

Joint SDG Fund
PORTOFLIO ON INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LNOB

Joint Programme 2020 Annual Progress Report

Template

Cover page

Country: South Africa

Joint Programme title: An integrated and universal social protection linked to developmental social welfare services in South Africa

Short title: Social Protection in South Africa

Start date (month/year): **Jan 2020**

End date (month/year): **Dec 2021**

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List of PUNOs: UNICEF, UN WOMEN, UNDP, OHCHR

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Budget (Joint SDG Fund contribution): **USD 2,000, 000.00**

Overall budget (with co-funding): **USD 2, 725, 000.00**

Annual Financial Delivery Rate: 30.25%

Rate of Committed Funding: 52.82 %

Short description of the the Joint Programme (JP). The JP seeks to address exclusion from existing provisions of social protection programmes and advocates for a comprehensive and inclusive system that leaves no one behind. It therefore aims to: (i) develop feasible options to cover the most glaring social protection gap (the provision of income security for those between the ages of 18 and 59 years) and support the process of building consensus on a nationally defined Social Protection Floor (NSPF); (ii) establish social insurance schemes for women in the informal sector, particularly in rural areas; and (iii) support the development and financing of a new strengthened welfare services delivery model and its linkages social grants; and (vi) establish a Joint Programme Management structure to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Joint Programme (JP) and present regular progress and monitoring reports.

Executive summary

- *Maximum 0.5 page to summarize the most important aspects from your detailed report below that you want to highlight for inclusion into the Joint SDG Fund's global annual report.*

The present report details implementation progress for the period January 2020 – 31 December 2020 of the UN SDG Fund Joint Programme (JP) - *An integrated and universal social protection linked to developmental social welfare services in South Africa*. The objective of the South Africa JP is to address exclusion from existing provisions of social protection programmes and seek to build consensus for a comprehensive and inclusive system that leaves no one behind - and contribute to reducing poverty and inequality.

The first quarter of 2020 focused mainly on initiating activities for effective implementation of the JP: budgeting, work planning, governance and reporting arrangements, and strategic and stakeholder engagements. The first case of the COVID-19 in South Africa was recorded in early March 2020 leading to some of the most severe restrictions on gatherings, movement and international travel in Africa. This heavily affected the JP implementation plan. As such, much of second the quarter focused on readjusting the JP to support the Government's COVID response, including active engagements in impact and recovery analysis. Part of the JP work plan was re-purposed, while keeping the core initial tenets. Over the entire reporting period, COVID-19 impacts and restrictions posed considerable challenge to implementation, leading to further delays and postponement of activities.

Albeit the challenges, the JP managed to record good progress and maintain relevance. Key activities and achievements in the reporting period include: (i) drafting of a human rights and social protection checklist tool to support the integration of a human rights based approach to social protection in South Africa. (ii) Advocacy efforts resulting in temporary expansion of the social grants (iii) Partnership with Statistics South Africa to produced the country's first multidimensional poverty for children baseline. (iv) Research and advocacy work on various fronts in extending social protection including: fiscal space analysis and support to budget processes, feasibility of basic income grant, contributions to comprehensive social security reforms, and social security for women in the informal sector.

In the year ahead, the JP will purposefully focus on remaining relevant and aligned, strengthen partnerships, enhance delivery, active communication and dissemination of results, and fulfil the commitments in the Joint Programme document. The advocacy tools, research, data analysis and reports planned in 2021 will continue to inform and support government priorities. However, risks abound as the country weathers a second COVID-19 wave. Further lockdowns will affect implementation of activities, impact government fiscal position and consensus building on social protection priority actions pursued by the JP. The JP will continue to explore and deploy appropriate mitigating measures.

A. Annual Progress

A.1 The overall approach

Broader context and JP changes

- COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions and the socio-economic impacts affected implementation of JP activities, especially those requiring face-to-face meetings and field surveys/research. This led to some of the activities being postponed, while at the same time triggering a search and a plan for alternative ways of delivering activities.
- The JP was designed to build consensus on enhancing various dimensions of social protection. While the overall approach of the JP is still intact, modalities on how to engage in consensus-building on social protection will have to be recrafted, taking into account the continued challenges and restrictions on movements and public gathering posed by COVID-19, in particular prohibition on face-to-face interviews/meetings, community engagements and consultations, initially envisaged in the design of activities.
- While the government's fiscal stimulus to minimize the impact of the pandemic was laudable, fiscal constraints exist. A combination of slow economic growth prior to COVID-19 and the impact of various national lockdowns on anticipated public revenues puts further pressure on government finances. The JP is designed on the premise of consensus among stakeholders on key policy measures to expand fiscal space for social protection - this likely to become more difficult with the COVID-19 crisis. However, this should not endanger delivery on the JP, innovative approaches around such consensus building will be explored.

Ensuring that JP remains strategic and catalytic

- **Briefly explain how your JP contributed to UNDAF and/or preparation of new Cooperation Framework.**
South Africa is finalizing a new Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF). The JP played a fundamental role in including social protection as a critical strategy for reducing poverty and inequalities and ensuring no one is left behind. There are four strategic pillars in the CF 2020-2025, namely 1. Inclusive, just and sustainable economic growth; 2. Human capital and social transformation; 3. Effective, efficient and transformative governance and 4. Climate resilience and sustainably managed natural resources. The JP work falls mainly under Strategic Pillar 1, but also contributes to the other pillars. The JP actively participated in SCF processes, helping to identify social protection challenges and strategies for more inclusive extension of coverage. The JP will also support implementation of the SCF through its work plan, in addition to being part of the UN-wide Thematic and Results Groups.
- **Briefly explain how you adapted the JP to COVID-19 in 2020 (through formal re-purposing of 20% of the overall budget or other changes/adaptations).**
On 19th March, the JP discussed the potential impact of the COVID-19 on the implementation of activities, noting that the JP was initially designed to bring together audiences for workshops, meetings and advocacy/visibility actions. The meeting discussed priority areas of actions under the various Outcome Areas of the Work plan were discussed in light of the challenges posed by the COVID crisis. Following various engagements between the UN system and the Government, in particular the UN meeting with the Government on 26th March 2020, the Minister of Social Development shared with the RC a concept document "South Africa – UN collaboration on COVID-19", which was expected to inform UN COVID response actions in the social development sector, including the social protection SDG Fund JP. In consultation with the Government (DSD), the UNCT, institutional stakeholders of PUNOs and guidance from the SDG Secretariat (HQ NY), the JP work plan was re-purposed. The repurposing focused on system building actions in line with the initial tenets of the JP. The revised/re-purposed work plan focused mainly adjusting activities while keeping the core outcomes. Notwithstanding, the continued lockdown adversely affected implementation.

- Provide a brief update on the progress/status of these adaptations (e.g. did you finalize the re-purposed activities? If not, what is the plan)
 - The annual budget brief series was repurposed to address the impact of COVID-19 on basic education, health, social development/protection and the national budget. The budget brief series has been completed and formed the basis for a written and oral submission to the Parliamentary Appropriations Committee.
 - Undertaking an analysis of fiscal space for children in view of the impact of COVID-19 on the country's finances. A final draft has been prepared and the draft is in its final stages of review and comments. The fiscal space study will be completed by the end of February 2021, including a public launch of the key findings, implications and recommendations.
 - The work in Basic Income Grant incorporate covid dimensions. However, the component on mircsimulations was postponed on 2021 as the socio-economic situation in 2020 was not consider optimal for thorough field and research/analytical work.
 - Due to the the COVID 19 context, the overall national study of "women in informality willingness and ability to access social security" was postponed to 2021, instead, a serie (6 in total) of workers' lived experiences were documented. These highlighted the challenges facing women operating in the different categories of the Informal Economy in South Africa as well as underlined the need and urgency to have them properly covered by social security. To complete it, an analysis of the national rapid surveys (from the The National Income Dynamics Study – Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (NIDS-CRAM) was conducted to extract the gendered impact of the pandemic most especially on women operating in informality. Both were used for advocacy. Due to the ongoing nature of the national lockdowns, we have not been able to map and use disaggregated data in focusing attention on social protection issues. This was supposed to have been done after the various national lockdowns. However, the completion of a multidimensional poverty study provided data on the extent of multiple deprivations among children per province and metropolitan area. Also, the university community has provided additional data on social protection, which PUNOS have used in their public finance publications. About US\$ 25,000 was repurposed to building social cohesion and advocacy. This was prompted by request from the Minister of DSD to facilitate re-integration of survivors of COVID-19 and to minimise stigma.

- 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.
 - No substantial re-alignments were done, except for the fact that decisions were taken on priority pieces of work (re-purposing) for 2020.
 - Within UN agencies, to compensate for the impact of the pandemic, professional staff were requested to trim their respective workplans and focus on work that could be completed due to the extraordinary circumstances. In addition, the JP experienced challenges in recruiting staff and consultants. This led to some activities in 2020 being propostoned to 2021.
 - Engagement and advocacy on the social protection floor became harder due to the fact that most transversal and line departments were consumed with how best to respond to the immediate exigencies of the health pandemic. The contemplated time with these departments did not materialise in the way the JP was planned.
 - There were also considerations for programtic re-alignment. COVID highlighted the galing gaps in social protection. For example, due to the extreme economic conditions facing women in the informal economy, there are consideration explore further non-contributory measures for greater economic inclusion and resilience (the JP fosed on social insurance). In the various discussions with stakeholders on policy recommendations, there was indication of different schemes to be considered for this target population to mitigate the mimpact of future pandemics.

- 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.
 - On the whole, the UN's SERP was strongly informed by the Government's priorities in addressing the health issues and mitigating the impact of the pandemic. The JP's interventions, in particular the re-purposed work was aligned with the Government and UN priorities. PUNOs participated actively in the impact and recovery analysis, informing the overall UN SERP.
 - Social protection was central in the Government and UN response, as such the entire JP remains very relevant and aligned. In the next year, the knowledge gained in the 2020 response, the advocacy tools, reports and data analysis and planned activities in 2021 will continue to inform the UN SERP in supporting government priorities.

A.2 Update on priority issues

SDG acceleration

- In bullet points, please provide a brief update on JP contribution to the acceleration of the progress towards the SDGs, in line with the JP's Theory of Change for SDG Acceleration.
 - The JP prepared a human rights and social protection checklist. The tool is designed to support the integration of a human rights based approach to social protection in South Africa while also reinforcing the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG target 1.3, to ensure that no one is left behind.
 - Uncovering the lived reality and Bringing the plight of Women operating in the informal economy in South Africa to the fore in order to engage with policy makers as well as other relevant stakeholders on potential strategies for their socio-economic resilience contributes to SDGs 5.4, 8.5 and 10.1, which are key SDG targets in the JP's ToC.
 - Establishment of an official baseline for the country's reporting on multidimensional poverty as per SDG 1 (applicable to individuals between the ages of 0 and 17), which assists in target-setting for the country.
 - The JP advocacy work contributed to increases in Social Grants as part of the Government's Covid-19 response - leading to an extended programme of social protection for children, women and other vulnerable groups.
 - Work on the proposed Basic Income Grant (BIG) has been well received and through active use of NEDLAC (the country's corporatist structure) as part of a national social protection floor – directly contributing to progress in SDGs 1,5, 8 and 10.
 - Studies by Statistics South Africa and the UN have shown the informal sector greatly affected by the health pandemic. Further research under the JP such as the options for social insurance for women in the informal sector is geared towards influencing policy towards reducing poverty and inequality.
 - Although this result cannot be attributable directly to the work of the JP, the government has mandated that social welfare be better funded through the establishment of a separate prevention and early intervention programme in provincial departments of social development - which enables better monitoring and advocacy for enhanced funding for social welfare services.

Vulnerable groups

- As part of the missing middle, women operating in informality are generally vulnerable and were particularly rendered more vulnerable by the COVID 19 context. They were affected at the individual, family, business and community levels. The lack of adequate social protection packages for this group placed them at very precarious situation during COVID 19 lockdown and even after the lockdown measures. Documenting the workers lived stories was done intentionally highlighting the different trades and categories and the related challenges and potential solutions. The different categories interviewed are as follow: Domestic workers, street vendors, simstresses/homeworkers, wastepickers, market trader and a reclaimer. Another study looked into the lives of the informal agriculture workers.

- The JP made a formal submission to Parliament on the negative effects of accumulating expenditure arrears and how it destroys planning and credibility of budgets for poor and vulnerable children. This recommendation was accepted by the committee and the government, through National Treasury, will be required by law to respond to the UN-sponsored recommendation in February 2021.
 - The work on the Basic Income Grant targeting 18 – 59 year olds – this category is considered vulnerable and multiple challenges in access to social protection – largely a missing middle. Social assistance in South Africa caters for categories of specific groups of the population such as elderly and children, as well as persons with disabilities, whilst poor adults including young entrants to the labour market and single adults, are without any form of income support.
- Provide an updated number of individuals that were reached through the JP's efforts in 2020, and the total number that you expect to reach by the end of the programme (disaggregated by vulnerable groups and gender).
- Data currently unavailable. It is envisaged that in 2021, the JP will actively contribute to data collection on social protection, especially on coverage of vulnerable groups, though social protection SDG 1.3 monitoring tool the Social Security Inquiry.

Gender marker

- In bullet points, please briefly explain how you applied the Gender Marker in JP implementation in the past year, and/or other ways in which gender was mainstreamed into implementation.
- The JP ensured that outputs and activities incorporate gender considerations, including the use of gender disaggregated data were possible. The design of research tools, inclusion gender rights groups and Government agencies (e.g. Department of Women in President's Office) in implementation of activities, selection of implementing partners, also ensure the application gender considerations.
 - Outcome 2, for example, which is mainly focused on women and their inclusion in social security and overall economic inclusion. The studies take into account gender gaps in the design of existing social security schemes.
 - A JP PUNO (UNDP South Africa) was awarded Bronze in the January 2021 Gender Seal Awards and will continue to integrate gender dimensions in its policies, analysis and programmes.

Human rights

- A human rights and social protection checklist tool was prepared under the JP. The tool is designed to support the integration of a human rights based approach to social protection in South Africa while also reinforcing the realization of the sustainable development goals, particularly SDG target 1.3, to ensure that no one is left behind. The checklist is based on international human rights and social security standards, including treaties ratified by South Africa. It is also designed in line with key human rights principles namely: universality of protection; equality and non-discrimination; availability; accessibility and adequacy, meaningful and effective participation; adequate legal and institutional framework; access to effective remedies and monitoring and evaluation. The checklist thus allows for an assessment of the manner in which a human rights based approach to social protection is reflected in the design, implementation and evaluation of social protection plans, policies and programmes.

Partnerships

The JP governance structure, especially the composition of the Steering Committee ensure wide ranging partnerships. Other noteworthy partnerships in the reporting period include:

- Statistics South Africa – produced the country's first ever representative UN SDG multidimensional poverty for children baseline, despite the national lockdowns and related constraints.
- Department of Social Development - collaborative impact evaluation work to test the Child Well-Being Tracking Tool and for understanding how this lead department has fulfilled its obligations to vulnerable children during COVID-19.
- WEIGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing) – on technical analysis on women in the informal sector.

- Studies for Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII) – at an advanced stage to implement Computer Assisted Telephonic Interviews (CATIs). South Africa has suffered one of the most severe lockdowns in Africa. The CATIs are required to implement fieldwork in provinces to establish whether ordinary residents’ understanding of what “socially perceived necessities” have changed or are in line with the findings in 2016.
- Continued support through the national Appropriations Committee in Parliament in highlighting public finance and social expenditure issues for children and vulnerable groups and using its legislative clout to place such demands before the national Executive.

Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Comments
			South Africa endured one of the most severe lockdowns in Africa leading to severe disruptions. Most of work of key government departments and development partners focused on immediate COVID responses. However, the JP Steering Committee held an important project inception meeting. It is envisaged that key strategic meetings will be held before end of the first half of 2021.
JP launch event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Annual JP development partners’/donors’ event*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Funding and financing

PUNOs explored avenues for additional resources. For example, UNWomen mobilised, as part of regional COVID 19 response initiative, a small contribution (\$24,000) towards additional documentation, a documentary of women operating in the Informal sector multiple challenges as exposed by COVID 19 (This is due to be released end January). The same Donor has welcomed the idea of engaging further in supporting the advocacy component of this work.

Innovation, learning and sharing

- As part of JP Learning and Sharing Plan, the JP concluded the draft LNOD Social Protection checklist. This will inform the key capacity building activity for UN staff, Government and JP partners as indicated in the JP Learning and Sharing Plan.
- The JP co-hosted a research colloquium with civil society, the private sector and the government on the relevance of multidimensional poverty approaches. The meeting was addressed by senior government representatives, the UN RC and the UNICEF Representative.
- Exploring Computer Assisted Telephonic Interviews (CATIs) – an innovation for field surveys in light of tight lockdowns in South Africa
- The JP is also collaborating on the on-going work on data, monitoring and innovations in social grants implementation and comprehensive social security modelling work with relevant government departments
- The JP actively engaged in various COVID-19 impact and recovery assessments – informing government and stakeholder responses.

Strategic communications

- A PUNO (UNICEF South Africa) lobbied for the temporary increase in the monthly Child Support Grant over the period of COVID-19. See how this increase makes a positive difference to one mother's efforts to care for her children. South Africa's Child Support Grant: Making an even greater difference during COVID-19 <https://www.unicef.org/southafrica/>. This underscores the importance of the JP in the area of expanding fiscal space for social protection.
- Webinar on women in the Informal sector was reported on twice by the Daily Maverick, one of the most prominent print media houses in the country.
- The JP co-hosted a research colloquium with civil society, the private sector and the government on the relevance of multidimensional poverty approaches

B. Annual Results

Overall progress

- Provide a self-assessment on the JP's overall progress in the past year, including a brief explanation.

- 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:

Contribution to Fund's global results

- Provide brief overview on your JP's contribution to the global outputs and outcomes of the Joint SDG Fund (in terms of the annual targets outlined in the Results Framework of your JP document).
- Note that you will also provide a consolidated table in Annex 1.

JP Outputs and Outcomes

Achievements of expected output

- Output 1.1 and 1.2: Feasibility of social assistance scheme (Basic income grant) for 18 to 59 years old, and Consensus is reached on social assistance scheme option, informed by international good practices in context of social dialogue (including right holders)
 - Technical review of modeling frameworks
 - Development of research and analytical tools
 - Policy reviews and consultations on social assistance and Basic Income Grant
 - On-going work on enhancing social protection data collection and SDG 1.3.1 monitoring: South Africa part of a 5-country online application of the Social Security Inquiry (data collection, web-training, calculation guide)
 - Draft final study report on feasibility of a basic income grant in South Africa - International experiences and good practices (including COVID-19 responses) in direct income transfers: lessons and options for a basic income grant (for the 18 – 59 age bracket) in South Africa
 - Capacity building support to the Department of Social Development: E-Coaching on Social Protection: Towards Responsive System
- Output 2.1: Needs, ability and willingness to contribute to social insurance are identified: Although the national study did not take place, through the NIDS-CRAM analysis and the workers narratives, the social protection needs were identified. Originally, the project was supposed to establish social security needs, however one fact surfacing from the impact of COVID 19 on men and women operating in informality is the fact that there are needs both of contributory but mostly of non-contributory schemes in time of crises. The impact studies will serve as descriptive studies introducing and shaping the national survey planned for 2021.

- Output 2.2: Prototyping models for service delivery: The ToR was finalised in a consultative manner and advertised. After the evaluation, we did not get a responsive consultant. The advertisement has been re-launched. The study and advocacy actions are expected to be completed in first quarter of 2021.
- Output 2.3: National dialogue and advocacy are conducted: The initial dialogues with decision makers and service users were conducted through:
 - The Steering Committee
 - The webinar organised for the dissemination of the findings.
 - Engaging with workers representative, who are already working with the JP team, through the IP to develop policy positions for further dialogues and discussions with policy makers. The first quarter of 2021 will also focus on an intentional dissemination and advocacy campaign for the workers narrative stories, the policy brief as well as the short documentary done in compliment of the workers narratives.
- Output 3.1 (Evidence generated of broadened access to social protection services for children)
 - Ongoing public finance work on social protection for children-mostly achieved via the annual budget brief series (completed), submission to Parliament on how budget affects children (completed) and fiscal space for children (final draft completed)
 - Developing partnerships with stakeholders on usefulness of multidimensional poverty approaches (first-ever nationally representative baseline for SDG reporting done, research seminar on multidimensional approaches held and completed, ongoing work around constructing new child-centric poverty tool by CSOs)
 - Assessing poverty impact of cash transfers on children (draft final complete and final consultations between participating UN agency and service provider in early February 2021)
 - Update on exclusion error study and NHI health research postponed to 2021 due to need for prioritisation on key areas in 2020
- Output 3.2 (Technical support provided to DSD and government on social welfare policy and social protection floor)
 - Technical consultations with the National Planning Commission on the finalisation of the social protection floor (first series of technical policy consultations are done and led to the publication of a policy brief summarising the NPC's position. Draft TOR being worked on by participating UN agency for second round of consultations)
 - Technical assistance to DSD for development of a strengthened social welfare policy framework (technical policy consultations done and ongoing)
 - Technical support and training to DSD and NPC on human rights framework (postponed to 2021)
- Output 3.3: Technical work and research on the development of an "integrated" modality linking cash transfers and complementary services is provided
 - Three follow-up pilots on testing of the CWBTT: DSD requested that the developed CWBTT be used to measure the impact of pandemic on vulnerable children. In other words, how well DSD services landed with vulnerable children during the initial phases of the national lockdown. Study was in the field and early results are being processed. Final results are expected by April 2021.
 - Action-oriented research on the CWBTT: due to the official requested change in orientation and focus in using the CWBTT, the existing field research and any additional research done in 2021 will replace the intended action oriented research. It has become less relevant now that the CWBTT has been used in the DSD-approved and requested national evaluation of its services.

Achievements of Expected contributions to the outcome

Outcome 1: Social assistance scheme consensus is reached

As a starting point in achieving this outcome a technical review and consultation commenced on the landscape of social assistance and gaps in the social protection system. COVID-19 and the introduction of new temporary

measures introduced some challenges. To address the gaps especially for 18-59 years old, mostly not covered by existing social protection programmes, a study on international good practices on options for Basic Income Grant was undertaken. The study and other planned for 2021 will inform social dialogue and consensus building on an appropriate scheme and implementation framework for South Africa.

Outcome 2: Options are formulated to address Gaps in access of women excluded from social insurance
As mentioned above, due to the impact of COVID 19, through the initial descriptive research done, the need to ensure proper social protection coverage for people operating in the Informal economy, particularly women has been established; the gaps uncovered, although they will still be completed by the full scale survey; policy options emerging and discussions thereof started with relevant stakeholders.

Outcome 3: Strengthened social welfare policy and regulatory frameworks: Prevention and early intervention services have finally been recognised as a separate budget programme, thus highlighting an important component of social welfare reform. While the response to the COVID-19 pandemic made any additional allocations to prevention and early intervention services unlikely, at least the existing quantum of resources was maintained at the provincial level. The JP has continued to work with the DSD on a policy linking social assistance more effectively to social welfare policies and to complementary services in other social sectors.

Workplan

- If you modified JP workplan in the last year, please provide brief explanation.

JP workplan was modified

JP workplan was not modified

Explain briefly: The modification was done in line with the repurposing of activities, given the impact of the health pandemic.

C. Plan for the Next Year of implementation

Next year

MAIN FOCUS OF THE ANNUAL WORK PLAN

- Finalisation of all research activities and outputs in line with JP results, including innovative ways to deliver on field research work postponed due to the pandemic
- Using results as basis for advocacy (with government, social partners and the media)
- Handing over, dialogue and effective dissemination of relevant tools, outputs and reports (e.g. fiscal space tool, simulation Excel-based models) to specific government departments and other social partners
- A human rights and social protection checklist tool prepared under the JP The tool is designed to support the integration of a human rights based approach to social protection in South Africa while also reinforcing the realization of the sustainable development goals, particularly SDG target 1.3, to ensure that no one is left behind.
- Enhance strategic advocacy, communication, learning and sharing on the JP actions
- A consolidated list of JP recommendations that will become an M&E matrix for PUNOS and the UN in South Africa
- Dissemination of findings and strategy development for ownership and buy-in, working with relevant government departments and workers organisations

EXPECTED ANNUAL RESULTS (IN TERMS OF OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES)

- Research studies are available.
- All relevant technical policy consultations done
- Technical support and capacity training on human rights frameworks done for DSD and NPC.
- Impact and refinement of various technical tools considered and finalised.

Towards the end of JP implementation

- An embedded consensus on all the elements of South Africa's social protection floor and an acceptance that to implement such provisions, a gradual approach to implementing and financing social protection elements will be adopted.
- The feasibility of introducing a Basis Income Grant and/or income support is well understood and the government has considered implementation modalities that are affordable and scalable.
- The multidimensional poverty tool and acceptance by the government that income poverty and multidimensional poverty need to be measured more regularly, especially in a country with such high poverty and inequality rates.
- An understanding of the social security needs of women in the informal sector, rural and urban.
- A robust M&E system that enhances the ability of DSD to monitor its considerable investment in South Africa's children.
- Improved ability of the social development sector to strategically finance the social welfare system at the provincial level.
- While the COVID crisis is still looming in South Africa, it is expected that the end of restrictions on movement and public gatherings will present fertile opportunities to discuss JP plans for an expanded social protection system with government, social partners and the official corporatist structure (NEDLAC). The JP will also collaborate and draw on the work of NEDLAC and other partners as they are already moving forward large and ambitious social protection proposals.
- Our final results will take into account the altered public finance environment and structure our national dialogues around that limitation.
- Availing completed technical tools to our social partners for further and wider use in their advocacy work for an expanded social protection system.

Risks and mitigation measures

MAIN RISKS

- Reduced fiscal space for social expenditures may mean a less ambitious overhaul of the present social protection system. The government has already hinted at this challenge and this risk/reality must be addressed.
- The intensity of the various lockdowns has introduced further rifts in terms of expected policy directions inside and outside of government. The low economic growth scenario may have strengthened conservative fiscal policy positions, thus requiring the JP to adjust some of the targets on its final outputs.

MITIGATION OF RISKS

- Developing a joint understanding of the public finance limitations with relevant social partners and the government and putting forward social protection proposals that recognise the public finance realities.

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:1.2 - by 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

SDG: 1.3 - Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

SDG: 10.4 - adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

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 overall objective of the JP is to achieve a more integrated and universal social protection system linked to development social welfare services - and contribute to reducing poverty and inequality, and acceleration of progress towards various SDG Targets. The JP is doing this through promoting the social protection floor for the unemployed and low-income, bringing women in the informal sector into social insurance. This will enhance coverage of social protection in South Africa. The work on enhancing social welfare services, including through campaigns and tools (like the Child Well-Being Tracking Tool) is aimed at better funding of social welfare. The Child Well-Being Tracking Tool, for example, will aid better integration of grant recipients and in-kind services, and through the active support of policy and legal reform to ensure better integration of cash transfer recipients and their participation in in-kind programmes and services.

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:

same as above

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.

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

No concrete work or results to be attributed to the JP. However, it is envisaged that as the number research and policy initiatives started in 2020 are finalized these will feed into integrated policy action at the wider UN and government level

1.3 Number of innovative solutions tested in 2020

Total number disaggregated by % successful and unsuccessful:

Provide the list

Explain briefly:

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

Total number:

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:

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:

2. Selected global performance indicators (annual)

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

Yes, considerably contributed

Yes, contributed

No

Explain briefly:

The JP constitutes the Social Protection Technical Working Group and is part of the overall UN Protection thematic group. It provides direct advice to the UN Heads of Agencies and the RC on social protection issues in the country.

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 Steering Committee enables the JP not only to interact with the DSD, but with all other relevant transversal and line departments. Furthermore, the JP formulated the same position as far as NEDLAC is concerned and all PUNOS treat this structure as part of the overall JP instead of arranging individual and separate meetings.

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

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

South Africa is in the process of finalizing a new CF and the JP's work is fully aligned.

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

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

Small additional funds for two PUNO (about 50,000 USD) for pursuing public finance work in context of the pandemic and social insurance for women in the informal sector.

3. Results as per JP Results Framework (annual)

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: Social assistance scheme consensus is reached						
	A NEDLAC task for is established. Actuarial studies conducted already	Dialogue is undertaken on various options	A final draft on international best practices informing consensus building on preferred options	The COVID stiff lockdown COVID 19 lockdown prevented field studies and physical contact for meetings: . Part of the study postponed to 2021 . Challenges in getting consultants with requisite skills	Dialogue is various options finalized and consensus reached on the most preferred options	Same
Output 1.1: Feasibility of social assistance scheme (Basic income grant) for 18 to 59 years old						
	N/A	Studies conducted	A final draft on the BIG international best practices informing further technical analysis on costs and impacts commenced	The COVID stiff lockdown COVID 19 lockdown prevented field studies and physical contact for meetings: . Part of the study postponed to 2021 . Challenges in getting consultants with requisite skills	All studies conducted, various options discussed and consensus reached	Same
Output 1.2: consensus is reached on Social assistance scheme option, informed by international good practices in context of social dialogue (including right holders)						
	N/A	International experiences are shared	A final draft undergoing reviews	Report shared for review and finalization	Recommendations for the South African social assistance scheme are shared for further dialogue	Same

Outcome 2: Options are formulated to address Gaps in access of women excluded from social insurance						
	Only an estimated 5% of Women in informal economy covered by existing social Insurance schemes	40% of women in Informal Sector in selected settings reached for buy in of proposed Social Insurance Products	Consultancy not started. An understanding of the challenges and needs facing women in the Informal gained; an initial discussion with stakeholders on remedial policy options.	Due to the limitations imposed by COVID 19 and its ensuing lockdown measures, the national survey for social insurance needs for women working in informality, their willingness and ability to access social insurance was delayed – no responsive bidder (study to be re-launched). However, descriptive in depth analysis of lived realities was conducted.	70% of women in Informal Sector in selected settings reached for buy in of proposed Social Insurance Products	. Policy options, based on study results, drawn and shared with all relevant stakeholders
Output 2.1: Needs, ability and willingness to contribute to social insurance are identified						
Output 2.1 Indicator: % of Studies completed and results disseminated amongst relevant stakeholders	0%	100% study ³ 50% Dissemination	100% descriptive study 25% dissemination	COVID 19 prevailing context hindered physical contact thus: . The main study was changed . Dissemination of results was done through a webinar	Full case study report, including COVID 19 related report . 100 % dissemination	. Policy options, based on study results, drawn and shared with all relevant stakeholders
Output 2.2: Prototyping models for service delivery is conducted						
Study of service delivery social insurance models for the informal sector. Development of workable models supported	0%	60%	25%	- Delayed Feedback from 2.1 - Advertised for study but no suitable candidate found	Study completed and 2 workable insurance models identified	same

³ The national full scale survey was changed to the COVID 19 Impact descriptive survey.

Output 2.3: National dialogue and advocacy are conducted						
indicator: 0% dialogues of key stakeholders	0%	50% of relevant stakeholders reached through proper advocacy channels	25% of workers associations were reached	We held only one of the three intended advocacy campaigns and the main study was postponed to 2021	. Advocacy to reach 100% of intended audience. . Workshop and advocacy strategy reports completed	None
Outcome 3: Strengthened social welfare policy and regulatory frameworks						
Outcome 3 indicator: Prevention and early intervention budgets increase from 6% in 2019 to at least 10% at the end of 2021	6%	8%	6%	COVID-19 used up a lot of the available fiscal space and a lot of government's policy agenda was also deferred. One good development has been the approval of a new provincial budget structure, which requires that prevention and early intervention programmes are recorded as separate and that a minimum resource allocation should be 5% of total provincial social development budgets.	Target to be revised to 7% instead of 10% due to the unexpected impact of COVID-19 and the sluggish growth of the economy and its consequent impact on available revenues for public programmes.	7%
Output 3.1: Evidence generated of broadened access to social protection services for children						
Output 3.1 indicator: % of studies completed, and results workshopped with relevant sector department	0%	60%	60% (or 3 out of 5 studies are completed)	Full publication of studies was delayed due to the impact of COVID-19, but there are minor changes that must still be made and copy-editing and layout for the complete published versions must still be done.	100%	Same

Output 3.2: Technical support to DSD and government on social welfare policy and social protection floor is provided						
Output 3.2 indicator: Number of roundtables with DSD and NPC with defined action plans	0	4	2	The target was not reached due to the impact of the pandemic and the shifting time and policy priorities brought about by the pandemic.	3 (a revised target requested due to the time lost because of COVID-19)	3
Output 3.3: Technical work and research on the development of an "integrated" modality linking cash transfers and complementary services is provided						
Output 3.3 indicator: Number of pilots completed, and results workshopped with DSD	0	2	0	The lead department, DSD, requested that the pilots be commuted into 1) establishing the overall usefulness of the Child Well Being Tracking Tool, and 2) Use the tool to establish the impact of DSD programmes and activities on the vulnerable children that it serves. Fieldwork was completed and initial results are available, but final results will be available at the end of April 2020.	2 (a revised target requested due to the time lost because of COVID-19)	2

Annex 2: List of strategic documents

- Complete the tables below by focusing on documents that are of particular strategic importance for the JP results and for the priorities of this Joint SDG Fund portfolio.

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
Social Protection and Human Rights Checklist	Undergoing final reviews	A comprehensive tool to support the integration of human rights based approach to social protection in South Africa.
Statistics South Africa (2020) Child poverty in South Africa: A Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis	July/2020	South Africa requested a revised baseline for its measurement of child poverty. A participating PUNO started the discussion with the Head of Statistics South Africa and agreed that MODA would be the ideal methodology. The 2020 publication serves as the official SDG baseline for multidimensional poverty for children in the country's reporting to the UN SDG. The JP provided the technical capacity for the capacity building of Statistics SA officials and coordinating the technical and policy phases of the project. The JP also provided extensive and substantive feedback in the production of the final document.
National Planning Commission (2020) A social compact for social cohesion	August/2020	The National Planning Commission is responsible for the country's National Development Plan. As part of this JP's work to help the government and social partners clarify the extent and scope of the social protection floor, the NPC requested the JP's advice and support in producing a high quality policy brief of its existing positions and the kind of advocacy work that ought to be done in implementing the social protection floor. The policy brief and its rich content is the outcome of discussions between the JP and the NPC. More work is planned for 2021 as the existing term of office of this NPC comes to an end and the JP will be involved in the transition conversations.
UNICEF South Africa submission on the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement	November/2020	This is a formal submission on the impact of the entire social sector budget on the vulnerable children that we have identified in the original project documentation. While it is not an official government document being referred to here, in February 2021, the National Treasury will formally respond to one of the UN recommendations (in its annual Budget Review) and this will be used as evidence of national impact and for following up on the status of implementation of the recommendation.
Feasibility studies on basic income grant in South Africa –international experiences and good practices (including COVID-19 responses) in direct income transfers: lessons and options for a basic income grant (for the 18 – 59 age bracket) in South Africa	November 2020 – undergoing final reviews for publication	The objective of this work was to inform options for a basic income grant for 18 – 59 years olds in South Africa based on international experiences and good practices, including in the context of COVID-19. The BIG is a key component of the LNOB Joint Programme. The knowledge from the study will feed into the discussions and consensus building on successful design, implementation, sustainability, impact and results.
6 Narratives of workers lives	01/21 - Undergoing final reviews	A descriptive view of the reality lived by women workers in informality, especially during and post COVID 19 lockdown. Their needs, challenges and coping mechanisms adopted. The JP was involved in the selection of categories of workers, shaping the framework

		that guided the collection of data, review of the narratives and soon in the dissemination and ensuing advocacy and policy discussion
A draft policy brief on Women Informal Economy workers	01/21 - Undergoing final reviews	A compilation of workers views and needs collected through the advocacy webinar, supported by national data. The JP is reviewing and will proceed to jointly, with WIEGO, disseminate it and organize a second policy discussion.

Annex 3: Strategic communication results

- Provide the responses to the questions below with data for the last year overall.

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

- Yes
 No

Explain briefly: To be finalized in 2021

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: N/A

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

- Yes
 No

Explain briefly: N/A

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

- Yes
 No

Explain briefly: N/A

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: N/A

Explain briefly: N/A

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: N/A

Explain briefly: N/A

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

- Yes
 No

Total number: N/A (Not mandatory)

Explain briefly: N/A

Multi-Media Faucets

- Complete the table by focusing on most important strategic communication documents (factsheets, promotional materials, infographics, videos, etc.). Provide hyperlinks when possible.

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
South Africa’s Child Support Grant: Making an even greater difference during COVID-19	03/2020	The JP lobbied for the temporary increase in the monthly Child Support Grant over the period of COVID-19. See how this increase makes a positive difference to one mother’s efforts to care for her children. South Africa’s Child Support Grant: Making an even greater difference during COVID-19 https://www.unicef.org/southafrica/ This underscores the importance of the JP in the area of expanding fiscal space for social protection.
A short documentary on the lived realities of women workers in informality	01/21	A short documentary placing at the center the lived realities of women workers in informality to enhance a people centered communication and use as a visual advocacy tool.

Social Media Campaigns

- Complete the table by focusing on the highest social media impressions or campaigns. Provide hyperlinks when possible.

Title of the document	Type (FB/Twitter/LinkedIn/Etc.)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)

Annex 4: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix

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					
The COVID-19 have significant effects on public finances and may affect Government priorities, although the government continues to make great strides in social protection as a key measure to mitigate the impact of the crisis. As the crisis continues consensus building is likely to become more difficult. COVID-19 will likely affect the ability of the Government to finance any new and large social protection programmes in a substantial way.	8	2	4	Ongoing engagements with government about the importance of the social protection system and the LNOB in the country	National Treasury
Programmatic risks					
Lack of coherence in government, where political parties or coalition government disagree on the proposed social assistance schemes resulting in contentious debates which could add an additional barrier and increase the time taken to attain buy-in and support.	12	3	4	Through the lead government department of social development begin advocacy efforts before the project commences to ensure that buy-in is ascertained	DSD
Lack of support by social partners and CSOs of the proposed social protection	8	2	4	Work closely with Nedlac and through the	NEDLAC and DSD

schemes/floor, especially around the valuation of the benefits				studies/evidence support why the proposed scheme/floor us the most practical	
Smaller political parties oppose the proposed social assistance/BIG, and engage in the pursuance of the deepening of dependency debate, resulting in the creation of additional barriers and the decrease in the buy-in of the project.	8	2	4	Through the lead government department of social development begin advocacy efforts before the project commences to ensure that buy-in is ascertained	National Assembly
lack of departmental/agencies co-ordination in the delivery of social protection programmes and services	4	1	4	Set up coordination mechanisms and accountability measures to guide coordination	The Presidency and DPME
Institutional risks					
New government District model requires closer cooperation, and this has never been easy in SA	6	3	2	Support the implementation of the district model/ include learning mechanisms and have good M&E systems in place to feedback lessons learnt and improve implementation	The Presidency, provincial and local government authorities
Fiduciary risks					
Working with implementing partners in executing parts of the JP	2	2	1	Existing working relationships/track record of organisations that have delivered and integrity pacts between PUNOs and service delivery implementers	PUNOs and service delivery partners