

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
APPRAISAL STAGE**

Report No.: ISDSA16028

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

1. Basic Project Data

Country:	Vietnam	Project ID:	P152023
Project Name:	Northern Mountain Integrated Child Nutrition Improvement Project (P152023)		
Task Team Leader(s):	Huong Lan Dao		
Estimated Appraisal Date:		Estimated Board Date:	20-Nov-2015
Managing Unit:	GHN02	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
Sector(s):	Health (100%)		
Theme(s):	Nutrition and food security (80%), Child health (20%)		
Is this project processed under OP 8.50 (Emergency Recovery) or OP 8.00 (Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies)?			No
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	3.00	Total Bank Financing:	0.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.10
Japan Social Development Fund			2.90
Total			3.00
Environmental Category:	C - Not Required		

2. Project Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective is improve the nutrition status of children of age less than five in the target villages through improving the child feeding practices, maternal and child care, and to diversify sources of nutrition of pregnant women, infants and young children.

3. Project Description

Component 1: Improving Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) (Estimated Cost US\$ 0.95 million). The objective of this component is to improve the food and nutrition security of children, mothers, and pregnant women in the target villages. The component will undertake the following activities; (a) diversification of agricultural production adopting low-cash input agriculture techniques utilizing naturally and locally available resources to reduce production cost and (b) promote utilization of nutritious natural ingredients readily available in the target villages. In undertaking these activities,

this component will finance technical assistance for the demonstration and hands-on training for low-cash inputs and organic agriculture using local crop varieties, small scale gardens for women to increase the variety of nutritious vegetables and livestock (e.g., poultry), scientific verification of the nutritional value of locally available foods and ingredients and the recurrent cost such as per diem and travel expense.

In order to address prevailing 'superstitious' beliefs unique to particular ethnic groups, community mobilization, awareness campaign and participatory planning activities to engage all stakeholders and ensure their ownership from the beginning. Further, given the language barrier that each different ethnic minority groups have commune agriculture extension staff that lives in commune for a long time and familiar with respective ethnic minority groups' languages, traditions, and culture will be a main technical trainer of this component. Village health worker (VHW) and woman's union member in commune level will be also assigned as an assistant of the commune extension staff for the purpose of the smooth communication with the ethnic minority mothers and the frequent monitoring of the each activity in commune. While the MARD, the Provincial and district DARD staff will be a technical trainer to provide TOT training to the commune extension staff and conduct periodical monitoring, food/nutrition security technical supervisor seconded by SCJ, who is familiar with the ethnic minorities and local subsistence agriculture will also provide technical support on food and nutrition security, training methodologies, and IEC materials. This component will result in (i) increased use of locally available and verified nutritious foods for the diversification (of consumption) in a household level and (ii) promotion of low cash inputs agricultural production.

Component 2: Strengthening community-based nutrition care and practice (Estimated Cost: US\$ 0.86 million). The objective of this component is to establish ethnic minority mother-to-mother network (mother's and woman's groups). All of the poor status pregnant woman and the mothers with the children under five years old will be encouraged to join this network with a facilitation of the VHW and women's union member in the respective communes under the facilitation of the SCiV. Since the project will mainly focused on participants officially classified as "poor", and each group will be formed by the same ethnic minority group at the beginning, participants will have less reservation to share their problems with and express their opinions to other mothers who have similar situations. Several groups, such as lactation, pregnancy, those with infants or toddlers, will be established in mother-to-mother networks to discuss their problems and learn from more experienced mothers who overcome a problem under a similar condition. Inter-ethnic communication will also be encouraged after participants are fully familiar with sharing the knowledge and techniques of respective ethnic minority groups. Since this network will require little cost and will be facilitated by local project staff including VHW and woman's union member, sustainability of the network will be high if the participants find it useful.

The component will undertake the following activities: (a) provide groups/peer counselling including exclusive breast feeding (EBF) as well as IYCF practice, (b) conduct community growth monitoring promotion, (c) provide support to mother-to-mother network to assist rehabilitation activities of malnourished children; and (d) promotion of antenatal care conducted in the commune health center (CHC). Wherever possible and relevant, training and BCC activities on the use of clean water and sanitation will be conducted. The knowledge and techniques of these nutrition care and treatment will be strengthened through the series of the trainings as well as the communication and interaction/counselling among mothers in the ethnic minority mother-to-mother network. The hygiene messages such as the importance of hand washing, boiling water, hygiene practice when preparing food for children, handling of child's disposals is also included to the series of the training and BCC activities for the disease prevention. The existing human resources such as village health worker and CHC staffs will be utilized as a key person who disseminate knowledge and technics to the direct beneficially in commune level. In undertaken these activities, the grant will finance: technical assistance on the nutrition and health care for mothers and pregnant woman as well as the provincial

Department of Health (DOH) and recurrent cost such as per diem and travel expense. This component is expected to result in: (i) improved food diversity and frequency for children aged 6 months to 5 years old; and (ii) increased use of exclusive breastfeeding among target women.

Component 3: Support for Establishment of Policy platform at provincial level and Replication of the Integrated Rural Nutrition Care Approach (Estimated Cost: US\$ 0.39 million). The objective of this component is to support the provincial Department of Health (DOH) and of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) to establish a platform at provincial level to jointly review the progress and outcomes of the project and develop concrete action to implement existing nutrition sensitive national policy for the first time on the ground. Periodical consultation is organized at each of central, provincial and district levels with participation of the concerned government agencies, including the MOH/NIN, the MARD, the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affair (CEMA). The project will ensure the commitment from the provincial and district people's committee (PPC) of the Yen Bai and Son La Provinces because of their responsibilities for developing annual strategy and plan in their respective provinces, including districts and communes.

The component will undertake the following activities: (a) develop provincial nutrition sensitive agriculture and forest policy actions, (b) Mainstream the improvement of nutrition intake and reduction in stunting rate into the commune social economic development plans, (c) Prepare guideline for the policy implementation, and (d) provide a technical assistant to establish a fund facility. In undertaken these activities, the grant will finance for a technical assistance for the formulation and advocacy of nutrition oriented agricultural approaches, recurrent cost and the expense for the documenting and disseminating best practices. This component is expected to result in: (i) developed an integrated and nutrition oriented agricultural strategy into the provincial agriculture and forestry development plan 2016-2020 and (ii) established a fund facility

Component 4: Project and Knowledge Management, Administration, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), and Knowledge Dissemination (Estimated Cost: US\$ 0.62 million). The objective of this component is to support overall management of the project through a Project Management Unit (PMU) to be established by the SCiV, who is the main implementation agency for the proposed project. The component will undertake the following activities: (a) project management, including fiduciary and safeguards, (b) coordination with the government counterparts (MARD, MOH, and provincial DOHs and DARDs), (c) organization of periodical technical workshops to share project results with the key stakeholders (communities, provincial and district governments and the ministries), (d) preparation of periodical project implementation report (technical and financial) and quarterly project monitoring report, preparation of baseline, mid-term review, and end evaluation, (e) overall technical guidance on specific matters to be encountered during project implementation period, and (f) the monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

This component is expected to result in: (a) overall satisfactory implementation of the project, (b) close coordination among the concerned government staff, (c) shared information and thoughts on project's outcome, and (d) effective monitoring and evaluation system.

4. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

Project Location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis:

The project will be implemented in Yen Bai and Son La Provinces, which are among the poorest provinces of the Northern Mountains Region of Vietnam. Son La Province is located about 300 kilometer north to Hanoi, and its population is about 1 million (2009). Ethnic minority groups account for more than 80 percent of population, including Thai, Hmong and Dao. Major industries in Son La include agriculture, construction and services. The average annual household income is about US\$550, however in the rural area, it is about US\$450. The rate of stunting for children under age 5

is about 35 percent .

Yen Bai Province is located about 180 kilometer north to Hanoi, and its population is about 770,000 (2009). Ethnic minority groups account for just above 50 percent of the total population, including Thai, Hmong and Dao. Major industries in Son La include agriculture, construction and services, which account for 90 percent in total. The rate of malnutrition for children under age 5 is about 20 percent .

These provinces have been selected because of their high concentration of ethnic minority groups some of which present the highest stunting rates in the country. These provinces have confirmed their interest and commitment to address rural nutrition issues through an agricultural-based approach as proposed under the project. Save the Children International Vietnam (SCiV) has reviewed investments by other development partners and confirmed no duplicate efforts.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Giang Tam Nguyen (GSP02)

6. Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	The project will have positive environmental impacts by improving agriculture production, nutrition intakes, and eventually improve health of pregnant women and young children under age 5 through technical assistance (TA). The project will support development of small scale home garden models towards organic agriculture approach. No civil works are supported under the project. As such, the project would not generate potential negative environmental impacts. This policy is triggered due to social impacts associated with the project activities. A social analysis and consultations with key stakeholders including local authorities and ethnic minority groups have been carried out and the findings and recommendations have been incorporated into the project design to provide culturally appropriate benefits to and avoid adverse social impacts on ethnic minorities.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	The project will not cause any impacts on natural habitats as home garden models will be carried out exclusively on the existing home gardens.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	The project will not cause any potential negative impacts on forests. Models would be carried out exclusively on the existing home gardens. Forest policy actions supported under Component 3 of the project will only include communication activities that would help raise ethnic community's awareness of the importance of forests and encourage them to protect and develop forests. The communication activities will be carried out by provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	The project will neither finance procurement of any pesticides nor lead to an increase in use of any pesticides

		as results of the project. No pesticides will be applied to home garden models as organic agriculture will be applied to the models.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	Since models would be carried out exclusively on the existing home gardens, no PCRs would be affected by the project.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	Since an overwhelming majority of the project beneficiaries are ethnic minorities, OP4.10 is triggered. The elements of an IPP has been incorporated into the project design (Annex 4 – Project Paper)
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	No	Under this project, no land appropriation is anticipated as no civil works are planned.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The project will not finance construction or rehabilitation of any dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	No project activities take place on international waterways.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The project is not located in any disputed areas.

II. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

Environmental Safeguards

The project will have positive environmental impacts by improving agriculture production, nutrition intakes, and eventually improve health of pregnant women and young children under age 5. The project will not support any civil works. The project will neither finance procurement of any pesticides nor result in an increase in use of pesticides as results of the project. The project will support development of home garden models by diversifying and improving of quality and productivity of vegetables. Given organic agriculture approach, chemical fertilizers and synthetic chemical pesticides will not be applied to home garden models, instead the project will use compost to fertilize soils and apply cultural practices to control pests if any. Home garden models would be exclusively carried out in the existing home gardens, so there is no any potential negative impact on natural habitats and forests. As such, the project would not generate any potential negative environmental impacts. OP 4.01 is triggered as the project would have social impacts associated with the project activities. Thus, social analysis of local conditions and consultations with key stakeholders including local authorities and ethnic minority groups have been carried out by SCiV and SCJ and the findings and recommendations have been incorporated into the project design to provide culturally appropriate benefits to and avoid adverse social impacts on ethnic minorities.

Social Safeguards

Although the Bank's OP4.10 on Indigenous People is triggered, a stand-alone Ethnic Minority Development Plan (EMDP) is not required as the entire project is considered an EMDP. The project is expected to make considerable impacts on various ethnic minorities groups. In particular, it would mainly target poor ethnic minority groups, especially pregnant women and children under five, many of whom are malnourished and stunted. Therefore, the project would

promote inclusion and benefit-sharing for those disadvantaged groups. During the preparation process, the implementing agency has conducted social analysis of local conditions to select project provinces, and then district provinces as well as target beneficiaries. The analysis was based on various sources of secondary data on poverty, agricultural practices and outputs, and nutrition conditions of children under five, and on direct consultations with various stakeholders in the selected provinces and districts. In particular, Save the Children International in Vietnam (SciV) and Save the Children Japan (SCJ) conducted several consultations with the local authorities, at the provincial, district, and commune levels, and potential beneficiaries from local ethnic minorities groups in the two project provinces, namely Son La and Yen Bai. Several consultations in Son La took place in the districts of Mai Son and Mai Chau on March 22 and 23, 2015, and then on Oct. 27 and 28, 2015. In addition, several consultations in Yen Bai took place in the districts of Tram Tau and Mu Cang Chai on April 3-5, 2015, and on Oct. 26 and 27, 2015. The social analysis and consultations with ethnic minorities groups found out high levels of malnutrition and food insecurity amongst ethnic minorities children in the project districts. The common nutrition diets and intakes at ethnic minorities households are not diverse, chiefly rice and vegetables. Rarely do children have chance to eat meat which are usually confined to pork and chickens. Ethnic minority mothers find it very effective to learn agricultural and parenting practices through word-of-mouth communication. The findings from the consultations have been used to inform the project design, as described in the section below on key elements and measures to provide culturally appropriate benefits and avoid adverse impacts to ethnic minorities.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

No potential and/or long-term adverse environmental impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area are foreseen.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

None.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

Environmental Safeguards

Hands-on training will be provided to poor ethnic minority households to raise their knowledge and skill of organic agriculture using local crop varieties and through home garden models to increase the variety of nutritious vegetables and livestock (e.g., poultry). Namely, the training provides the following technical aspects:

- Soil preparation, planting, caring, harvesting, and preserving products;
 - Composting and putting down compost;
 - Application of cultural practices and/or biological methods to control pests rather than reliance upon synthetic chemical pesticides;
 - Sustainable use of synthetic chemical pesticides in accordance with national guidelines;
- and
- Poultry raising and disease control

Social Safeguards

In preparation for the project, participatory consultations (survey and rapid participatory appraisal) were conducted with the target population, mainly to assess their needs and to identify the areas of intervention that will be most appropriate and will have the most support from target populations. As mentioned earlier, Save the Children International in Vietnam (SciV) and Save the Children Japan (SCJ) conducted several consultations with the local authorities, at the provincial, district,

and commune levels, and potential beneficiaries from local ethnic minorities groups in the two project provinces, namely Son La and Yen Bai. Several consultations in Son La took place in the districts of Mai Son and Mai Chau on March 22 and 23, 2015, and then on Oct. 27 and 28, 2015. In addition, several consultations in Yen Bai took place in the districts of Tram Tau and Mu Cang Chai on April 3-5, 2015, and on Oct. 26 and 27, 2015.

Arguably, given the composition of consultation participants, full support has been received from a broad range of stakeholders, from all levels of local authorities, from the provincial and district to the commune levels, including from both agricultural and health sectors, various representatives of service delivery units and mass organizations, such as commune health clinics, health collaborators network, agricultural extension units, and various ethnic minorities groups in the project sites, such as H'mong, Thai and Dao.

All these participants confirmed their full support for the concept and approach of the proposed project, seeing them as a practical and useful way to address their main concern about food availability and nutrition issues. In particular, the participants acknowledged the importance and significance of increasing food variety through home gardens in a context of limited agriculture land. Furthermore, they were also keen to explore alternative sources of protein, such as poultry or beans, as one of their traditional main sources of protein - river fish - is being depleted or, in some sites, meat is eaten only once in four months.

Furthermore, the feedback received during these consultations has shaped the design of the project, including key aspects requested by the beneficiaries such as scientific verification of traditional practices, the knowledge exchange network, and capacity building for low-input agriculture.

Borrower Capacity

This project, financed exclusively by the JSDF, will be implemented by the SCiV in close cooperation with the National Institute for Nutrition (NIN), which is under auspices of the Ministry of Health. While NIN does not have any experience on dealing with the Bank's safeguards policies, the SCiV has basic capacity to implement the Bank safeguards policies as it has experience on implementing two JSDF Grant in the education sector in a satisfactory manner, including the safeguards aspects. For strengthening the safeguards aspects, a technical expert will be seconded from the Save the Children, Japan (SCJ), who will also handle the all safeguards related matters during implementation. The SCJ staff has been fully involved in the project preparation under close guidance of the Bank's safeguards specialists and TTL. Further, hands-on training and follow-up will be carried out for the SCiV and the NIN staff to refresh their knowledge and understanding on the World Bank safeguards policy requirements.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

During the implementation, the proposed project will adopt a full participatory approach to ensure that it responds to expressed needs of the target beneficiaries. In this way ownership will be enhanced ensuring the sustainability of the intervention. In particular, the project will conduct a comprehensive participatory rural appraisal (PRA) to establish the baseline, and identify preferences, constraints, and opportunities that could affect implementation. The PRA will also use key participatory tools such as agriculture and natural ingredient calendar, village maps, and problem trees to help villagers identify their own problems. The outcome of the PRA will be shared with the villagers to enable their participation in the baseline and monitoring surveys.

The key stakeholders under the proposed project include:

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and provincial DARD;
- The Ministry of Health (MOH) and provincial DOH;
- The Provincial People's Committee (PPC);

- The Woman's Union (WU);
 - The Youth Union (YU);
 - The Farmer's Union (FU);
 - The Committee for Ethnic Minorities Affairs (CEMMA);
 - The National Institute for Nutrition (NIN);
 - Save the Children International Vietnam (SCiV); and
 - Poor ethnic minority households with pregnant women and mothers with under-five children living in selected disadvantaged Northern region villages.
- A detailed activity plans will be prepared for each district with full participation of some key stakeholders including villagers, DOH, DARD, PPC, WU, YU, FU, and CEMMA. Another mechanism to ensure beneficiary participation will be the "peer-to-peer" approach promoted through the use of a network, including the one to be established among various ethnic minority groups. This mechanism will allow knowledge and information exchanges among diverse groups, as well as peer-to-peer learning and counseling on nutritional and pre and post pregnancy care among mothers. The SCiV and the SCJ studies found that word-of-mouth communication is the most common tool for villagers to acquire new information related to health and nutrition, and the proposed project will strengthen and utilize this approach. The network would also serve to exchange useful information on traditional practices that so far have been retained only within families or single ethnic groups.

B. Disclosure Requirements

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other	
Date of receipt by the Bank	////
Date of submission to InfoShop	////
For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors	////
"In country" Disclosure	
<i>Comments:</i>	
Indigenous Peoples Development Plan/Framework	
Date of receipt by the Bank	00000000
Date of submission to InfoShop	00000000
"In country" Disclosure	
<i>Comments:</i>	
If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.	
If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:	

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment	
Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?	Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>] No [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]

OP/BP 4.10 - Indigenous Peoples	
Has a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan/Planning Framework (as appropriate) been prepared in consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples?	Yes [] No [] NA [×]
The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information	
Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank's Infoshop?	Yes [] No [] NA [×]
Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?	Yes [] No [×] NA []
All Safeguard Policies	
Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?	Yes [×] No [] NA []

III. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader(s):	Name: Huong Lan Dao	
<i>Approved By</i>		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Zia Al Jalaly (SA)	Date: 18-Nov-2015
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name: Toomas Palu (PMGR)	Date: 18-Nov-2015