

Joint SDG Fund
 Template for the Joint Programme
 Evidence-based Final Narrative Report
SDG FINANCING PORTFOLIO – COMPONENT 1

Cover page

Date of Report: 30/ 10 / 2023

<i>Programme title and Country</i>
Country: Lebanon Joint Programme (JP) title: Gender Responsive National Budgeting and Private Investing for SDG2-Zero Hunger MPTF Office Project Reference Number¹: 00122144
<i>Programme Duration</i>
Start date² (day/month/year): 1/10/2020 Original End date³ (day/month/year): 30/06/2022 Actual End date⁴ (day/month/year): 30/06/2023 Have agencies operationally closed the Programme in its system: Yes Expected financial closure date⁵: 30/11/2023
<i>Participating Organizations / Partners</i>
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¹ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

² The start date is the date inserted in the original ProDoc submitted and approved by the Joint SDG Fund.

³ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁴ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

⁵ Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

Programme Budget (US\$)				
Total Budget (as per Programme Document, without co-funding):				
Agency/Other Contributions/Co-funding (if applicable):				
Joint SDG Fund Contribution⁶ and co-funding breakdown, by recipient organization:				
	Agency/others	Joint SDG Fund contribution	Co-funding	Total
PUNO1: UNDP	454,962		50,000	504,962
PUNO2: FAO	356,426		36,000	392,425
PUNO3: UNWOMEN	112,743		30,000	142,743
Total	924,131		116,000	1,040,131

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- *Including page references for all sections and annexes.*

Abbreviations

- *Include a list of abbreviations used in the report.*

Executive summary

UNDP provided critical support to the Ministry of Finance in Lebanon to reactivate core specifically revenue collection. This support included the mobilization of 60 youth volunteers who cleared data entry backlogs, facilitated the resumption of built property tax collection, and aided in improving online revenue declaration and collection through IT system upgrades. Additionally, the program enabled the Ministry to restart inspection and audit functions, leading to the inspection of nearly 13,000 enterprises, identifying compliance issues in over 10,000 of them, and facilitating the allocation of resources through the UNDP tax for SDGs initiative, which will continue and expand in Lebanon until the end of 2024 with an allocated budget of USD 200,000 and potential additional funds.

FAO supported in the mapping of 70 projects (2018 and beyond) in the agriculture sector supporting the National Agriculture Strategy (NAS) with support from FAO, revealed that 30 percent contribute to the pillar 4 “Improving climate change adaptation and sustainable management of agrifood systems and natural resources”; 25 percent for the pillar 1 “Restoring the livelihoods and productive capacities of farmers and producers”; 17 percent for the pillar 2 “increasing agriculture production and productivity”; 16 percent for the pillar 5 “Strengthening the enabling institutional environment” and 12 percent for the pillar 3 “Enhancing efficiency and competitiveness of agrifood value chains”.

UN Women brought gender expertise including training, technical advice and production of knowledge products. To that end, twenty (20) government officials from sixteen-line ministries and other government offices, developed a basic understanding on gender-responsive budgeting in a 3-day online workshop held in collaboration with the Basil Fleihan Institute. Additionally, UN women in collaboration with the IMF and the institut de Basil Fleihan supported the Ministry of Agriculture to develop the draft gender budget statement for

⁶ Joint SDG Fund Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

its 2021 budget. UN Women maintained their work with the Members of Parliament through the SDG Parliamentary Committee and Women and Child Parliamentary Committees to build budget literacy and commitment to gender-responsive budgeting, particularly for women MPs. UN Women also worked with a gender responsive budgeting and public finance expert to analyse and map out processes on how to enable gender-responsive budgeting in Lebanon in a baseline report.

Context

Over the past four years, Lebanon has been facing an unprecedented socio-economic crisis, exacerbated by a history of violence, volatility, and social inequality. The country has been hit by multiple shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the devastating Beirut Port explosions in August 2020, and the financial and economic crisis that is still going on to date. Adding to these challenges, Lebanon continues to host the largest numbers of refugees per capita in the world due to the impact of the Syria crisis, further exacerbating the crisis and fuelling tensions and social instability.

Since 2019, Lebanon has been grappling with an unprecedented financial, and fiscal crisis, classified as one of the most severe global crises of the past century. The economy has experienced a staggering contraction for five consecutive years, with a decline of over 40% (2018-2022). Notably, Lebanon was downgraded by the World Bank to a lower middle-income country for the first time in 27 years, with the GDP plummeting from USD 55 billion in 2018 to USD 20.5 billion in 2021.

Consequently, Lebanon has witnessed a rapid depreciation of its currency, soaring triple-digit inflation, erosion of real value of wages, decline in fiscal resources, collapse and insolvency of the banking sector, and dysfunctionality of the public sector. These compounding crises have plunged all populations deeper into poverty, resulting in income losses and dwindling employment opportunities. The ongoing crisis has exacerbated the already weak provision of services such as water, education, health, and waste management.

Despite Lebanon signing a staff level agreement with the IMF in April 2022, much-needed reforms have stalled due to an institutional vacuum caused by a caretaker government since May 2022 and the absence of a President since October 2022.

Public sector employees were among the population segments that were most affected by the crisis, due to the massive losses in the real value of their wages. The decline in pay level, along with the deteriorating working conditions in the workplace affected the functionality of public sector agencies, notably those who act as partners in this Joint Programme. Productivity is reduced to minimum as public sector employees are reporting for 1-3 days per week, because of low real wages, high transportation costs, in addition to the unfavourable working conditions (low access to electricity, internet, and office supplies). Within this political and economic context, the budget process was completely halted. Budget 2022 was quickly approved by the parliament in September 2022, and published in November 2022 without elaborate internal discussions at the level of the government that has been in a caretaker status since May's parliamentary elections — i.e., with limited execution powers.

In parallel, the economic and financial crisis has significantly undermined the food security situation in the country. Based on the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis carried out in May 2023, 1.4 million people residing in Lebanon (25 percent of total population analysed) were estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above requiring urgent humanitarian action to reduce food gaps, diversify food intake, protect, and restore livelihoods and prevent acute malnutrition.

On a positive note, the crisis seems to give a boost to the agriculture sector in terms of its contribution to the national economy. The latest estimates of the National Accounts (NA) published by the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) reveals that the agriculture's contribution to GDP was 9 percent of total GDP by the end of 2020 up from around 3 percent in the pre-crisis period.

In response to this dire situation, the SDG2 budgeting initiative adjusted its activities to respond to the challenging context, while still contributing to implementing key policy changes planned under the JP, namely: i) making Public Financial Management (PFM) systems responsive to SDG2 objectives; ii) support the Ministry of Agriculture implementing SDG2 programs, and iii) enable private sector investment in SDG2.

^[1] World Bank Data, [Lebanon | Data \(worldbank.org\)](https://data.worldbank.org/Lebanon) and World Bank, Lebanon Economic Monitor, Spring 2023: The Normalization of Crisis is No Road for Stabilization, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099027005152320346/pdf/IDU0ea0213ae0ef804ba309c7a00638cf710a36.pdf>

Joint Programme Results

Despite the challenging context, the three PUNOs worked on aligning the JP activities to respond to the emerging developments while keeping in the background longer-term transformative objective of the programme. Below is a summary of key results achieved by each of the PUNOs:

UNDP

1. Support to the Ministry of Finance

In the absence of an adequate budgeting process and given the complete halt of core functions in the Ministry of Finance, the focus of activities shifted into activating these core functions, namely revenue collection. These activities aimed to enable the Ministry improving its revenue generation capacity to create additional fiscal space and to enable the Government improve spending on essential public services and goods. Among the key barriers for resuming/improving revenue collection was the backlog of data entry accumulated since the outbreak of the crisis in 2019. Also, another aspect was the inability of inspectors/auditors to perform their inspection and audit plans due to logistical and technical challenges.

As part of the support to the Ministry of Finance to reactivate core functions, UNDP partnered with a local NGO to implement the initiative. The NGO has proven experience in capacity building delivery, youth programs and activities, and effective mechanisms and policies in place for closely monitoring and ensuring the daily implementation of the initiative. UNDP supported to the Ministry of Finance to reactivate core functions by mobilizing 60 youth volunteers to provide essential technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance in Lebanon and capacitate around 120 key personnel staff (including IT personnel and tax inspectors and auditors) in the Ministry of Finance to perform emergency core functions supporting domestic revenue mobilization. The main results achieved as part of this intervention:

- Reactivation of revenue collection functions: The Ministry was provided with additional capacity, through volunteers who were trained and deployed across several departments in the Tax directorate. With the support of these volunteers, a backlog of data entry was cleared in the departments of built property tax and income tax. This enabled the Ministry to resume collection of built property tax in Beirut and Mount Lebanon. These volunteers extended support to the Ministry in sorting, filing, auditing received vouchers, in addition to performing reconciliation when needed. The work of the volunteers was highly appreciated by the Ministry, and they were rewarded by the Minister of Finance for their positive contribution.
- Operationalization of the IT system in the Ministry of Finance to boost online revenue declaration and collection: The IT department in the Ministry of Finance was supported to improve and upgrade several online applications

(around 10 applications in total) including income tax declaration for financial companies, personal income tax declaration for salaries and Wages, and others. These were updated to reflect the legal changes that were approved in the 2022 budget law. Detailed modifications were implemented to ensure compliance. This support boosted the online tax declaration.

- Activation of inspection and audit functions in the Ministry of Finance: The Programme supported the Ministry in resuming inspection and audit functions that were halted due for long time due to the crisis and the low pay level of civil servants. These inspections played an important role the Ministry's effort to restore awareness among taxpayers regarding the Ministry of Finance's renewed commitment to conducting inspections. As a result of this support, a comprehensive mapping of enterprises was completed by the tax administration, which was the first since 1998. The inspection covered several sectors including tourism and hospitality (restaurants, beach resorts, night clubs). As a result of this campaign, close to 13,000 enterprises were inspected across Lebanon of which around 10,421 were reported to have compliance issues.

As a result of the above, additional resources were mobilized through the UNDP tax for SDGs initiative. The work that was initiated with the Ministry of Finance will continue and expand through the resources allocated under this initiative till end of 2024 (USD 200,000 were allocated to Lebanon as a result and additional funds may be further allocated).

2. Research on alternative Financing mechanisms/sources

The ongoing crisis affected Lebanon's ability, not only to mobilize domestic resources, but it also affected the country's ability to tap into international bilateral and multilateral resources due to the delay in implementing a comprehensive reform agenda, which is a key pre-requisite to unlock donor's funding. Given this restriction in accessing funds, additional funding/financing mechanisms are to be explored to fund/finance development initiatives including SDG2-related. One of these possible mechanisms (funding/financing sources) is remittances. Remittances play an important role in the Lebanese economy and society, particularly in light of the ongoing financial crisis. The steady flow of remittances to Lebanon despite all the difficulties facing the country indicate the strong bond connecting the Lebanese diaspora with Lebanon, and their willingness to support. UNDP, working with local communities all over Lebanon, gets evidence from the field of the growing role of diaspora's flows in local development initiatives. To better understand the current and potential role of remittances in the economy, UNDP developed a policy note on the increasing role and importance of remittances in Lebanon (<https://www.undp.org/arab-states/publications/increasing-role-and-importance-remittances-lebanon>).

3. Support to female MPs in Lebanon

UNDP and UNWomen brought together the newly elected women parliamentarians to provide an open space for discussion and debate national concerns. Several meetings were held with these MPS and discussed emerging issues mainly in relation to the socio-economic challenges facing the country and budgeting process.

FAO:

Mapping of projects in the agriculture Sector: The mapping of 70 projects (2018 and beyond) in the agriculture sector supporting the National Agriculture Strategy (NAS) with support from FAO, revealed that 30 percent contribute to the pillar 4 "Improving climate change adaptation and sustainable management of agrifood systems and natural resources"; 25 percent for the pillar 1 "Restoring the livelihoods and productive capacities of farmers and producers"; 17 percent for the pillar 2 "increasing agriculture production and productivity"; 16 percent for the pillar 5

“Strengthening the enabling institutional environment” and 12 percent for the pillar 3 “Enhancing efficiency and competitiveness of agrifood value chains”. As for the budget allocated, it accounted for a total of USD 172.5 million with 40 percent of budget distribution under the pillar 1, 26 percent under pillar 4, 13 percent and 12 percent respectively under pillars 2 and 5, and 9 percent under pillar 3. In addition, the mapping of the abovementioned projects supporting the NAS, revealed that more than three quarter of total projects’ budget are funded by International Funding Institutions and/or bilateral donors. The remaining 25 percent split among International/Multilateral Organizations, multiple donors, and UN Agencies. The analysis of projects implemented and supporting the NAS revealed that 40 percent of projects were executed by UN Agencies, 28 percent by NGOs, 17 percent by Academia and Research and Development institutions, government or chambers (7 percent) and 6 percent by Development Agency or International Organizations and only 1 percent by the private Sector.

In the same context, the main bilateral donors funding projects and programmes under the NAS were: the Netherlands represented 36 percent of the total budget within this category followed by CANADA with 17 percent, Germany 15 percent and USAID and Italy with 10 percent each. In addition, the mapping of 45 programmes and projects carried out with donors, WFP, and FAO, revealed that these projects accounted for a total value of USD380 million with USD36 million including agricultural inputs vouchers provision, USD 100 million with value chain interventions and 244 million with grants and financing interventions. Most of the interventions are supporting improved farm practices. It is to be noted that a project on farm register is being implemented by FAO through an EU funded MADAD program which will help in supporting farmers on social protection programs and on the efficient provision of services from the public institutions and mainly the Ministry of Agriculture.

UNWOMEN:

UN Women brought gender expertise to the joint programme, to ensure a gender perspective in the project’s activities, including through training, technical advice and production of knowledge products:

- Twenty (20) government officials from sixteen-line ministries and other government offices, developed a basic understanding on gender-responsive budgeting in a 3-day online workshop held in collaboration with the Basil Fleihan Institute. The majority of participants were those in managerial positions of the financial divisions of their respective offices. Participants learned about the basics of public financial management, gender-responsive budgeting and linkage with SDGs, case studies of gender-responsive budgeting from other countries and were presented with analysis on the amendments and possibilities to amend Lebanon’s budgetary processes to incorporate gender-responsive budgeting.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, with support from the IMF, Institut de Basil Fleihan, and UN Women, developed a draft gender budget statement for its 2021 budget. This was the first of its kind in Lebanon, but despite efforts to have this statement incorporated in the Ministry of Agriculture budget by IMF and UN Women, it was not reflected in the 2021 budget draft by the Ministry of Finance, as debate on the budget focused on addressing the crises at hand, including lifting of subsidies, determining exchange rates and addressing issues of compensation to public sector workers. As these pressing issues took priority in the budgetary debate in midst of the financial and fiscal crisis, gender-responsive budgeting unfortunately remained low on the agenda of government counterparts. In parallel, UN Women led advocacy to ensure that forthcoming IMF recovery plans in Lebanon are gender responsive, including mainstreaming of gender responsive budgeting, through an open letter send jointly with ambassadors of Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland in Lebanon to the IMF.
- To build understanding of Lebanon’s budgeting process and government partners’ awareness on gender-responsive budgeting, UN Women worked with a gender responsive budgeting and public finance expert to

analyze and map out processes on how to enable gender-responsive budgeting in Lebanon in a baseline report (Please see Annex 1: Enabling Gender-responsive Budgeting in Lebanon: The Way Forward). UN Women worked in close coordination with the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan (Basil Fuleihan Institute), a knowledge centre of the Ministry of Finance that remains financially and administratively independent from the Ministry. UN Women contracted the Institute’s director Lamia Moubayed Bissat as a gender responsive budgeting expert, to conduct this analysis on the current budget law, with the Ministry of Agriculture as a pilot ministry. The baseline report, once endorsed by the Heads of the Budgetary and Women and Child Parliamentary Committees, will be shared in accordance to the dissemination plan, in partnership with the Basil Fuleihan Institute. The report will be disseminated to members of parliament, ministries, and other UN agencies and multi-lateral financial institutions who are engaged in fiscal management and gender-responsive budgeting.

- UN Women also continued to work with Members of Parliament through the SDG Parliamentary Committee and Women and Child Parliamentary Committees to build budget literacy and commitment to gender-responsive budgeting, particularly for women MPs. Initially there were discussions to hold a consultative session on gender-responsive budgeting for members of parliament at Parliament. However, based on consultation with the chair of the two committees, MP Inaya Ezzedine, it was decided to cancel the event, given the heightened sensitivities and tensions within the caretaker government over its inability pass its budget.

1. Overview of Strategic Final Results

1.1. Overall assessment (max 100 words)

- Above expectations (fully achieved expected JP results and made additional progress)
- In line with expectations (achieved expected JP results)
- Satisfactory (majority of expected JP results achieved, but with some limitations/adjustments)
- Not-satisfactory (majority of expected JP results not achieved due to unforeseen risks/challenges)

1.2 Key results achieved (max 500 words)

1. Mapping of existing programmes and projects under SDG2 and strengthened partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture
2. Creating a long-term relationship with the Ministry of Finance to support on tax reforms and integrate SGs in tax policies
3. Create awareness among parliamentarians regarding the importance of gender responsive and SDG-focused-budgeting

1.3. Results achieved on Integrated National Financing Framework/SDG financing building blocks (max 2 pages)

Implementation stages	Planned (0%)	Emerging (1-49% progress)	Advancing (50-99% progress)	Complete (100% progress)	Previously completed	Not applicable
1. Inception phase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Assessment & diagnostics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Financing strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Monitoring & review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Governance & coordination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.4. Contribution to SDG acceleration

SDGs indicators	Baseline	Expected target	Actual results achieved/to be achieved in the near future	Reasons for deviation from targets, if any
				The economic and financial crisis that hit Lebanon causes a regression on most SDG indicators.
				There is no national measurement for almost all SDG indicators

1.5. Contribution to SDG financing flows (max 500 words)

Lebanon does not have a national SDG financing strategy nor NDC targets

1.6. Results achieved on contributing to UN Development System reform at the (max 500 words)

The JP was effective in re-establishing partnership between PUNOs and partner agencies. Notably, a long-term partnership is created with the Ministry of Finance and activities of the programme were considered as a basis to get additional funding (taxforSDGs).

Having the three PUNOs that may have overlap in mandate (UNDP and UNWOMEN on gender, UNDP and FAO on local development) provided an opportunity for wider knowledge sharing and contributed to minimizing overlapping, and thus may have improved efficiency in resource allocation.

The programme helped in identify and further reprioritize key challenges facing SDG financing in Lebanon which were integrated with the country’s planning documents for different PUNOs and ultimately in the UNSDCF

1.7. Results achieved on cross-cutting issues (max 200 words)

The programme worked on empowering female parliamentarians to better understand the crisis context, its impact on the wider population and on understanding the budgeting process as a way to promote equality and economic growth.

1.8. Results achieved on COVID-19 recovery (max 200 words)

The support provided to the Ministry of Finance helped clearing the backlog that was accumulated as a result of the disruption in their work due to the spread of the pandemic.

1.9. Strategic Partnerships (max 500 words)

The activities initiated by the programme created new partnerships with new stakeholders such as the IMF and World Bank (for instance, UNDP is now part of a national coordination group led by IMF on revenue reform, and part of PFM/PAR coordination group led by the World bank)

1.10. Additional financing mobilized (max 300 words)

Source of funding	Yes	No	Type of co-funding/co-financing	Name of organization	Amount (USD)	Comments
Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Donors/IFIs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
PUNOs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant	UNDP TaxforSDGs	200,000	
Other partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

2. Results by JP Outcome and Output

2.1. Results achieved by Fund's global results (max 500 words)

2.2. Results achieved by Joint Programme Outcome (max 500 words)

2.3. Results achieved by Joint Programme Output (max 500 words)

The challenges faced over the past years made the outcomes/outputs as initially planned in the project document hard to achieve. However, the joint programme was able to adapt its activities to align with the changing context. For instance, most outcomes/outputs assume a regular budgeting process, which was not the case over the past 3 years, due to political stalemate. Also, economic challenges eroded any possibility for creating fiscal space to fund public goods and services. In the absence of such fiscal space, budgeting will not be fit to purpose. Creating a fiscal space was considered as a pre-requisite to have proper budgeting exercise, and domestic revenue generation was an essential step to this end. As such the programme shifted focus from public expenditure management to revenue reactivation as the latter was a priority and a pre-requisite for the former. The resulting output was: reactivated revenue administration which is core function in the Ministry of Finance.

3. Challenges and Changes

3.1. Challenges faced by JP (max 300 words)

- Deterioration in the economic situation and its direct impact on the productivity and functionality of the public sector, such as low real wages, high transportation cost, and deteriorating working conditions in the workplace (no electricity, internet, and office supplies)
- Low capacity and resources in counterpart Ministries
- Delay in forming a new government and in electing a new president which affects any decision-making related to the programme activities and progress
- Disruption in the budgeting process

3.2. Changes made to JP (if applicable) (max 200 words)

The joint programme adapted its activities to align with the changing context and shifted focus to respond to emerging needs.

4. Sustainability and Country Ownership

4.1. Sustainability and country ownership (max 500 words)

With increased unemployment rate, limited job opportunities and high reliance on negative livelihood coping strategies, the scale-up of livelihood support programs especially in the agricultural sector is required to ensure access to stable income sources and mitigate the loss of purchasing power of the most vulnerable households. As such, interventions targeting micro, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives are crucial for improved performance and expanded market access, which stimulate local markets and improve local economic growth. As such, livelihood interventions that strengthen Lebanese, Syrian and Palestine households' economy and resilience are recommended to ensure households remain food and nutrition secure.

In addition, expansion of the asset creation and rehabilitation programmes in agriculture especially in rural areas with high reliance on food from own production and in areas with high prevalence of households in IPC Phase 2 (people in stress situation) to protect already volatile livelihoods sources.

It would be important to advocate for investment in the agriculture sector in order to address all challenges related to the agriculture sector by all stakeholders and actors: national institutions as well as local and international organizations. This is done through promoting national agricultural production for both crops and livestock and including the gender lenses within the designed programs and projects so to reduce gender inequalities in agriculture and allow women livelihoods improvement, access to resources and resilience in agrifood systems which is a critical pathway towards more just and sustainable agrifood systems in a gender-transformative approach.

Building on the JP activities, a longer-term partnership was built between UNDP and the Ministry of Finance and additional funding was mobilized to implement additional activities with the Ministry.

5. Communications

5.1 Communication products (max 300 words)

- Press Release UNDP Remittances Report Launch
- Media Advisory UNDP Remittances Report Launch
- Media Coverage Report Remittances
- Press Release UNDP Support to MoF
- Media Advisory UNDP Support to MoF
- Media Coverage Report Support to MoF

5.2 Events

Type of event	Yes	No	Number of events	Brief description and any highlights
JP launch event (mandatory)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>		The joint programme was initiate in july 2020 (during the COVID pandemic) and was immediately followed by the tragic explosion of Beirut Port on August 4, 2020. The Government resigned afterwards, and the economic crisis escalated. It was almost impossible to hold any launch event.
Annual donors' event* (mandatory)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>		Given the challenges faced by the joint programme, political stalemate, change in local priorities, delays in implementing full fledge reform agenda, it was not possible to have a large-scale donor event.
Partners' event ** *(optional)	y <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round table discussion on remittances, July 29, 2022: An expert group meeting was held to validate the main findings of the report, gather more information and produce the final report.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on supporting critical government functions, February 24, 2023: The workshop aimed to bring together diverse stakeholders to propose sustainable ways of maintaining government functions without fostering dependency. It drew on existing research by UNDP and UNICEF to stimulate discussions and guide sector reform. • Launching of the report on remittances, June 8, 2023: A press conference was held to launch "The Increasing Role and Importance of Remittances in Lebanon" report. 62 different media outlets covered the event. The report was featured in 12 television broadcasts, which included comprehensive coverage of both the remittances report and the event itself. • Closing event for the volunteering activity with the Ministry of Finance, August 24, 2023: UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Finance held a closing event to conclude two-months (during July and August) intensive support provided by UNDP to reactivate and sustain core functions. 60 volunteers were mobilized to clear backlog data from across Lebanon and were presented with certificates at the event.
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*the Fund donor countries are Denmark, European Union, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland. Please note that this event can be held together with a launch event or partners' event.
 ** Key advocacy outreach events with high level JP partners.

6. Lessons and Best Practices

6.1. Key lessons learned, best practices, and recommendations on SDG financing (max 300 words)

- *Report key lessons learned and best practices of the JP that would facilitate future programme design and implementation, both programmatic and operational, in terms of promoting SDG financing strategies. Provide any recommendations to guide and improve future interventions on SDG financing, including recommendations from stakeholders engaged during the final report preparation. How should the nature and modalities of support differ in a follow up phase? Where should the support be prioritized? What should have been different, and should be avoided in an event of a next phase of the JP?*

6.2. Key lessons learned and best practices, and recommendations on Joint Programming (max 300 words)

- *Report any lessons learned and best practices of the JP faced in relations to implementation and UN coherence/efficiency. Provide any recommendations to guide and improve future interventions on Joint Programming, including recommendations from stakeholders engaged during the final report preparation. What should have been different, and should be avoided or improved in future Joint Programmes supported by the Fund?*

Annex 1: Consolidated results framework

1. JP contribution to global programmatic results (full programme duration)

- Provide data for the Joint SDG Fund global results (as per targets defined in the JP document).

Joint SDG Fund Global Outcome 2: Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement (Complete table below)

Indicators	Baseline 2019	Target (end of JP)	Result (end of JP)	Notes
2.1: US\$ & Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged disaggregated in terms of public and private sector funds	N/A	1:2	N/A	The deteriorating situation made it difficult to measure this indicator

Joint SDG Fund Global Output 4: Integrated financing strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented (Complete table below and provide details as requested)

Indicators	Baseline 2019	Targets (end of JP)	Results (end of JP)	Notes
4.1: #of integrated financing strategies/instruments that were tested	0	1	0	The political stalemate made it impossible to initiate such a process
4.2: #of integrated financing strategies that have been implemented with partners in lead	0	1	0	same
4.3: # of functioning partnership frameworks for integrated financing strategies to accelerate SDG progress	0	1	0	same

2. Selected global operational effectiveness indicators (full programme duration)

2.1. Did your Joint Programme contribute to the improvement of the overall UNCT coherence?

- Yes, considerably contributed
 Yes, contributed
 No

Explain briefly:

2.2. Did your Joint Programme contribute to avoiding duplication of efforts for the participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities?

- Yes,
 No
 N/A (if there are no other joint programmes in the country)

Explain briefly:

3. Results as per JP Results Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Original Target (as per ProDoc)	Revised Target (if applicable)	Result (end of JP)	Reasons for variance from original target (if any)
Outcome 1 indicator: SDG2.a: Agriculture Orientation Index- +Gender responsive sub-indicator (% of Public SDG2 Expenditure that is Gender Responsive)	Not measured	NOT set			Government counterpart was not responsive
Output 1: National Budget Formulation and Approval Systems Are Responsive to Gender Responsive SDG2 Programs and the Adequate Tools (e.g. Adjusted Budget Circular, Budget Submission Template etc.)					
Output 1.1 indicator: - Review of All SDG2 Programs using existing strategies and policies - Develop An inventory of food and nutrition security and sustainable agricultural projects, representing a systematic element of the evidence-based identification/validation of priorities. - Support MoA in prioritizing programmes and initiatives and to make strong cases for budget funding using social and economic cost analysis		BY FAO			
Output 1.2 indicator: GRB analysis in place of MOA SDG2 focused budget (Gender Analysis Report on SDG2 Programs and an Update)		BY UNWOEM			
Output 1.3 indicator: Develop a Budget Submission Process Capturing Gender Responsive SDG2 dimensions of the Requested Allocations. (Budget Submission Integrates SDG2 concerns in a gender responsive way)		BY UNWOEM			
Output 1.4 indicator: Support Budget Negotiations to Ensure Gender Responsive SDG2 Dimensions Is Taken Into Consideration.	0	0	0		Ministries were not responsive due to lack of capacity (lots of

(Budget Negotiation between MoA and MoF raises SDG2 aspects of requests in a Gender Responsive Way)					employees already left their job due to low pay level)
Outcome 2: Credible Implementation of Gender Responsive SDG2 Policy as reflected in National Budget Commitments by Effective, Accountable and Transparent Institutions.					
Outcome 2 indicator: Execution/ Originally Allocated (SDG16.6 per Sector-SDG2)	Not measured	Not set	Not set	0	- Ministries were not responsive - Low capacity at Ministries
Output 2: Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation Systems Are Responsive to Gender Responsive SDG2 Programs.					
Output 2.1 indicator: - Prepare advocacy materials to share with parliamentary committee - Awareness Raising Events for Parliament on SDG2, SDG5 and the Budget. (Number of Awareness Events)	0	0	4 by UNDP	4 by UNDP and UNWOMEN	sessions held with women parliamentarians to discuss budget and economic challenges
Output 2.2 indicator: Prepare Policy Briefs for Finance and Budget Committee on the Gender Responsive SDG2 Programs Included in the Budget. (Number of Policy Briefs)	0	0	0		
Output 2.3 indicator: - Perform an analysis of PFM landscape using existing PFM assessments including PEFA, PIMA and other existing assessments - Provide support in developing an institutional arrangement between MOF and MoA to prepare budgets that reflect resource allocation on SDG2/gender and that enables reporting on the related indicators - Provide training and capacity building in programme-based budgeting, SDG budgeting, and gender-based budgeting. - Support MoF and MoA in developing forms, templates and classifications to align budget preparation with SDG 2 (Number of Budget Report)	0	0	0	0	- Budget process is completely halted - Ministry was not responsive - low capacity at MoF (very low number of human resources in budget department)
Output 2.4 indicator:	0	0	0	0	- Budget process is completely halted

Develop a Methodological guide for SDG2 /gender Budget Allocation and Execution (Number of Quarterly Expenditure Review Report)					- Ministry was not responsive - low capacity at MoF (very low number of human resources in budget department)
Outcome 3: International and Private Sources of Finance for Gender SDG2 Responsive Committed.					
Outcome 3 indicator: Amount of ODA and Private Funding committed					
Output 3: Finance Leveraging Mechanisms for Gender Responsive SDG2 Established.	Not measured	Not set	Not set	0	
Output 3.1 indicator: Develop a Financing Strategy for Gender Responsive SDG2 in the Context of the National Agricultural Strategy 2022-2026. (Number of Financing Strategy)	0	0	0		
Output 3.2 indicator: A Public-Private Dialogue SDG2 Forum Co-Chaired is Established to Mobilize SDG2 Finance Mobilization/Leveraging Options.	0	0	0		

Annex 2: List of strategic documents

1. Strategic documents that were produced by the JP

Title of the document	Date (month; year) when finalized	Document type (policy/strategy, assessment, guidance, training material, methodology etc.)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it

2. Strategic documents to which the JP directly contributed to

Title of the document	Date (month; year) when finalized	Document type (policy/strategy, assessment, guidance, training material, methodology etc.)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
The role and importance of remittances in Lebanon	June 9, 2023	policy	The “increasing role and importance of remittances in Lebanon” report investigates the macro and micro determinants of remittances, as well as their socio-economic impact before and after the 2019 financial crisis. It also examines their sources (countries of origin- and their potential use by the recipient families. The report distinguishes between two main types of inflows that have been identified, worker remittances (mostly familial aid from migrants abroad) and non-resident deposits (NRDs), which are investment-based. Findings of the report confirm the potential role that the Lebanese diaspora can play to reverse development losses, and to shape the development path of the country.

Annex 3. Communications materials

1. Human interest story

- **Attach at least 1 human interest story** that summarizes the background, results achieved, impact made, and beneficiaries reached by the joint programme in line with the objective of the portfolio to support increased SDG financing flows and policy reforms.

2. Communication products

- Fill out the table below and **attach/provide links to articles, news/media items, videos, blogs or other major communication materials** developed by the joint programme.

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
Media Coverage report: INCREASING ROLE OF REMITTANCES IN LEBANON	June 2023	We can attach file
Media COverage report: MOF and UND event	August 2023	We can attach report

Annex 4: Stakeholder feedback

If applicable, include a list of all stakeholders interviewed during the final report preparation and summarize their feedback.

No	Name of entity	Name of Representative	Title	Contact information	Role in the programme	Summary of feedback