

Joint SDG Fund
PORTOFLIO ON INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LNOB

Joint Programme 2020 Annual Progress Report

Nigeria

Country: Nigeria

Joint Programme title: *Institutionalizing Social Protection for Accelerated SDG Implementation in Nigeria*

Short title: N/A

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Budget: \$2,000,000.00

Overall budget: \$2,000,000.00

Annual Financial Delivery Rate (= Total JP expenditures / transferred funds x 100%): **21.81**

Rate of Committed Funding (= Total JP commitments / transferred funds x 100%): **29.25**

Short description of the Joint Programme (JP):

The two-year UN joint programme “Institutionalizing Social Protection for Accelerated SDG Implementation in Nigeria” is strengthening social protection at the federal level in Nigeria. The programme is generating impact by combining an institutional approach (policy and capacity-strengthening) with the implementation of tangible interventions with a focus on innovative financing mechanisms for social protection. The National Social Protection Policy in Nigeria recognizes the need for both a systemic transformation (long-term) and a blueprint for accelerated implementation (short-term) towards universal social protection. The JP aims to strengthen the right-based approach to social protection by supporting the institutionalization and legislation of Nigeria’s social protection system. The JP supports identifying and facilitating the adoption of financial strategies to effectively implement the National Social Protection Policy. Towards these efforts, the JP is implementing a social protection programme in Sokoto State to serve as a blueprint for other states. In Sokoto State, the JP contributed to expanding and articulating the cash transfer and universal health insurance scheme for greater impact on social protection access and improved health, education, and nutrition, especially among vulnerable groups. The JP is also facilitating disseminating results in Sokoto State to other states for accelerated implementation of social protection-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Finally, the JP is guiding the establishment and building the capacity of state innovation and accelerator SDGs offices with implementation of innovative solutions using social protection to overcome bottlenecks and expand financing to accelerate SDG achievement.

Executive summary

Over the course of 2020, the joint programme (JP) encountered delays, particularly due to the outbreak of COVID-19, nonetheless significant milestones were achieved in its first year of implementation. Key achievements include:

- Under the JP, the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Social Protection (SP) was initiated and met regularly, the TWG includes members both at the federal level and in Sokoto State; in addition there was a launch meeting of the JP in Sokoto State with approximately 25 stakeholders representing the Sokoto State Government administration (led by the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning) and included the Sokoto State Cash Transfer Coordinating Unit, Contributory Healthcare Management Scheme (SOCHEMA), National Health Insurance Scheme, National Labour Congress and Trade Union Congress.
- All 36 states participated in consultations to strengthening the social policy legal and financial frameworks. The consultations focused on and facilitated the removal of key social exclusion factors mitigating access and utilization of basic social services by the poor and vulnerable in partnership with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs).
- A rapid capacity needs assessment (RCNA) for the Sokoto State Contributory Healthcare Management Agency (SOCHEMA) (Health Insurance Sokoto) was conducted. The RCNA informed planning for community mobilization, awareness-raising and enrollment of 5,000 vulnerable groups into the programme (set to begin in January 2021). A detailed capacity needs assessment (CNA) of the SOCHEMA was also completed (to be released in 2021), and a CNA for the Cash Transfer Program (CTP) in Sokoto State was initiated.
- The JP also conducted an institutional mapping of actors involved or potentially involved in social protection in Sokoto State and held consultations to facilitate collaboration between SP partners, including those in charge of education-related cash transfers, Zakat Fund, and SOCHEMA. The hiring of an institutional contractor is ongoing to support harmonization efforts and strengthen Sokoto State's Information Management System (MIS).
- The Institutional Diagnostic Study (institutional assessment) of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was completed (to be released in 2021). This is the first step in a longer-term actuarial valuation to support states to start their schemes based on actuarial projections and validate the scheme's parameters.
- Through consultations, the JP identified three quick wins to further support SP programming at the sub-national level, namely the domestication of a Social Protection Policy in Kaduna State; contributory health financing in Kaduna State; and a dedicated budget line for social protection in Lagos State that targets vulnerable groups with other states looking to adopt Sokoto States Zakat Fund to finance social protection.
- Due to the sharp increase in humanitarian needs in the Northwestern states of Nigeria, one of the PUNO's was occupied with conducting an inter-agency fact-finding mission to understand and address the widespread food and nutrition insecurity across the region. This activity was funded under another project, and the PUNO could not spend or commit any of the JP funds in 2020. Consequently, the JP has only spent and committed a total of 51.06% of transferred funds.

A. Annual Progress

A.1 The overall approach

The COVID-19 pandemic placed a new priority on social protection in Nigeria, particularly related to social assistance and the expansion of the cash transfer programme. Unfortunately, the pandemic also negatively impacted the JP's progress, causing disruptions in the workplan and delays in the delivery of implementation. Despite these setbacks, the overall strategy, theory of change, and expected results of the JP largely remain the same with adjustments to implementation timelines and alternative approaches. The adjustments focus on advocacy efforts to create a shock-responsive social protection system. A concept note was subsequently developed in consultation with stakeholders and submitted to the Humanitarian Country Team in December 2020. This new approach (adopting a shock-responsive social protection system) will ultimately benefit the JP as it provides a comprehensive and coherent social protection framework for action in line with Output 1 of the programme document.

In addition, with the creation of a new ministry (The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development (FMHDS)) at the end of 2019, the institutionalization and harmonization of several different social assistance programmes under this Ministry were seen as a positive development to improve the sustainability of the SDG programme's outcomes. In 2020, in response to COVID-19, the Ministry developed a guideline for a rapid response register designed to capture informal sectors in the urban areas for relief distribution. The National Social Register (NSR) at that time did not cover urban areas and a rapid assessment carried out indicated that the urban areas were the most affected by the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. According to reports by the FMHDS, the Ministry provided emergency food supply to over 8.5 million households from the national strategic reserve to vulnerable Nigerians in states under lockdown as a result of COVID-19 as well as provided cash grants to two million households.

These developments have increased awareness of social protection in the country and by donors, ensuring that the SDG programme's activities are aligned with national policy priorities and do not operate in a vacuum. With support of the JP, the Technical Working Group on Social Protection became very active at the federal level. The working group installed multiple sub-committees to guide different

actions, including revising the Social Protection Policy and working towards a Social Protection Bill (Outcome 1). Similarly, under Outcome 2, the JP in an effort to operationalize social protection in Sokoto State, engaged with stakeholders to inaugurate the State Technical Working Group, commenced advocacy with key stakeholders, and developed a workplan to provide ICT support and build the technical capacity of stakeholders.

Ensuring that JP remains strategic and catalytic

In alignment with UNDAF priorities, the JP supported participatory implementation and ensured communication and coordination between PUNO's and government partners at the country level. Participatory implementation and coordination included:

- Coordinating with the Nigerian Governors Forum (NGF) on the planned grouped consultations among the 36 states and the FCT to strengthen the states' commitments for more meaningful participation in the process. This was reflected in the SDG consultation in October 2020.
- A High-Level Dialogue was held in September 2020 on Strengthening Institutional Framework for Social Protection and Effective Operationalization of the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) organized by The Ministry of Finance Budget and National Planning (FBNP) with support from the JP and attended by the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development. The revision of the NSPP is a critical milestone for the development of the Social Protection Bill as planned in the JP.

Briefly explain how you adapted the JP to COVID-19 in 2020 (through formal repurposing of 20% of the overall budget or other changes/adaptations). Provide a brief update on the progress/status of these adaptations (e.g., did you finalize the repurposed activities? If not, what is the plan).

The JP programme did not repurpose funds in 2020 due to COVID-19, but delays were experienced due to COVID-19 mitigation and safety measures introduced by the federal and State governments and due to PUNO staffing changes in Q4. Modifications to the budget and activities in 2021 are outlined in the next section.

Briefly explain any other re-alignments of the JP over the past year, including those related to changed/new national strategic priorities, and how you have ensured that the JP remains strategic and catalytic.

The JP has and will remain strategic and catalytic as the programme continues to leverage the momentum on social protection as a tool to cushion negative economic shocks caused by the pandemic. To ensure the programme achieves its objectives, modifications to the workplan activities are proposed. Also, while the Communication Strategy plans were delayed due to delays in activities, visibility will be scaled up in 2021 in alignment with the workplan to strengthen strategies for mobilization, sensitization and the overall project activities to prepare for future scale up.

To ensure scale-up and deliver results in the final year of implementation, the following are proposed changes in activities and funding:

- The JP proposes repurposing funds under Output 1.2 for key staff hire under ILO who will oversee the majority of remaining activities. Specifically, Activity 1.2.1 (Develop training material on SP evidence-based budgeting and organize training and capacity building sessions of MDAs) and Activity 1.2.3 (Costing and prioritization exercise of social protection floor, leading to targets for each Ministry, one training, and workshop for the validation of the scenarios) will not be actioned because of the change in staffing within ILO, which has forced ILO to dedicate some of the project resources toward a national project lead. Instead, Output 1.2 will focus on Activity 1.2.3 (The costing of the policy), Activity 1.2.5 (Performance of a fiscal space analysis on that basis), and Activity 1.2.6 (Organize a high-level conference on financing at the end of 2021).
- In addition, due to the sharp increase in humanitarian needs in the Northwestern states (including Sokoto State), WFP led an inter-agency fact-finding mission in the last quarter of 2020. Based on the findings of the mission, a clearer snapshot of the widespread food and nutrition insecurity across the region was obtained. Following the inter-agency mission, WFP took the lead in a series of consultations with relevant stakeholders to advocate for the adoption of an alternative approach to address this crisis. The new adapted approach focused on advocacy efforts that aim to create a shock-responsive social protection system. This will ultimately benefit the JP as it will include a comprehensive and coherent social protection framework for action in line with Output 1 of the programme document.

Refer to how the JP aligns with the UN's SERP in your country or how you plan to ensure such an alignment in the next year.

In alignment with Output 2.1 and 2.2, which will expand existing cash transfer schemes to pregnant women and newborn children and accelerating universal health coverage in Sokoto State, the JP is aligned with the UN SERP plan in expanding social protection services by scaling up specific actions for groups at risk, including by evaluating a temporary basic income (TBI) scheme.

A.2 Update on priority issues

SDG acceleration

The JP has prioritized the below:

- **SDG 1.3 Social Protection Floors:** The legal mapping of the social protection landscape is a first step towards the creation of a Social Protection Bill. This mapping is currently ongoing and led by the Subcommittee on Legislation and Harmonization, consisting of representatives from different social protection ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), CSOs, and development partners (Save the Children). This bill will establish social protection as a right for all Nigerian citizens and residents adopting social protection policies that will progressively achieve greater equality (10.4). An extremely important building block to establish a minimum social protection floor in the country. While this is ongoing, the JP is also working with MDA's in Sokoto State to harmonize social protection by providing technological solutions and capacity building activities to strengthen Sokoto State's Information Management System (MIS) building an integrated, inclusive social protection service.
- **SDG 3.8 Universal Health Coverage:** The diagnostic study of NHIS and the capacity needs assessment of SOCHEMA performed in 2020 gave valuable insights into both institutions' challenges and opportunities. These studies form the basis of active support to partners in 2021. The collaboration with NHIS on the performance of an actuarial valuation with internal capacity building activities is underway. For SOCHEMA (in Sokoto), activities are planned in early 2021 to provide insurance coverage to 5,000 vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, under five, the poorest of the poor, and adolescent girls (SDG 2.2). A workshop is also planned for early 2021. At both the federal and State level, activities under the project are focused on creating a sustainable impact in the institution to improve their performance in the extension of coverage and provision of access to health care to different population groups. Building actuarial valuation capacity within NHIS will also serve other states to start their schemes based on actuarial projections and validate their parameters.
- **SDG 4.1 on the education of boys and girls:** The JP is also working in Sokoto State to expand the existing cash transfer programme with the Ministry of Basic Education. In 2020, a two-day workshop was conducted to strengthen the State's Technical Committee on Cash Transfer and review the existing structure. Furthermore, a capacity needs assessment identified two main gaps that hinder the state-level social protection institutions: 1. The lack of hardware and ICT support; and 2. Technical knowledge deficits, especially around beneficiary digitization and payment systems, which the JP will address in 2021.

Vulnerable groups

- The JP interventions directly target ministries, departments, and institutions working on social protection (both social insurance and social assistance) in Nigeria to develop their capacity to contribute towards the ultimate goal of developing and implementing social protection programmes that target key vulnerable groups such as women, children, girls, youth and persons with disabilities to improve their access to health, education, and nutrition. While no vulnerable groups were directly assisted through the JP in the first year, the effective groundwork carried out has the inherent objective of assisting vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- JP consultations ensured gender balance and inclusivity, such as the inclusion of persons with disabilities through a one-day workshop organized by the Ministry of Budget and National Planning with support of the JP to review policies related to Persons with Disabilities who are members of the Technical working groups.

Gender marker

- In 2020, a diagnostic study on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was conducted through desk review and interviews. Several gender-related research questions were included in the study. The results showed that NHIS could do a lot to improve its understanding and addressing gender-related challenges with regards to health and health insurance. Under the SDG Programme, the need for gender-aggregated and specific data will especially be underlined throughout the actuarial valuation study, which NHIS will perform with support from the JP in line with Output 2.2 in year two of the programme.
- The JP ensured that persons with disabilities and women's groups participated in the initial consultation held to facilitate the JP's focus on removing key social exclusion factors mitigating against access and utilization of basic social services by the poor vulnerable person. Out of a total of 226 participants during the consultation, 108 women participated (48 percent).

Human rights

- The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Nigeria from 2018 mentioned two important points related to strengthening the legal framework regarding human rights in Nigeria: (1) Continue to strengthen the implementation of policies and measures relating to democracy, the rule of law, and good governance for the effective realization of human rights in the entire country; and (2) Sustain its determined efforts in strengthening its legal and institutional frameworks to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by its people. The development of the Social Protection Bill is taking these provisions and others of the UPR into account.
- The JP used a human rights lens in its implementation efforts by ensuring that all social classes and demographic populations (e.g., persons with disabilities, young people) who lack one form of social protection are included in consultations held in 2020 and ensure that key human rights considerations are included in social protection efforts.

Partnerships

- At the federal level, the JP has built-up a sustainable collaboration with the Ministry of National Budget and Planning (MNBP) and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, both ministries charged with social protection in Nigeria. The JP focal person at MNBP also chairs the steering committee of the JP programme as well as the coordinator of the technical working group of the National Social Policy Review, deepening the relationship with the Government in line with the UNDAF.
- With the ongoing review of the National Social Policy, ensuring that young persons are seen as partners and not beneficiaries, the JP supported the MNBP in a two-day consultation with 30 youth groups to capture youth's comments and feedback on the NSPP review.
- At the state level (Sokoto State), PUNOs have a close working relationship with the Ministries of Education and Economic Planning through its *Delivering as One* approach. Focal points have been appointed from all relevant ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), and JP manager has held group consultations with them.
- In Sokoto State, the JP as a form of learning and sharing is partnering with the State Zakat Commission on implementing and funding social protection activities.
- Moving forward, collaboration will continue through engaging stakeholders at various levels beyond the role of implementing partners. In line with the programme's focus on leaving no one behind, marginalized groups facing multidimensional and intersecting forms of discrimination will be targeted and involved through new ways of engaging such as participatory design, implementation, and monitoring. User-centric approaches that will be explored including design-thinking and crowdsourcing (through U-report (<https://nigeria.ureport.in/>)) and exploring approaches to better include those furthest behind.

Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Comments
JP launch event	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Due to COVID-19 and related lockdown, the initial launch of the consultations among key stakeholders commencing with the partners meeting planned for 25 Mar 2020, was postponed. With the use of ICT, the event was eventually launched on 11 Jun 2020.
Annual JP development partners'/donors' event*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The annual JP development event will be held in the second quarter of 2021.

** This refers to any event that included representatives of the Joint SDG Fund's global development partners/donors (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 other partners' event.*

Funding and financing

- The activities under the fund are designed to make both systemic changes as well as short-term impacts, which can be replicated in other states. In Sokoto State, initial assessments revealed that SOCHEMA, by law, receives **2%** of the State Consolidated Revenue Fund, **1%** of Local Government Consolidated Revenue Fund, Funds from Zakat, and 1% of levy of any capital project contract in the State yearly in additions to donations. The assessment also revealed that while funding is statutory, the release of funds can be a challenge. The JP is working with SOCHEMA to jump-start activities in Q1 2021 by enrolling, advocating, and funding 5,000 vulnerable groups in the state contributory health insurance plan while also working to support and streamline the process for effective disbursement.
- By the end of Q4 2020, the JP held consultations with all 36 states. Four states delivered presentations and shared their experience on innovative financing. Subsequently, zonal consultations to discuss innovative financing, planned activities, expected roles, and outcomes, as well as to share experiences, is expected in Q1 of 2021. Key stakeholders from the private sector who showed commitments in achieving the 17 SDGs were identified and invited to form part of the consultation. The stakeholders consist of members of the Nigerian Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) on Sustainable Development Goals. Private Sector engagement will encourage innovative financing and investments from the sector in achieving SDGs in Nigeria.
- It is expected that the work in Sokoto focused on expanding cash transfer and health insurance with innovative funding streams will become a blueprint for other states to follow. Since progress has been slow under COVID-19, it is likely that outputs and outcomes will only become more visible towards Q3/Q4 of 2021 to determine donors in the Social Protection space, including EU and FCDO are already aware and interested in the activities in Sokoto.
- At the federal level, the nation-wide SDG consultation, as well as the creation of a social protection bill and exploration of fiscal space, will generate follow-up activities beyond 2021. Partners will strategize on follow-up financing and will continue the close engagement with potential donors throughout 2021.

Innovation, learning, and sharing

Despite the delays caused by COVID-19, which impacted the implementation of active learning and sharing. Highlights in 2020 include:

- An institutional diagnostic study of NHIS and capacity needs assessment for SOCHEMA in Sokoto State was performed to capture data and build a knowledge base on social protection in Nigeria. In Q4, a consultant was recruited to assess the social protection legal framework in Nigeria. This will capture lessons learned at the federal and Sokoto State level.
- A technical planning meeting was held on the 8th of December 2020 in Abuja. The consultation was held for states to share their experiences, link Social Protection to SDGs, provide information on the JPs planned activities, and discuss states' expected roles and outcomes. Subsequently, six planned zonal consultations were agreed on for states to contribute their input to the National Social Protection Bill, identifying key challenges or bottlenecks hindering actualization of social protection and other SDGs implementation, as well as to identify innovative solutions and financing options in Q1 of 2021.
- In its learning efforts and as part of the new approach due to the deteriorating humanitarian needs in northwest Nigeria, the JP will ensure an inclusive shock-responsive social protection system is included in consultations and the development of the Social Protection Bill, which could meet the immediate humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable, while at the same time build their resilience capacity in view of potential future shocks.
- PUNOs formed a Joint Programme coordinating team with overall coordination by JP programme manager. The JP coordinating Team members meet monthly to discuss programme implementation, sharing the program's successes and challenges.
- Planned for early 2021, enrollment of 5,000 vulnerable groups in a state contributory health plan will be accompanied by community awareness on health insurance in Sokoto State, in addition to a campaign for Social Protection Bill, which will also begin on Q2 for awareness-raising and public engagement.

Strategic communications

Providing partner and stakeholder access to expertise and knowledge of lessons learned and guidance towards institutionalize social protection is a key component of accelerating SDG implementation. To this end, a learning and sharing framework, in line with the UNSDPF as well as the communication plan have been established not only directly targeting Nigeria but also to the international social protection community and its practitioners.

Towards these efforts, the JP plays a key and strategic role in the Social Protection Technical Working Group in Nigeria. At these meetings, the JP team provides updates on progress of the JP while engaging stakeholders to share activities and challenges. This ensures that there is no duplication of efforts. Other efforts include:

1. Creating knowledge and building evidence-based policies, solutions to shape interventions, and discourse on social protection in Nigeria;
2. Improving the quality and efficiency of social protection interventions in Nigeria and beyond;
3. Production of evidence and lessons for learning, reporting, results-based management, and communication; and
4. Positioning of the United Nations as a thought leader on social protection in Nigeria.

B. Annual Results

Overall progress

- On track (expected annual results achieved)
- Satisfactory (majority of expected annual results achieved)
- Not-satisfactory (majority of expected annual results not yet achieved)

Please, explain briefly:

In year one of the JP, the foundation for a sustainable approach towards implementing the SDG joint fund was set. Annual result activities were partly achieved due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Sokoto State authorities' mitigation measures, but PUNOs feel confident that all results will be achieved by the programme end. Results achieved in 2020 include:

- Capacity building training and associated materials for SP evidence-based budgeting for the relevant MDA's were developed leading to 25% increase in capacity/knowledge of stakeholders on Social Protection systems through consultations, TWGs, workshops. Since inauguration, regular meetings as well as capacity building workshops have been held for the members of the TWG such as the JP legal expert on social protection which provided a training to the TWG on the topic of legal framework for social protection in preparation of the development of a Social Protection Bill.
- Baseline data on the percentage of girls/boys with access to education in Sokoto State was conducted, as well as data collection on percentage of poor with access to health. The reporting is being used to set targets in 2021 to increase access to education and health.
- Increase in SP spending by the Government in 2020 to cushion the effects of COVID-19 through the provision of food packages and cash transfers. However, JP is yet to ascertain the exact amount of expenditure. The JP will report final amount in 2021.

Contribution to Fund's global results

Through Output 1.3, Identifying SDGs innovation and accelerator states with proven innovative solutions and financing towards achieving Social Protection in addition to the development of a social protection bill, the Joint Programme contributes to the Joint SDG Funds global Outcome 1: Integrating multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale.

JP Outputs and Outcomes

Achievement of expected outputs

All activities under the JP work plan were delayed under COVID-19. Zoom meetings provided remote meeting opportunities with stakeholders to consult, discuss, and implement. Lack of connectivity and in-person communication did put a strain on progress. Despite the delays, several activities were implemented. The main achievements for outputs in 2020 year are the following:

- Output 1.1 Activity 3 - Hiring of consultant to conduct legal mapping of the social protection landscape; finalizations of the report, and consultations are planned for Q1 2021.
- Output 1.3 Activity 1 & 2 – A total of two consultations and an SDG regional consultation were held. The initial launch of the consultations among key stakeholders commenced with a partners meeting, planned for the 25th of March 2020, but eventually held on 11th of June 2020 using ICT facilitation. Subsequently, the JP in partnership with OSSAP-SDGs successfully conducted the first group consultation meeting on 20th October 2020 and a technical planning meeting was held on the 8th of December 2020.
- Output 2.1 Activity 1 - Developed RFP for the hiring of an ICT consultant to develop the Management Information System (MIS) for the harmonization of social protection registries in Sokoto State.
- Output 2.1 Activity 4 – The JP facilitated collaboration between the social protection programme implementation unit and stakeholders through consultations, TWGs, workshops. Since inauguration of TWG, regular meetings as well as capacity building workshops have been held for the members of the TWG such as the JP legal expert on social protection which provided a training to the TWG on the topic of legal framework for social protection in preparation of the development of a Social Protection Bill.
- Output 2.1 Activity 5 – Rapid assessment of SOCHEMA was conducted informing activities planned for 2021 while the detailed capacity assessment report for SOCHEMA (Health insurance scheme Sokoto State) is currently being finalized.
- Output 2.2 Activity 1 - Production of diagnostics report for NHIS gave valuable insights on the challenges and opportunities of the institution.
- Output 2.2 Activity 2 - The collaboration with NHIS on the performance of an actuarial valuation with internal capacity building activities has already kicked off. Actuarial experts and national experts have been contracted to conduct an actuarial valuation with NHIS in 2021. Output 2.2 Activity 5 – Mapping of State Stakeholders was conducted to create Sokoto State Technical working Group to facilitate collaboration between SP partners in Sokoto state, including those in charge of education related cash transfers and SOCHEMA. While formal Inauguration was postponed twice, PUNOs have had regular meetings with state stakeholders.

Achievement of expected contributions to outcomes

Outcome 1 - By 2021, the social protection system has improved at federal level with a reinforced legal framework and a financial mechanism integrated in national budget and planning efforts.

Progress towards Outcome 1:

- Activities under Output 1.1 began in Q4 with the commencement of the legal mapping of the social protection landscape.
- The activities under 1.2 are pushed to 2021 entirely since they rely on the revision of the policy which was delayed by the Government.
- Activities for Output 1.3 was partially achieved as some SDGs innovation and accelerator states have been identified as well as quick wins that can be replicated in other states. In 2021, the JP will hold five more zonal consultations to identify states with established and proven innovative solutions and financing towards achieving social protection.

Outcome 2 - By 2021, The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) is operationalized at Sokoto State ensuring gender-sensitive social development with reduction in poverty focusing on improvement in nutrition, education and health for women and children.

Progress towards Outcome 2:

- In reference to Output 2.1 capacity needs assessment for cash transfer is ongoing as well as strengthening partnerships with the Sokoto State Cash Transfer Coordination Unit, the Sokoto State Universal Basic Education Board, the Sokoto State Ministry of Education, the Sokoto State Ministry of Health, and the Zakaat and Sadakat Foundations to support the expansion of the existing cash transfer schemes and structuring the basis for universal cash to pregnant women and new-born children in Sokoto.
- The health insurance-related activities under Output 2.2 began with consultations and rapid needs assessments but have not yet been able to show concrete results in additional persons covered at state level. We have laid a solid basis for more concrete steps towards the extension of coverage in Sokoto.

Workplan

- JP workplan was modified
 JP workplan was not modified

Explain briefly: Due to delays, adjustments mentioned earlier were made to the workplan without affecting the overall strategy or results.

C. Plan for the Next Year of implementation

Next year

The main focus in 2021 will be to catch up on activities that were delayed in 2020, as well as ensuring that activities led by the different PUNO's come together to leverage their synergies. In 2021, expected outcomes include:

- Consultation to identify quick wins and opportunities for cross-learning, replication, scaling-up, and financing the SDGs and social protection across the six geopolitical zones has been scheduled for Q1 (see table below). The consultations are also set to identify practical, investable, bankable, and implementable solutions and leverage on financing opportunities for the SDGs and social protection.

S/N	ZONE	MONTH	HOST
1	South South	February	Enugu
2	South East	February	Enugu
3	South West	April	Lagos
4	North East	March	Kano
5	North West	March	Kano
6	North Central	February	Kwara

- Conduct in-depth capacity strengthening needs assessment and carrying out of specific activities based on gaps and needs identified in consultation with Sokoto State Government, including strengthening the Cash Working Group coordination mechanism, provision of IT equipment to enable operations, training on digital registration and beneficiary management and training and facilitation to support digital payment processes.
- Finalize a cost-effective Management Information System (MIS) for Sokoto State social protection ministries and agencies to reduce fragmentation and improve coordination between agencies through the harmonization of their social registries.
- Work with legal experts to organize consultation sessions and facilitate conversations around the contents of the social protection bill as well as create and maintain partnerships among constituents and other stakeholders for advancing social protection in the legal framework of Nigeria.
- Produce a draft of the Social Protection Bill by a government legal expert or team of experts with the support of a national legal expert(s) and with support from PUNO's. The social protection bill will be drafted based on the outcomes of the legal mapping and the consultations that followed in close collaboration with focal points from the federal ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, ministry of Justice and of Finance, Budget, and National Planning.
- Conduct an awareness campaign developed in collaboration with the communications team to generate support among key stakeholders in the political arena by increasing awareness on (the right to social protection) and the main elements and advantages of the social protection bill. The primary target groups are members of the National Assembly, but workers organizations and CSO's will be directly engaged to help spread the campaign materials and message at strategic events. Campaign materials (on and offline) will be developed with targeted messages and spread before, during, and after the presentation of the draft bill.
- Develop advocacy kits to engage with the Governor, Deputy, Sultan, SOHA and Judiciary and others in Sokoto State on Social Protection as well as sensitize the informal Sector (operators of public transport, farmers, artisans, small scale businesses, etc.) to participate in Health Insurance schemes

- Support monthly review meeting of Sokoto State cash transfer implementing MDAs and development partners are working on social protection intervention as well as the formal inauguration of State steering committee on Social Protection and Technical working group.
- Conduct diagnostic studies to assess the population's contributory capacity in Sokoto State and determine the appropriate health care benefits package.
- Support the establishment of a pilot community-based health insurance scheme in 3 LGAs (1 per Senatorial district), enhancing coordination between Sokoto State operating Unit (SOCU) & SOCHEMA by retrieving beneficiaries for enrollment in the scheme from the National Social Registry through SOCU.
- Conduct feasibility Assessment for expanding cash transfer across other thematic areas (Health, Orphans and vulnerable children, etc.)

Towards the end of JP implementation

PUNO's intend to achieve planned results by working in close coordination with each other in 2021 and link their activities as much as possible. PUNO's proposed implementation modifications under Output 1.2 are below:

- As previously outlined, some activities under Output 1.2 will not take place. This is due to a change in staffing as ILO is forced to dedicate some of the programme resources toward the hiring of a national project lead. The estimated cost for this staff member stands at 45,000 USD/ year. ILO proposes to repurpose most of the funds meant for Activities 1.2.1. (Develop training material on SP evidence-based budgeting and organize training and capacity building sessions of MDAs) and 1.2.2. (Costing and prioritization exercise of social protection floor, leading to targets for each ministry, one training, and workshop for the validation of the scenarios). Instead, Output 1.2 will focus on Activities 1.2.3 The costing of the policy; 1.2.5 The performance of a fiscal space analysis on that basis; and 1.2.6 Organize a high-level conference on financing at the end of 2021.
- Under a different funding stream, but complementary to the JP, WFP will support the Government to create an M&E framework for the NSPP. Partners will work closely together to ensure that this framework will be closely linked to the costing and financing options. Further, the bill will include financial provisions on social protection expenditure of the Government.

Risks and mitigation measures

COVID-19: The second wave of the COVID-19 outbreak could hinder the progress of the activity implementation timeline of the joint programme. **Mitigating measure:** Conduct virtual capacity needs assessment and advocate for continuing activities and meetings virtually.

Deterioration of the security outlook in Sokoto State. Mitigating measure: PUNO's alongside UNDSS, is continuously monitoring the security situation in Sokoto State.

Contextual risks: Such as poor civil society engagement. **Mitigation measure:** The project will build in mechanisms of consultation, involvement, and accountability towards CS organizations.

Fiduciary risks: such as contracting IPs that have weak or compromised accounting systems. **Mitigating measure:** Micro assessment and assurance activities will be used to mitigate the risks.

Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Results

1. JP contribution to global programmatic results (annual)

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

Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

List up to 3 main SDG targets that your Joint Programme primarily focused on in 2020

SDG:1.3
SDG:3.8
SDG:10.4

Global Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

1.1 Did your Joint Programme contribute to implementation of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scope¹ in 2020?

Yes
 No

Explain briefly: The JP brought stakeholders together in the field of social protection through multiple consultations, workshops and working groups. The project prepared a report to finalize the groundwork to couple health insurance with cash transfer programming in Sokoto State as a means to integrate multisectoral policies to accelerate SDG progress. The report is waiting final inputs from UNIC.

1.2 Did your Joint Programme contribute to implementation of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scale² in 2020? (if so, brief explanation)

Yes
 No

Explain briefly: Improving internal administrative and financial management of the NHIS is a priority for the JP. NHIS provides support and guidance to all State Health Insurance Schemes (SHIS), improvements in their management will ultimately transfer to the SHIS' functioning. The JP has finalized an institutional assessment of the NHIS, this is the first step in a longer-term actuarial valuation to support states to start their schemes based on actuarial projections and validate the scheme's parameters.

Global Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

1.3 Number of innovative solutions tested in 2020

Total number disaggregated by % successful and unsuccessful: N/A

Provide the list

Explain briefly:

1.4 Number of integrated policy solutions implemented with the national partners in lead in 2020

Total number: N/A

Provide the list

Explain briefly:

1.5 Did your Joint Programme contribute to strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators in 2020?

Yes
 No

Explain briefly: N/A

1.6 Did your Joint Programme develop a functioning partnership framework for integrated policy solutions to accelerate progress on SDGs in 2020?

Yes
 No

Explain briefly: N/A

¹Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

²Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

2. Selected global performance indicators (annual)

- *Provide data for aggregation at the global level of the Joint SDG Fund.*

2.1. Did your Joint Programme contribute to the improvement of overall UNCT coherence in 2020?

- Yes, considerably contributed
 Yes, contributed
 No

Explain briefly: This is the first Joint Programme implemented by the UNCT to promote Social Protection in the country. The Joint Programme has provided a framework under which UNCT members engage in driving the policy agenda both at Federal and State levels. The JP has facilitated inter-agency discussions to advocate expanded and universal Social Protection and contributed to the Development partner's common narrative on social protection.

2.2. Did your Joint Programme contribute to reduced transaction costs for participating UN agencies in their interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other Joint Programmes?

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

Explain briefly: The UNCT entities collectively worked together on the TWG and the NSSP review meetings. Engagement with Sokoto state was also collective.

2.3. Was your Joint Programme aligned with the UNCT Results Groups in 2020?

- Yes
 No

Explain briefly: The JP is aligned to Result Area 2 and Outcome 6 of the UN Sustainable Development and Partnership Framework (2018-2022).

2.4. Did your Joint Programme secure additional funding resources in 2020?

- Yes
 No

Explain briefly: The JP hasn't yet achieved the key impacts required to catalyze replicable activities in the other states.

3. Results as per JP Results Framework (annual)

- Present annual JP results in the following template

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2020 target	2020 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected 2021 target	Expected final target (if different from 2021)
Outcome 1: Outcome 1. By 2021, the Social Protection System has improved at Federal level with a reinforced legal framework and a financial mechanism integrated in national budget and planning efforts						
Outcome 1a: Existence of holistic social protection bill/law	No	NA	N/A	No Variance (N/A)	Yes	
Outcome 1b: Share of public spending on social protection	1%	1.1%	TBD	There has been an increase in SP spending by the Government in 2020 to cushion the effects of COVID-19 through the provision of food packages and cash transfers. The Government's exact amount of expenditure has not yet been shared, will be reported in 2021.	3%	
Output 1.1 - Strengthened national social protection legal framework with the development of a social protection bill, aimed at realizing the rights to social protection for consideration by the National Assembly						
Output 1.1a. % of key stakeholders with increased capacity/knowledge on social protection system development (gender-disaggregated)	TBD	50%	25%	ILO provided training on legal frameworks for social protection during a technical working group meeting in Lagos (virtually). All relevant MDA's from the federal level was present. Outreach to state actors, CSOs, workers, and employers will take place in 2021. The number of participants disaggregated by gender will be shared in the next report.	90%	
Output 1.1b. Existence of social protection bill technically validated by stakeholders	No	Yes	No	This activity experienced a delay under COVID-19. A draft bill is now expected to be ready in Q2 2021.	Yes	
Output 1.2 - Increased and institutionalized social protection financing with reinforced institutional framework through identification and creation of fiscal space and setting-up of innovative financing for social protection						
Output 1.2a. Fiscal space determined for Social Protection	No	Yes	No	The start date for the fiscal space study is reliant on the revision of the SP Policy, which was planned to take place in 2020. With COVID-19 restrictions in place and shifting priorities of government partners, the policy revision was delayed. The JP decided to postpone the fiscal space assessment study to	Yes	

				2021. The revised policy is expected to be finalized in March 2021.		
Output 1.2b. National Priorities in SP costed	No	Yes	NO	The start date for this activity is reliant on the revision of the SP Policy which was planned to take place in 2020. With COVID restrictions in place and shifting priorities of government partners, the policy revision was delayed. The JP decided to postpone the fiscal space assessment to 2021. The revised policy is expected to be finalized in March 2021.	Yes	
Output 1.2c. New strategy designed and signed by Government.	No	NA	NA	NA	Yes	
Output 1.3 - SDGs Innovation and Accelerator States identified and established with proven innovative solutions and financing towards achieving Social Protection						
Output 1.3a. Number of quick wins identified for immediate implementation at the sub-national level	No	8	3	The COVID-19 pandemic delayed launch of the planned consultations. The initial launch of the consultations among key stakeholders commencing with a partners meeting, planned for the 25th of March 2020 was cancelled due to a lockdown across the Nation and the FCT, but eventually took place on the 11th of June 2020 using ICT. Subsequently, the UNDP in partnership with OSSAP-SDGs successfully conducted the first group consultation meeting on 20 th October 2020 and is planning to conduct the remaining consultations in 2021.	10	
Output 1.3b. Number of accelerated financing methods for the SDGs acceleration identified, recommended, and utilized.	TBD	5	2	The COVID-19 pandemic delayed launch of the planned consultations. The initial launch of the consultations among key stakeholders commencing with a partners meeting, planned for the 25th of March 2020 was cancelled due to a lockdown across the Nation and the FCT, but eventually took place on the 11th of June 2020 using ICT facilities. Subsequently, the UNDP in partnership with OSSAP-SDGs successfully conducted the first group consultation meeting on 20 October 2020 and is planning to conduct the remaining consultations in 2021.	8	
Outcome 2: By 2021, The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) is operationalized at Sokoto State ensuring gender-sensitive social development with a reduction in poverty and improvement in nutrition, education, and health for women and children						

Output 2.a. Indicator Percentage of girls/boys with access to education (disaggregated by gender)	Boys 68% Girls 54%	TBD	Conducted	Baseline data was conducted in Q3 2020 due to COVID. In progress - Advocating for the release of funds for girl's education cash transfer. Funds were not released due to the closure of schools as a result of COVID.	Boys 75% Girls 75%	
Outcome 2.b. Indicator. % of poor with access to health care (disaggregated by gender)	21,260 provided access covered by SOCHEMA, (Male 27.7%; Female 72.2%)	TBD	Conducted	Baseline data was conducted in Q3 2020 due to COVID and validated by Sokoto State Health Account conducted by Health finance and governance. It estimates 75% of the population are poor (4,087,500)	75%	30% increase. 48,215 provided access covered by SOCHEMA - (1.17% of poor persons covered in the State)
Outcome Indicator: Percentage of poor/vulnerable girls covered by cash transfer program (disaggregated by gender)	48,000 poor/vulnerable girls are registered beneficiaries by the cash transfer program (21.1% of 48,000 are covered by the program & 4.7% of girls state wide)	TBD	Conducted	Baseline data was attempted in Q3 2020 due to COVID but data quality has challenges and needs to be revalidated. It estimates 215,091 poor/vulnerable school age girls.	70%	32.9% increase. 16,000 more covered by cash transfer program (12.2% of poor girls state wide)
Output 2.2. Universal Health Coverage at state level accelerated using the Basic Health Care Provision Fund & community-based insurance mechanisms						
Output Indicator: Percentage of girls and women covered by health insurance (disaggregated by gender)	Female 72.2% (Out of 21,260 enrolled Beneficiaries)	TBD	Conducted	Baseline data was attempted in Q3 2020 due to COVID but data quality has challenges and needs to be revalidated. In addition, the deteriorating humanitarian space in Sokoto, other activities were delayed.	70%	46.5% (Out of 69,475 registered beneficiaries)

Annex 2: List of strategic documents

Strategic documents that were produced by the JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
Diagnostic study of the NHIS (not yet published – publication planned early 2021)	12/2020	This was a deliverable under the project (Outcome 2) and a first step to performing the actuarial valuation study with support of the JP. The study highlights the strengths and weaknesses of NHIS as an institution against international standards (ILO and ISSA). The study also provided insights on the data availability and data gaps for the actuarial study.
Capacity Needs Assessment + work plan SOCHEMA	To be finalized in 2021	A capacity needs assessment for SOCHEMA (Health Insurance Scheme of Sokoto State) is in the final states of finalization. This study aims to understand the capacity needs of the institution towards operationalizing the health schemes for formal and informal sector and vulnerable groups. The study and accompanying recommended work plan will inform the partners' activities with regards to supporting SOCHEMA under the project in 2021.

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
National Social Protection Policy Review	March 2021	The National Social Protection Policy review discusses the current social protection policy and programming landscape in Nigeria and the effectiveness of social protection in addressing poverty and inequality in the country. The current policy recommends that reviews should be done every four years. The implementation of the current policy ended in December 2020 and is therefore expedient to finalize a new policy.

Annex 3: Strategic communication results

3.1. Have you created a strategic communication plan for the Joint Programme?

- Yes
 No

Explain briefly: Strategic communication plan is included in Joint Programme Document.

3.2. What Percentage of the annual budget towards communications was utilized from the total budget?

(Note that the entire JP comms budget must be min 5% of the total JP budget)

Explain briefly: Due to COVID-19, most planned activities were delayed to 2021, and therefore communication to strengthen the results of project activities and prepare for future scale-up began in Q4 with the appointment of focal points by all agencies for the UNCG and held monthly meetings. Spending and scale-up for advocacy and other communication activities will begin in 2021.

3.3. Have visibility outcomes increased due to the provided funding for JP strategic communications?

- Yes
 No

Explain briefly: Activities to be implemented in 2021.

3.4. Does the Country Profile Page on the Joint SDG Fund website contribute to your JP outreach?

- Yes
 No

Explain briefly: Activities to be implemented in 2021.

3.5. How many articles (interviews, human interest stories, press releases, expert insights, etc.) about your JP were published by an external media outlet (Non-UN published)?

Total number:5

Explain briefly: 4 Articles were published after the JP high-level breakfast policy dialogue on social protection. At the consultation, the Minister of State for Budget and National Planning indicated the Government's commitment to draft legislation on Social Protection. The Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs Nigeria also released multiple tweets during the Technical planning consultations with States SDG & Social Protection focal persons held in December 2020

3.6. How many articles (interviews, human interest stories, press releases, expert insights, etc.) about the Joint Programme were published by the UNCT and JP PUNOs?

Total number:1

Explain briefly: The Joint SDG Fund page released an article providing implementation update on the Joint Programme.

3.7. Have you received an increase of social media followers?

- Yes
 No

Total number: (Not mandatory)

Explain briefly: Activities to be implemented 2021.

Multi-Media Faucets

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
Institutionalizing Social Protection for Accelerated SDGs Implementation In Nigeria	October 14, 2020	Public Invitation to the Joint SDG Fund Consultation held on Oct 20, 2020 on Institutionalizing Social Protection for Accelerated SDGs Implementation in Nigeria. https://events.connectnigeria.com/view_details/institutionalizing-social-protection-for-accelerated-sdgs-implementation-in-nigeria-8355.html
Nigeria: Govt Reviews Social Protection Policy for Greater Benefits	SEPTEMBER 7, 2020	Discussion at the high-level breakfast policy dialogue on the UN-joint fund for social protection to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development GOALS (SDGs) in Nigeria. https://allafrica.com/stories/202009070135.html
FG reiterates commitment to institutionalising social protection in Nigeria	September 1, 2020	Discussion at the high-level breakfast policy dialogue on the UN-joint fund for social protection to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development GOALS (SDGs) in Nigeria. https://nnn.ng/fg-reiterates-commitment-to-institutionalising-social-protection-in-nigeria/
Legislation on Social Protection underway - Agba	September 1, 2020	Discussion at the high-level breakfast policy dialogue on the UN-joint fund for social protection to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development GOALS (SDGs) in Nigeria. https://nationalaccordnewspaper.com/legislation-on-social-protection-underway-agba/

Social Media Campaigns

Title of the document	Type (FB/Twitter/LinkedIn/ Etc.)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
The #UN joint programme on institutionalizing Social Protection for accelerated #SDGs Implementation in #Nigeria is a Two Year programme targeted to strengthen Social Protection at the Federal level. This programme is borne out of #SDGs concept of leaving no one behind #LNOB	Twitter	https://twitter.com/ossap_sdgs/status/1336261435219959809

Annex 4: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix

- Update the table from your JP document with the most recent analysis of risks and corresponding mitigation measures. This should support the narrative update provided in part C above.

Risks	Risk Level: (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
Contextual risks					
Poor civil society engagement	Medium	2	3	Project will build in mechanisms of consultation, involvement and accountability towards CS organizations.	UNDP (Amarakoon Bandara)
COVID-19 Pandemic	High	3	3	Project will continue to monitor the COVID pandemic; and utilize alternative communication channels such as conference calls, video conferencing for delivering training, workshops and meeting instead of physical presence	RCO (Ernest Mutanga)/ UNICEF (Faizat Badmus-Busari); ILO (Nienke Raap); WFP (Ifeoma Garba); UNDP (Amarakoon Bandara)
Programmatic risks					
PUNOs fail to implement all planned activities	Medium	2	3	Planning and consultation between PUNOs and Implementing government agencies as well as agreeing on clear roles and responsibilities.	RCO (Ernest Mutanga); UNICEF (Hamidou Poufon)
Stigma and discrimination affect the participation of vulnerable and marginalized.	High	3	4	Meaningful involvement of community through existing networks will aim to enhance effective participation.	UNICEF (Faizat Badmus-Busari); ILO (Nienke Raap); WFP (Ifeoma Garba); UNDP (Amarakoon Bandara)
Institutional risks					
Federal/state/local level actors are not willing or capable to align with NSPP	High	3	4	Consultations before and during project period	RCO (Ernest Mutanga)/PUNO's

Loss of key project staff due to turn-over	Medium	2	4	All partners will identify a co-lead (backup) within their organization who can step in in case of absence or change of working position/job. Structured communication between all partners will ensure handovers can be planned timely.	ILO (David Dorkenoo); UNDP (Mohamed Yahya); WFP (Paul Howe); UNICEF (Peter Hawkins)
Fiduciary risks					
Contracting IPs have weak or compromised accounting systems	Medium	2	4	Micro Assessment and assurance activities	UNICEF (Faizat Badmus-Busari); ILO (Nienke Raap); WFP (Ifeoma Garba); UNDP (Amarakoon Bandara)