2010) Province Statistical Yearbook 2009.

⁷⁵ District Education and Training Section (2010) Report on implementation of the 2010 plan in Bac Ai District.

received health check-ups⁷⁶. Approximately 50 per cent of pupils in nursery schools and kindergarten are provided with meals at school, with subsidies for poor pupils through Decision No.112/2007/QD-TTg⁷⁷. While about 88 per cent of kindergarten teachers reach national standards, the rate amongst nursery teachers and care givers is still low (23.5 per cent). As the number of public and non-public nursery schools and kindergartens increases, it is proving difficult to recruit well-qualified teachers for this level.

One main concern for the education sector in the SEDP period (2011 to 2015-20) is the universalisation of pre-school education⁷⁸. This involves increasing the rate of full-day kindergarten attendance. Consolidating the network of public and private pre-schools and enhancing teacher qualifications will be an important step towards fulfilling this objective.

Table 13. Pre-school indicators in public and non-public schools/classes, 2007-2010

Indicator		School year	
Indicator	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Nursery schooling			
Total number of children of nursery age (0-2)	26,906	27,031	22,070
Number of nursery pupils	2,615	2,051	2,464
Nursery school attendance (%)	9.7	7.6	11.2
Pupils in public nursery classes (%)	12.1	17.0	12.3
Pupils in non-public nursery classes (%)	87.9	83.0	87.7
Nursery teachers reaching national standards (%)	36.1	26.2	23.5
Kindergarten schooling			
Total number of children of kindergarten age (3-5)	28,630	27,826	29,749
Number of kindergarten pupils	16,271	16,315	16,501
Kindergarten school attendance (3-5) (%)	56.8	60.8	57.3
Pupils in public kindergarten classes (%)	79.2	78.9	81.7
Pupils in non-public kindergarten classes (%)	20.8	21.1	18.3
Kindergarten school attendance at age five (%)	94.2	96.9	97.1
Kindergarten teachers reaching national standards (%)	82.1	84.9	88.0

Source: DOET (2010) Analysis and assessment of education and training development situation in Ninh Thuan Province up to 2010.

5.2 Primary and secondary education

Primary education:

- All rural communes and urban wards have primary schools. According to MOET, as
 of school year 2009-10, there were 146 primary schools of which 6.85 per cent meet
 national standards for school facilities, substantially lower than the national average of
 32.8 per cent of primary schools meeting these national standards (Annex 1.38).
- Ninh Thuan was certified to meet the national standard of universal primary education in 2000 and 100 per cent of districts, communes and wards have maintained these standards as of 2009-10. However, in terms of universal primary education at the

⁷⁶ Department of Education and Training (2010) ibid.

⁷⁷ Decision No.112/2007/QD-TTg (20/07/2007) on policies to support services, improve and increase people's living standards, and provide legal aid for legal awareness-raising under the Programme 135 Phase II.

⁷⁸ Decision No.239/2010/QD-TTG (09/02/2010) approving the scheme on universal pre-school education for children aged five years in the 2010-2015 period.

right age, only 38 out of 65 communes and wards (57 per cent) had met the national standard by 2010⁷⁹.

Table 14. Primary and secondary school enrolment and graduation rates, 2007-2008 to 2010-2011

Indicators			School	year	
indicators		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Total number of pupils		121,450	111,721	115,654	114,403
Primary		59,009	57,341	57,534	57,690
	Girls	27,222	27,665	27,416	25,889
Lower secondary		43,058	42,122	38,937	37,365
	Girls	21,954	19,807	18,542	17,220
Upper secondary		19,382	18,910	19,183	19,348
	Girls	10,654	9,887	11,239	11,347
Gross enrolment rate (%)		66.66	73.66	76.60	87.00
Primary		77	88	85	96
	Girls	72	76	80	90
Lower secondary		72	75	80	85
	Girls	70	60.5	63	65.5
Upper secondary		51	58	65	80
	Girls	45	43	55	65
Net enrolment rate (%)		63.4	62.7	64.8	67.5
Primary		70.0	72.5	74.9	77.6
	Girls	68.0	72.0	74.0	75.0
Lower secondary		65.3	65.0	66.9	67.3
	Girls	65	65	66	67
Upper secondary		55.0	50.5	52.6	60.0
	Girls	51	50	50	52.3
Graduation rate (%)					
Primary		98.3	98.7	99.6	-
Lower secondary		98.2	99.1	96.3	-
Upper secondary		85.6	68.4	69.5	-

Source: (i) Department of Education and Training (2010) Data provided during fieldwork; (ii) Provincial Statistics Office (2011) Statistical Handbook 2010 of Ninh Thuan Province (Summary).

- Between 2007 and 2010, the rate of pupils who had completed kindergarten at age five to be enrolled in Grade 1 of primary school exceeded 97 per cent (Annex 1.33).
- According to DOET, the net primary school enrolment rate increased from 70 per cent in 2007-08 to 77.6 per cent in 2010-11, while the gross enrolment rate increased from 77 to 96 per cent in the same period (Table 14). It is notable that a substantially higher net enrolment rate of 91.6 per cent is indicated by the 2009 Census, with 90.5 per cent for boys and 92.8 per cent for girls (Annex 1.35). Further research is needed to clarify these figures and the reasons for the large discrepancies in the primary enrolment rates reported by the province compared to those reported in the 2009 Census. One possible explanation is that over 90 per cent of children of primary age are attending school (the 2009 Census figures) while the provincial figures are reporting net

⁷⁹ PPC Ninh Thuan/UNICEF (2010) Report on survey results of capacity and training needs of teachers and education managers in project communes in the Ninh Thuan Provincial Child Friendly Project.

- enrolment at the right age. This figure is generally lower due to the large number of pupils who are required to repeat the first grade of primary school.
- Of the total number of primary pupils in 2009-10, 47.7 per cent were girls, 28.4 per cent were ethnic minorities and 14.7 per cent were ethnic minority girls; while of the total ethnic minority pupils, 48.2 per cent were girls and 51.8 per cent boys (Figures 22 to 24).
- Between 2007-08 and 2009-10, the proportion of primary school teachers meeting national standards increased from 94.4 to 99.4 per cent, and the pupil-to-teacher ratio declined from 22.1 to 20.8 (Annex 1.32).
- The proportion of pupils attending full-day primary schooling is still limited, as only 29 out of 146 primary schools (19.8 per cent) in the province provide full-day schooling.

Lower secondary education:

- As of 2010-11, all rural communes in the province have lower secondary schools, with a province-wide total of 37,365 pupils in 60 schools. According to MOET, 5.08 per cent of lower secondary schools meet national standards for school facilities, a little less than a third of the national average of 16.26 per cent (Annex 1.39).
- In September 2010, Ninh Thuan was certified by MOET to have achieved universal lower secondary schooling in 100 per cent of communes and wards.
- According to DOET, the net lower secondary school enrolment rate has increased from 65.3 per cent in 2007-08 to 67.3 per cent in 2010-11, while the gross enrolment rate increased from 72 to 85 per cent in the same period (Table 14). The 2009 Census indicates similar net enrolment rate of 67.8 per cent, but ranging from 63.7 per cent for boys and 72.3 per cent for girls (Annex 1.35). This is offset by an annual decrease in the number of lower secondary school pupils (Table 14), even though the overall number of children of secondary school age in the province has increased (Annex 1.5). These data indicate that a fairly large number of children are still not making the transition from primary to lower secondary school.
- Of the total number of lower secondary pupils in 2009-10, 47.6 per cent were girls, 23.8 per cent ethnic minorities and 12.7 per cent ethnic minority girls; while of the total ethnic minority pupils, 46.7 per cent were girls and 53.3 per cent boys (Figures 22 to 24).
- Between 2007-08 and 2009-10, the proportion of lower secondary school teachers
 meeting national standards increased substantially from 59.9 to 89 per cent, which
 indicates that considerable effort has been put into improving the quality of lower
 secondary education. In the same period, the pupil-to-teacher ratio remained constant
 at about 39 (Annex 1.32).

Upper secondary education:

- There are currently 17 upper secondary schools in the province, including 16 public and 1 non-public schools, with 19,348 pupils.
- According to DOET, the net upper secondary school enrolment rate has increased from 55 per cent in 2007-08 to 60 per cent in 2010-11, while the gross enrolment rate increased substantially from 51 to 80 per cent in the same period (Table 14). The 2009 Census indicates a lower net enrolment rate of 45.3 per cent, with 38.7 per cent for boys and 52.6 per cent for girls (Annex 1.35). The latter figures suggest that a

large number of boys in particular are not making the transition from lower to upper secondary school.

- Of the total number of upper secondary pupils in 2009-10, 58.6 per cent were girls, 18.4 per cent ethnic minorities and 10.8 per cent ethnic minority girls; while of the total ethnic minority pupils, 58.5 per cent were girls and 41.5 per cent boys (Figures 22 to 24).
- Between 2007-08 and 2009-10, the proportion of upper secondary school teachers meeting national standards increased 95 to 99 per cent, while the pupil-to-teacher ratio remained relatively constant at about 46 (Annex 1.32).

Figure 22. Proportion of girls and boys at different school levels for all ethnic groups, in percentage, 2009-2010

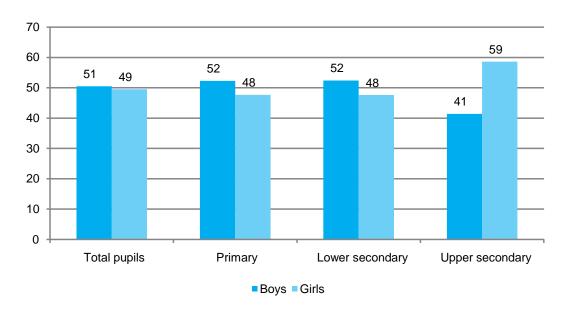
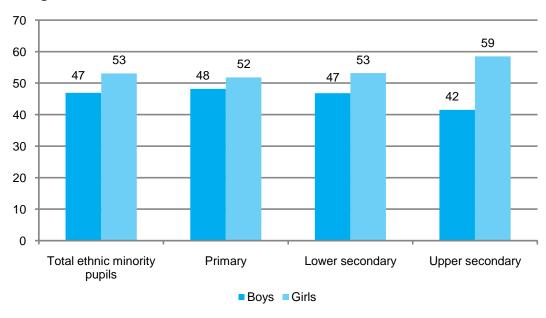


Figure 23. Proportion of ethnic minority girls and boys at different school levels, in percentage, 2009-2010



25 25 20 15 113 10 5

Lower secondary

Upper secondary

Figure 24. Proportion of ethnic minority pupils and girls at different school levels, in percentage, 2009-2010

■ Ethnic minority pupils ■ Ethnic minority airls

Source: DOET (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

Primary

The statistics presented above are indicative of overall improvements in pre-school, primary and secondary education in Ninh Thuan over the last few years for both girls and boys. They suggest that efforts to encourage children to maintain schooling have yielded positive results.

Gender balance. There is generally a good gender balance in attendance rates at primary and lower secondary level, both amongst the general population and ethnic minorities (Figures 22 and 23). At upper secondary level, the proportion of girls increases substantially (to over 58 per cent in 2009-10) amongst the general population and ethnic minorities; this may reflect a higher rate of discontinued schooling amongst boys, which is a cause for some concern.

Ethnic minority schooling. The proportion of ethnic minority pupils declines from 28.4 per cent at primary level, to 23.8 per cent at lower secondary and 18.4 per cent at upper secondary levels (Figure 24). This is a common pattern found in other provinces with a large ethnic minority population. As compared to some other provinces, difficulties in the transition of ethnic minority girls to secondary level are not as pronounced in Ninh Thuan; rather, the evidence suggests that it is the high rate of discontinued schooling amongst ethnic minority boys that is the greater problem. The overall number of ethnic minority pupils attending upper secondary school has, however, increased from about 2,300 in 2006-07 to 3,600 in 2010-11 (Annex 1.31).

Drop-out rates. There has been a steady decline in drop-out rates at all levels of schooling in recent years; although, as shown in Table 15, different figures are given for this from different sources. Some of this difference may be due to reporting according to the school year or calendar year; nonetheless, the margin of difference between these figures is quite large. According to DOET, for the school year 2009-10 the primary drop-out rate was 0.6 per cent, while the lower and upper secondary rates were 2.3 and 3.5 per cent respectively⁸⁰.

0

Total pupils

Table 15. Primary and secondary school drop-out rates, in percentage, 2007-2009

Poperting course					Level				
Reporting source		Primary		Low	er secon	dary	Upp	er second	dary
Socio- economic	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
statistics compiled by DPI	3.4	3.2	3.0	10.8	9.0	7.5	9.11	8.0	6.5
Provincial Statistical	2006-7	2007-8	2008-9	2006-7	2007-8	2008-9	2006-7	2007-8	2008-9
Office	4.69	2.92	0.56	15.69	8.46	3.51	11.1	9.73	1.16

Source: (i) DPI (2010) Compiled province socio-economic indicators (2006-2010); (ii) Provincial Statistics Office (2010) Province Statistical Yearbook 2009.

It is recommended that further work should be undertaken to clarify these figures, which should be disaggregated by location, ethnicity and sex. This would enable fuller understanding of the patterns of discontinued schooling that have been indicated above. It is likely that drop-out rates are substantially higher in rural than urban areas and amongst the Raglay as compared to other major ethnic groups in the province. Evidence for the higher drop-out rate in rural areas is provided by the 2009 Census, which suggests that the overall drop-out rate of persons aged five to 18 years old in Ninh Thuan is 10.3 per cent in urban areas and 20.1 per cent in rural areas⁸¹.

5.3 Quality of education and learning

Quality and equity in education and training. The major policy issues facing the education and training sector in Ninh Thuan relate to how to improve access to education for all pupils at all levels of education following the social equity principle, while at the same time enhancing the quality of education and training. These issues include:

- How to provide universal general education for pupils from all ethnic groups in mixed ethnic communities, while at the same time responding to the particular learning needs and priorities of children from different backgrounds;
- How to provide targeted (financial) assistance to pupils from poor households and ethnic minority households to facilitate their school attendance, without creating a negative impact on community cohesion or creating a sense of dependency;
- How to provide equal access to vocational skills training for teenagers and young
 adults from all population groups (ethnic groups and poor and non-poor households) in
 a way that is appropriate to their particular needs, interests and livelihood opportunities
 (see further analysis in Chapter 7.5);
- The arrangement of educational facilities in the province needs to provide maximum
 access for children of all ages and in all localities, while at the same time responding to
 the demands of generating a well-trained labour force for the development of services,
 industries, tourism and commerce.

Given a situation of limited budgetary resources, these are the major underlying issues that need to be considered in the medium-term strategy and financing for the education and training sector. It is noted by DOET that although 20 per cent of the provincial budget goes to education and training (Section 3.1), about 90 per cent of budgetary resources are used for recurrent expenditures, leaving a modest amount for discretionary expenditures aimed at improving the quality of education and training.

⁸¹ General Statistics Office (2011) Education in Viet Nam: An Analysis of Key Indicators (Viet Nam Population and Housing Census 2009).

Staffing capacity. There is a higher number of female than male teachers and education managers at all levels. Nearly 100 per cent of pre-school teachers and care givers are female, while the proportion of female teachers at primary and lower and upper secondary level is 85.5, 63.7 and 52.3 per cent respectively⁸². In a recent survey of teachers' capacity in a selection of communes in three districts, it was found that 20 per cent of teachers and education managers are ethnic minorities (with the highest percentages at pre-school, primary and lower secondary school level)⁸³. Ethnic minority teachers have advantages in spanning language barriers between teachers and pupils in the early grades. However, there are comparatively few ethnic minority teachers in secondary schools who can act as mentors for ethnic minority pupils.

DOET has arranged many in-service training courses to standardise and upgrade the qualifications of teachers and education managers at the provincial Teacher Training College and in collaboration with other education institutes such as the Distance Training Centre of Hue University, the Ho Chi Minh Pedagogic University, and Da Lat University. Particular attention has been given in recent years to increasing the capacity of lower secondary teachers, the proportion of which reaching national standards has increased from 60 per cent in 2007-08 to 89 per cent in 2009-10. In the survey mentioned above, teachers and education managers with bachelor degrees account for 43.9 per cent, college diplomas 36.9 per cent and pedagogic secondary school certificates 18.2 per cent, while only 0.94 per cent are lower than pedagogic secondary qualification⁸⁴. There has also been a steady improvement in teaching facilities. For example, in cooperation with Viettel's Ninh Thuan branch, all primary and secondary schools in the province now have access to the Internet at management, teaching and student levels, which has the potential to contribute to an improvement in the quality of education.

Universalisation and socialisation of pre-school education. Cong Hai commune in Thuan Bac District has two pre-schools that illustrate some of the issues in achieving universalisation of pre-school education and some of the comparative strengths and weaknesses of public and non-public pre-school facilities. These examples also illustrate some of the difficulties in achieving equity in the universalisation of pre-school education – between richer and poorer households and between ethnic minority and non-ethnic minority children.

One school (Hoa Mai) is a fee-paying kindergarten that has been operating for three years with acknowledged advantages in safety, nutrition and opportunities for cognitive development as children are cared for all day by professional teachers. As a fee-paying school however, it may harbour a risk of widened inequality in education in the community as only better-off households may be able to afford enrolling their children. Notably, the number of ethnic minority children in the school has reduced by 60 per cent (from 50 in 2008 to 20 in 2010) due to a number of ethnic minority houses being removed from the poverty list and thus no longer eligible for subsidised fees under Decision No.112. As a result, the school now has 22 vacancies and has to recruit children from other communes. Concurrently, there is a reported lack of places for kindergarten-aged children in the public kindergarten school in Cong Hai⁸⁵.

Another kindergarten (Hiep Khiet), which began operations in August 2010, aims to achieve the target of universalisation of pre-school education and construction of a national-standard school (including two-session classes and the monthly weighing and

⁸² Provincial Statistics Office (2010) ibid.

⁸³ PPC Ninh Thuan/UNICEF (2010) ibid.

⁸⁴ PPC Ninh Thuan/UNICEF (2010) ibid.

⁸⁵ An official from the Commune People's Committee explained that the commune still lacks kindergarten seats, hence only 200 children have been mobilised to kindergartens so far.

measurement of children). This school was built with financial support from UNICEF and funds raised by the local authorities from local businesses. Local residents donated land or accepted low compensation for acquisition of land for the school. Some donated trees to grow in the school yard. All children at the school are Kinh children. Most classes have two teachers, one looking after pupils and the other collecting children from homes. While parental contributions for pre-school operations are not mandatory under MOET regulations, parents are willing to make such contributions for food, water and incentives for teachers. Parents and the local learning encouragement society also contribute cash to buy kitchenware and mattresses for children's siesta, and so on. School staff have to carry buckets of water for the children to use as there is no water supply. Furthermore, as there is no kitchen yet, people who live nearby cook and bring food for the children.

Concerns over education quality amongst parents and teachers. During this research a number of concerns were raised about the quality of education. For example, in My Hai Ward (Phan Rang-Thap Cham City) it was noted that most children in the local school are from less well-off households in the ward. Many better-off households, including local officials, send their children to other schools with better conditions and are able to pay the extra costs for this. And as noted by one primary school teacher in My Hai Ward: "Encouraging children to go to school is good but it is also important to ensure the quality of schooling." Similarly, in Cong Hai Commune, it was noted that some children of teachers who live and work in the commune and come from better-off households are sent to secondary school in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City, or to the nearby town of Cam Ranh. Two reasons were given for this: firstly, the poor facilities in the commune schools. And secondly, pupils in the commune schools are of mixed ethnicity and may face a number of learning challenges. As such, teachers have to spend more time with children who require more assistance, and they do not devote enough time and attention to other pupils who may progress at a faster rate.

This type of situation presents a dilemma for education managers in Ninh Thuan, with respect to both the quality and equity of education. On the one hand, parental decisions are obviously guided by the concern to ensure the best possible education for their children. This means they may choose to send their children to non-mixed schools. On the other hand, in mixed schools, ethnic minority pupils can learn useful skills from their Kinh peers and vice versa, such as expressing opinions in class. They also have more opportunities to improve their Vietnamese language skills, thus avoiding problems of language barriers in future life. Teachers also report that the Child Friendly School Approach enhances the level of communication and understanding between children from different ethnic backgrounds.

Excessively heavy study workload. There is an increasing number of urban children suffering from an excessively heavy study work load caused by parental pressure to take extra lessons during the school year and summer vacation to have a chance to enrol in better schools. Some Cham children are also subject to study pressure from parents. Meanwhile, in many rural areas, parents generally do not give so much attention to selecting schools for their children; because of this, there is no sense of competition and children usually have to learn on their own, without parental support.

Learning outcomes in mathematics and Vietnamese language. One recent study found that the quality of teaching in mathematics and Vietnamese language has improved in Ninh Thuan, as the number of children who were ranked with 'distinction' and 'high distinction' increased by 13-14 per cent in 2009-10 compared to the previous school year⁸⁶. Measurements of education quality based on aptitude tests and learning outcomes

⁸⁶ PPC Ninh Thuan/UNICEF (2010) ibid.

have been made in a number of recent nationwide surveys by MOET. One survey assessed Grade 5 student achievement in mathematics and Vietnamese language in the 2006-07 school year; student achievements were classified into three categories: 'pre-functional,' 'functional' and 'independent' (Table 16). The results of this survey show large disparities in learning outcomes between Kinh and non-Kinh children in Ninh Thuan: out of 64 provinces and cities, Ninh Thuan had the ninth lowest rate of non-Kinh students with independent Vietnamese language ability and the 10th lowest rate of non-Kinh students with independent mathematics ability.

Table 16. Grade 5 student aptitudes in mathematics and Vietnamese language by ethnicity: in percentage, 2006-07

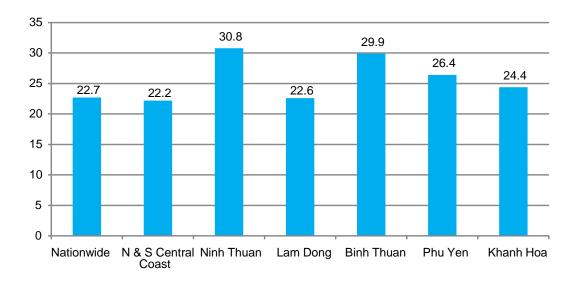
Decien/province	Pre-fur	Pre-functional		Functional		endent
Region/province	Kinh	Non-Kinh	Kinh	Non-Kinh	Kinh	Non-Kinh
Mathematics						
Nationwide	8.98	29.21	11.57	20.01	79.12	50.31
Southeast Region	6.57	16.65	10.38	16.87	82.66	65.65
Ninh Thuan Province	11.67	39.24	18.46	23.70	69.69	34.45
Vietnamese language						
Nationwide	13.95	36.52	10.17	14.84	75.60	48.42
Southeast Region	11.25	25.54	10.19	14.20	78.37	60.08
Ninh Thuan Province	19.76	51.47	12.79	14.32	67.27	33.60

Source: Ministry of Education and Training/Primary Education for Disadvantaged Children Project (2008) Report on study in Grade 5 student achievement in mathematics and Vietnamese language in the 2006-2007 school year.

5.4 Factors influencing educational attainment and completion

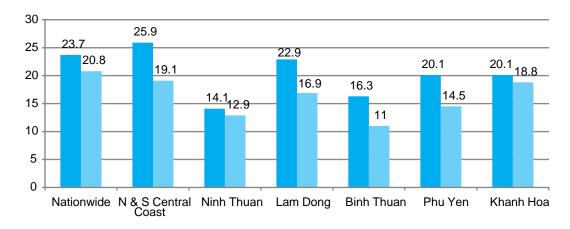
The 2009 Census provides interesting insights into the issues facing the education and training sector and people's education in different provinces (Annex 1.34). With respect to the highest educational attainment of persons over five years of age, Ninh Thuan has a comparatively high proportion of people who have not completed primary school (30.8 per cent) compared to the national average (22.7 per cent) and the regional average (22.2 per cent) (Figure 25). A comparatively low proportion of persons over five years of age have completed lower secondary school in Ninh Thuan as their highest educational attainment (14.1 per cent) compared to the national and regional averages (Figure 26). Similarly, a comparatively low percentage has completed upper secondary school as their highest educational attainment (12.9 per cent).

Figure 25. Persons over five years old with incomplete primary education, in percentage, 2009



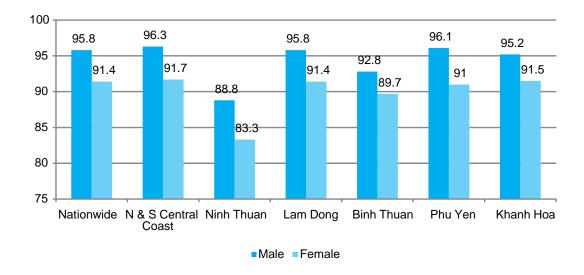
Source: General Statistics Office (2011) Education in Viet Nam: An Analysis of Key Indicators (Viet Nam Population and Housing Census 2009).

Figure 26. Persons over five years of age with complete lower and upper secondary education as the highest educational attainment, in percentage, 2009



Source: General Statistics Office (2011) Education in Viet Nam: An Analysis of Key of Lower secondary and Upper secondary (Viet Nam Population and Housing Census 2009).

Figure 27. Literacy rate of persons over 15 years of age by sex, in percentage, 2009



Source: Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010) The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Major Findings.

Notably, the 2009 Census indicates that there are much lower literacy levels in Ninh Thuan as compared to national and regional rates (Figure 27). The literacy rate amongst females over 15 years old in Ninh Thuan is recorded at 83.3 per cent, which is amongst the lowest in the country. Functional literacy and numeric skills continue to be weak amongst many Raglay households, especially amongst adult women. These statistics are confirmed by the findings of the participatory monitoring study in two communes in Bac Ai, which found that the rate of reading and writing skills amongst poor and medium category Raglay households is generally between 30 to 50 per cent (Table 17). All these figures are indicative of the unique situation in Ninh Thuan, particularly with respect to education amongst the Raglay.

Table 17. Vietnamese language capacity amongst poor and non-poor respondents in two communes in Bac Ai District, in percentage, 2007-2009

		Phuoc Dai			Phuoc Thanh	
Aspect of literacy	Non-poor households	Poor households	Medium households	Non-poor households	Poor households	Medium households
Listening and speaking	100	97.1	98.3	91.3	94.6	93.3
Reading	56.0	48.6	51.7	56.5	32.4	41.7
Writing	56.0	54.3	55.0	56.5	32.4	41.7

Source: Oxfam GB (2009) Summary Report on Participatory Poverty Monitoring in Two Communes in Bac Ai District, Ninh Thuan. Survey of 120 households in 4 villages (Ta Lu 1, Ma Hoa, Ma Du and Da Ba Cai) 2007-2009.

Reasons for discontinued schooling. According to discussions with local officials, the highest rates of discontinued schooling are found in several population groups:

Amongst the Raglay ethnic minority. The high drop-out rate and low levels of
educational attainment amongst the Raglay is considered to be one of the major
socio-economic issues in the province. Many Raglay children still leave school at the
end of Grade 5 or before they reach Grade 9 and do not complete secondary school. It
is significant that more Raglay boys than girls drop out of school early.

Amongst poor households in urban/peri-urban areas and mobile fishing communities.
 As noted in Section 2.5 above, some former farming families have lost agricultural land as a consequence of land acquisition for public utilities and are in a constrained economic situation, which makes it difficult for them to maintain their children in school. Primary and secondary school attendance and drop-out is also a particular problem amongst the coastal fishing communities due to their mobile lifestyles.

It is notable that many children are themselves aware of this situation: this was one of the main concerns about education raised by children's discussion groups during this research (Box 3). Provincial and district officials, teachers and parents, identified a wide range of causative factors for the high drop-out rates and discontinued schooling amongst some population groups. To assist our analysis, these can be divided into (i) immediate causes, (ii) contributory causes and capacity gaps, and (iii) underlying structural and behavioural causes. These are summarised in Table 18, while the following sections analyse some of these factors in greater depth, both generally and in relation to different ethnic minority groups.

Household poverty situations. Poverty is frequently put forward as one of the major reasons for either temporary or permanent withdrawal of children from school. Parents are busy with daily livelihoods, so they may have limited time to attend to their children's education. They may need their children to assist with domestic or agricultural work, or to obtain paid employment. Alternatively, they may be unable to cover the costs of schooling. As noted by one education official in My Hai Ward: "They quit school whenever we mention money issues. We need to take care of their welfare if we want them to enrol. But there are few businesses in the local area for raising funds." Elsewhere, district officials in Bac Ai noted that while many Raglay parents now give more attention to their children's education, many cannot make the long-term investment in education because of economic hardships.

Box 3. Concerns of children over school attendance and drop-out

"Some students in my class have to drop out from school due to family circumstances though their study performance is not bad." (Lower secondary school pupil, Thuan Bac)

"In some cases of family conflicts, they [parents] said 'Quit school from tomorrow, study is good for nothing.' Such words discourage me from studying." (Lower secondary school pupil, Thuan Bac)

"Some children in my school are disadvantaged in a sense that their parents do not allow them to access leisure activities." (Lower secondary school pupil, Thuan Bac)

"Some children from difficult families have to make lots of efforts to study. Apart from studying, they have to support their families so they do not have time for studying." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

"For some families in difficult circumstances, when facing the choice between work and study, parents advise or force their children to work." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

"Many ethnic minority children, such as those living in mountainous areas, have to drop out from school to support their families. In mountainous areas, there is a lack of playgrounds and venues for cultural activities for children's physical and mental development." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

"Some children who are very studious are not allowed by parents to go to school or to have access to courses in [educational] centres." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

Lack of parental awareness and education values. Many local officials and teachers cited the lack of parental awareness as another major reason for drop-outs. As one

primary teacher in My Hai Ward explained: "Under my table there always lies a pile of notebooks. Whenever any student says they don't have a notebook, I can hand it out immediately. Otherwise, they will quit. Parents can let children quit school easily whenever they lack something. In some cases, it is not because they do not have cash but because they are unwilling to pay because they expect hand-outs. The point is household awareness." A teacher in Cong Hai Commune also stated that: "Parental awareness is poor. They still consider education a responsibility of the school, not of the family. So teachers still have to come to their houses to persuade them to attend, or even physically bring them back to school."

Some teachers say that parents do not intervene strongly if children drop out from school. As described by an official from Thuan Bac District: "Ethnic minority children have no choice in their education. If parents shout at the children, they may leave home. Also, many parents are illiterate so they do not value the significance of education. For them, basic literacy is good enough." A similar viewpoint was put forward by one parent in My Hai Ward: "If too much pressure is placed on children, they will leave home or pretend to go to school but actually hang around somewhere and return home after school. Parents cannot check up on them."

Language barriers and weak academic performance. Language barriers are a constraint for many ethnic minority children when they enter school, as they may fail to understand teacher's instructions. For instance, most Raglay children only start learning Vietnamese when they go to school at age five or six. As one secondary school teacher in Cong Hai Commune noted: "Ethnic minority children often fail to express what they want to say in essays. They use Vietnamese in school but their ethnic language at home." Some are shy because they look older than their classmates if they attend school at a later age or if they have to repeat a class. Some fail to absorb knowledge, thus losing motivation. As noted above, having ethnic minority teachers at pre-school and primary level and introducing mother-tongue based bilingual education can help to bridge these language gaps and early learning difficulties. Although the time needed for mother-tongue instruction to show benefits in second language learning may seem long, there are immediate benefits to learning the mother tongue: for instance, as students understand the content of the teaching-learning interaction and learning materials, they are usually more active in their learning tasks, thus reinforcing learning itself as well as improving learning achievements. Positive learning experiences usually increase the motivation of students and promote an improved sense of identity and self-confidence, as well as decreasing drop-out, failure and repetition rates.

Table 18. Causative factors of drop-out and discontinued schooling

Immediate causes	Contributory causes and capacity gaps	Underlying structural and behavioural causes
Household poverty situations;	Vietnamese language constraints and	 Lack of parental awareness and education values;
 Inability to cover the costs of schooling (for example uniforms, books, supplementary school fees); 	communication barriers for ethnic minority children; lack of bilingual teaching capacity;	Lack of interest in formal education amongst children;
Demand for household labour, for domestic or agricultural work, to look after siblings,	 Negative peer pressures and impacts of modern lifestyles; Lack of positive role models, 	 Influence of traditional kinship systems and related social and economic demands on teenagers;
or to supplement household income;	especially for ethnic minority children;	Lack of education system that builds upon and fosters
 Weak academic performance and motivation; 	• Early marriage; consequences of not having birth registration;	knowledge and abilities that children bring to school;
 Mobile lifestyles (such as amongst coastal fishing communities). 	 Few ethnic minority teachers, especially at secondary level; Unintended equity impacts of state subside schemes; 	 Lack of relevant and quality learning opportunities that motivate children to learn and stay in school.
	state subsidy schemes;Lack of a stimulating learning environment.	

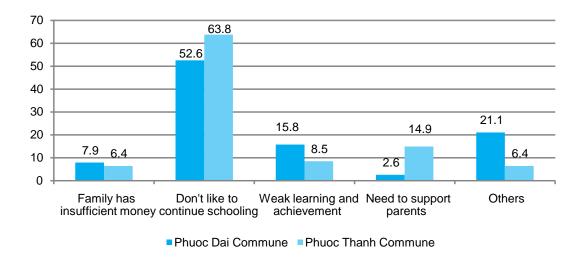
Negative peer pressures and impacts of modern lifestyles. Some poor households state that they cannot afford to buy smart uniforms or provide breakfast allowances for their children, and as such, they feel ashamed and choose to stay away from school. Parents and teachers in urban areas say that some urban children drop out as a consequence of their addiction to Internet games. DOLISA officials say that the main problem these children face is that they cannot keep up with school work, while the incidence of antisocial behaviour related to Internet use is limited.

5.5 Education amongst Raglay ethnic minority children

Amongst the Raglay, some children do not continue school because they appear to have limited motivation to obtain a 'formal' education. As one primary school teacher in Cong Hai Commune noted: "Teachers come to their households to persuade them but parents say they don't care. If their children do not like going to school they give up." These observations appear to be supported by the participatory monitoring study in Bac Ai, which found that a 'lack of interest' is the major reason given for not continuing school (Figure 28). This is given as a more important factor than either a lack of funds or the need for children to support parents.

It is, however, necessary to interpret such findings very carefully. As indicated above, there may be many subtle causes for an expressed disliking to continue school, including language barriers, weak academic performance, or a lack of positive role models. These factors, in turn, may be indicative of weaknesses in the quality of education, the lack of a stimulating learning environment, teachers not being fair, or ethnic minority students being looked down upon. Some or a combination of all these factors may lead to low performance and a lack of motivation, which in the end lead to their dropping out.

Figure 28. Reasons given for discontinued schooling amongst the six to 20 age group in two communes in Bac Ai District, in percentage, 2009



Source: Oxfam GB (2009) Summary Report on Participatory Poverty Monitoring in Two Communes in Bac Ai District, Ninh Thuan.

At the same time, it may be that some Raglay teenagers perceive that they have more important things to do. The influence of the traditional kinship system and related social and economic demands on teenagers emerges as both an 'immediate' cause and an 'underlying' cause for discontinued schooling amongst Raglay teenagers, including boys and girls.

For girls, there may be pressure to marry at an early age, because upon marriage boys come to live with the bride's family, thus supplementing labour resources and production capacity in the bride's family. Raglay boys are commonly assigned to look after the family's cattle, which is a major contributing factor to the high rate of withdrawal from school amongst Raglay boys⁸⁷. At the same time, this has deeper associations with the social and economic value attached to cattle in Raglay society. The involvement of Raglay boys in caring for their family's cattle herd is bound up with their own future livelihood prospects. School attendance – the demand for household labour – the values attached to cattle in Raglay society – the perceptions of Raglay teenagers about the value of education and their own future prospects – and broader maintenance of Raglay kinship relations are, therefore, all deeply interwoven.

This presents a dilemma for education and training. On the one hand, it can be said that for a disadvantaged ethnic minority group such as the Raglay, maintenance of the social structure will be essential to enable Raglay children to adapt to the modern-day economy and wider changes taking place in Vietnamese society. On the other hand, certain aspects of Raglay kinship relations are prohibiting some Raglay children, teenagers and young adults from obtaining the formal education and life-skills that are also necessary for this adjustment.

⁸⁷ Livestock extension programmes in Ninh Thuan stipulate that credit and material support provided to households is conditional on not withdrawing children from school; however, this may be problematic if alternative labour is not available or if labour-saving techniques are not simultaneously introduced into livestock production systems (for example through stall feeding and establishing irrigated fodder banks).

5.6 Education amongst Cham ethnic minority children

School enrolment and school performance are recognised to be better amongst the Cham than other ethnic minorities in the province. Many of the Cham live in lowland areas with better economic opportunities. Some are involved in wet rice cultivation and livestock production, but many are engaged in non-agricultural work, especially services and trading. As such, they usually enjoy better economic conditions than other ethnic minorities. The Cham usually prefer non-agricultural employment, and formal education is essential to achieve such career preference. Another aspect in which education amongst the Cham has an advantage is in the Cham language script, which is widely understood. In the school year 2011-2012, DOET will also introduce Cham language classes in 24 primary schools in the province.

The Cham have a traditional respect for the value of education. This is reflected in a sense of competition amongst family clans in providing good education for their children. Clan based contributions are made to funds for 'learning and encouragement' for children. The head of the clan may hold these funds, with agreed regulations on use of the funds (for example to support poor households to send children to school, or to provide travel support for children going to Ho Chi Minh City for education). The funds are held in trust for children of the clan but may be used for business to increase the value of the fund.

Kinship relations also influence the education of Cham children. The family of a prospective bride may contribute to the learning and encouragement fund of a prospective husband from another family. In some families, there is a tendency to favour higher professional or technical education for boys, while girls are expected to obtain a good education to improve their behaviour and know how to manage the household economy and possessions. One potentially detrimental aspect of Cham tradition is the large offerings made for weddings and funerals, and associated mutual obligations in the form of both cash and assets. This can put some households into a situation of heavy debt, which can have a negative impact on child welfare and education.

5.7 Learning encouragement and financial support for poor pupils

Learning encouragement. The local government authorities, schools, mass organisations and learning encouragement associations are all active in helping to motivate children and encourage them to attend school. Mobilising social contributions is also seen to be one of the most important ways of providing short-term assistance for those children in difficult situations. The Youth Union is involved in these activities⁸⁸. Examples in Ninh Thuan include competitions and mutual support activities for better learning at primary and lower secondary school level, such as 'good learning sessions' (Tiết học tốt), 'good learning week' (Tuần học tốt), 'flowers for achieving 10 marks' (Bông hoa điểm mười), 'mutual progress friends' (Đôi bạn cùng tiến), 'overcome difficulties for excellent learning' (Vuot khop hoc gioi), 'true learning-serious exams' (Học thực chất-Thi nghiêm túc) and 'learning by doing' (Hịc đi đôi với hành). Support for pupils facing difficulties is also mobilised through activities such as 'friendly embrace' (Vong tay be ban), 'helping friends to go to school' (Giúp bạn đến trường) and 'shirts for friends' (Tấm áo tặng bạn) amongst others.

In addition, in some localities, schemes have been established to support the universalisation of primary schooling with support and contributions from local religious organisations and businesses. One such example is in Cong Hai Commune, which

⁸⁸ Youth Union (2010) Report on some activities related to the implementation of children's rights by the Ho Chi Minh Youth Union in Ninh Thuan Province.

supports evening classes for pupils who to have to work during the day but wish to continue with primary schooling (Box 4).

Financial support for poor pupils. In communes and villages under Programme 135 Phase II, support is provided to pupils from poor families to attend kindergarten and primary school following Decision No.112/2007/QD-TTg⁸⁹. According to provincial officials, this policy has created good conditions for increased school attendance. However, a number of issues and difficulties have arisen during implementation of this policy that relate to equity in the targeting mechanism and the potential for creating a sense of dependency amongst the beneficiaries.

Equity considerations and community cohesion. It is frequently mentioned that difficulties have been encountered in the selection of eligible households because the distinction between 'poor' and 'near-poor' households is very narrow. This can have several consequences. Firstly, a sense of injustice can arise in the distribution of these payments, which can cause tensions within the community. Sometimes it is misunderstood as a general incentive for school attendance, rather than temporary targeted support for poor households. As one parent from Phuoc Dai Commune said: "My children also go to school, why aren't they given aid?" And as an official from Thuan Bac District commented: "Some parents tend to rely on aid, so are demanding. Local cadres come to the fields to persuade them but they do not let their children go back to school. They are envious because they believe some students are provided with bikes to go to school in other areas in the district when they are not."

Box 4. Partnership between the local authorities, a religious organisation and local businesses in learning encouragement

In Cong Hai Commune, Thuan Bac District, Long Cat Pagoda runs evening classes for 160 students who have to work during the day to support their families. The children range from Grade 1 to Grade 5. The local authorities requested that the pagoda must ensure sufficient facilities and qualified teachers from state schools and organise exams for students at the end of primary school level according to MOET regulations. Successful students are awarded with nationally recognised certificates. The pagoda mobilised financial resources for school construction from their own network, many of whom are business owners outside Ninh Thuan. After work, the students can have a free dinner at the pagoda before classes begin. The students travel home at night to three remote villages. The pagoda has also raised funds to buy bicycles for the students (one bike per two students). The family signs an agreement to borrow the bikes under supervision of the local authorities.

Source: Cong Hai Commune People's Committee representative.

Unintended consequences. It has been further reported that in some cases children have been withdrawn from school because they have not received the necessary support to stay in school. Moreover, it is becoming harder to mobilise children from other villages to attend school. For instance, Cong Hai Commune has four ethnic minority villages, only three of which are included in Programme 135 and therefore eligible for support. As noted by one elder from Cong Hai Commune: "Teachers dared not hand out cash in classrooms for fear that non-benefiting children become envious and may drop out. Also, their parents do not care about the distinction between poor and non-poor, they just know that their children cannot receive cash and hand-outs and hence let them quit school." And as one commune official commented: "Pupils not receiving support may quit school,

⁸⁹ According to DOET, only four primary schools in Ninh Thuan have organised semi-boarding facilities, for about 630 children; this is because physical access to schools is generally good in most parts of the province so semi-boarding facilities are not widely needed. A majority of the financial support under Decision No.112 has therefore been used to provide meals for poor children attending school.

when teachers come to insist that they return to school, they ask 'why is the support not fair, some people have it and some don't.' As a result, it is very difficult to maintain the attendance level. This year the school had 14 pupils who dropped out."

In practice, local authorities and schools in Ninh Thuan have opted to equalise support for all pupils and to arrange for school-meals rather than making cash payments directly to households. In this case, schools and parents meet to agree on how the financial support should be used. For example, in Cong Hai Commune, the provision of school lunches (for first or second year pupils) has been linked to the introduction of full-day schooling in two primary schools, as well as for pre-school pupils aimed at universalising pre-school education. The acknowledged benefits include raising children's interest in school and providing sufficient food and care for children. Drawbacks include the greater workload for teachers, low quality of the meals due to limited funds, and a lack of space for children to rest after lunch. Concerns are also raised about the sustainability of this arrangement if funds are no longer available in the future.

Policy implications. This issue raises a fundamental question about the appropriateness of different forms of targeted financial assistance to support children's education amongst poor families. In some parts of the world, the provision of cash transfers to poor households – made on the condition that they maintain their children in school – has been found to be an effective mechanism. However, in close-knit rural communities such as in Ninh Thuan, it has been found that this can have unintended impacts on community cohesion and on school attendance. Moreover, there is concern that individual household payments can create a sense of dependency amongst these beneficiary households. For this reason, provincial and district officials in Ninh Thuan generally favour the approach of providing support to poor areas and communities, rather than to individual poor households. Increasing the provision of full-day schooling at pre-school and primary level may be more effective for example; however, for wider application, this would necessitate an increase in education sector budgets.



6. Child Protection

6.1 Data and information on child protection

Following the cessation of the Committee for Population, Family and Children (CPFC) in 2008, the institutional responsibilities for child care and protection were reassigned. These institutional arrangements and the responsibilities for cross-cutting child care and protection issues are described in Section 3.5 above. The Child Protection Section was created in 2008 under DOLISA, after which this section has been establishing its role as the main agency responsible for the state management and coordination of child protection activities. The Child Protection Section is responsible for the compilation of statistics on child protection, according to 10 groups of children in special circumstances as defined by the Law on Protection, Care and Education of Children and other groups of vulnerable children. Summary data on the child protection situation are given in Table 19.

Table 19. Number of children in need of special protection, 2008-2010

		Total children	
Indicators	2008	2009	2010 (preliminary)
Total number children under 16 years of age	191,546	188,400	185,200
Total children in need of special protection	8,027	9,457	10,107
1. Orphans and abandoned children (two groups)	2,456	2,873	2,900
2. Children with disabilities	2,229	2,017	1,976
3. Children affected by chemical agents	998	885	804
4. Children living with HIV/AIDS	2	4	4
5. Number of working children	280	259	260
6. Street children	200	180	200
7. Sexually abused children	2	4	3
8. Children using drugs	-	-	-
9. Children in conflict with the law	22	24	4
10. Children working far from families	-	-	-
Other groups of vulnerable children:			
Trafficked and kidnapped children	-	-	-
Children with injuries	1,838	3,211	1,956
Number of children in poor households	21,780	21,780	-

Source: DOLISA (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

Data gaps and inconsistencies. During this research it was found that the available statistics on some child protection indicators in Ninh Thuan are fragmented and do not give a full picture of the current situation. There is also a lack of in-depth qualitative information and understanding about some critical child protection issues. These data gaps and inconsistencies relate to both; (i) baseline monitoring of the child protection situation in the general population, particularly with respect to children with disabilities and working children; and (ii) regular administrative data collection and reporting on children under care and protection (for example under Decree No.67 and Decree No.13) and reporting on child injuries (Section 4.6 above). This makes it difficult to make a full assessment of the proportion of the total number of children in need of special protection that are actually receiving adequate care and protection.

There appear to be several reasons for these data and information gaps:

- Firstly, the transfer of responsibilities from the CPFC to other agencies may have
 resulted in a disruption to the systems of data collection and compilation. The
 compilation of statistics from various sector departments requires strong coordination;
 for example, between the Department of Health for child injury statistics; the
 Department of Public Security and the Department of Justice for statistics on children
 in conflict with the law and child abuse. Compilation and analysis of these statistics
 is time consuming, and the Child Protection Section under DOLISA, in particular at
 commune level, has many other competing areas of responsibility;
- Secondly, there are difficulties in applying the criteria for the identification of some categories of children in need of special protection (including working children and children with disabilities); and there are differences in the definition of some indicators between sectors (such as in the definition of children under 15 or 16 years old in child injury statistics);
- Thirdly, adequate surveys have not yet been carried out on some child protection issues. This is especially the case for child labour. Ninh Thuan is not alone in this respect, as the Situation Analysis studies carried out in Dien Bien and An Giang also found that there is a particular lack of quantitative information and qualitative understanding of the situation of working children;
- Fourthly, baseline data collection on the child protection situation at community level is problematic because of a lack of local collaborators in some localities, and the weak capacity of commune officials and village leaders to maintain full and up-to-date statistics;
- Lastly, with respect to reporting of social assistance under Decree No.67 and Decree No.13, there are inconsistencies in the figures reported from year to year and between district and provincial level. Provincial and district reports also tend to group beneficiaries of social assistance into broad categories (such as elderly people, people living with disabilities, and children in need of special protection), which makes it difficult to present a disaggregated picture of support provided to specific target groups within these broad categories.

It is recommended that high priority should be given to strengthening the system of regular data collection on the child protection situation at community level, the compilation of statistics at district and provincial level, and the analysis of and reporting on these statistics. This should be combined with in-depth surveys on those aspects of child protection for which there is insufficient qualitative understanding. At the same time, there is a need for more consistent and regular reporting on the support provided to children in need of special protection, as well as a set of approved national child protection indicators.

6.2 Children in need of special protection

Orphaned children and children without stable family conditions. According to DOLISA, in 2009 there were 2,900 orphaned children and children without stable family conditions in the province, of which 1,924 children (66.3 per cent) were receiving support (Table 19 and Annex 1.41)⁹⁰. Of these, 1,758 (91 per cent) were receiving support for care in the community by relatives or guardians; 40 were in the Provincial Social Protection

⁹⁰ DOLISA (2009) Report on implementation of mandates in 2009 and orientation, mandates and solutions in 2010.

Centre and 81 in non-public social protection centres; and 45 infants under 18 months old were living with foster families according to Decision No.65/2005/QD-TTg⁹¹. Under Decree No.13 (2010), the target groups for social assistance have been expanded to include poor single parent families. Even so, these figures suggest that up to 30 per cent of children without stable home conditions are not receiving social assistance, and the situation of these children is uncertain.

Orphans and children with single parents in the Raglay community. In Thuan Bac and Bac Ai districts, some applications for social assistance are made for children whose mothers have died and who are being taken care of by relatives. According to Raglay customary law, fathers do not have the right to raise children if the mother dies and in this situation the father will often leave the family. As one provincial official described: "In mountain areas, if the mother dies it's almost as if both parents die according to the matrilineal society." These children live with maternal relatives (sisters or grandparents). In addition, debts incurred by Raglay families due to unpaid loans may be difficult to repay if the mother dies and the father leaves the family, which can be a heavy burden for relatives. This creates a special situation for the care and protection of orphaned children and children with a single parent amongst the Raglay.

In the guidelines under Decree No.67 and Decree No.13 it is not fully clear whether these children who are living with relatives – who themselves may have three or more children – are eligible for social assistance. This is subject to local interpretation of the guidelines. In some cases, applications have been submitted to the Commune People's Committee and the Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Section of the district, but cannot be processed because there are no written instructions on how to respond. It is suggested that there is a need to clarify the eligibility criteria under Decree No.13 as well as to investigate ways in which customary family law may be integrated with these national policies (see Section 7.5).

Children with disabilities. According to DOLISA, in 2009 there were just over 2,000 children with disabilities in the province, including 885 children affected by chemical agents (Table 19)⁹². Of the 2,017 children with disabilities in 2009 (not including those affected by chemical agents), 17 children (0.8 per cent) were placed in social protection centres, 92 per cent were under care in the community, while only 145 children (7.2 per cent) received support through Decree No.67 (Annex 1.41). In 2008, about 17.7 per cent of children with disabilities were attending school, increasing to 26.5 per cent in 2009.

As indicated above, data and information on the situation of children with disabilities in Ninh Thuan is fragmented. Comprehensive data are available on the number of children with severe disabilities that have received free operations and material support for care, rehabilitation and mobility through various programmes. On the other hand, disaggregated data on the number of children living with different types of disability and their distribution in the provincial population are not readily available. Moreover, limited qualitative information is available on the circumstances of children living with disabilities, on the adequacy of social assistance or on their education and development opportunities. Filling these gaps in information and understanding should be a high priority in the coming years.

⁹¹ Decision No.65/2005/QD-TTg (25/03/2005) approving the scheme on community based care of orphaned children without guardians, abandoned children, children with severe disabilities, children who are victims of chemical agents and children living with HIV/AIDS in the period 2005-2010.

⁹² DOLISA (2009) ibid.

Table 20. People receiving care in social protection centres, 2010

Social Protection	Centre	Total number of persons	Children	Elderly people	People with disabilities
Provincial Social Protection Centre	Public	87	46	15	26
Tran Chau (Ninh Son)	Non-public/ individual	74	23	43	8
Tu An (Ninh Hai)	Non-public/ pagoda	21	4	17	-
Thanh Truc	Non-public	20	20	-	-
Phuc Lac	Non-public	38	32	6	-
Total		240	125	91	34

Source: DOLISA (2010) Report on the situation of children in Ninh Thuan Province.

Social protection centres. Currently, the province has one public and four non-public social protection centres that provide shelter and care for children in need of special protection; people with severe disabilities, and for elderly people who are homeless or without relatives (Table 20). As of 2010, the public Provincial Social Protection Centre takes care of 46 children, including nine infants, with the rest being children of primary to secondary school age. As well as receiving regular support through Decree No.67 and No.13, the Social Protection Centre mobilises funds from businesses and other donors from both within and outside the province. The centre currently has three staff in charge of children. These staff are dedicated and experienced, but are not formally part of the government payroll because they do not have professional qualifications.

6.3 Implementation of social assistance policies

According to figures provided by DOLISA, between 2007 and 2010 about VND 68.6 billion has been disbursed under Decree No.67 and Decree No.13 (see Section 3.4 above and Annex 1.42). In 2008 and 2009, children in need of special protection comprised about 18 per cent of the total recipients (Table 21). On introduction of Decree No.13, with broader eligibility criteria, the number of recipients has increased from about 8,230 (in 2009) to over 10,000 in 2010.

Table 21. Recipients of social assistance under Decree No.67, 2008 and 2009

Decinion to warms	Ye	ar
Recipient groups	2008	2009
Recipients receiving care in the community	7,744	8,230
Elderly people	4,067	4,178
People with disabilities	1,916	2,122
Children in need of special protection	1,366	1,451
Other	395	479
Recipients in social protection centres (public and non-public)	260	240
Elderly people	80	80
People with disabilities	75	70
Children in need of special protection	105	70
Other	0	20

Source: DOLISA (2009) Report on implementation of mandates in 2009 and orientation, mandates and solutions in 2010.

Note: the category of people with disabilities includes children with disabilities.

Selection and screening process. The selection of individuals and households is made on a needs assessment basis. The village heads, local collaborators and mass organisations assist with identifying eligible households and drawing-up registration lists. These are first screened by a Commune Review Panel according to the eligibility criteria, and then passed on to the district Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Section for a second level of screening and approval. Provincial officials maintain that the provision of adequate training for local officials and collaborators, together with adequate public information and two levels of screening are essential to ensure transparency and accountability in the selection process

Difficulties in implementation. During this research, several inconsistencies in the targeting and eligibility criteria and difficulties in the selection and screening process were mentioned. Firstly, difficulties are encountered in the definition of people with disabilities. This is both at commune level in the initial selection and screening of applicants and at district level where certification by the district hospital is required, which can be difficult if expertise is not available for some types of disability (for example district health staff are generally not qualified to assess mental health difficulties). Generally, all poor households with family members with disabilities receive support, but there is a grey area of people living with disabilities who may not be covered by the social assistance. Secondly, as described above, in some cases it is difficult to respond to the situation of children with a single parent living with other relatives, or children without stable home conditions. Lastly, difficulties may arise in situations where the commune/ward authorities do not fully understand the criteria and procedures.

Monitoring and reporting. As coverage expands under Decree No.13, some local officials express concern about the lack of human resources to meet deadlines for investigative work, payment schedules, monitoring and reporting. As indicated above, there are some inconsistencies in the reporting on implementation of these policies, which may be due to the time pressures on district staff in particular. As noted by one commune leader: "With Decree No.13 the number of beneficiaries has increased from six to 25. Support is provided but there is no monitoring of the impacts and information for planning is not there." As well as improving regular reporting, in the near future it would also be beneficial to undertake a detailed survey to assess the effectiveness of the targeting mechanisms and public opinions on the process.

6.4 Birth registration and early marriage

Birth registration is essential to ensure many aspects of a child's future well-being and livelihood opportunities including education, healthcare and employment. Children's rights associated with birth registration are fully enshrined in Vietnamese law. The Law on Citizenship regulates basic rights of citizenship and registration (Articles 16-19). These rights are stated in the Civil Code and in the Law on Child Protection, Care and Education (Article 11). Over the last decade the government has given increased attention to improving the procedures for household registration and birth registration. The National Plan of Action for Children contains the objective of achieving 80 per cent birth registration for children under five by 2005 and 90 per cent by 2010.

Improvements in registration procedures and parental awareness. Birth registration has now become more of a routine for parents in Ninh Thuan. Improvements have been made to the procedures for household registration and birth registration following Decision No.3602/QD-UBND (17/06/2008) of the Provincial People's Committee approving the scheme on administrative reforms using the one-door approach and Decision No.134/QD-UBND (26/05/2008) providing free-of-charge birth registration. The local government authorities, mass organisations and commune/ward legal officers

have made a great effort in providing information and encouraging parents to obtain birth registration for their children. There is also increased awareness amongst parents themselves about the importance and benefits of birth registration.

Table 22. Birth registration in the period 2006-2009

Indicator	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total number of birth registration	25,247	16,299	9,409	15,319
Male	13,498	8,215	4,879	7,584
Female	11,759	8,014	4,530	7,735
Registered on time	10,047	6,489	4,863	7,190
Registered late	10,633	5,874	2,580	6,629
Re-registered	4,207	3,866	1,966	1,500
Registration with marriage certificate	22,527	14,550	6,679	13,916
Registration without marriage certificate	2,717	1,677	294	1,402
Abandoned children	3	2	9	1

Source: Department of Justice (2010) Report of birth registration of children.

Birth registration status. According to the report on the Provincial Plan of Action for Children, the proportion of children that have birth registration by age five has increased from 93 per cent in 2005 to 98 per cent in 2010⁹³. Figures provided by the Department of Justice show that the rate of children registered on time (within 60 days of birth) ranges from 48.6 per cent in 2006, to about 52 per cent in 2007 and 2009, and 65 per cent in 2008 (Table 22). In the case that children are born outside health facilities, a signed memorandum to certify the birth is sufficient to obtain birth registration; as noted in Section 4.3 above, the village midwives that have been recruited in a number of upland communes and villages are able to assist with such confirmation.

Despite these improvements, birth registration still faces some challenges. There are still a large number of delayed registrations, especially amongst coastal fishing households and ethnic minority households. A number of factors are associated with this in each population group.

Residency status of mobile fishing households. Amongst the mobile coastal fishing community, delayed birth registration is partly caused by the itinerant lifestyle of these households as they move between fishing grounds both within and outside the province. It is also associated with the uncertain residency status of some of these households. As noted by the Department of Justice, concerted cross-sector coordination is required between administrative areas to solve the residency issues amongst this particular community.

Early marriage and marriage without formal certification. It is noteworthy that between 9 and 11 per cent of birth registrations have been made without parental marriage certificates in the period from 2006 to 2009 (Table 22). In this case, special conditions apply for birth registration. According to the revised procedures, it is now possible to register births in only the mother's name, which is critical for births occurring from unregistered and/or early marriage.

Nowadays, early marriage occurs primarily amongst the Raglay community. In the past, this was associated with the need to bring labour into the household and was one of the main reasons for discontinued schooling amongst both girls and boys. District level

⁹³ PPC Ninh Thuan (2010) Plan of Action for Children 2011-2020 (Draft).

officials in Thuan Bac and Bac Ai say that that early marriage was frequent in the past, but has become less of an issue in recent years. Even so, they point out that it is difficult to get accurate information. Early marriages are not officially registered because people are aware that it is illegal.

Some local people express an alternative viewpoint – that early marriage and pregnancy amongst Raglay girls is still a major concern, but that the qualitative nature of this issue has been changing in recent years. Local people in Cong Hai Commune relate this to the influx of young migrant workers on construction sites. They say that some Raglay girls have become attracted by the communication skills and different lifestyles of these workers and that some now prefer Kinh boys to Raglay boys. Meanwhile, it is said that Raglay boys rarely associate with or get married to Kinh girls because they are shy and lack communication skills.

6.5 Working children

Overall situation. According to provincial and district officials, child labour is not considered to be a major problem in Ninh Thuan. A common situation exists whereby children from poor rural and urban households may be temporarily or permanently withdrawn from school to assist their families with domestic or agricultural work or to look after younger siblings; but there are very few reported cases of children involved in hazardous types of work or forced labour. Using VHLSS data from 2006, one study found that there are large regional differences in the rate of working children in Viet Nam: the lowest rates are found in the South-Central Coast Region (4 per cent) while the highest rates are in the North West Region (16 per cent)⁹⁴.

Even so, this is one of the child protection issues about which least is known in Ninh Thuan. There is a lack of specific data on the numbers of rural or urban children or teenagers who may be involved in different types of wage labour in agriculture or in local enterprises. Similarly, no data are available for children who may be involved in hazardous forms of work according to Government regulations⁹⁵. This is an important priority for improved data collection and understanding. Despite this lack of hard evidence, it is possible to provide an overall picture of the patterns of children at work that may inform more detailed analysis in future.

Children working for their families. In lowland rural areas, this is frequently associated with temporary withdrawal from school during peak agricultural harvesting periods (for rice, fruit and vegetables). In upland areas, such as amongst the Raglay, boys are frequently assigned to look after the household's cattle, while girls may be assigned to collect water and firewood and other domestic work. The lack of nursery school facilities in rural communes means that girls in particular may be needed to assist in looking after younger siblings. Depending on the household labour capacity, this may result in temporary or longer-term withdrawal from school.

Wage labour amongst teenagers and young adults. Some teenagers discontinue schooling to obtain paid work, either in the locality or occasionally in urban centres and neighbouring provinces. It appears that the high drop-out rate of boys in particular from upper secondary school is motivated by the need or desire to obtain paid employment. Some are influenced by their peers and the desire to earn cash for consumer items and leisure activities. As described by one lower secondary school teacher from Cong Hai Commune: "One child in Grade 7 said that even pupils smaller than him have mobile

⁹⁴ UCW (2009) Understanding Children's Work in Viet Nam.

⁹⁵ Inter-Ministerial Circular No.9/1995/TT-LB (13/04/1995) – this lists 81 occupations prohibited for young workers, and 13 harmful working conditions in which employment of young workers is prohibited.

phones, therefore he quit school to work. He wouldn't listen to his parents or even to the teachers when they came to visit him."

Other children obtain work out of economic necessity. Poor Kinh households with several children may adopt a strategy whereby one elder child is sent out to work to support the family while younger siblings still attend school. Alternatively, the family may invest in completing schooling for at least one elder child so they can obtain a better job in the future. These are rational livelihood decisions made by such households, to complete schooling for at least one child, as well as helping to improve the longer-term economic prospects of the family. In coastal areas, some children earn money by cooking for fishermen, repairing fishing gear or sorting fish. Amongst the Cham ethnic group, some boys leave school early to earn a living, often being employed by neighbouring farmers to look after cattle and sheep.

The participatory monitoring study in Bac Ai found that poor Raglay households are heavily reliant on occasional wage labour, a majority of which is obtained in the locality (Table 23). Most young Raglay men are confined to un-skilled work within the province (for example manual work on construction sites), as very few have the necessary contacts and skills to migrate further afield to obtain work. They usually earn only enough for their own needs, so cannot fully support their households. This study also found that in these two communes the number of households with a family member leaving home to obtain work has decreased in recent years. This underlies the vulnerability of these households to fluctuations in the economy and labour markets.

Table 23. Households with a family member engaged in paid employment in Bac Ai, 2009

		Percentaç	e of hous	ehold respo	ndents	
Location of work	Phuo	c Dai Commu	ne	Phuoc	Thanh Comn	nune
	Non-poor	Medium	Poor	Non-poor	Medium	Poor
Close to home	28	41.7	51.4	4.3	16.7	24.3
Far from home	0	3.3	5.7	4.3	3.3	2.7

Source: Oxfam GB (2009) Summary Report on Participatory Poverty Monitoring in Two Communes in Bac Ai District, Ninh Thuan. Survey of 120 households in 4 villages (Ta Lu 1, Ma Hoa, Ma Du and Da Ba Cai) 2007-2008-2009.

Recruitment of young labour. In recent years, there has been an increase in people coming from Lam Dong Province to recruit young people to work in agriculture, or from Ho Chi Minh City to recruit industrial workers. In Cong Hai Commune, Thuan Bac District, it is reported that in two cases children were cheated by these people. The Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Section of the district cooperates with the police to prevent trucks that collect workers, but this is a difficult situation to control given that Thuan Bac lies on Highway 1. At the same time, local people in Cong Hai Commune say that a majority of ethnic minority children are not attracted by the lifestyle of working for industries in the cities.

6.6 Child abuse and violence at school

Of all the child protection issues, children themselves express most concern about domestic violence and violence at school. During this research, some children spoke personally about this, while others mentioned friends or class-mates that had been subject to such abuse.

"Despite school gates, some children usually come in to make trouble with school students." (Secondary school pupil, Thuan Bac)

"On one occasion, I visited a friend's family and saw his dad beat him with many bruises across the body because he could not earn money for his dad to buy alcohol. I feel sorry for him to have such a dad. [My friend] worked all day and went to a universalisation class in the evening. One day, he had a high temperature at the class and was hospitalised." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

"Though I myself have better conditions than some class-mates, sometimes my parents do not understand my feelings and view my behaviour as bad. So I am usually beaten though already grown up... But some children in my village who lack care from their parents are enticed by adults to steal and suffer from unwanted pregnancy and, as a result, have to raise babies though they are still at school age." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

"Many cases of school violence happen in other schools in the province...parents often beat children, especially when dads go home drunk." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

"My parents no longer beat me since I attended Grade 2. They only remind me so that I can fix my mistakes. In my school, there is no fighting. It is very safe at school." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

Parents' groups in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City express concern about the emerging issue of school violence, citing a few recent cases of students being violent towards teachers. They propose strengthened cooperation between the schools and local authorities on this matter; otherwise, when released by the police, some aggressive students may return to the schools to cause further trouble. They also propose that support for parents of children with behavioural difficulties is needed to prevent the incidence of violence between pupils.

Domestic violence and child abuse. While recognising that the number of reported cases of child abuse is less in Ninh Thuan than in some other localities, officials from DOLISA say that there is likely to be a more substantial number of un-reported cases. According to the Department of Justice, eight cases of sexual abuse of children were brought before the courts in the period from 2005 to 2010 (Table 24). Some local officials state that child abuse is on the increase, but this may reflect greater awareness and attention to this issue. One nationwide survey found that about 42 per cent of parents in Viet Nam regularly scold their children and 14 per cent cane their children when they make mistakes⁹⁶. This indicates widespread incidence of low levels of domestic violence, which can have a detrimental psychological and emotional effect on children. However, there has not been a sufficiently comprehensive study on domestic violence against children in Viet Nam to understand these patterns more fully⁹⁷.

It is likely that there is significant under-reporting and non-reporting of child abuse, either by families, neighbours or children themselves. Families often prefer to go through an informal reconciliation process rather than officially reporting to the police or local authorities. This highlights the need for increased awareness-raising amongst local communities on the importance of addressing different forms of child abuse. Little is known about the efficacy of informal reconciliation procedures, or reconciliation

⁹⁶ Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism et. al. (2008) Results of the Vietnamese Family Survey.

⁹⁷ Hoang Ba Thinh (2008) Domestic violence against children and some preventative measures.

procedures according to customary law of different ethnic minorities, in dealing with child abuse. Similarly, it is not clear to what extent the 'commune reconciliation boards' can deal with such cases. This is one important area for future research to help strengthen community based child protection mechanisms.

6.7 Children in conflict with the law and legal aid for children

Overall trends. According to the Legal Aid Centre under the Department of Justice, in the period from 2005 to 2010 there were 202 cases of children in conflict with the law in Ninh Thuan handled by the Centre⁹⁸. A majority of these were cases of: (a) theft and robbery (theft of livestock in rural areas and theft or robbery of assets in urban areas) and (b) criminal intent and wilful damage related to under-age drinking and gang conflict (primarily in urban areas). These trends are confirmed by figures reported from the Ministry of Public Security, which indicate that in 2008 about 53.7 per cent of cases were related to theft, 20 per cent to robbery and 14.7 per cent to criminal intent⁹⁹. This child protection issue is not considered to be a major problem in the province. However, as officials from the Legal Aid Centre noted, there has not been a significant reduction in the number of children in conflict with the law over recent years.

In rural areas, theft of livestock is one main cause of infringement of the law by children. In Phuoc Dai Commune, it is reported that an increasing number of teenage boys drink alcohol, some starting as early as 13 years of age. They are usually boys who have left school and have earned money from occasional employment, which they spend indiscriminately; some consequences of this include motorbike accidents, fighting or other antisocial behaviour. Elsewhere, in Cong Hai Commune, it is reported that there are very few cases of children in conflict with the law. In Phan Rang-Thap Cham City, there are a growing number of children in gangs that congregate around cafes, parks and along the beaches. Some parents in the city are concerned that their children may become enticed into dropping out of school and being involved in antisocial behaviour because of the influence of these gangs and by the influence of modern fashions.

Legal aid advice and support. In recent years, the Legal Aid Centre has focused on three main areas of activity in relation to children: (i) the mobilisation of mobile legal aid teams to undertake awareness-raising on various aspects of the law and to provide advice and information for poor households (such as in areas covered by Programme 135); (ii) the provision of legal aid services at the centre; and (iii) representation of children in litigation proceedings (Table 24).

⁹⁸ Centre for Legal Aid (2010) Report of results of implementation of legal aid policies for children in Ninh Thuan Province.

⁹⁹ Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (2009) Children's Indicators in Viet Nam 2008-2009.

Table 24. Activities of the Legal Aid Centre

Area of activity	Number of legal aid clinics, consultations and representations
Mobile legal aid teams (2007-2010)	488
Birth and residency registration	272
Health insurance	97
Civil laws (family and marriage)	216
Education laws	45
Labour laws	58
Legal Aid Centre	194
Writing letters of appeal, complaint or other	52
Legal aid advice	142
Representation of children in litigation proceedings (2005-2010)	226
Children in conflict with the law	202
Sexual abuse	8
Divorce and custody	16

Source: Centre for Legal Aid (2010) Report of results of implementation of legal aid policies for children in Ninh Thuan Province.

Mobilisation of the mobile legal aid teams has improved awareness amongst rural people and ethnic minorities about various aspects of the law (for example in relation to the laws on education, labour, civil law and the criminal code), as well as contributing to the provision of information on health insurance and birth registration. Such awareness raising activities, however, are confined to those communes and villages under Programme 135 and are not carried out so extensively in other parts of the province. With respect to the representation of children in litigation proceedings, funding is prioritised for the assignment of lawyers for those children under 16 years old; however, as noted by the Legal Aid Centre, there are many cases of older teenagers from 17 to 19 years old in conflict with the law who do not receive such assistance. The Secretary of the district Youth Union is also supposed to join the People's Court as a legal representative for juvenile defendants. But they usually do not have sufficient capacity to undertake this assignment as a result of their lack of legal knowledge and skills, and these constraints may affect the interests of juvenile defendants in some cases.



7. Children's Participation

7.1 Defining children's participation

This final chapter looks at several aspects of children's rights to participation. The 2010 Situation Analysis of the Children of Viet Nam suggests that children's right to participation is a relatively new concept in Viet Nam¹00. Traditionally, the Vietnamese family provides a good protective environment for children. While gender and age define a person's status, girls are traditionally in a weaker position than boys. In local communities, there is often a strong emphasis on meeting the needs of children, through the organisation of various clubs and social events, but in many ways children's right to participation have not been institutionalised. Considerable efforts have been made in introducing more child-centred teaching methodologies in schools, but more teacher-training and capacity building is needed for this. The UNICEF publication concludes that while significant efforts have been made, these initiatives remain *ad hoc* and there is a general lack of awareness amongst children and adults on how to facilitate child participation processes. The findings of this research generally confirm these observations.

Children's participation needs to be considered from a variety of perspectives. Most provincial and district leaders and officials are familiar with a rights-based approach, for instance, as related to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, these concepts are still new to a majority of grassroots officials and local people. Expressions of children's participation are still very much linked to neo-Confucian norms and conceptions of society that underlie Vietnamese society as a whole. This necessitates understanding the ways in which rights are articulated according to these norms, and how they are evolving in the modern-day context.

Secondly, children's participation needs to be understood in terms of the inter-relationships with the other clusters of child rights to survival, development and protection. For example, the rights to participation and development are closely inter-linked – by enabling children to develop their skills and interests and fulfil their aspirations they will be able to more meaningfully participate in society. This includes the provision of recreational facilities, out-of-school learning opportunities and information sources for children. There are also important gender considerations in these linkages between the clusters of rights. For example, providing young women and men with the knowledge and information they need to self-determine their reproductive healthcare, behaviour and safety.

Thirdly, child participation needs to be considered from the perspective of the culture of different ethnic groups. This includes the opportunities that ethnic minority children and young adults have to engage with wider society on the one hand, and to maintain their involvement with their own culture and society on the other. There has been little research amongst young ethnic minority people on how they perceive their futures, and are adapting to new opportunities and social pressures in the modern world¹⁰¹. In this respect, this chapter discusses further the particular issues surrounding the participation of Raglay children in broader society and the economy today.

¹⁰⁰ UNICEF (2010) An Analysis of the Situation of Children in Viet Nam, UNICEF, Ha Noi.

¹⁰¹ Shanks, E. (2009) Review of UNICEF's Ethnic Minorities Programme and Work in Viet Nam.

7.2 Participation within the family

During this research, children expressed a range of both positive and negative experiences about the extent to which their viewpoints are listened to within the family and the parental support they receive to develop their interests. The attitude and behaviour of parents towards their children obviously varies considerably, but many parents follow traditional norms regarding the position of children in the family. It appears that especially amongst urban families, parents often make decisions on their children's behalf on matters such as choice of subjects in school, extra-curricular activities and out-of-school leisure activities.

Some children speak generally about this:

"Many children still suffer from parental pressures." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

"Many students have limited participation in out of class activities as they are prevented by their parents." (Secondary school pupil, Thuan Bac)

"The views of children are not listened to and are usually considered wrong or disrespectful." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

"Many children are strictly controlled by their parents who do not allow them to go out so they have no time for social activities." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

While other children speak from personal experience:

"My parents highly encourage me to participate in school activities, such as arts performance and camping. They give me two away trips each year." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

"I have an opportunity to participate in forums, express my views and take part in family decisions." (Secondary school pupil, Thuan Bac)

"In education, I cannot make my own decision on the choice of my subjects; it always depends on my parents who say 'you have to do this and that. You have to choose these subjects for university entrance exams so that it can help you to find employment'. Also, my parents do not like me to develop my hobbies; they always want me to focus on my academic studies." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

Others say that children's participation is related to the family's economic situation:

"Most of the students who have these rights satisfied come from households with certain [good] economic conditions." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

"Some children in my area cannot participate in cultural activities as a result of family circumstances." (Secondary school pupil, Thuan Bac)

7.3 Participation in schools

In recent years, some schools in Ninh Thuan have been involved in organising forums to listen to children's concerns in the locality. Guests at the forums include representatives from the provincial, district and commune authorities, the Department of Education and Training, the Youth Union and Women's Union, the learning encouragement association and parents. Forum activities may include drawings, story-telling and statements from

children. All students can participate but some are selectively invited to voice their concerns to local officials. In some cases, teachers prepare these statements, particularly for primary school pupils and ethnic minorities who are usually shy or cannot speak Vietnamese properly.

Common issues raised at the forums include a lack of school facilities (such as playgrounds, the small size of classrooms or inadequate water supply); and the lack of adequate teaching equipment and extra-curricular activities (arts, performance and sports). Apart from the 'prepared' issues, a few students mentioned their own problems, about school violence, the heavy workload, or reasons for school drop-out.

While it is intended that such forums should provide inputs for planning in the education and training sector and the provincial Socio-Economic Development Plan, many of the issues raised by children are of local concern and as such need to be addressed by the schools themselves or by the local education authorities. As one provincial official noted: "The children raise simple expectations such as the need for a bridge over a stream to get to school, teachers behaving properly, or cheating in school. This is a different level of planning, though there are many links between these issues and the Socio-Economic Development Plan of the province." At the same time, through the children's forums in several localities, some issues have been raised which are of wider concern and which need to be addressed through higher level planning interventions, such as the increasing incidence of violence between children at school.

So far the forums have only been conducted in a few schools in the province. There is scope for establishing a more regular system of dialogue between pupils, teachers, parents, the local government authorities and the education sector authorities in all localities. This should be part of expanding the child and adolescent friendly school approach to all schools. At the same time, it needs to be ensured that there is adequate follow-up of the issues raised at the required level of response (either by the school itself or by commune or district authorities). While some issues are related to a lack of resources, not all can be attributed to budgetary constraints, as some are related to ethical behaviour amongst teachers, parents and pupils themselves.

7.4 Out-of-school recreation, cultural and learning opportunities

When asked about the priorities for enhancing children's participation, a majority of provincial and district officials speak about the need to provide more out-of-school cultural, sports and recreation facilities for children. While public and private facilities for sports and recreation have been developed in Phan Rang-Thap Cham City in recent years, these are lacking in rural districts and communes. As of 2010, only 20 per cent of communes, wards and townships have cultural houses, only 12.3 per cent have sports facilities and only 7.7 per cent have playgrounds¹⁰². For young children, nursery facilities are limited in rural areas and many kindergarten and primary schools still lack safe playgrounds. All districts centres have public libraries. Small libraries are also housed at the commune cultural post offices, but the range of book titles is limited.

In Phan Rang-Thap Cham City, there is increasing access to commercial leisure facilities from private service providers, although people say that only better-off households can afford the entrance fees. During this research, parent's groups expressed concern about a lack of healthy leisure facilities and public space for urban children, such as parks and cinemas, which they attribute to unsatisfactory municipal planning. Meanwhile, there has been a proliferation of Internet shops in the city and in some district towns that are

¹⁰² DPI (2010) Compiled socio-economic indicators (2006-2010).

frequented by children. Many local officials, teachers and parents express concern about the potential for unregulated Internet usage by children to have a detrimental impact on their education and social values.

In each locality, the Youth Union is active in organising a range of clubs and forums for children from different backgrounds (on topics such as road safety, communicable diseases and life skills) as well as organising festivals and summer vacation activities ¹⁰³. Special attention is given to such activities for ethnic minority children in order to build up their confidence in communication and interacting with society. Children themselves express different viewpoints about these activities as well as extra-curricular activities organised by schools. The attractiveness and effectiveness of such activities is obviously dependent on the enthusiasm, leadership and facilitation skills of those people working with children.

"Taking part in activities by the school or by one of those associations make me feel proud of myself; it makes me more confident and happier because I can learn something from my friends." (Secondary school pupil, Bac Ai)

"The officer in charge of the Pioneer Brigade creates good conditions for participating in leisure activities, such as story-telling contests on Ho Chi Minh's morals, acting as an MC, being in charge of the pioneering brigade and joining other students in having fun and camping." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

"Some of the Youth Union activities are inappropriate but children have to follow, possibly for the sake of the school youth union's achievements." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

"Some pupils, boys and girls, in remote areas haven't been able to participate in activities in the society." (Secondary school pupil, Bac Ai)

"Children from social protection centres are not provided with satisfactory conditions, perhaps as a result of limited budgets at the social protection centres. Child beneficiaries there have limited chances to participate in leisure activities. Only occasionally, members from a few volunteer clubs organise some leisure activities." (Secondary school pupil, Phan Rang-Thap Cham)

"Not being able to take part in any competitions is a sad thing. I long to take part in them." (Secondary school pupil, Bac Ai)

Policy responses. In order to develop effective policy responses and solutions to this shortage of conducive recreation facilities and out-of-school learning opportunities for children, a distinction needs to be made between the needs of young children (those of pre-school and primary school age), and those of teenagers of secondary school age and young adults. In general, it can be said that addressing the needs of the former group is much easier than the latter.

For younger children, it is recommended that priority should be given to strengthening the provision of safe recreation facilities in kindergarten and primary schools. According to Decision No.239/2010/QD-TTg on the universalisation of pre-school education¹⁰⁴, it is necessary to ensure adequate equipment and toys for the realisation of the new

¹⁰³ Youth Union (2010) Report on some activities related to the implementation of children's rights by the Ho Chi Minh Youth Union in Ninh Thuan Province.

¹⁰⁴ Decision No.239/2010/QD-TTg (09/02/2010) Approving the scheme on universal pre-school education for children aged five years in the period from 2010-2015.

pre-school education curricula, and to step-up the application of information technology at pre-school institutions so that by 2015 at least 30 per cent of pre-schools have access to information technology. This will create an opportunity to instil favourable learning attitudes amongst children from an early age.

For older children, it is recommended that attention should be given to diversifying the options available for teenagers to become more actively and directly involved in organising and conducting their own recreation activities. The internet will obviously continue to be a primary source of interest and information source for children. In this regard, there is potential for supporting the establishment of 'healthy Internet clubs' in urban areas, where a variety of educational friendly and Internet-based learning activities are provided for children. These may be established through small grants to promote collaboration between local secondary schools and residential clusters, with possible support and sponsorship from local businesses and enterprises. Another option is to increase the resources made available for youth clubs of various kinds to strengthen and diversify their activities, by designing their own entertainment and learning programmes – such as producing their own videos which can be used in peer-education and outreach programmes.

7.5 Participation of Raglay children, teenagers and young adults

In previous sections of this report, it has been suggested that in order to help improve material and economic standards of living amongst Raglay households and communities in general, and specifically to address children's health, education and protection concerns, it is necessary to consider the broader and deeper aspects of the participation of young Raglay people in the modern-day economy and society. This need for a broad perspective and approach to supporting social and economic development concerns amongst the Raglay is appreciated by provincial leaders and is already reflected in many provincial policies and programmes. But there is scope for broadening and strengthening these efforts.

At the outset of this discussion, it is worth noting that there are both positive trends and some potentially worrying signs of the difficulties faced by young Raglay people in making this adjustment. On the positive side, in recent years the poverty rate in districts with a large Raglay population has been reducing. Pre-school and primary school enrolment rates have been increasing and there have also been improvements in maternal and child health indicators amongst the Raglay. On a more subtle level, some teachers and local officials say that Raglay children are now generally more confident in the school environment and when interacting with people from outside their community. As noted by one child protection officer: "Five years ago it was common for young Raglay children to run away when you met them. Now there is more interest and communication, for example on festival days, which is a positive difference."

At the same time, there are indications that some Raglay teenagers and young adults – perhaps especially boys – are finding it difficult to establish a new role for themselves and productive livelihoods in the modern-day context. Perceptions amongst Raglay children about their future prospects and livelihood opportunities may obviously influence their motivation to continue schooling. Many young Raglay men are confined to occasional manual work, which they can find difficult to maintain, and it is common for some to spend their earnings mainly on social activities. One worrying consequence of this, reported by commune officials in Phuoc Dai Commune, is a high level of debt to restaurants and drinking establishments amongst some young Raglay men and families. The lack of stable livelihoods may also affect their future marriage prospects and ability to support their families.

These are all circumstantial indications of possible deeper stresses within Raglay society. As one provincial official noted: "Interactions with the free market economy are having many influences on their society in ways that the fixed cultivation and resettlement programmes did not have in the past, but not all of them are positive." There is, however, a need for further research to understand these issues more fully. In particular, better understanding is needed of the gender dimensions to the current processes of social change amongst the Raglay, and how families are adapting, so that more gender sensitive social policies can be designed.

To conclude this discussion, a number of broad suggestions can be given as to how to respond to this situation more fully in future policies and programmes of the province.

Enhancing formal and non-formal leadership capacity. One clear priority is to strengthen the existing efforts to build up a contingent of young Raglay people who can progressively take on local positions of leadership. This is in terms of 'formal leadership capacity' (for example promoting more Raglay women and men to management positions at commune and district level) as well as 'non-formal leadership capacity' by supporting the emergence of 'role models' from within Raglay society itself. Increasing the contingent of Raglay teachers – at all levels of general education, could do much to enhance the effectiveness and meaning of education for Raglay children, as well as providing positive role models. Women's leadership capacity needs to be enhanced, for example, by supporting more girls completing secondary school to become teachers and health workers. The human resource development strategy for ethnic minorities needs to be adapted to the particular situation and needs of each ethnic group. For example, entry requirements for cadre training need to be adjusted to facilitate young people to take up such opportunities (for example by enabling people with Grade 9 qualifications to enter further training).

In the past, as part of the thinking behind the fixed cultivation and settlement programmes, the government supported young Kinh households to live and work side-by-side with ethnic minority communities. Providing incentives for teachers and health workers to work in these remote areas continues to be an important part of government policy. But as one provincial official suggested: "It would be preferable if we could have five local people from each commune going to university, and becoming commune cadres. Then we will have a future young force." Several other respondents echoed this viewpoint during this research.

Innovative approaches to non-formal education and vocational training. Vocational training for the rural labour force is a high priority for the province. District vocational training centres have been established in Ninh Phuoc, Ninh Hai and Ninh Son districts (the latter also serves Bac Ai District). These centres provide short-term training courses in crop and livestock production and handicrafts and ethnic minority students are supported with reduced fees. There are, however, some common shortcomings in these training programmes, with respect to the type of training and training methods and contents. Direct linkages to employment creation are limited, which means that young people may not be motivated to spend the time and effort to undertake vocational training if they do not think they will obtain employment afterwards.

There is scope for introducing more innovative approaches to non-formal education and vocational training to better equip Raglay teenagers and young adults with economic skills and life skills that are appropriate to them. Research would be required to more fully understand the particular needs and interests, aptitudes and aspirations of this target group; in order to adapt both the topics of training and the training methods accordingly. Ideally, such programmes should be designed and led by a committed pool of Raglay trainers.

Building on the strengths of customary laws. There are many situations in which customary laws and traditions influence the care and protection of children (either positively or negatively). For example, as described in Section 6.2 above, according to customary law of the Raglay, children whose mothers have died usually live with maternal relatives; this provides a protective environment and it was suggested that this positive aspect of customary law should be accommodated in the implementation of social protection policies. More widely, there is a need to undertake research to determine ways in which customary family law and civic law amongst ethnic minority groups such as the Raglay may be integrated more fully with national laws and policies. This is in order to build on the strengths of these systems of customary law.

This integration may be articulated at the level of village conventions. However, these need to be adapted to reflect the self-governing principle of local democracy. As noted in one recent paper, in recent years, as a result of the experience of Kinh people in the deltas and instructions of the State, local government authorities have encouraged ethnic minority villages to establish village conventions; but these are usually drafted by outsiders and approved at local meetings without substantive participation of local people¹⁰⁵. This paper recommends that drafting of these village conventions should be studied carefully; the responsibility of cultural managers is only to guide the drafting of these conventions, while each village will develop the necessary contents of the convention based on local circumstances. This is so that such conventions stem from the aspirations of the people, thereby incorporating the inheritance of traditional customs and laws of each ethnic group.

Supporting young Raglay people to make their own communication materials. Lastly, a comparatively easy but potentially powerful way of promoting participation amongst Raglay children and teenagers is to provide them with resources for making their own communication materials in the Raglay language. For example, this may be done by supporting schools and school children or youth clubs to make their own films and television programmes on topics related to child care and protection, culture, or other topics and issues of interest to them. Directly involving beneficiaries in the development of behaviour change communication materials is a way to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of peer-education programmes, as well as providing them with a vehicle through which to understand and contribute to their own society.

¹⁰⁵ Ngo Duc Thinh (2008) Preserving and bringing into play the traditional culture of the ethnic minorities in the Central Highlands: some issues.

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Annex 1.1 Nationwide demographic characteristics, 2009-2010

	2010				2009	60			
	Total population 2010	Total population 2009	Female population (number)	Female population (%)	Sex ratio (males/100 females)	Urban population (number)	Urban population (%)	Rural population (number)	Rural population (%)
Whole country	86,747,807	85,789,573	43,307,024	50.48	98.1	25,374,262	29.58	60,415,311	70.42
Urban					95.3				
Rural	1	•		•	99.3		1	•	1
	1	•	1	•		1	•	•	•
Northern Midlands and Mountains	17,268,346	11,064,449	5,534,925	50.02	6.66	1,772,059	16.02	9,292,390	83.98
Red River Delta	11,150,794	19,577,944	9,930,227	50.72	97.2	5,721,184	29.22	13,856,760	70.78
North and South Central Coast	19,729,612	18,835,485	9,503,886	50.46	98.2	4,530,450	24.05	14,305,035	75.95
Central Highlands	18,911,046	5,107,437	2,523,936	49.41	102.4	1,419,069	27.78	3,688,368	72.22
South East	5,203,606	14,025,387	7,180,709	51.20	95.3	8,009,167	57.10	6,016,220	42.90
Mekong River Delta	14,484,403	17,178,871	8,633,341	50.26	0.66	3,922,333	22.83	13,256,538	77.17
Ninh Thuan	569,867	564,129	282,980	50.16	99.4	203,857	36.14	360,272	63.86
Phu Yen	868,170	861,993	430,370	49.93	100.3	188,549	21.87	673,444	78.13
Khanh Hoa	1,167,473	1,156,903	584,491	50.52	97.9	459,430	39.71	697,473	60.29
Binh Thuan	1,176,528	1,169,450	578,779	49.49	102.1	460,800	39.40	708,650	09.09
Lam Dong	1,201,268	1,187,574	593,216	49.95	100.9	448,570	37.77	739,004	62.22

Source: (i) Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010) The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Major Findings; (ii) General Statistics Office (2011) Population and Family Planning Survey 2010.

Annex 1.2 Nationwide demographic characteristics, 2009, continued

	Population density (people/ km²)	Average household size (people)	Average annual pop. growth rate (%)	Sex ratio at birth (male births/100 female births)	Infant mortality rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births)	Population aged 15 and over (people)	Population aged 15 and over (%)	Population aged under 15 (people)	Population aged under 15 (%)
Whole country	259	3.8	1.2	110.5	16.0	64,330,730	75.0	21,458,843	25.01
Urban	ı	3.7	3.4		9.4				ī
Rural	I	3.9	0.4	•	18.7	1	ı	ı	ı
Northern Midlands and Mountains	116	4.0	1.0	108.5	24.5	8,039,502	72.7	3,024,947	27.34
Red River Delta	930	3.5	0.0	115.3	12.4	15,053,614	76.9	4,524,330	23.11
North and South Central Coast	196	3.8	0.4	109.7	17.2	13,885,444	73.7	4,950,041	26.28
Central Highlands	93	4.1	2.3	105.6	27.3	3,437,025	67.3	1,670,412	32.70
South East	594	3.8	3.2	109.9	10.0	10,921,725	77.9	3,103,662	22.13
Mekong River Delta	423	4.0	9.0	109.9	13.3	12,993,420	75.6	4,185,451	24.36
Ninh Thuan	168	4.1	1.1	110.8	22.6	390,941	69.3	173,188	30.70
Phu Yen	170	3.8	0.0	110.1	21.0	627,512	72.8	234,481	27.20
Khanh Hoa	222	4.0	1.1	108.1	16.5	849,875	73.5	307,028	26.54
Binh Thuan	150	4.1	1.1	112.9	15.0	832,607	71.2	336,843	28.80
Lam Dong	121	3.9	1.7	112.6	14.6	838,729	70.6	348,845	29.37

Source: Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010) The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Major Findings.

Annex 1.3 Ninh Thuan population by administrative area, age group and ethnicity, 1999, 2009 and 2010

				1999				
Administrative area	Total	Children		Ethi	Ethnic minority population	population		
	population	<16 yrs	Kinh	Raglay	Cham	Co Ho	Ноа	Other
Whole province	504,998	212,669	394,018	47,615	57,137	2,430	2,479	1,319
Phan Rang-Thap Cham City	147,506	55,169	144,326	39	1,625	2	1,373	141
Thuan Bac District		1	1	1			1	ı
Thuan Nam District	1	1	1	1	ı		1	ı
Ninh Hai District	113,041	49,161	85,335	18,428	9,133		29	78
Bac Ai District	1	ı	1	1		,	1	1
Ninh Son District	84,221	36,972	52,833	25,033	2,412	2,425	200	1,018
Ninh Phuoc District	160,230	71,367	111,524	4,115	43,967	က	539	82

				2009					2010
Administrative area	4	100			Ethnic mir	Ethnic minority population	uc		
	population	<16 yrs	Kinh	Raglay	Cham	Со Но	Ноа	Other	Total population
Whole province	564,993	186,523	432,399	58,911	67,274	2,860	1,852	1,697	571,119
Phan Rang-Thap Cham City	161,730	46,343	158,121	284	2,075	23	1,058	169	163,474
Thuan Bac District	37,769	14,015	12,530	22,067	3,094		14	64	38,187
Thuan Nam District	54,662	21,701	39,012	2,836	12,720	7	39	53	55,252
Ninh Hai District	89,420	29,373	81,334	260	7,407	_	37	81	90,383
Bac Ai District	24,304	10,010	2,551	21,013	147	7		586	24,578
Ninh Son District	71,432	24,713	54,679	9,861	3,024	2,821	374	673	72,201
Ninh Phuoc District	125,676	40,368	84,172	2,290	38,807	9	330	71	127,044

Source: (i) Provincial Statistics Office (2010) Data provided during fieldwork; (ii) Provincial Statistics Office (2011) Statistical Handbook 2010 of Ninh Thuan Province (Summary).

Annex 1.4 Ninh Thuan population by administrative area, sex and urban/rural location, 2009

Administrative area	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Urban (%)	Rural	Rural (%)
Whole province	564,993	281,579	283,414	203,782	36.07	361,211	63.93
Phan Rang-Thap Cham City	161,730	79,657	82,073	152,906	94.54	8,824	5.46
Thuan Bac District	37,769	18,871	18,898	1	0.00	37,769	100.00
Thuan Nam District	ı		1	1		ı	
Ninh Hai District	89,420	44,680	44,740	15,585	17.43	73,835	82.57
Bac Ai District	24,304	12,181	12,123	1	0.00	24,304	100.00
Ninh Son District	71,432	35,737	35,695	11,147	15.61	60,285	84.39
Ninh Phuoc District	180,338	90,453	89,885	24,144	13.39	156,194	86.61

Source: Provincial Statistics Office (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

Annex 1.5 Ninh Thuan population age structure, 1999 and 2009

		1999				2009		
Age group	Population 1999	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Female (%) Population 2009	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
0-4	61,693	12.22	6.28	5.94	52,576	9.31	4.86	4.45
5-9	76,133	15.08	7.72	7.36	54,647	29.6	4.97	4.70
10-14	63,218	12.52	6.40	6.12	64,307	11.38	5.86	5.52
15-19	52,343	10.36	5.17	5.19	67,379	11.93	6.19	5.74
20-24	44,797	8.87	4.50	4.37	46,388	8.21	4.24	3.97
25-29	44,467	8.18	4.45	4.36	46,037	8.16	4.02	4.14
30-34	39,551	7.83	3.97	3.86	43,494	7.70	3.89	3.81
35-39	30,081	5.96	2.92	3.04	44,855	7.94	4.01	3.93
40-44	23,568	4.67	2.18	2.49	39,017	6.91	3.48	3.43
45-49	16,934	3.35	1.54	1.81	28,978	5.13	2.49	2.64
50-54	11,447	2.27	1.02	1.25	22,451	3.98	1.81	2.17
55-59	9,742	1.93	0.83	1.10	15,871	2.81	1.26	1.55
60-64	9,302	1.84	0.74	1.10	10,227	1.81	0.79	1.02
62-69	8,589	1.70	0.73	0.97	8,557	1.52	0.61	0.91
70-74	6,008	1.19	0.49	0.70	7,659	1.35	0.51	0.84
75+	7,125	1.41	0.53	0.88	12,550	2.22	0.84	1.38
Total	504,998				564,993			

Source: Provincial Statistics Office (2009) Data provided during fieldwork.

Annex 1.6 Ninh Thuan population of ethnic groups, 2009

Ethnic group	Total	%	Male	Female	Female Ethnic group	Total	%	Male	Female
Whole province	564,993	100%	281,579	283,414					
Kinh	432,399	76.53	216,098	216,301	Mnong	2	ı	~	~
Тау	109	0.02	63	46	Tho	_	0.01	0	_
Thai	51	0.01	30	21	Bru-Van Kieu	9	ı	2	4
Muong	146	0.03	91	55	Co Tu	_	ı	_	0
Khmer	40	0.01	25	15	Giay	က	ı	က	0
Hoa	1847	0.33	971	876	Ta Oi	9	0.51	9	0
Nung	292	0.10	305	262	Ма	က	ı	2	_
Hmong	က	ı	_	2	Gie-Trieng	32	0.01	22	10
Dao	16	1	o	7	00	_	ı	0	_
Gia Rai	36	0.01	26	10	Che Ru	4	1	2	2
E De	47	0.01	20	27	Chu Ru	521	60.0	235	286
Ba Na	2	1	2	0	Chut	_	ı	_	0
San Chay	19	1	12	7	Co Lao	_	ı	0	_
Cham	67,274	11.91	33,326	33,948	Ro Mam	_	ı	_	0
Со Но	2,860	0.51	1,420	1,440	O Du	~	ı	_	0
Xo Dang	46	0.01	28	18	Foreigners	က	ı	2	_
San Diu	က	ı	ო	0					
Hre	30	0.01	15	15					
Raglay	58,911	10.43	28,855	30,056					
- (i i			(2		

Source: Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010) The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Completed Results.

Annex 1.7 Nationwide proportion of households by household size, region and province, 2008

Region/province	1 person (%)	2 people (%)	3 people (%)	4 people (%)	5 people (%)
Whole country	6.2	13.0	20.2	29.6	31.0
Northern Midlands and Mountains	3.7	11.5	20.4	30.8	33.7
Red River Delta	7.9	16.6	20.2	31.2	24.1
North and South Central Coast	8.9	13.5	18.7	28.0	33.0
Central Highlands	3.6	8.9	17.6	29.1	40.8
South East	6.4	12.1	21.4	28.6	31.5
Mekong River Delta	5.3	10.4	21.8	29.7	32.7
Ninh Thuan	5.5	11.7	20.3	25.9	36.6
Phu Yen	7.1	11.1	17.2	31.5	33.0
Khanh Hoa	5.1	9.8	19.0	30.1	36.1
Binh Thuan	5.3	10.0	17.1	27.1	40.4
Lam Dong	0.9	11.6	21.4	32.0	29.0

Source: General Statistics Office (2009). Population Change, Labour Force and Family Planning Survey 2008.

Annex 1.8 Nationwide poverty rate

		Income pov	Income poverty rate (%) (a)	(a)			General po	General poverty rate (%) (b)	(b)
Region/province	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2004	2006	2008
Whole country	15.5	14.8	13.4	12.3		28.9	19.5	16.0	14.5
Red River Delta	10.0	9.5	9.8	7.7		21.5	11.8	8.9	8.0
Northern Mountains	27.5	26.5	25.1	23.5		47.9	38.3	32.2	31.6
North and South Central Coast	22.2	21.4	19.2	17.6		35.7	25.9	22.3	18.4
Central Highlands	24.0	23.0	21.0	19.5		51.8	33.1	28.6	24.1
South East	3.1	3.0	2.5	2.1		8.2	3.6	3.8	2.3
Mekong River Delta	13.0	12.4	11.4	10.4		23.4	15.9	10.3	12.3
Ninh Thuan	22.3	21.2	19.3		10,9				
Phu Yen	18.5	17.8	16.3						1
Khanh Hoa	11.0	10.5	9.1					ı	ı
Binh Thuan	11.0	10.5	9.2						1
Lam Dong	18.3	17.6	15.8	ı			ı		1
	(a)	Poverty rat VND 200,0	e as calculate 00 per capita	d by househol per month for	d income. The rural areas an	Government's d VND 260,000	s poverty line to per capita p	Poverty rate as calculated by household income. The Government's poverty line for the 2006-2010 period VND 200,000 per capita per month for rural areas and VND 260,000 per capita per month for urban areas.	Poverty rate as calculated by household income. The Government's poverty line for the 2006-2010 period was VND 200,000 per capita per month for rural areas and VND 260,000 per capita per month for urban areas.
	(q)	General po line provide	verty rate as ed by GSO an	General poverty rate as calculated by mon line provided by GSO and the World Bank.	nonthly averagank.	ge expenditure	per capita ac	cording to the	General poverty rate as calculated by monthly average expenditure per capita according to the general poverty line provided by GSO and the World Bank.

Source: (i) General Statistics Office (2010) Statistical Yearbook of Viet Nam 2009; (ii) General Statistics Office (2011) Statistical Handbook of Viet Nam 2010.

Annex 1.9 Ninh Thuan poverty rate by district, 2008, 2009 and 2010

		2008	80			2009	60			2010	0	
Administrative area	Total number of households	Total Poor number of households (%)	olds of poor (%) households	Number of poor ethnic minority households	Total number of households	Poor households (%)	Number of poor households	Number of poor ethnic minority households	Total number of households	Poor households (%)	Poor Number olds of poor (%) households	Number of poor ethnic minority households
Whole province	128,752	13.27	17,086	6,707	134,930	12.12	16,356	7,185	140,678	10.86	15,277	5,776
Phan Rang-Thap Cham City	40,508	6.74	2,732	22	40,896	6.29	2,574	15	43,000	5.29	2,274	∞
Thuan Bac District	7,378	24.55	1,811	1,531	8,510	19.17	1,631	1,429	8,818	18.00	1,587	1,327
Thuan Nam District	ľ			1	11,897	9.41	1,119	469	12,247	8.40	1,029	429
Ninh Hai District	21,205	10.67	2,263	247	21,875	9.23	2,020	233	22,575	8.50	1,918	217
Bac Ai District	4,696	58.62	2,753	1,753	5,134	53.86	2,765	2,747	5,455	46.38	2,530	2,365
Ninh Son District	17,122	19.90	3,407	1,604	18,087	19.55	3,536	1,331	19,052	18.00	3,429	1,058

Source: Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

Annex 1.10 Child poverty estimates using VHLSS and MICS, 2006 and 2008

		2006		2008	
Region/population	NHLSS	(i)	MICS (ii)	(i) SSTHA	(j)
group	Monetary child poverty rate	Multidimensional child poverty rate	Multidimensional poverty rate	Monetary child poverty rate	Multidimensional child poverty rate
Whole country	22.6	30.7	36.65	20.7	28.9
Urban	5.4	11.3	12.04	4.9	12.5
Rural	27.6	36.3	43.40	25.9	34.3
Red River Delta	13.2	9.7	11.26	12	10.4
North East	34.1	36.2	58.76	32.5	35.8
North West	58.9	63.1	77.65	55.5	64.6
North Central Coast	38.0	25.8	30.95	32.1	23.3
South Central Coast	16.7	18.5	28.79	19.4	19.4
Central Highlands	37.2	39.3	40.53	33.5	38.7
South East	9.1	20.2	22.63	5.5	14.8
Mekong River Delta	12.6	56.3	59.95	15.5	52.8
Male	22.4	30.5	36.86	19.2	28.4
Female	22.9	31.0	35.42	22.3	29.5
Kinh/Hoa	14.5	24.1	28.27	12.7	22.4
Other	61.3	62.3	78.09	2.09	61.5

Source: (i) General Statistics Office (2009) Results of the Survey on Households Living Standards 2008; (ii) UNICEF/MOLISA (2008) Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006.

Annex 1.11 Ninh Thuan gross domestic product by economic sector, 2006-2010

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 (preliminary)
GDP at constant 1994 prices (VND billion)	2,112.5	2,352.2	2,549.9	2,729.4	2,982.9
GDP growth rate (%)	14.1	11.4	8.4	7.0	9.3
GDP per capita (VND million)	4.8	5.7	6.9	9.1	10.0
GDP at constant 1994 prices by economic sector (VND billion)					
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	958.3	1,061.2	1,113.6	1,116.9	1,114.1
Industry and construction	447.9	501.9	584.7	662.7	804.0
Services	706.3	789.1	851.6	949.8	1,062.8
GDP at current prices by economic sector (%)					
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	43.8	44.6	45.7	44.7	42.6
Industry and construction	19.0	19.5	20.9	21.5	22.2
Services	37.2	35.9	33.4	33.8	35.2
C			İ		

Source: (i) DPI (2010) Compiled Socio-economic Statistics 2006-2010; (ii) Provincial Statistics Office (2011) Statistical Handbook 2010 of Ninh Thuan Province (Summary).

Annex 1.12 Nationwide average monthly income by economic quintile, 2008

Region/province	General average (VND thousand)	Quintile 1 (VND thousand)	Quintile 2 (VND thousand)	Quintile 3 (VND thousand)	Quintile 4 (VND thousand)	Quintile 5 (VND thousand)
Whole country	995	275	477	200	1,067	2,458
Red River Delta	1,065	332	539	757	1,136	2,559
Northern Mountains	299	219	334	464	602	1,558
North and South Central Coast	728	237	403	555	802	1,647
Central Highlands	262	222	391	909	926	1,829
South East	1,773	250	925	1,287	1,791	4,286
Mekong River Delta	940	301	502	704	1,012	2,183
Ninh Thuan	669	202	376	488	651	1,754
Khanh Hoa	962	304	515	738	1,052	2,211
Phu Yen	292	267	456	591	819	1,695
Binh Thuan	838	323	494	662	973	1,738
Lam Dong	904	244	209	736	1,070	1,966

Source: General Statistics Office (2010) Statistical Yearbook of Viet Nam 2009.

Annex 1.13 Nationwide difference in monthly income between the lowest and highest economic quintiles, 2008

Region/province	Quintile 1 (VND thousand)	Quintile 1 (VND thousand) Quintile 5 (VND thousand)	Factor difference between Quintile 1 and Quintile 5
Whole country	275	2,458	8.6
Red River Delta	332	2,559	7.7
Northern Mountains	219	1,558	7.1
North and South Central Coast	237	1,647	7.0
Central Highlands	222	1,829	8.2
South East	550	4,286	7.8
Mekong River Delta	301	2,183	7.3
Ninh Thuan	205	1,754	8.6
Khanh Hoa	304	2,211	7.3
Phu Yen	267	1,695	6.4
Binh Thuan	323	1,738	5.4
Lam Dong	244	1,966	8.1

Source: General Statistics Office (2010) Statistical Yearbook of Viet Nam 2009.

Annex 1.14 Nationwide monthly average income per capita at current prices, by income source, 2004 and 2008

		Other	1	1	1	I	1	I	1	1	12.7	19.9	11.1	12.5	9.7
	Income source (%)	Non-agriculture, forestry and fisheries	1						1		29.0	19.3	24.0	22.1	19.2
2008	Incomes	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries		ı	1	1	1	1	ı	1	21.1	15.5	30.5	33.5	46.6
		Salary and wage		1	1	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	37.2	45.3	34.5	31.9	24.5
	Monthly average income (VND thousand)		1,048.5	768.0	549.6	641.1	843.3	794.6	1,649.2	939.9	699.2	965.4	767.3	838.3	903.9
		Other	1	1	ı	ı	I	ı	ı	I	10.0	16.1	10.1	10.7	10.3
	Income source (%)	Non-agriculture, forestry and fisheries		1		ı	ı	ı	1	ı	27.8	27.0	26.1	23.1	21.5
2004	Income s	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	•	1	1	1	1	1	ı	1	32.4	19.2	29.8	38.2	45.6
		Salary and wage	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	29.8	37.7	33.9	27.9	22.5
	Monthly average income	thousand)	488.2	379.9	265.7	317.1	414.9	390.2	833.0	471.1	389.9	472.1	376.3	444.8	443.7
	Region/province		Red River Delta	North East	North West	North Central Coast	South Central Coast	Central Highlands	South East	Mekong River Delta	Ninh Thuan	Khanh Hoa	Phu Yen	Binh Thuan	Lam Dong

Source: General Statistics Office (2009) Results of the Survey on Household Living Standards 2008.

Annex 1.15 Nationwide structure of household consumption expenditure, 2008

					Region				
Consumption expenditure items	Total (%)	Red River Delta (%)	North East (%)	North West (%)	North Central Coast (%)	South Central Coast (%)	Central Highlands (%)	South East (%)	Mekong Delta (%)
Eating, drinking and smoking	53.0	53.4	57.9	59.9	56.7	54.1	53.7	47.1	55.8
Food	12.8	12.7	17.1	21.6	17.8	12.6	16.0	7.8	14.0
Foodstuff	27.3	29.2	29.9	27.9	27.4	26.5	26.4	24.2	29.1
Fuel	2.9	2.7	3.6	4.7	3.4	2.8	2.9	2.5	3.0
Non-eating, drinking and smoking	47.0	46.6	42.1	40.1	43.3	45.9	46.3	52.9	44.3
Garments, hats, footwear	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.0	4.4	5.1	3.7	4.1
Housing, electricity, water, sanitation	3.9	4.0	3.1	2.3	3.2	3.6	2.3	5.3	3.2
Furniture	8.3	8.8	8.7	8.8	8.0	8.2	8.8	8.0	8.6
Health care	6.4	0.9	5.4	5.2	7.0	6.3	7.2	5.9	8.0
Travel and communication	13.9	13.2	13.3	13.8	10.7	13.7	14.1	17.3	11.1
Education	6.2	6.7	5.1	3.8	8.5	7.7	6.4	6.3	4.2
Culture, sport, recreation	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.8	9.0	3.2	6.0
Others	2.6	2.0	1.5	1.1	1.5	2.4	2.0	3.2	4.1

Source: General Statistics Office (2009) Results of the Survey on Household Living Standards 2008.

Annex 1.16 Nationwide household living conditions, 2009

Region/province	Safe water (%)	Hygienic toilet facilities (%)	Network electricity for lighting (%)	Television (%)	Motorbike (%)
Whole country	2.98	54.0	96.1	6.98	72.3
Urban	8.96	87.8	9.66	91.3	83.2
Rural	82.5	39.0	94.6	84.9	67.5
Northern Midlands and Mountains	61.5	26.1	87.1	79.8	9.69
Red River Delta	98.3	60.4	2.66	91.2	70.3
North and South Central Coast	7.68	47.3	97.3	86.2	70.2
Central Highlands	78.5	46.5	93.0	85.1	83.5
South East	1.76	89.9	98.2	88.8	88.0
Mekong River Delta	6.77	42.4	95.1	85.4	62.5
Ninh Thuan	77.4	62.0	0.86	89.8	74.5
Phu Yen	92.3	42.6	98.5	87.9	77.9
Khanh Hoa	92.7	73.0	9.76	90.4	80.9
Binh Thuan	91.8	64.3	95.0	88.0	78.0
Lam Dong	80.8	63.3	95.2	87.3	85.1

Annex 1.17 Nationwide housing conditions, 2009

Region/province hous hous	Permanent housing (%)	Semi-permanent housing (%)	Less-permanent housing (%)	Simple-permanent housing (%)
Whole Country	46.7	38.2	7.8	7.4
Urban	41.4	52.7	3.3	2.6
Rural	49.0	31.7	9.8	9.5
Northern Midlands and Mountains	45.5	27.1	15.4	12.0
Red River Delta	89.7	9.5	9.0	0.2
North and South Central Coast	63.0	29.7	3.4	3.9
Central Highlands	19.7	68.8	7.7	3.7
South East	14.4	78.9	2.9	3.8
Mekong River Delta	8.3	48.5	21.4	21.8
Ninh Thuan	20.0	6.99	4.0	9.1
Phu Yen	71.4	22.4	2.8	3.4
Khanh Hoa	43.2	48.5	3.4	4.8
Binh Thuan	14.4	73.6	4.0	7.9
Lam Dong	7.4	79.5	8.6	4.5

Source: Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010) The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Major Findings.

Annex 1.18 Proposed mitigation and response mechanisms to drought in Ninh Thuan

Impact of drought	Root	Root causes	Possible actions	Mitigation (M), Response (R)	on (M), se (R)
	•	Lack of financial capital	 Provide more microfinance options 	Σ	
Damage to crops	•	Rainfall variability	 Enhance weather monitoring and forecasting 	Σ	
	• — @	Lack of timely weather forecasting and agro-meteorological advisory services	Improve agro-meteorological advisory services	Σ	
		Lack of regulations to stop unlawful withholding of water at the upper reaches of the canal 'Water war' due to increased demand by different sections of society	 Enforce regulations to restrict water usage through strict command-level irrigation scheduling and water distribution Educate farmers on best management practices Provide better access to water by establishing water-allocation systems 	on ocation	
Unavailability of irrigation and drinking	•	Decline in the water table	 Educate communities in better irrigation practices to enhance irrigation efficiency 	lance M	
water	•	Decline in storage capacity of reservoirs and dams	Control siltation through land stabilisation in watersheds Introduce soil-conservation practices in watersheds	Σ	
	•	Lack of sufficient electricity to pump water	Supply solar-power systems, using co-operative societies	N S	
	•	Lack of rainwater-catching practices	Educate and introduce watershed-management practices	S	
Income loss	•	Lack of alternative livelihood activities and sole dependence on agriculture	 Create self-help groups and microcredit systems Introduce non-agriculture-based livelihood practices Provide training in alternative livelihood practices 	Σ	
Loss of productivity of cattle and	•	Lack of financial capital	 Provide improved cattle breeds through subsidies Establish cattle health camps Train livestock farmers to maintain cattle herds during droughts 	M oughts	
degradation of nealth	•	Lack of knowledge about better rearing practices	Train livestock farmers in improved animal-rearing practices	ices	
Lack of fodder	• •	Lack of common grazing land Lack of fodder-storage facilities and knowhow	 Offer training in fodder-storage practices Offer training in better feed-management practices Establish community-based fodder banks 		
	•	Insufficient or no fodder supply during relief distributions	Supply fodder during relief	œ	
Loss of employment	• •	Greater availability of labour within villages Insufficient jobs within villages	Identify and enhance skills through training programs Provide co-operative facilities to market the output	Σ	

. leading the state of the stat	Social structure (less power for women in decision-making on how the food is distributed in the family)	 Offer education and awareness-generation programs for all sections of the society Promote the culture of collective action 	Σ
and physical problems in children	Assumption (by men) that women do less burdensome work is leading to reduced food allocation for them Lack of water and knowledge about hygiene Lack of nutritional food	 Promote good hygiene practices Provide clean drinking water Provide additional food to women, especially pregnant and nursing mothers, through a public distribution system 	Σ
• Food shortages	Inadequate relief supply Lack of purchasing power	 Modify relief-distribution practices based on the review of existing relief management Establish local buffer stocks of food (action needed by both the government and local communities) Promote non-agricultural livelihood options such as crafts 	œ
Migration	Lack of local employment	 Identify and enhance skills through training programs Provide co-operative facilities to market the outputs 	Σ
Increased workload on women	Women do more household work and field work, and their burden increases during droughts	 Share workload among family members Make more water available (as discussed above) Identify water-supply points near dwellings and piped water supply 	Σ
Less participation of women in community programs	Women (especially ethnic women) have no security of land tenure Women in general lack access to formal resources Women are discriminated against in employment, so they fail to gain skills Social role is restricted to household activities Lack of social recognition of their work	 Facilitate advocacy to change land-tenure systems and implement the Grassroots Democracy Decree Increase women's participation and representation through empowerment Create opportunities for women to work through skill development and providing small credit, technical training, jobs, and market information Promote social mobilisation to change attitudes towards women Increase community awareness of gender equity 	Σ
Stress on old people	Migration of young people	 Same as above Establish village teams to take care of old people in the migration season 	Σ
Cutting of forests	Lack of employment facilities	Same as above	Σ
Loss of biodiversity	Recurring drought and heat stress	 Identify vulnerable species Encourage community involvement in maintaining biodiversity 	Σ
Saline-water intrusion • and over-exploitation • of groundwater	Excessive use of groundwater Lack of regulatory policies	 Introduce better irrigation-management practices Promote water pricing and other similar regulatory policies 	Σ

Source: Oxfam in Viet Nam and the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Kyoto University (undated) Drought Management Considerations for Climate Change Adaptations in Ninh Thuan.

Annex 1.19 Ninh Thuan provincial budget revenue, 2006-2009

Unit: VND billion

	2006	2007	2008	2009 (preliminary)
Total revenue	1,519.2	1,541.4	1,667.7	2,130.8
1. Local revenue	270.9	298.3	395.4	501.1
In-country revenue	270.9	298.3	395.4	501.1
Revenue from central economy	42.7	28.4	25.2	46.9
Revenue from local economy	224.5	262.1	368.1	441.7
Revenue from state sector	62.7	26.7	39.3	37.5
Revenue from non-state sector (tax revenue)	129.6	88.4	102.6	101.2
Agriculture land-use tax	9.0	0.7	6:0	9.0
Income tax	5.1	4.4	13.7	21.8
Other revenue	26.5	141.9	211.6	280.6
Foreign investment sector revenue	3.7	7.8	2.1	12.5
Export and import duties		1	1	1
2. Subsidies from central state budget	954	948.4	944.4	1287.2
3. Other revenue sources	294.3	294.7	327.9	342.5

Source: Provincial Statistics Office (2010) Statistical Yearbook 2009.

Annex 1.20 Ninh Thuan provincial budget expenditure, 2006-2009

Unit: VND billion

	2006	2007	2008 2009 (preliminary)	ninary)
Total expenditure	1,428.9	1,796.7	1,476.1	1,946.2
Development investment expenditure	439.9	561.8	591.5	871.1
Capital expenditure on infrastructure	431.7	559.2	590.5	819.7
Recurrent expenditure	542.3	616.4	794.2	991.1
Public administration	117.5	137.7	160.9	207.7
Economic services	89.9	57.7	62.8	73.7
Social sector services	327.8	416.7	567.3	702.3
Education and training	206.7	269.3	348.4	385.6
Health	50.1	89	105.8	102.5
Social welfare	32.7	27.4	42.7	62.2
Other social sectors	38.3	52	70.4	152
Other recurrent expenditure	7.1	4.3	3.2	7.4
Contributions to the central state budget	1			1
Other expenditure	446.7	618.5	90.4	84

Source: Province Statistics Office (2010) Statistical Yearbook 2009.

Annex 1.21 Ninh Thuan provincial development investment budget, 2008-2010

Unit: VND billion

		SEDP year	
Budget categories	2008	2009	2010
Total	4,000	4,520	6,160
State budget	1,488	1,107	2,260
Provincially managed state budget	1,053	209	1,640
Centrally allocated according to annual plan	552.92	606.924	718
Capital investment (infrastructure)	160.36	160.36	130
Centrally balanced	100.36	100.36	100
Land use and sale of assets	09	09	30
Funding for specific objectives	307.95	349.6	473
National Target Programmes and large projects	68.61	80.964	91
Investment from lottery revenue	16	16	23
Other funding sources	200	0	922
Centrally managed funds	435	200	620
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	180	250	300
Ministry of Transport	160	150	220
Other ministries	65	100	100
Funds from economic sectors	2,560	2,900	3,900
Foreign Direct Investment	300	009	200
Local enterprise sector (and credits)	1,200	2,300	3,400

Source: Provincial People's Committee (2008-2010) Socio Economic Development Plans 2008 to 2010.

Annex 1.22 Ninh Thuan investment for specific objectives, 2008-2010

Unit: VND billion

Olit. VIVD Shirlon			
	2008	2009	2010
Total Total	307.95	349.6	473
Investment following Resolution No.39 NQ/2004/TW (16/08/2004) of the Politburo	37	47.1	59
Tourism infrastructure program	12	14	23
Industrial park infrastructure	9	13	25
Provincial and district health investment	16	25	12
Counterpart funding to ODA	21	36	40
Support for newly established districts	10	10	13
Others	50	99	06
Commune headquarter offices		4	5
Program on infrastructure for aquaculture, seedlings and livestock	9	1	80
Project on support for poor ethnic minority households following Decision No.134/2004/QD-TTg)	8.07	1	1
Investment in necessary residential areas (Decision No.193) and ethnic minority resettlement (Decision No.33)	က	7	7
Support for cultural preservation	2	1	7
Support for forest development	4	15	1
Scheme on computerising Party agencies	1.38	0.5	1
Investment for national parks and forest fire control	ı	1	10
Investment in social and labour education centres	ı	ı	9
Support for dykes	ı	1	18
Support for poor districts	1	,	20
Housing support for poor households under Decision No.167/2008/QD-TTg	ı	1	5
Support for radio and television network coverage	1	,	5

Source: Provincial People's Committee (2008-2010) Socio Economic Development Plans 2008 to 2010.

Annex 1.23 Ninh Thuan funding for National Target Programmes, 2006-2010

Unit: VND million

		Total investment	in 2006-2010
	Total	Investment	Service Delivery
Total	678,237	373,571	304,660
Central budget	481,851	187,680	294,171
Local budget	30,193	20,427	9,766
Other mobilised funding sources	166,193	165,464	729
NTP on Poverty Reduction	28,994	17,760	11,234
Central budget	28,994	17,760	11,234
Local budget	0	0	0
Other mobilised funding sources	0	0	0
NTP on Employment	7,030	5,460	1,570
Central budget	7,030	5,460	1,570
Local budget	0	0	0
Other mobilised funding sources	0	0	0
NTP on Social Diseases, Epidemics and HIV/AIDS	36,590	13,500	23,090
Central budget	30,795	13,500	17,295
Local budget	5,066	0	5,066
Other mobilised funding sources	729	0	729
Project on malaria control	3,169	0	3,169
Project of leprosy prevention	1,877	0	1,877
Project on TB control	10,683	8,000	2,683
Project of dengue fever control	1,583	0	1,583
Project on universal vaccination	1,735	0	1,735
Project on child malnutrition prevention	4,492	0	4,492
Project on HIV/AIDS	9,746	5,500	4,246
Project on community based mental healthcare	2,020	0	2,020
Project on cooperation with the army on healthcare	335	0	335
Project on reproductive healthcare	760	0	760
Project on diabetes treatment	190	0	190
NTP on Food Hygiene and Safety	3,751	0	3,751
Central budget	3,751	0	3,751
Local budget	0	0	0
Other mobilised funding sources	0	0	0
NTP on Population and Family Planning	21,706	0	21,706
Central budget	21,706	0	21,706
Local budget	0	0	0
Other mobilised funding sources	0	0	0
NTP on Education and Training	217,240	0	217,240
Central budget	214,440	0	214,440
Local budget	2,800	0	2,800
Other mobilised funding sources	0	0	0
Project universalisation of primary and lower secondary education	8,200	0	8,200
Project on renovation of textbooks	22,530	0	22,530

Project on computerisation of schools	10,500	0	10,500
Project on in-service training for teachers	10,400	0	10,400
Project on support for mountainous area education	24,910	0	24,910
Project on improvement of school facilities	84,000	0	84,000
Project on strengthening vocational training	53,900	0	53,900
NTP on Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation	332,551	322,751	9,800
Central budget	146,660	136,860	9,800
Local budget	20,427	20,427	0
Other mobilised funding sources	165,464	165,464	0
NTP on Culture	24,765	14100	10,665
Central budget	22,865	14,100	8,765
Local budget	1,900		1,900
Other mobilised funding sources	0	0	0
NTP on Crime Prevention	2,710	0	2,710
Central budget	2,710	0	2,710
Local budget	0	0	0
Other mobilised funding sources	0	0	0
NTP on Drug Use Prevention	2,900	0	2,900
Central budget	2,900	0	2,900
Local budget	0	0	0
Other mobilised funding sources	0	0	0

Source: Department of Finance (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

Annex 1.24 Ninh Thuan healthcare service indicators by administrative area, 2009

Administrative area	Number of hospitals	Number of doctors	imber of Number of doctors district hospital beds	Number of doctors per 10,000 people	Number of Commune/ward Commune/ward doctors per clinics with clinics with (000 people delivery nurse/ midwife (%)	Commune/ward clinics with doctor (%)	Communes reaching national health standards (%)
Phan Rang-Thap Cham City	2	550	550	66.0	100	18.8	81.0
Thuan Bac District	1	ı		2.91	99	0.79	0.79
Thuan Nam District	ı	ı	1	1.65	100	37.0	0.0
Ninh Hai District	_	20	20	2.24	100	45.0	89.0
Bac Ai District	_	20	20	4.98	99	33.0	0.0
Ninh Son District	_	110	110	1.40	100	25.0	62.5
Ninh Phuoc District	_	80	80	2.23	100	77.8	44.4

Source: (i) Department of Health (2010) Data provided during fieldwork; (ii) Preventive Health Centre (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

Annex 1.25 Nationwide health service delivery indicators, 2009

Region/province	Total budget 2009 (VND million)	Health budget per capita (VND thousand)	Number of provincial hospital beds	Number of district hospital beds	Total number of hospital beds	Number of commune/ward clinic beds	Commune/ ward clinics with delivery nurse/ midwife (%)	Commune/ ward clinics with doctor (%)	Communes reaching national health standard (%)
Whole country	13,754,318	159.9	85,520	55,190	140,710	47,092	67.5	95.7	65.4
Red River Delta	2,789,896	142.2	17,770	12,110	29,880	10,421	73.2	96.3	78.6
Northern Midlands and Uplands	2,369,785	213.6	9,645	9,368	19,013	10,570	58.2	94.0	55.4
North and South Central Coast	2,894,721	153.4	14,181	15,359	29,540	12,550	62.9	96.2	61.0
Central Highlands	942,737	184.0	3,750	2,759	6,509	2,864	49.5	95.4	48.1
South East	2,580,590	183.1	25,694	5,035	30,729	2,707	78.4	97.2	72.5
Mekong River Delta	2,176,589	126.4	14,480	10,523	25,003	7,980	80.1	96.1	72.7
Ninh Thuan	81,146	143.4	650	130	780	325	43.1	95.4	44.6
Phu Yen	122,626	142.1	009	520	1,120	310	54.5	96.4	33.0
Khanh Hoa	147,674	127.3	1,041	1,162	2,203	114	74.5	97.8	56.2
Binh Thuan	231,691	197.7	1,420	710	2,130	585	52.8	98.4	73.2
Lam Dong	225,191	189.3	1,170	220	1,740	610	75.7	100.0	98.0

Source: Ministry of Health (2011) Health Statistics Yearbook 2009.

Annex 1.26 Nationwide selected child health indicators, 2009

Sex ratio at birth birth 110.5 16.0 110.5 16.0 115.3 12.4 108.5 24.5 109.7 17.2 105.6 27.3 109.9 13.3 110.1 21.0 110.1 21.0 112.9 15.0							Vaccination		
Intry 17.6 110.5 Delta 17.6 115.3 Delta 17.6 115.3 iidlands and Uplands 16.9 108.5 South Central Coast 16.9 109.7 Ihlands 17.8 109.9 ver Delta 16.0 109.9 n 19.2 110.8 1 17.1 108.1 1 17.1 108.1 1 16.6 112.9 1 10.3 112.9		CBR (%)	Sex ratio at birth	IMR (%)	BCG (%)	OPV (%)	DPT (%)	DPT (%) Measles (%)	Fully vaccinated (%)
Jolita Jolitands and Uplands Jolitands and Uplands South Central Coast Jolitands Jo	country	17.6	110.5	16.0	97.0	9.96	96.3	97.0	6.3
idlands and Uplands South Central Coast South Central Coast 16.9 109.7 21.9 105.6 17.8 109.9 109.9 109.9 110.1 110.1 110.1 110.1	ver Delta	17.6	115.3	12.4	0.66	98.7	98.7	98.5	98.5
South Central Coast 16.9 109.7 101 105.6 109.7 105.6 105.6 105.9 105.6 109.9 105.0 109.9 105.0 109.9 105.0 105.9 110.1 105.9 1	n Midlands and Uplands	19.6	108.5	24.5	97.0	94.9	95.0	95.3	94.3
hlands 21.9 105.6 17.8 109.9 ver Delta 16.0 109.9 19.2 110.8 15.9 110.1 17.1 108.1 16.6 112.9	nd South Central Coast	16.9	109.7	17.2	97.3	96.8	97.0	96.5	8.56
ver Delta 17.8 109.9 n 19.2 110.8 15.9 110.1 1 17.1 108.1 1 16.6 112.9 1 10.3 11.2	Highlands	21.9	105.6	27.3	95.9	96.4	96.5	8.96	96.2
ver Delta 16.0 109.9 n 19.2 110.8 15.9 110.1 17.1 108.1 16.6 112.9	ast	17.8	109.9	10.0	95.3	95.0	93.2	97.4	6.36
19.2 110.8 15.9 110.1 17.1 108.1 16.6 112.9	River Delta	16.0	109.9	13.3	96.1	96.4	6.3	9.96	96.1
15.9 110.1 108.1 17.1 108.1 16.6 112.9	nuan	19.2	110.8	22.6	98.8	93.4	93.2	94.6	94.1
16.6 112.9		15.9	110.1	21.0	98.7	96.5	9.96	97.1	92.6
16.6 112.9	Ноа	17.1	108.1	16.5	0.66	98.3	98.3	98.1	97.9
20.3	uan	16.6	112.9	15.0	94.2	0.96	0.96	95.9	6.36
0:07	ng	20.3	112.6	14.6	89.1	98.5	98.6	98.9	98.5

Source: Ministry of Health (2011) Health Statistics Yearbook 2009.

Annex 1.27 Ninh Thuan school health check-ups, 2008-2010

		2008	80				2009					2010		
Indicator	Drimony	Secondary		Tertiary and	Dring and	Secondary		Tertiary and		0-1	Secondary		Tertiary and	- Code
	Tillial y	Lower	Upper	vocational	Tillialy	Lower	Upper	vocational		Tillial y	Lower	Upper	vocational	
Number of schools in province	40	51	12	_	140	51	12	2	06	146	51	17	က	85
Number of schools with medical staff	7	7	2	0	36	7	0	0	0	55	25	10	←	0
Number of schools with regular check-ups for students	22	22	7	~	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of pupils/ students receiving check-ups		46,723	723						57,723			58,825	2	
Number of schools with sufficient drinking water for students	107	46	12	←	108	45	12	01	78	110	20	12	03	80
Number of schools achieving green-clean-beautiful environment	110	45	12	~	112	44	12	01	80	411	45	12	02	80
Number schools having sufficient sanitation facilities	108	33	7	~	108	33	20	01	8	109	34	80	02	82
Number of schools having kitchens for students	1		7	_	1	<u></u>	20	01	40	12	12	08	01	85
Number of schools having food hygiene check-ups	22	16	9	~	55	16	90	01	32	26	25	90	02	33
Number of schools having dentistry check-ups	32	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
Total number of pupils having dentistry check-ups and instruction on oral health		8,848	48				19,811					13,264	4	

Source: Preventative Health Centre (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

Annex 1.28 Nationwide HIV/AIDS indicators, 2009

Region/province	Cumulative number of HIV-positive people	Cumulative rate per 100,000 people	Cumulative rate per 100,000 Cumulative number of people living with HIV/AIDS	Rate of new HIV infections per 100,000 persons
Whole country	160,019	186	35,603	16.11
Red River Delta	41,371	210.8	7,733	19.86
Northern Midlands and Uplands	28,251	254.6	4,100	A/A
North and South Central Coast	12,896	68.3	2,768	A/A
Central Highlands	2,469	48.2	275	2.68
South East	52,123	369.8	16,384	29.72
Mekong River Delta	22,658	131.6	4,343	10.18
Ninh Thuan	206	36.4	11	33.94
Phu Yen	113	13.1	40	2.82
Khanh Hoa	1,248	107.6	330	2.06
Binh Thuan	289	58.6	147	0
Lam Dong	299	55.2	77	2.07

Source: Ministry of Health (2011) Health Statistics Yearbook 2009.

Annex 1.29 Nationwide child malnutrition rates, 2005, 2007 and 2010

Percentage

		2002				2007				2010		
	Underweight total (%)	erweight Moderate Stunting total (%) underweight total (%) (%)	Stunting total (%)	Moderate stunting (%)	Underweight total (%)	Moderate underweight (%)	Stunting total (%)	Moderate stunting (%)	Underweight total (%)	Moderate underweight (%)	Stunting total (%)	Moderate stunting (%)
Whole Country	21.3	19.5	24.4	17.4	21.2	18.3	33.9	19.2	17.5	15.4	29.3	18.8
Red River Delta	21.3	19.5	24.4	17.4	18.3	17.0	29.8	18.9	17.5	15.4	29.3	18.8
North East	28.4	24.3	33.6	21.1	23.8	20.8	36.2	23.6	22.1	19.7	33.7	20.9
North West	30.4	24.8	35.6	17.9	27.2	22.4	37.6	21.8	•			1
North Central Coast	30.0	26.0	35.1	23.7	25.0	22.4	36.2	23.4	19.8	17.6	31.4	19.3
South Central coast	25.9	22.6	29.3	19.0	20.7	18.1	33.2	21.4	•	1	1	ı
Central Highlands	34.5	28.2	41.5	21.5	31.0	25.6	42.3	25.0	24.7	20.6	35.2	21.4
South East	18.9	16.8	21.6	13.0	17.9	15.8	28.1	16.8	10.7	9.5	19.2	10.7
Mekong River Delta	23.6	20.7	28.1	18.2	20.7	18.7	30.8	18.6	16.8	14.5	28.2	17.1
Ninh Thuan	30.586	26.4	32.7	19.1	27.1	24.1	33.2	18.7	23.5	19.5	31.6	18.4
Phu Yen	29.1	24.3	30.6	21.1	23.8	19.8	32.4	20.3	19.1	16.9	31.8	21.0
Khanh Hoa	28.2	23.7	30.6	19.5	23.1	20.0	31.0	19.7	15.7	13.4	27.2	17.2
Binh Thuan	27.1	23.8	32.0	21.9	23.0	19.8	33.8	22.8	19.7	17.9	32.1	17.5
Lam Dong	23.4	21.3	27.5	17.4	20.0	18.4	29.1	17.9	16.5	14.1	27.0	16.4

Source: National Institute of Nutrition, Nutrition Surveillance System.

Annex 1.30 Ninh Thuan rural water supply and sanitation, 2010

province 415,695 328,551 79.04 90, 90, 90, 90 District 24,426 13,147 53.82 5, 90, 17 Ininh 1,416 852 60.17 53.82 5, 90, 17 Ininh 3,510 3,435 97.86 97.86 10.03 Tan 2,344 1,665 71.03 71.03 71.03 71.03 71.03 71.03 71.03 71.03 71.03 71.03 71.03 71.03 71.03 71.03 72.01 72.01 72.03	Administrative area	Population	People using appropriate clean water	People using appropriate clean water (%)	Number of households	Number of households using appropriate clean latrines	Households using appropriate clean latrines (%)	Number of households that have appropriate clean latrines	Households that have appropriate clean latrines (%)	Number of schools	Number of schools with appropriate clean water and latrines	Number of commune clinics with appropriate clean water and latrines
istrict 24,426 13,147 53.82 Inh 1,416 852 60.17 Inh 2,344 1,665 71.03 Inn 2,344 1,665 71.03 Inn 2,344 1,665 71.03 Inn 3,630 0.00 Inh 3,646 1,479 42.92 Inn 1,567 1,106 70.58 Inn 3,466 3,492 97.92 Inn 11,545 11,036 95.59 Inn 11,315 11,291 99.79 In 11,315 11,291 99.79 In 11,315 11,291 99.79 In 11,315 11,817 75.87 In 15,674 4,347 54.73 In 15,654 14,254 91.06 In District 74,266 61,334 82.59 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83 Commune 3,612 8,696 69.07	e province	415,695	328,551	79.04	90,639	55,726	61.48	51,627	96.96	298	252	20
nh 1,416 852 60.17 e	Ni District	24,426	13,147	53.82	5,386	962	17.86	744	13.81	49	35	6
ai 3,510 3,435 97.86 Inn 2,344 1,665 71.03 Inanh 2,630 531 20.19 In 3,446 1,479 42.92 Inh 3,630 0 0.00 Inh 3,630 81,928 87.88 Inn 11,315 11,291 99.79 Inh 11,315 11,291 99.79 Inh 11,315 11,291 99.79 Inh 11,315 11,291 99.74 Inh 15,575 11,817 75.87 Inh 15,654 14,254 91.06 Indication 74,266 61,334 82.59 Commune 3,612 8,696 69.07	Chinh nune	1,416	852	60.17	341	130	38.12	85	24.93	ო	0	~
In 2,344 1,665 71.03 anh 2,630 531 20.19 an 3,446 1,479 42.92 nh 3,630 0 0.00 ba 1,567 1,106 70.58 nang 3,566 3,492 97.92 ung 2,317 587 25.33 bistrict 93,230 81,928 87.88 ommune 11,545 11,036 95.59 i 11,315 11,291 99.79 Hai 6,742 6,660 98.78 ai 7,942 4,347 54.73 ii 7,942 4,347 54.73 ii 7,942 4,347 75.87 ii 7,942 4,347 75.87 ii 10,087 8,482 84.09 ai 15,575 11,817 75.87 or 10,087 8,482 84.09 or 14,254 91.06	c Dai	3,510	3,435	97.86	863	133	15.41	133	15.41	7	7	_
lanh 2,630 531 20.19 en 3,446 1,479 42.92 hh 3,630 0 0.00 ba 1,567 1,106 70.58 hang 2,317 587 25.33 District 93,230 81,928 87.88 ommune 11,545 11,036 95.59 el i 11,315 11,291 99.79 el i 6,742 6,660 98.78 el i 7,942 4,347 54.73 el i 15,575 11,817 75.87 el i 15,654 14,254 91.06 el i 15,654 14,254 91.06 el i 15,654 14,254 91.06 el i 15,591 8,696 69.07	c Tan	2,344	1,665	71.03	542	00	1.48	00	1.48	7	2	_
an 3,446 1,479 42.92 Inh 3,630 0 0.00 Inh 3,630 1,106 70.58 Inh 3,566 3,492 97.92 Inh 1,545 11,036 95.59 Inh 1,315 11,291 99.79 Inh 6,742 6,660 98.78 Inh 6,742 6,660 98.78 Inh 1,315 11,291 99.74 Inh 1,575 11,817 75.87 Inh 1,654 14,254 91.06 Indication 74,266 61,334 82.59 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83 Commune 8,696 69.07	c Thanh	2,630	531	20.19	591	21	3.55	20	3.38	7	9	_
nth 3,630 0 0.00 Day 1,567 1,106 70.58 Lang 3,566 3,492 97.92 Ung 2,317 587 25.33 District 93,230 81,928 87.88 Ommune 11,545 11,036 95.59 Lai 6,742 6,660 98.78 Aai 6,742 6,660 98.78 Lai 6,742 4,347 54.73 Aai 7,942 4,347 54.73 Looman 15,575 11,817 75.87 Looman 3,612 8,482 84.09 Bai 15,654 14,254 91.06 Looman 3,612 8,696 69.07	c Tien	3,446	1,479	42.92	778	172	22.11	2	0.26	4	4	_
nang 1,567 1,106 70.58 nang 3,566 3,492 97.92 ung 2,317 587 25.33 District 93,230 81,928 87.88 ommune 11,545 11,036 95.59 i 11,315 11,291 99.79 dai 6,742 6,660 98.78 ai 7,942 4,347 54.73 i 7,942 4,347 54.73 ai 7,942 4,347 54.73 i 10,087 8,482 84.09 ai 15,575 11,817 75.87 I 10,087 8,482 84.09 ai 15,654 14,254 91.06 I District 74,266 61,334 82.59 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83 Commune 3,612 8,696 69.07	c Binh	3,630	0	00.00	732	0	00.00	0	00.00	2	4	_
lang 3,566 3,492 97.92 ung 2,317 587 25.33 District 93,230 81,928 87.88 ommune 11,545 11,036 95.59 i 11,315 11,291 99.79 lai 6,742 6,660 98.78 ai 7,942 4,347 54.73 ii 7,942 4,347 54.73 ii 15,575 11,817 75.87 i District 74,266 61,334 82.59 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83 Commune 12,591 8,696 69.07	с Ноа	1,567	1,106	70.58	302	0	0.00	0	00.00	2	3	_
ung 2,317 587 25.33 District 93,230 81,928 87.88 ommune 11,545 11,036 95.59 i 11,315 11,291 99.79 Hai 6,742 6,660 98.78 Hai 6,742 4,347 54.73 ai 7,942 4,347 54.73 i 15,575 11,817 75.87 i 15,575 11,817 75.87 i 15,654 14,254 91.06 n District 74,266 61,334 82.59 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83 Commune 12,591 8,696 69.07	c Thang	3,566	3,492	97.92	731	476	65.12	476	65.12	7	9	_
District 93,230 81,928 87.88 ommune 11,545 11,036 95.59 i 11,315 11,291 99.79 Hai 6,742 6,660 98.78 Hai 6,742 6,660 98.78 Hai 7,942 4,347 54.73 Hai 7,942 4,347 54.73 Hai 15,575 11,817 75.87 Hai 16,654 14,254 91.06 Hai 16,654 14,254 91.06 Hai 12,591 8,696 69.07	c Trung	2,317	287	25.33	909	22	4.35	20	3.95	4	0	_
ommune 11,545 11,036 95.59 i 11,315 11,291 99.79 Hai 6,742 6,660 98.78 ai 7,942 4,347 54.73 ii 7,942 4,347 54.73 ii 15,575 11,817 75.87 10,087 8,482 84.09 ai 15,654 14,254 91.06 n District 74,266 61,334 82.59 11 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83	Hai District	93,230	81,928	87.88	21,492	15,849	73.74	14,987	69.73	63	20	7
i 11,315 11,291 99.79 Hai 6,742 6,660 98.78 8,997 8,682 96.50 ai 7,942 4,347 54.73 i 15,575 11,817 75.87 10,087 8,482 84.09 ai 15,654 14,254 91.06 10,087 8,482 84.09 ai 15,654 61,334 82.59 11 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83	ai Commune	11,545	11,036	95.59	2,511	2,144	85.38	1,956	77.90	9	2	_
Hai 6,742 6,660 98.78 8,997 8,682 96.50 ai 7,942 4,347 54.73 15,373 5,359 99.74 15,575 11,817 75.87 10,087 8,482 84.09 ai 15,654 14,254 91.06 10,087 8,482 84.09 A,266 61,334 82.59 11.06 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83	Hai	11,315	11,291	62.66	2,836	2,088	73.62	2,049	72.25	4	က	_
8,997 8,682 96.50 7,942 4,347 54.73 5,373 5,359 99.74 15,575 11,817 75.87 10,087 8,482 84.09 ai 15,654 14,254 91.06 1 District 74,266 61,334 82.59 11 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83	ng Hai	6,742	6,660	98.78	1,487	1,007	67.72	888	59.72	4	4	_
ai 7,942 4,347 54.73 5,373 5,359 99.74 1 15,575 11,817 75.87 10,087 8,482 84.09 ai 15,654 14,254 91.06 Tobistrict 74,266 61,334 82.59 11 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83	ai	8,997	8,682	96.50	1,938	1,604	82.77	1,501	77.45	∞	9	0
5,373 5,359 99.74 15,575 11,817 75.87 10,087 8,482 84.09 ai 15,654 14,254 91.06 1 District 74,266 61,334 82.59 11 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83	h Hai	7,942	4,347	54.73	1,695	1,010	59.59	1,009	59.53	က	3	0
15,575 11,817 75.87 10,087 8,482 84.09 ai 15,654 14,254 91.06 10 District 74,266 61,334 82.59 11 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83 12,591 8,696 69.07	Hai	5,373	5,359	99.74	1,351	552	40.86	489	36.20	=======================================	9	_
ai 15,654 14,254 84.09 District 74,266 61,334 82.59 1 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83 12,591 8,696 69.07	Hai	15,575	11,817	75.87	3,472	2,758	79.44	2,409	69.38	o	9	~
ai 15,654 14,254 91.06 n District 74,266 61,334 82.59 1 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83 12,591 8,696 69.07	ai	10,087	8,482	84.09	2,542	1,425	90.99	1,425	26.06	7	9	~
District 74,266 61,334 82.59 1 Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83 12,591 8,696 69.07	ıh Hai	15,654	14,254	91.06	3,660	3,261	89.10	3,261	89.10	7	1	~
Commune 3,612 3,028 83.83 12,591 8,696 69.07	Son District	74,266	61,334	82.59	17,308	11,663	62.39	10,962	63.33	49	42	6
12,591 8,696 69.07	Son Commune	3,612	3,028	83.83	923	539	58.40	436	47.24	က	3	_
	Son	12,591	8,696	20.69	2,858	1,383	48.39	1,250	43.74	5	5	_
3,709 1,175 31.68	Ma Noi	3,709	1,175	31.68	908	129	16.00	96	11.91	က	0	_

noS. nodN	13 274	11 577	87 22	3 125	2 2 7 7 2	72 70	2 129	68 13	7	7	~
	- (1 0) ()	1 .)	1 () ; ; ; ;	. 1	. 1	- ,
Tan Son Town	11,629	11,511	98.99	2,746	2,481	90.35	2,401	87.44	7	7	~
Luong Son	6,239	5,566	89.21	1,522	296	63.53	926	62.81	2	2	~
My Son	9,014	5,617	62.31	2,092	1,059	50.62	1,034	49.43	7	7	2
Quang Son	14,198	14,164	92.66	3,236	2,833	87.55	2,660	82.20	12	œ	~
Thuan Bac District	37,445	29,684	79.27	7,617	3,277	43.02	3,037	39.87	34	30	œ
Bac Phong Commune	6,523	6,204	95.11	1,469	1,377	93.74	1,248	84.96	4	4	~
Bac Son	6,787	6,483	95.52	1,274	318	24.96	307	24.10	7	7	~
Cong Hai	7,500	5,556	74.08	1,624	635	39.10	585	36.02	4	က	~
Loi Hai	10,288	10,250	99.63	1,923	764	39.73	714	37.13	9	9	~
Phuoc Chien	4,127	153	3.71	898	118	13.59	118	13.59	10	7	က
Phuoc Khang	2,220	1,038	46.76	459	65	14.16	65	14.16	က	8	_
Ninh Phuoc District	130,350	106,115	81.41	27,469	17,982	65.46	16,615	60.49	62	09	တ
Phuoc Dan Town	25,239	23,898	94.69	5,698	3,959	69.48	3,571	62.67	=	1	~
An Hai Commune	12,937	7,064	54.60	2,935	2,145	73.08	2,020	68.82	4	4	~
Phuoc Hai	12,367	11,310	91.45	2,472	1,849	74.80	1,660	67.15	9	2	~
Phuoc Hau	15,573	12,088	77.62	3,030	1,789	59.04	1,603	52.90	œ	œ	~
Phuoc Huu	16,009	13,753	85.91	3,058	1,782	58.27	1,586	51.86	_∞	80	~
Phuoc Son	13,047	12,361	94.74	2,882	1,962	68.08	1,902	00.99	4	က	~
Phuoc Thai	9,765	7,118	72.89	2,064	869	42.10	761	36.87	7	7	~
Phuoc Thuan	15,941	6,509	59.62	3,485	2,324	69.99	2,223	63.79	7	7	~
Phuoc Vinh	9,472	9,014	95.16	1,845	1,303	70.62	1,289	98.69	7	7	~
Thuan Nam District	55,978	36,343	64.92	11,367	5,993	52.72	5,282	46.47	41	35	œ
Ca Na Commune	8,561	6,135	71.66	1,710	1,169	98.39	1,167	68.25	က	0	~
Phuoc Diem	10,682	3,054	28.59	2,094	1,177	56.21	1,098	52.44	က	က	~
Phuoc Dinh	9,619	3,114	32.37	2,231	1,131	69.09	964	43.21	9	2	~
Phuoc Ha	3,076	1,435	46.65	542	35	6.46	34	6.27	7	7	~
Phuoc Minh	3,557	3,298	92.72	847	640	75.56	292	66.71	9	9	_
Phuoc Nam	11,611	11,184	96.32	2,212	1,329	80.09	965	43.63	2	2	~
Phuoc Ninh	4,811	4,649	96.63	829	277	33.41	265	31.97	4	4	_
Nhi Ha	4,061	3,474	85.55	902	235	26.05	224	24.83	7	2	_

Source: Provincial Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (2011) Results of implementation of sets of monitoring indicators for rural water supply and environmental sanitation in Ninh Thuan Province.

Annex 1.31 Ninh Thuan number of pupils at different educational levels, school years 2007-08 to 2010-11

		School year 2007-2008	2007-2008			School year 2008-2009	2008-2009	
Level	Total pupils	Ethnic minority pupils	Female pupils	Ethnic minority girls	Total pupils	Ethnic minority pupils	Female pupils	Ethnic minority girls
Total pupils	121,450	28,515	59,830	15,158	111,721	25,979	57,359	13,890
Primary	59,101	16,199	27,222	8,400	50,689	16,309	27,665	8,455
Lower secondary	43,058	9,039	21,954	4,820	42,122	8,583	19,807	4,592
Upper secondary	19,382	3,277	10,654	1,939	18,910	1,087	9,887	844

		School year 2009-2010	2009-2010			School year 2010-2011	2010-2011	
Level	Total pupils	Ethnic minority pupils	Female pupils	Ethnic minority girls	Total pupils	Ethnic F minority pupils	Female pupils	Ethnic minority girls
Total pupils	115,654	29,154	57,197	15,477	114,403	28,031	54,456	13,451
Primary	57,534	16,333	27,416	8,467	57,690	16,037	25,889	7,251
Lower secondary	38,937	9,284	18,542	4,942	37,365	8,341	17,220	4,153
Upper secondary	19,183	3,537	11,239	2,069	19,438	3,653	11,347	2,047

Source: Department of Education and Training (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

Annex 1.32 Ninh Thuan teacher standards and teacher-to-pupil ratio, school years 2007-08 to 2009-10

		Primary		Low	Lower secondary		Upp	Upper secondary	
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Total number of teachers	2,675	2,661	2,785	1,957	1,929	1,922	775	827	860
Teachers meeting standard	2,521	2,546	2,767	1,174	1,447	1,711	736	810	851
Teachers meeting standard (%)	94.4	2.56	99.4	59.9	75.0	89.0	95.0	98.0	0.66
Teacher-to-class ratio	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.76	1.8	1.8	0.3	0.4	9.0
Teacher-to-pupil ratio	22.1	21.6	20.8	38.7	38.9	39.1	45.9	45.8	45.6

Source: Department of Education and Training (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

Annex 1.33 Ninh Thuan primary education statistics, school years 2007-08 to 2010-11

1,780 10,121 5,524 5,305 5,238 4,816 3,626 10,228 1,707 97.1 1,780 12,836 1,530 11,624 1,672 11,217 1,672 11,217 1,672 11,217 1,672 11,217 1,6850 51,458 1,0689 51,458 1,057 10,247 1,057 10,247 1,057 99.4 2,282 2,296 26 26				00 200	00 0000	07 0000	2040 44
Number of pupils newly enrolled in Grade 1 Female 5,985 1,780 1 Total population under six years old Male 6,947 6,238 5,524 Newly recruited pupils (%) 96.2 98.5 7 Newly recruited pupils completed kindergarten at age five (%) 96.2 98.5 96.2 Newly recruited pupils completed kindergarten at age five (%) 97.0 97.0 97.0 Number of primary school pupils Grade 1 12,932 11,780 11,780 Crade 2 12,337 12,530 12,530 12,530 12,530 Crade 3 11,147 11,672			7	00-700	2000-03	2003-10	711-0107
Female 5,985 5,524 Nate 6,947 6,238 Total population under six years old 10,246 9,626 1 Newly recruited pupils (%) 96.2 98.5 98.5 Newly recruited pupils completed kindergarten at age five (%) 97.0 97.0 97.0 Number of primary school pupils Grade 1 12,932 11,780 11,780 Grade 2 12,337 12,530 10,850 10,850 Number of pupils completing primary school Grade 5 11,147 11,672 10,850 Pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to higher class) (%) 11,401 10,057 10,057 Total number of primary classes 2,285 2,282 2,282 2,282 Ratio of pupils per class 29 26 26	~	Number of pupils newly enrolled in Grade 1		12,932	11,780	10,121	10,069
Total population under six years old Male 6,947 6,238 Total population under six years old 9,626 9,626 Newly recruited pupils (%) 96.2 98.5 Newly recruited pupils completed kindergarten at age five (%) 97.0 97.0 Number of primary school pupils Grade 1 12,932 11,780 Number of primary school pupils Grade 2 12,530 11,672 Grade 3 11,147 11,672 11,672 Grade 5 11,401 10,100 10,057 Number of pupils completing primary school Grade 5 pupils moving to 99.73 99.57 Pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to 99.73 99.57 Total number of primary classes 2,285 2,282 Ratio of pupils per class 29 26			Female	5,985	5,524	5,305	5,135
Total population under six years old 10,246 9,626 Newly recruited pupils Completed kindergarten at age five (%) 97.0 98.5 Newly recruited pupils Completed kindergarten at age five (%) 97.0 97.0 Number of primary school pupils Grade 1 12,932 11,780 Grade 2 12,337 12,530 Grade 3 11,147 11,672 Grade 4 11,192 10,850 Total population aged six to 10 years old Grade 5 99.10 50,689 Number of pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to higher class) (%) 11,370 10,057 Pupils completing primary classes 2,285 2,282 Ratio of pupils per class 22,282			Male	6,947	6,238	4,816	4,934
Newly recruited pupils (%) 96.2 98.5 Newly recruited pupils completed kindergarten at age five (%) 97.0 97.0 Number of primary school pupils Grade 1 12,932 11,780 Grade 2 12,337 12,530 Grade 3 11,147 11,672 Grade 4 11,192 10,850 Number of pupils completing primary school Grade 5 11,401 10,100 Pupils completing primary school Grade 5 pupils moving to 99.73 99.57 Pupils completing primary chool (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to 99.73 99.57 Total number of primary classes 2,285 26		Total population under six years old		10,246	9,626	10,228	10,121
Newly recruited pupils completed kindergarten at age five (%) 97.07 Number of primary school pupils Grade 1 12,932 11,780 Grade 2 12,337 12,530 11,780 Grade 3 11,147 11,672 10,850 Grade 4 11,192 10,850 Own be rof pupils completing primary school Grade 5 11,401 10,100 Pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to higher class) (%) 10,57 10,057 Total number of primary classes 2,285 2,282 26		Newly recruited pupils (%)		96.2	98.5	98.9	0
Number of primary school pupils Grade 1 12,932 57,341 Grade 2 12,937 11,780 Grade 3 11,147 11,672 Grade 4 11,192 10,850 Total population aged six to 10 years old Grade 5 11,401 10,100 Number of pupils completing primary school 59,010 50,689 Pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to higher class) (%) 11,370 10,657 Total number of primary classes 2,285 2,282 Ratio of pupils per class 29 26	7	Newly recruited pupils completed kindergarten at age five (%)		97.0	70.76	97.1	99.48
Grade 2 12,932 11,780 Grade 3 11,147 11,672 Grade 4 11,192 10,850 Grade 5 11,401 10,100 Total population aged six to 10 years old Grade 5 11,401 10,100 Number of pupils completing primary school Grade 5 11,401 10,100 Pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to higher class) (%) 11,370 10,657 Total number of primary classes 2,285 2,282 Ratio of pupils per class 29 26	က	Number of primary school pupils		59,009	57,341	57,534	57,690
Grade 2 12,337 12,530 Grade 3 11,147 11,672 Grade 4 11,192 10,850 Total population aged six to 10 years old Grade 5 11,401 10,100 Number of pupils completing primary school Pupils completing primary school 11,370 10,057 Pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to higher class) (%) 10,057 99.73 99.57 Total number of primary classes Patio of pupils per class 2,285 2,282			Grade 1	12,932	11,780	12,836	12,700
Grade 3 11,147 11,672 Grade 4 11,192 10,850 Total population aged six to 10 years old Grade 5 11,401 10,100 Number of pupils completing primary school Fupils completing primary school 11,370 50,689 Pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to higher class) (%) 10,057 99.73 99.57 Total number of primary classes 2,285 2,282 2,282 Ratio of pupils per class 29 26			Grade 2	12,337	12,530	11,624	11,719
Grade 4 11,192 10,850 Total population aged six to 10 years old Grade 5 11,401 10,100 Number of pupils completing primary school 59,010 50,689 Pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to higher class) (%) 10,057 Total number of primary classes 99.73 99.57 Ratio of pupils per class 2,285 2,282 Ratio of pupils per class 29 26			Grade 3	11,147	11,672	11,217	11,196
Total population aged six to 10 years old Number of pupils completing primary school Pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to higher class) (%) Total number of primary classes Ratio of pupils per class 2,285 11,401 10,100 50,689 10,057 10,			Grade 4	11,192	10,850	11,557	10,934
Total population aged six to 10 years old Number of pupils completing primary school Pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to higher class) (%) Total number of primary classes Ratio of pupils per class 2,285 2,282 2,282			Grade 5	11,401	10,100	10,300	11,140
Number of pupils completing primary school11,37010,0571Pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to higher class) (%)99.5799.57Total number of primary classes2,2852,282Ratio of pupils per class2926		Total population aged six to 10 years old		59,010	50,689	51,458	51,558
Pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving to higher class) (%) Total number of primary classes Ratio of pupils per class 29 26 26	4	Number of pupils completing primary school		11,370	10,057	10,247	11,120
Total number of primary classes 2,285 2,282 Ratio of pupils per class 29 26		Pupils completing primary school (proportion of Grade 5 pupils moving higher class) (%)	q	99.73	99.57	99.4	8.66
Ratio of pupils per class 26	2	Total number of primary classes		2,285	2,282	2,296	2,269
	9	Ratio of pupils per class		29	26	26	25.4

Source: Department of Education and Training (2011) Data provided during fieldwork.

Annex 1.34 Nationwide highest educational attainment and literacy rate, 2009

	Population	Highest ed	Highest educational attainment of persons over five years old	nment of perso	ns over five y	ears old	Literacy rate	Literacy rate of persons over 15 years old	15 years old
	over 15 years old who never attended school (%)	Incomplete primary education (%)	Complete primary education (%)	Complete lower secondary education (%)	Complete upper secondary and higher education (%)	Completed vocational training (%)	Literacy rate of persons over 15 total (%)	Literacy rate of males over 15 (%)	Literacy rate of females over 15 (%)
Whole country	5.5	22.7	27.6	23.7	20.8	4.7	93.5	95.8	91.4
Urban	2.5	16.7	23.0	20.4	32.4	7.6	97.0	98.0	0.96
Rural	6.8	25.3	29.6	25.1	13.8	3.5	92.0	94.8	89.3
Northern Midlands and Mountains	11.6	22.7	25.6	23.2	18.2	6.4	87.3	92.0	82.8
Red River Delta	2.3	15.8	18.9	33.0	30.1	6.8	97.1	7.86	92.6
North and South Central Coast	4.7	22.2	28.6	25.9	19.1	4.8	93.9	96.3	91.7
Central Highlands	10.3	25.7	30.9	20.8	13.7	•	88.7	92.3	85.1
South East	3.0	19.7	29.1	21.0	27.2	3.8	96.4	97.4	95.4
Mekong River Delta	6.9	32.8	35.6	14.3	10.7	2.2	91.6	93.9	89.5
Ninh Thuan	12.3	30.8	31.2	14.1	12.9	3.5	86.0	88.8	83.3
Phu Yen	2	26.4	34.3	20.2	14.5	3.4	93.5	96.1	91.0
Khanh Hoa	5.6	24.4	32.0	20.1	18.8	3.3	93.3	95.2	91.5
Binh Thuan	7.4	29.9	36.3	16.3	11.0	3.2	91.2	92.8	89.7
Lam Dong	ı	22.6	32.8	22.9	16.9	•	93.6	95.8	91.4

Source: (i) General Statistics Office (2011) Education in Viet Nam: An Analysis of Key Indicators (Viet Nam Population and Housing Census 2009); (ii) Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2010) The 2009 Viet Nam Population and Housing Census: Major Findings.

Annex 1.35 Nationwide net enrolment rate by education level, 2009

	Prin	Primary (%)		Lower s	Lower secondary (%)	(%)	Upper	Upper secondary (%)	(%) /	Junior college or university (%)	ege or un (%)	iversity
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Whole country	95.5	95.5	95.4	82.6	81.4	83.9	2.99	53.1	9.09	16.3	15.1	17.5
Urban	97.2	1	1	88.8	1	1	68.4	1	1	36.2	1	1
Rural	94.9	•	1	9.08	1	1	52.8	•	1	6.7	1	1
Northern Midlands and Mountains	92.0	1	1	77.2	1	1	48.6	1	1	2.7	1	1
Red River Delta	8.76	1	1	93.9	1	1	74.9	1	1	27.1	1	1
North and South Central Coast	96.4	ı	ı	86.8	1	ı	61.9	1	1	14.2	ı	1
Central Highlands	93.1	1	1	74.9	1	1	48.7	1	1	7.0	1	1
South East	8.96	1	1	83.5	1	1	52.7	1	1	23.5	1	1
Mekong River Delta	94.3	•	1	71.5	1	1	40.4		1	8.1	1	1
Ninh Thuan	91.6	90.5	92.8	8.79	63.7	72.3	45.3	38.7	52.6	1.8	6.0	2.7
Phu Yen	9.96	96.4	96.8	84.1	82.6	85.7	53.5	47.9	8.69	11.2	11.7	10.7
Khanh Hoa	6.96	9.96	97.2	82.1	79.7	84.8	55.4	48.9	62.5	20.1	15.9	24.2
Binh Thuan	96.4	96	6.96	77.3	73.3	81.6	48.3	41.7	9.53	2.7	1.9	3.7
Lam Dong	97.1	6.96	97.4	84.8	81.5	88.2	56.5	49.9	63.5	14.5	11.7	17.5

Source: (i) General Statistics Office (2011) Education in Viet Nam: An Analysis of Key Indicators (Viet Nam Population and Housing Census 2009); (ii) Central Population and Housing Census: Major Findings.

Annex 1.36 Nationwide nursery education statistics, 2009-2010

			Z	Nursery pupils				Teachers a	Teachers and pupil-teacher ratio	ner ratio
Region/province	Total number of pupils	Pupils in public schools	Pupils in non-public schools	Number of girl pupils	Girls (%)	Number of ethnic minority pupils	Ethnic minority pupils (%)	Number of teachers	Number of female teachers	Pupils per teacher
Whole country	508,190	183,643	324,547	236,757	46.59	53,013	10.43	49,256	47,960	10.32
Northern Mountains	84,965	42,635	42,330	40,438	47.59	37,626	44.28	9,564	8,747	8.88
Red River Delta	212,568	57,771	154,797	96,594	45.44	1,540	0.72	20,092	19,999	10.58
North and South Central Coast	105,954	26,495	79,459	50,758	47.91	9,922	9.36	10,239	10,111	10.35
Central Highlands	18,900	7,630	11,270	8,345	44.15	1,749	9.25	1,658	1,426	11.40
South East	60,263	33,167	27,096	29,251	48.54	1,730	2.87	5,575	2,567	10.81
Mekong River Delta	25,540	15,945	9,595	11,371	44.52	446	1.75	2,128	2,110	12.00
Ninh Thuan	1,601	307	1,294	726	45.35	75	4.68	136	136	11.77
Phu Yen	2,161	793	1,368	1,017	47.06	13	09.0	242	242	8.93
Khanh Hoa	2,556	1,947	3,309	2,489	97.38	164	6.42	541	540	9.72
Binh Thuan	3,428	1,140	2,288	1,446	42.18	75	2.19	292	292	11.74
Lam Dong	6,881	624	6,257	3,365	48.90	242	3.52	441	439	15.60
		;								

Source: Ministry of Education and Training (2010) Education and Training Statistics: School Year 2009-2010.

Annex 1.37 Nationwide kindergarten education statistics, 2009-2010

			Z	Nursery pupils				Teachers a	Teachers and pupil-teacher ratio	ner ratio
Region/province	Total number of pupils	Pupils in public schools	Pupils in non-public schools	Number of girl pupils	Girls (%)	Number of ethnic minority pupils	Ethnic minority pupils (%)	Number of teachers	Number of female teachers	Pupils per teacher
Whole country	2,901,633 1,609,634	1,609,634	1,291,999	1,374,341	47.36	452,539	15.60	146,596	144,435	19.79
Northern Mountains	476,058	289,241	186,817	226,459	47.57	250,342	52.59	27,580	26,474	17.26
Red River Delta	733,278	289,292	443,986	353,537	48.21	11,815	1.61	37,338	37,133	19.64
North and South Central Coast	652,154	200,318	451,836	306,018	46.92	79,337	12.17	34,202	33,904	19.07
Central Highlands	200,591	160,482	40,109	95,988	47.85	75,835	37.81	9,490	9,455	21.14
South East	390,804	257,564	133,240	181,489	46.44	10,510	2.69	20,387	20,237	19.17
Mekong River Delta	448,748	412,737	36,011	210,850	46.99	24,700	2.50	17,599	17,232	25.50
Ninh Thuan	16,501	13,715	2,786	8,004	48.51	4,065	24.63	748	748	22.06
Phu Yen	24,198	6,002	18,196	11,610	47.98	1,897	7.48	1,244	1,244	19.45
Khanh Hoa	35,138	9,237	25,901	16,058	45.70	2,584	7.35	1,832	1,832	19.18
Binh Thuan	38,745	31,618	7,127	18,291	47.21	2,753	7.11	1,663	1,663	23.30
Lam Dong	43,828	18,344	25,484	21,247	48.48	9,120	20.81	2,201	2,194	19.91

Source: Ministry of Education and Training (2010) Education and Training Statistics: School Year 2009-2010.

Annex 1.38 Nationwide primary education statistics, 2009-2010

Region/ province	Total number of schools	Number of schools meeting national standards	Schools meeting national standards (%)	Total number pupils	Number girl pupils	Girls (%)	Number of ethnic minority pupils	Ethnic minority pupils (%)	Number of teachers	Number of female teachers	Teacher-class ratio
Whole country	15,172	4,975	32.79	6,922,624	3,271,858	47.26	1,203,860	17.39	347,840	270,912	1.3
Northern Mountains	2,843	761	26.77	934,377	443,443	47.46	577,375	61.79	64,897	50,706	1.25
Red River Delta	2,715	1,738	64.01	1,374,634	657,821	47.85	23,490	1.71	67,070	60,293	1.46
North and South Central Coast	3,798	1,739	45.79	1,547,795	741,304	47.89	182,277	11.78	81,128	65,545	1.32
Central Highlands	1,137	202	17.77	563,792	263,899	46.81	244,756	43.41	26,061	21,914	1.19
South East	1,488	184	12.37	1,032,200	485,599	47.05	64,421	6.24	39,945	33,287	1.26
Mekong River Delta	3,191	351	11.00	1,469,826	679,792	46.25	111,541	7.59	68,739	39,167	1.25
Ninh Thuan	146	10	6.85	57,534	27,416	47.65	16,333	28.39	2,736	2,272	1.24
Phu Yen	165	32	19.39	79,436	38,089	47.95	6,134	7.72	4,489	2,824	1.1
Khanh Hoa	186	38	20.43	101,399	49,087	48.41	8,041	7.93	3,629	3,898	1.05
Binh Thuan	281	13	4.63	109,870	53,271	48.49	10,180	9.27	5,252	4,410	1.22
Lam Dong	249	72	28.92	116,615	56,390	48.36	33,224	28.49	5,106	4,361	1.23
	:			:							

Source: Ministry of Education and Training (2010) Education and Training Statistics: School Year 2009-2010.

Annex 1.39 Nationwide lower secondary education statistics, 2009-2010

Region/ province	Total number of schools	Number of schools meeting national standards	Schools meeting national standards (%)	Total number pupils	Number girl pupils	Girls (%)	Number of ethnic minority pupils	Ethnic minority pupils (%)	Number of teachers	Number of female teachers	Teacher-class ratio
Whole country	10,060	1,636	16.26	5,214,045	2,598,267	49.83	800,301	15.35	313,911	216,961	2.09
Northern Mountains	2,312	265	11.46	724,732	435,411	80.09	422,557	58.31	52,152	35,843	2.1
Red River Delta	2,426	655	27.00	1,116,506	538,896	48.27	19,125	1.71	70,473	54,320	2.2
North and South Central Coast	2,542	512	20.14	1,369,399	659,874	48.19	135,838	9.92	80,945	56,415	2.08
Central Highlands	671	37	5.51	405,149	198,751	49.06	132,645	32.74	21,303	13,973	1.88
South East	728	74	10.16	701,163	334,374	47.69	36,418	5.19	35,692	25,712	1.99
Mekong River Delta	1,381	93	6.73	897,096	430,961	48.04	53,718	5.99	53,346	30,698	2.14
Ninh Thuan	59	က	2.08	38,937	15,393	39.53	6,822	17.52	2,094	1,330	1.91
Phu Yen	96	12	12.50	59,279	29,217	49.29	3,042	5.13	3,986	2,366	2.27
Khanh Hoa	100	24	24.00	76,041	37,641	49.50	3,978	5.23	4,193	3,005	1.91
Binh Thuan	121	1	1	85,993	43,626	50.73	6,082	7.07	4,791	3,215	1.96
Lam Dong	122	4	3.28	91,831	46,248	50.36	22,828	24.86	4,885	3,310	1.92

Source: Ministry of Education and Training (2010) Education and Training Statistics: School Year 2009-2010.

Annex 1.40 Nationwide upper secondary education statistics, 2009-2010

Region/ province	Total number of schools	Number of schools meeting national standards	Schools meeting national standards (%)	Total number pupils	Number girl pupils	Girls (%)	Number of ethnic minority pupils	Ethnic minority pupils (%)	Number of teachers	Number of female teachers	Teacher-class ratio
Whole country	2,242	189	8.43	2,886,090	1,521,326	52.71	282,983	9.81	142,432	90,488	2.13
Northern Mountains	397	17	4.28	355,117	182,044	51.26	161,411	45.45	17,849	11,280	2.08
Red River Delta	547	69	12.61	719,703	377,565	52.46	8,058	1.12	35,822	24,061	2.2
North and South Central Coast	564	64	11.35	817,825	439,566	53.75	49,445	6.05	36,564	26,938	2.05
Central Highlands	149	4	2.68	191,623	101,927	53.19	32,531	16.98	9,628	5,190	2.09
South East	221	22	9.95	379,823	205,457	54.09	15,728	4.14	19,796	11,443	2.19
Mekong River Delta	337	13	3.86	421,999	214,767	50.89	15,810	3.75	22,773	11,576	2.17
Ninh Thuan	15	1	1	19,183	10,555	55.02	2,960	15.43	901	478	2.01
Phu Yen	23	1	1	32,098	16,990	52.93	942	2.93	1,605	845	2.20
Khanh Hoa	28	5	17.86	39,209	22,474	57.32	2,351	00.9	1,734	1,043	1.96
Binh Thuan	26	•	•	45,478	26,323	57.88	2,345	5.16	1,792	1,015	1.76
Lam Dong	35	က	8.57	47,591	26,527	55.74	7,065	14.85	2,604	1,566	2.14
		1	:	;							

Source: Ministry of Education and Training (2010) Education and Training Statistics: School Year 2009-2010.

Annex 1.41 Ninh Thuan care of children in special circumstances, 2008-2009

			2008					2009		
Category	Total children	Children in protection centres	Children adopted by families	Children under community care	Children under support from Decree 67	Total children	Children in protection centres	Children adopted by families	Children under community care	Children under support from Decree 67
Total abandoned and orphaned children	2,456	101	91	1,119	1145	3,098	96	95	1,839	1,068
Fully orphaned children	458	70	83	1	294	1,023	64	88	19	852
Abandoned children	19	1	∞	•		21	14	7	•	•
One parent orphaned children	1,979	10	1	1,108	851	2,054	18	1	1,820	216
Total children with disabilities	2,229	22	•	2,088	119	2,017	17	•	1,855	145

Source: Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.

Annex 1.42 Ninh Thuan funding for social protection policies, 2007-2010

			Number of	recipients a	Number of recipients and annual funding (VND million)	ding (VND	million)			Total
			Decision No.67	10.67			Decision No.13	~		
Administrative area	2007		2008		2009		2010			
	People	VND	People	VND	People	NN	People	NN	People	VND
Whole province	8,967	14,764	7,867	12,429	7,793	12,474	10,062	28,976	34,689	68,643
Phan Rang-Thap Cham City	2,545	4,193	2,545	4,065	2,089	3,150	2,457	7,076	9,636	18,484
Thuan Bac District	296	483	295	452	225	283	491	1,414	1,307	2,632
Thuan Nam District	ı	1	1	1	724	1,160	808	2,327	1,532	3,487
Ninh Hai District	1,560	2,579	1,321	2,119	1,408	2,269	1,723	4,962	6,012	11,929
Bac Ai District	462	721	462	721	462	1,116	797	2,295	2,183	4,853
Ninh Son District	1,584	2,477	955	1,413	920	1,466	1,051	3,026	4,510	8,382
Ninh Phuoc District	2,520	4,311	2,289	3,659	1,965	3,030	2,735	7,876	605,6	18,876

Source: District Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Sections (2010) Data provided during fieldwork.



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