Paths to SDG Acceleration

United Nations Joint SDG Fund
2020 Annual Consolidated Narrative Report

UNEDITED VERSION

May 2021

Table of Contents

Year in Numbers ... 2

Foreword ... 3

Introduction & Context ... 4

What we have achieved: Highlights of Results ... 6

Outcome 1. Integrated Multi-Sectoral Policies to Accelerate SDG Achievement implemented with Greater Scope and Scale ... 6

Outcome 2. Additional Finance Leveraged to Accelerate SDG Achievement ... 12

How we made the progress ... 19

Contributing to UN Coherence and Delivering as One for the SDGs ... 19

Governance and Operational Efficiency ... 20

Resource Mobilization, Partnerships, and Communications ... 21

Conclusion: Urgent Call for SDG Acceleration ... 23

Annexes ... 25

Annex 1. Joint SDG Fund Results Framework ... 25

Year in Numbers

39

countries

advancing integrated policies on social protection and leaving no one behind.

69

countries

developing and implementing SDG financing strategies aligned with national plans/priorities.

59

financial instruments

designed and structured with the aim to leverage financing for the SDGs at scale.

17

SDGs

being advanced with commitments from the Joint SDG Fund through the Joint Programmes.

24

UN entities

jointly working together to accelerate the SDGs in the Joint Programme countries.

$166m

in commitments

approved for SDG acceleration and financing through the 125 Joint Programmes.

87m

People

became eligible in the national social registries to received social protection and to leave no one behind.

90%

Joint Programmes

reported positive contribution to enhancing United Nations coherence at the country level.

14.8%

resource target

of $290 million per annum received in 2020, with only $42.96 million in contributions from donor partners.

115%

funds allocated

to the 125 Joint Programmes / Proposals in light of future pledged contributions.

Foreword

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to its very core. COVID-19 has laid bare, and continues to exacerbate, deep inequalities and injustices while recent global climate data shows that the world remains on track for climate disruption. It is a critical time for us to hold firm in our commitments and not let the pandemic derail our ambitions.

While many challenges, and uncertainties, remain with the COVID-19 pandemic, what is clear is that if the world is to “build forward better” – and get back on a trajectory towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – we need to get the right policies in place and mobilize the financing required to bring them to scale as soon as possible. These two elements – more effective, integrated policy support and much greater financing – are the raison d’etre of the Joint SDG Fund, an innovative instrument designed to incentivize the transformative policy shifts and stimulate the strategic investments required to get the world back on track to meet the SDGs. It is seen by the United Nations Secretary-General as a key part of the reform of the UN’s development system by providing the “muscle” for a new generation of Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to really accelerate SDG implementation.

Despite the imperative to build forward better and get back on a trajectory towards the SDGs, the Joint SDG Fund is still far short of the annual US$ 290 million target envisioned by the UN Secretary-General and agreed to in the Funding Compact. Early substantive returns from the first two dynamic calls are encouraging, as it emerges in this Annual Report: cross-sectoral integrated policies have proven to be effective in accelerating the SDGs in 39 countries, 28 UNCTs developed SDG investments and financial instruments that have the potential to leverage billions from millions.

If substantively capitalised, the Joint SDG Fund can be the transformational instrument for the United Nations to achieve the SDGs in an emerging COVID-19 world. What’s more, while the United Nations development system reform is really taking hold at country level, RCs and UNCT Heads of Agencies alike have all identified the lack of pooled funding at county level as the greatest impediment to successful reform. We must change this.

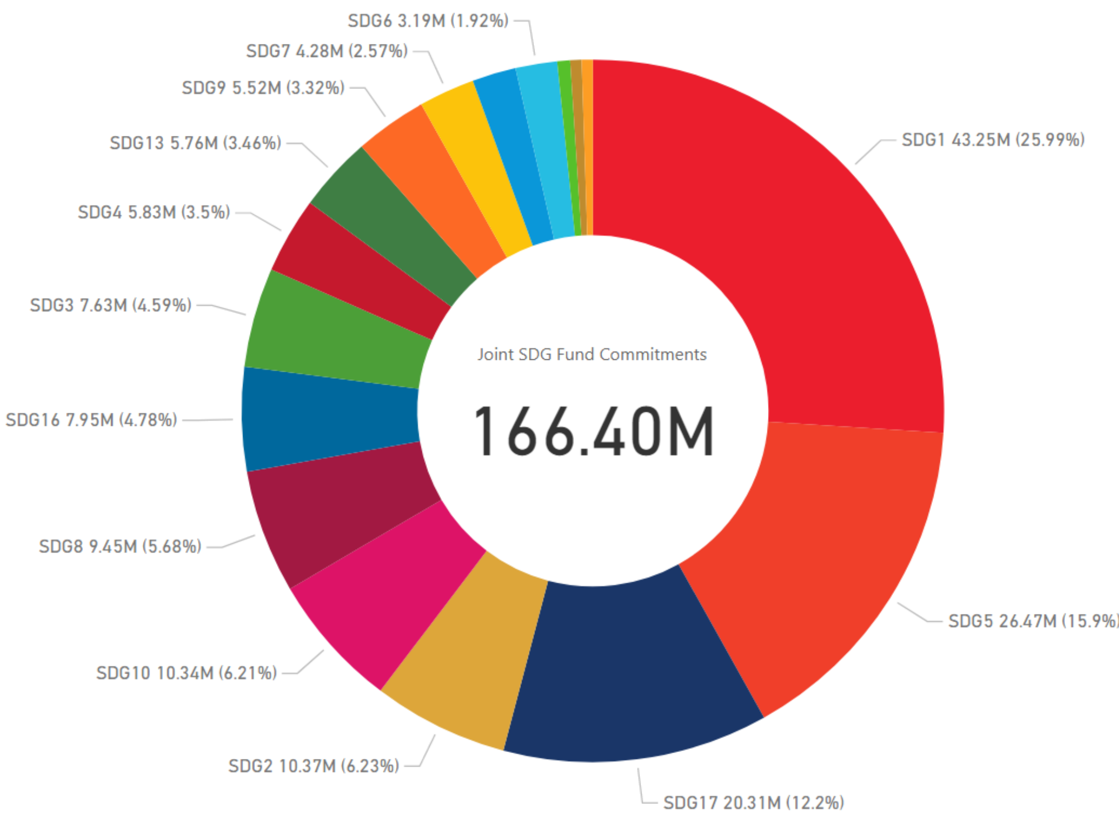
The 2030 Agenda must remain our North Star. The SDGs must underpin everything that we do to accelerate progress in the Decade of Action. If substantively capitalized, the Joint SDG Fund is the best tool at the disposal of the United Nations development system to meet the SDGs.

Introduction & Context

The United Nations Joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund is an innovative instrument that identifies and promotes transformative policy solutions and catalyses strategic investments required to accelerate the progress to meet the 17 SDGs by 2030. The Joint Fund is also a key component of the UN Development System (UNDS) reform, serving as the "muscle" for the new generation of UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to enhance UN coherence, efficiency, and delivering as one for SDG acceleration at the country level.

In 2020, the world experienced an unprecedent global crisis unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused extensive disruptions to SDG progress. Recent reports by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs estimates that some 71 million people are expected to be pushed back into extreme poverty in 2020, the first rise in global poverty since 1998. Lost incomes, limited social protection, and reduction of fiscal space are especially having detrimental impact for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, especially women and children.[1]

Figure 1. Joint SDG Fund approved commitments by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)[2]



[1] 'The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020' UN DESA (2020)
[2] The commitment figures are estimated based on weighted distribution of the SDG contributions and linkages as reported by the Joint Programmes. There could be adjustments in the commitment figure and its SDG linkages based on future budget revisions for certain Joint Programmes.

Against this backdrop, the Joint SDG Fund has approved commitments worth $166.4 million[3], with initial investments starting in late 2019, in a diverse portfolio of joint programmes designed to promote integrated policy change in social protection and leaving no one behind and in developing SDG financing strategies and catalytic investments that has potential in leveraging additional resources at scale for SDG acceleration. This accounts for 115 per cent of the capitalized funds of $144 million, considering commitments from donors toward pledges of up to $169 million in contribution to the Fund by 2021. That said, this is well below the full capitalization of $290 million per annum that is required to fully implement the mandate of the Joint Fund as requested by the UN Secretary-General and endorsed by the UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/72/279 of 31 May 2018.

With its strategic investments, the Joint Fund is contributing to all 17 SDGs, with priority commitments to Goals 1 (no poverty), 5 (gender equality), and 17 (partnerships for the goals) that comprises slightly more than half of its portfolio (see figure 1). The Joint SDG Fund through its commitments to the Joint Programmes works to reverse the trend in the SDGs towards acceleration and to support the efforts of building forward better in response to the global crisis by investing in transformative changes and opportunities for SDG leverage across systems, sectors, and industries in a total of 97 countries/territories.

[3] The figure aggregates programmatic commitments approved by the Operational Steering Committee as of December 2020 along with updates to programme budgets in the portfolios. Therefore, there can be some differences in the budgets as presented in the MPTFO Gateway

What we have achieved: Highlights of Results[4]

Outcome 1. Integrated Multi-Sectoral Policies to Accelerate SDG Achievement implemented with Greater Scope and Scale

Under Outcome 1, the Joint SDG Fund has approved investments worth $70 million, mobilizing $32 million in programme co-funding, in a portfolio of 35 joint programmes operational in 39 countries. The Joint Programmes, which were selected from a pool of 114 applications, aim to devise and implement integrated policy solutions for social protection with a focus on leaving no one behind (LNOB).

With twelve months of implementation, the Joint Programmes have made notable progress in launching and implementing activities in areas of cross-sectoral policy formation, capacity development, and leveraging partnerships for social protection, amidst navigating the challenges and risks presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key results under integrated policies for social protection & LNOB portfolio

- The joint programmes have established cross-sectoral approaches, which were not present before, to address gaps in national social protection systems while leveraging the comparative advantages of Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNOs).
- Through support to policy formation and capacity development, the joint programmes have directly and indirectly contributed to expanding social protection coverage to an additional 87 million people, reaching those otherwise left behind - especially women, children and informal workers.
- The cross-sectoral policy solutions are leading towards progress in multiple SDGs and additional resource commitments, especially related to COVID-19 recovery. Continued progress and technical support are required to fully realize SDG acceleration.

Cross-sectoral integrated policies that leave no one behind

The Joint SDG Fund invests in specific approaches that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scope and scale, including strengthening national capacities to implement integrated cross-sectoral SDG acceleration. The SDGs are integrated and indivisible, which means that acceleration requires a systems perspective: identifying policy levers for system-wide changes that address bottlenecks and produce a virtuous cycle across issues and sectors. Hence, the Fund provides financing to Joint Programmes that promote integrated multi-sectoral policy solutions in terms of thematic integration and/or geographic expansion for SDG acceleration. This progress in promoting the multi-sectoral policies in terms of scope and scale is captured in the outcome level indicators (see Table 1).

Table 1. Joint SDG Fund Outcome 1 indicators

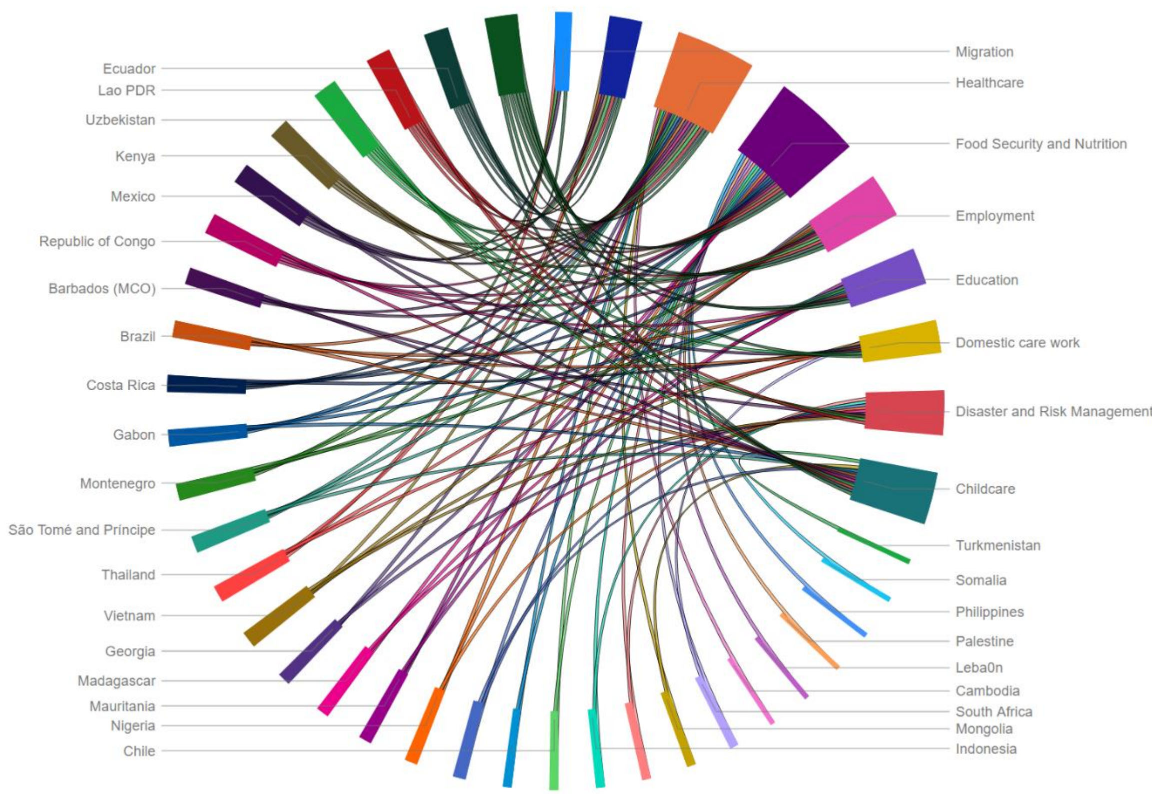
Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale	2020 Actual	2022 Target

[4] With a median implementation period of less than 1 year, the results for 2020 are presented around its two Outcome areas along with an analysis of its Operational Performance.

1.1	# and % of JPs in which integrated multi-sectoral policies have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope	31 JPs 89%	34 JPs 97%
1.2	# and % of JPs in which integrated multi-sectoral policies have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale	25 JPs 71%	28 JPs 80%

Furthermore, the diagram in figure 2 illustrates how the Joint Programmes have promoted thematic integration of national social protection schemes by linking and contributing to advancing social protection against a wide range of cross-cutting thematic areas of food security, healthcare, childcare, employment, disaster risk mitigation, education, labour markets, domestic care work and migration.

Figure 2. Joint Programmes linkages and contribution to specific sectors/themes.



For example, in Vietnam, the Joint Programme supported the Government's efforts to revise a decree promoting a rights-based, integrated social protection system and expanding coverage to a wide-range of vulnerable groups such as children, elderly, persons with disabilities, and informal workers. In Ecuador, the Joint Programme provided technical support to the Government to develop a National Social Protection and Recovery Strategy. The strategy stressed the importance of an integrated multi-sectoral approach spanning areas of education, health, labour, and social protection. In Madagascar, the Joint Programme reinforced the national social protection system by expanding the social coverages to thematic areas that were not sufficiently development before including gender-based violence, supporting persons with disabilities, and provision of agricultural insurances.

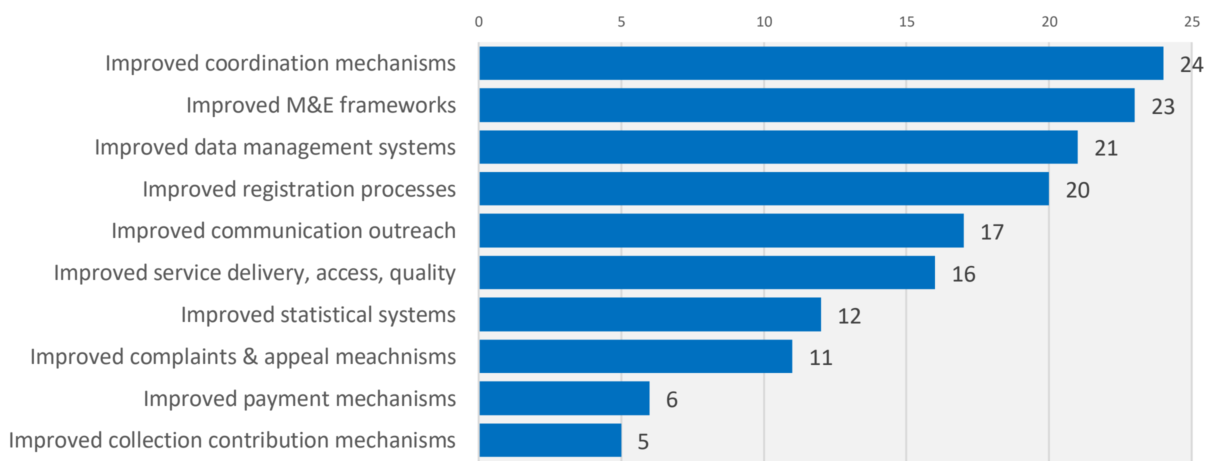
This cross-sectoral expansion of social protection was possible due to the UN working together, in which the PUNOs were able to leverage their distinct expertise and partnerships with different Government offices, civil society, and other partners. Even in middle-income countries, the Joint Programmes through its integrated approach were able to identify gaps, implement integrated policy solutions, and, in turn, expand the coverages and support to reach the people that were left behind.[5]

> "The UN Joint Programme on Strengthening Social Protection is a fantastic opportunity to reduce fragmentation in the social protection system of Uzbekistan."
> *Helena Fraser, UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan (December 2020)*

Expanding social protection through capacity development and partnerships

In addition to promoting integrated policies, some 25 joint programmes focused on developing the capacities of national and subnational officials. For instance, in Uzbekistan, the joint programme organized training courses for government officials on COVID-19 response, social security standards, social insurance and financing social protection. The Joint Programmes also partnered with national universities and community institutions to design and delivery tailored training on social protection to reach the last mile. In Mongolia, the Joint Programme partnered with community cooperatives, pastureland users' groups, and lifelong learning centres to provide social insurance training for herders or other beneficiaries. In Georgia, the Joint Programme engaged with universities to support the capacity building of medical professionals and functional assessment specialists in social protection.

Figure 3. Number of Joint Programmes contributing to elements of the national social protection systems/mechanisms.



The majority of the Joint Programmes focused particularly on designing, piloting, and improving the social registries that enable the outreach, identification, and registration for social protection schemes (see figure 3). In particular, the Joint Programmes focused on enhancing the efficiency and inclusion of the social registries. In Indonesia, the Joint Programme facilitated the updating of the national social protection registry, especially data for the population living under the poverty line. Through this effort, the coverage of national social protection scheme increased from 40 per cent to 60 per cent of the total population. In Ecuador, the Joint Programme partnered with the Government's Social Registry Unit to construct a registry for young people working in the informal sector. The Government is currently

[5] 'Portfolio of Joint Programmes on Integrated Social Protection and Leaving No One Behind Mid-Term Review', Patrick Breard (independent external evaluator) (2021).

updating the registry and is building the interfaces to guarantee seamless exchange of information with other public institutions. In Gabon, the Joint Programme supported the Ministry of Social Affairs in designing a social registry with over 500 thousand entries of eligible persons, which represents 25 per cent of the population. Moreover, the programme helped establish a one-stop centre and launched a digital data collection platform to enhance outreach and intake.

This integrated and cross-sectoral approach to social protection policy formation and capacity building has contributed to some 87 million people becoming eligible in the social registries to be covered by national social protection schemes. In Brazil, the Joint Programme supported the expansion of the Happy Child Programme to add 306 new municipalities with some 500 thousand new beneficiaries entering the registry. In Mexico, the Joint Programme supported the Constitutional reform that took place in November 2020, which mandated the establishment of a national care system and improvements in the registry of domestic workers for the social security. Through such work, it is estimated that some 47 million, especially children, elderly, persons with disabilities, and domestic and migrant workers have become eligible for social protection. In South Africa, the Joint Programme worked with the Government and academic partners to design and increase the rollout of a special COVID-19 grant that reached some 19 million people, including 13 million children and 6 million adults. In Vietnam, the Joint Programme supported the Government in designing and improving the Government's COVID-19 package that provided cash support to some 14 million vulnerable people that lost income due to the pandemic.

Box 1. Innovations in Social Protection and Leaving No One Behind

Income generation for women in Costa Rica

The Joint Programme enhances women's employment and income generation through development of a new e-commerce platform – Buy from Women - to enhance sales of products by women entrepreneurs and develop new business ecosystems. It is accompanied by microfinancing models for rural and indigenous women to address challenges in access to credit. These initiatives have been recognized by the Government as providing essential support to women in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and is included in the national sustainable development and poverty reduction strategy.

Integrated solutions for needs and rights of women with disability in Georgia

The Joint Programme introduced new guidelines and upgraded the national referral mechanism on domestic violence against women to reflect the needs of persons with disabilities. The first ever accredited online learning module for medical professionals addressing issues of women with psychosocial needs was developed with the State Medical University and Public Defenders Office. A network of over 30 organizations working on the rights of women with disabilities was established and capacitated. The concept of social inclusion centres was introduced in two regions to provide persons with disabilities with the possibility for professional skills development.

Geographical approach to targeting crisis cash response in Malawi

With the change of Government priorities due to COVID-19, the Joint Programme developed new targeting tools and guidelines for the urban emergency cash response to identify geographical hotspots of vulnerability. This was the first time the Government applied a geographical approach with universal registration to targeting and it was followed by a verification exercise to measure the accuracy using survey data, online mapping platforms, and high-resolution satellite imagery. The innovative process has improved targeting of social assistance to people that are most in need.

While these are encouraging results, the enhanced eligibility of coverage will need to be followed with actual delivery of social protection to the people and places that are most in need in the long run. Furthermore, we recognize that the early results on enhanced eligibility of coverage have mainly been concentrated in middle income countries, where there are capacities and resources to rapidly scale the social registries and social protection schemes. As assumed, additional support and resources are needed in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and conflict-affected countries, especially with the added impact of the COVID-19, to realize expanded social protection and SDG acceleration.

Ensuring pathways to SDGs and COVID-19 recovery

The Joint Programmes under Outcome 1 were launched in January 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic substantially affected their rollout and implementation. Early on, the Fund allowed the Joint Programmes to re-purpose 20 per cent of their budget for COVID-19 response, which was used by a third of the programmes in addressing the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. Furthermore, all other Joint Programmes adapted their interventions to respond to the changed context and quickly pivoted to rolling out digital and other solutions to continue implementation. Amongst other, in Turkmenistan, the Joint Programme partnered with an international education institute to deliver training of trainers for social workers remotely and in Lao PDR, a hybrid model of in-person and remote training with opportunities to engage with international experts was developed. Furthermore, several Joint Programmes were requested by the Government partners to carry out vulnerability assessments or support the training of social workers that were working to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 also partially affected the timely financial delivery of the portfolio, with the average delivery rate being 40.9 per cent in 2020. The pandemic resulted in some delays in engagements with government partners, cancelation or delays in recruitments and contracting of technical assistance and research. The delays and impact to delivery were notable, especially in the LDCs, SIDS, and conflict affected countries. That said, with the inception phase complete, the programmes are showing signs of accelerated delivery in 2021.

There have been some countries – 13 out of the 35 Joint Programmes – that have reported increases in the amount of national spending on social protection, which the programmes have contributed to in collaboration with other development partners working on complementary projects and approaches. In Vietnam, the Government passed a resolution on social protection in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to provide timely social assistance and cash transfers for some 20 million people that are most in need. This entails a social protection package of $2.7 billion along with additional $296 million for enhanced social assistance for the elderly, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable population segments. In Thailand, the Government, as part of its COVID-19 response, committed $765 million in additional social transfers for children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. In Saint Lucia, the Government increased its cash transfers by 50 per cent to children with disabilities and in foster care along with people living with HIV/AIDs. The Joint Programmes have been instrumental in supporting the Governments to devise social protection packages responding to the socio-economic impact of the global pandemic by addressing vulnerabilities and ensuring that no one is left behind. The Joint Programmes will work with the Government and local partners to sustain these increases in social protection budgets post-COVID.

These key results of the portfolio along with recommendations for further improvements – support exit and resource mobilization, contribute to global thought-leadership, finalize the portfolio's theory of change – have been captured in a rigorous independent mid-term review of the portfolio completed in 2021. The Joint SDG Fund will work to provide the necessary mitigation actions against risks and challenges, while providing technical assistance and sharing of best practices to facilitate the Joint Programmes in addressing bottlenecks and producing a virtuous cycle across issues and sectors leading to transformative systemic change towards SDG acceleration and leaving no one behind.

Outcome 2. Additional Finance Leveraged to Accelerate SDG Achievement

Under Outcome 2, the Joint SDG Fund operates two separate, but interlinked components aimed at re-aligning public and private investments to bridge the financing gap to achieve the SDGs.

- **Component 1 – Reinforce the SDG financing architecture**: The Fund supports the development of financing strategies and enabling frameworks for SDG investments.
- **Component 2 – Catalyse strategic SDG investments**: The Fund supports strategic investment opportunities that can leverage public and private financing at scale to advance the SDGs.

In Component 1, the Joint SDG Fund has approved investments worth $59 million, which has been matched with $28 million in programme co-funding, in 62 Joint Programmes operational in 69 countries. The Joint Programmes are designed to strengthen financial planning and delivery, while creating an enabling environment to overcome impediments in financing the SDGs at the country level. The Joint Programmes develop and implement a new wave of SDG-aligned financing strategies, called Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF), to spearhead SDG acceleration by leveraging public and private financing. With six months of implementation in 2020, the majority of the Joint Programmes are on-track for laying down the foundation for devising the SDG financing strategies in partnership with Governments and other public and private sector partners.

In Component 2, the Joint SDG Fund launched an innovative call to source, design, and structure proposals from UNCTs with potential to leverage public and private finance at scale for the SDGs. Out of 155 proposals submitted, the Fund selected 28[6], providing design-stage grants of up to $200,000 each to further develop and test their concepts and instruments. The Fund also supported the matchmaking of the UNCTs with a wide range of partners including UN agencies, development banks, and other public and private investors to help finetune and develop the proposals. This process resulted in the designing of 59 financial vehicles/instruments based on intensive engagements with over 300 partners. Moreover, the Joint Fund selected four Joint Programmes – Fiji, Indonesia, Malawi, and Uruguay – for investments, committing some $33 million, while mobilizing an additional $8.4 million in programme co-funding. The four programmes will be fully launched in 2021. In addition, the Fund manages an active pipeline of 12 other proposals based on the design-phase work to further develop their instruments and partnership arrangements to become investment-ready.

Building the foundations for integrated SDG financing strategies

Key results under the SDG financing strategy portfolio

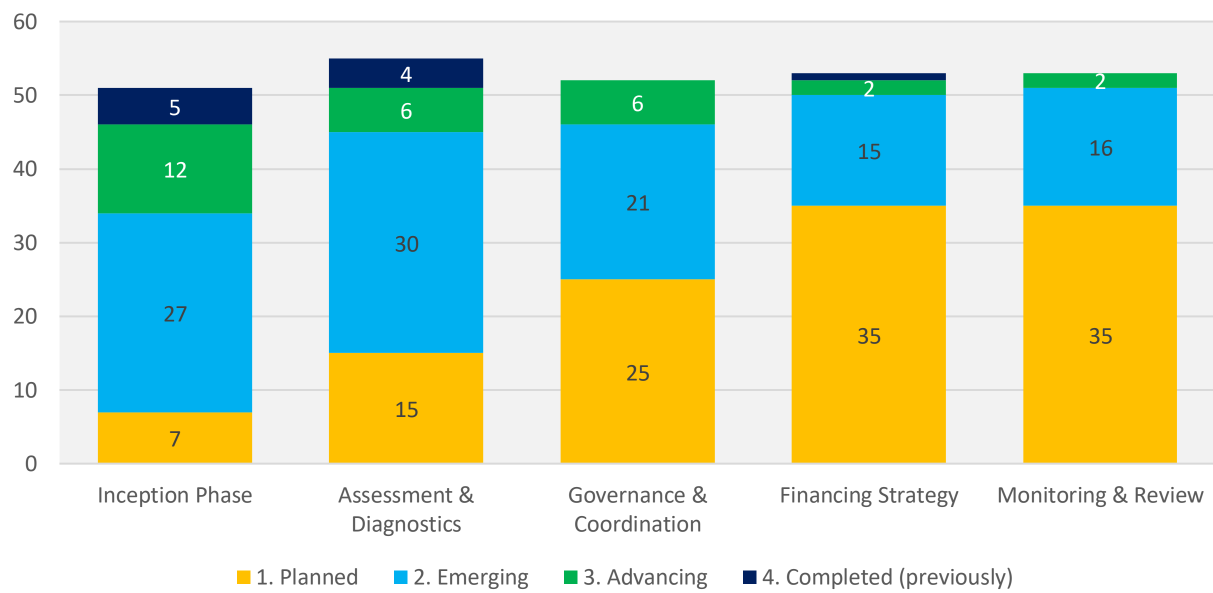
- In 2020, the Joint Programmes supported the establishment or are setting up 35 national oversight committees led by Government partners for SDG financing.
- With support of the Joint Programmes, 51 countries are developing SDG financing strategies informed by 108 research and diagnostic efforts conducted in the preparatory phase.
- Although early in the implementation, one-third of the Joint Programmes have mobilized some $8.6 million in additional resources in support of implementing the SDG financing strategies.

The majority of the 62 Joint Programmes under Component 1 have carried out activities to lay the groundwork for the design and implementation of a national integrated SDG financing strategy. In this

[6] The proposal from Kenya UNCT was selected among the 28 proposals but did not request additional design-phase grants.

early stage with less than six months of implementation, most of the Joint Programmes are making progress under the inception and assessment and diagnostic building blocks of the INFF (see figure 4). In 2020, the Joint Programmes produced a total of 108 assessments, research papers, and guidance materials that proved essential in understanding the country's financial landscape and in identifying solutions and leverage points. This included the completion of two development finance assessments (DFA), which is a tool assisting countries to operationalise the INFFs, with an additional 35 DFAs underway. In Uzbekistan, the finalized DFA provides a comprehensive analysis of the SDG financing architecture along with a Roadmap towards accelerating SDG financing in the country. In addition, 15 countries already completed the DFAs before launching the Joint Programmes, which is informing the development of the SDG financing strategies.

Figure 4. Number of Joint Programmes by INFF Building Blocks and Phases.



The Joint Programmes also completed a diverse range of other assessments and diagnostics including public expenditure reviews, fiscal space assessments, SDG investor mapping, feasibility studies on financial instruments, institutional and legal analysis, and market assessments. For example, in Cambodia, the Joint Programme carried out an assessment of the investors' appetite for sovereign debt as a possible solution to bolster the country's fiscal space and to return to the pre-COVID growth trajectory. In Colombia, the Joint Programme developed a SDG impact investors map identifying 22 investment opportunities and a SDG corporate tracker to aggregate private sector contributions to the SDGs. In Ghana, the Joint Programme conducted an investment case analysis for the delivery of Universal Health Care.

Successful SDG financing strategies require dedicated governance arrangements to ensure national ownership and provide oversight and coordination in decision-making and implementation of the strategies. In 2020, the Joint Programmes in 35 countries have supported the establishment of the INFF oversight committees or are in the process of negotiating the governance structures. Most of the national oversight committees are chaired by the Ministry of Finance, President or Prime Minister Office, or Ministry of Planning, and include a wide range of partners from public entities, private sector, development partners and international financial institutions.[7]

[7] Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) Survey, UNDP (2021).

The SDG financing strategy is at the centre of an INFF, providing a framework that connects plans for recovery and sustainable development with the financing policies that will mobilise the investments needed to realise them. With support from the Joint Programmes, 30 countries announced that they would develop a new SDG financing strategy, while 21 countries committed to strengthen existing ones. The majority of the Joint Programmes plan to use the INFF to build a more integrated, holistic approach to financing the national plan, expanding partnerships with private financing.

The SDG financing strategies reflect the priorities of the government through their national plan and are in many cases aligned to the COVID-19 recovery efforts. The Joint Programme in Ghana has supported the development of COVID-19 Recovery Plans and Integrated Financing Frameworks for five local economies. More than three-quarters of the financial strategies stated plans to prioritise gender equality; some 65 per cent are prioritising climate resilience and/or clean energy; Social protection, health and education are also each emphasized in at least half of the countries. In Bangladesh, for example, the Joint Programme is supporting the national five-year plan to focus on three thematic priorities of climate finance, renewable energy, and water/sanitation and to bring engagements with the private sector partners.

Furthermore, the Joint Programmes are using the INFF process to explore and introduce a wide range of reforms to strengthen public and private financing policies. The programmes have identified over 200 planned changes to financing policies and instruments in 39 countries; an average of over five instruments per country. These reforms cover a wide range of finance types and modalities with some 41 per cent relating to private financing, 34 per cent to public finance and 25 per cent to public-private modalities. For example, Bosnia and Herzegovina with support from the Joint Programme is exploring a range of private finance modalities that can unlock new sources of private capital over the next two-to-five-year horizon. South Sudan is supporting critical Public Finance Management (PFM) reforms and the preparation of national budgets for SDGs.

Although early in its implementation, the Fund is also seeing positive signs of resource mobilization for the full implementation of the financing strategies. One-third of the Joint Programmes were able to mobilize $8.6 million in additional resources in relation to the implementation of their SDG financing strategies. In Djibouti, the Islamic Development Bank and USAID committed to invest $2.9 million to support financial solutions for micro, small, medium-size enterprises as part of the financing strategy. Cape Verde mobilized an additional $600,000 to expand the scope of the INFF to focus on youth and women's entrepreneurship.

While there are positive signs of progress as stated above, the Joint Fund also recognizes that the joint programmes operated under unprecedented challenges posed by the global pandemic in 2020 in terms of shifts in national priorities, difficulties in government coordination, and delays in programme implementation among many others. The Fund will continue to closely monitor and work with the joint programmes facing continued challenges from COVID-19 to especially mitigate against long-term negative impacts to preparing, formulating and implementing the SDG financing strategies.

All in all, the Joint Programmes under component 1 have provided the foundation of devising and implementing SDG financing strategies, despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, that will help drive financing for a greener, more inclusive recovery from the pandemic and eventually for accelerating the SDGs.

> "In the midst of the global pandemic, the Ministry of Finance of Mongolia is working toward protecting people's livelihoods, keeping jobs, decreasing poverty, ensuring essential public service delivery and quality, and resolving public debt repayment without causing any negative impact on macroeconomy. Therefore, we are pleased to see the commencement of the Joint Programme to further strengthen Mongolia's development financing framework."
>
> *Sanjaa Mungunchimeg, Deputy Minister of Finance, Mongolia (October 2020)*

SDG Invest: Designing and Structuring Catalytic Financial Investments for the SDGs

In 2020, the Joint SDG Fund launched 'SDG Invest' to test an innovative approach to source, design, and develop financially catalytic joint proposals that could mobilize public and private financing for the SDGs. In response to the call for proposals, the Joint Fund received a total of 155 proposals from UNCTs, out of which 28 were shortlisted via a rigorous screening process. These proposals were selected based on their potential impact, anticipated financial leverage, partnership arrangements, innovation in reaching scale, and operational capacities. The most common impact areas were engagements with small and medium enterprises, followed by gender, and climate change. Historically under-represented sectors such as water infrastructure, waste management, health and tourism were also featured across the proposals.[8]

Key results under the SDG catalytic investment portfolio

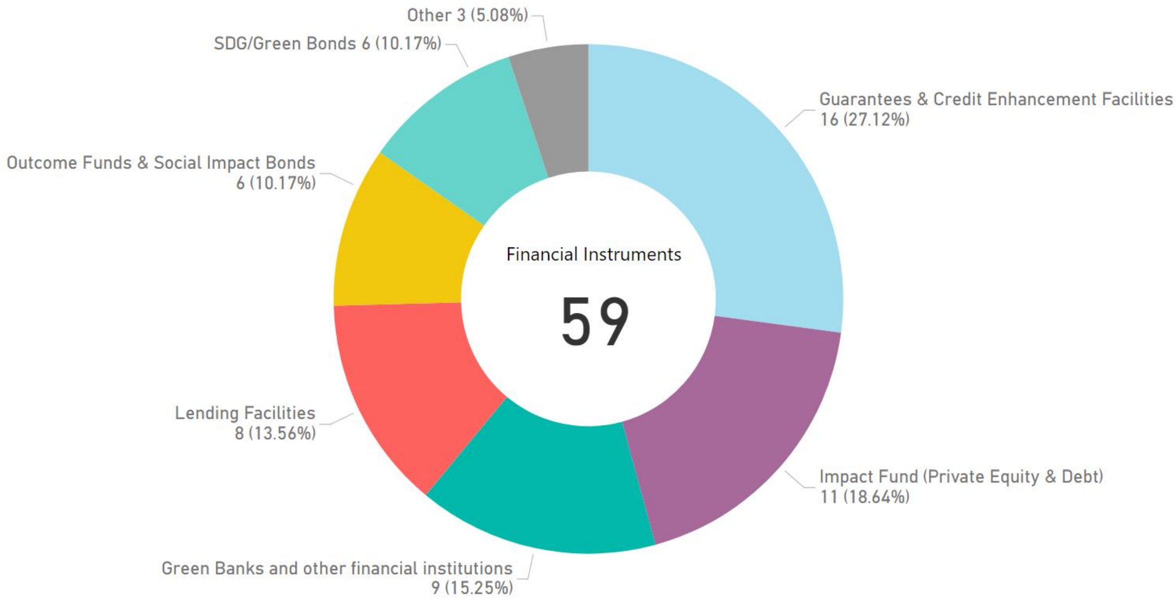
- In 2020, 59 financial vehicles/instruments to scale SDG investments were designed by 28 UNCTs with close engagement from over 330 public and private partners.
- Through this process, the Joint Fund selected 4 Joint Programmes for funding, with a budget envelop of $41 million, while graduating 12 others into an active blended finance pipeline.
- The Joint Fund contributed to capacity building of 19 PUNOs and expanding partnerships with public and private investors that submitted 89 letters of commitment/interest for future investment opportunities.

As a proof-of-concept window, the Joint Fund invested $3.7 million in design-stage grants to the 28 UNCTs to support the testing and design of the blended financing instruments to mobilize billions for the SDGs. In addition to leveraging SDG financing at scale, the investment proposals were also selected for their contributions to strengthening the UN system and national partners' capacities in SDG financing. The Joint Fund together with Convergence, a global service provider for blended finance, supported the UNCTs in transforming the proposals into fleshed out financial solutions.

Through this exercise, the UNCTs designed 59 financial vehicles/instruments along with 27 complementary technical assistance facilities. The most common financial instruments were guarantees and credit enhancement facilities, followed by impact funds, green banks and other financial institutions, which in many cases were combined (see figure 5). For example, Fiji designed a facility to access concessional leading and guarantees. Iraq and Egypt proposed a guarantee scheme for small businesses in agriculture, water and energy sectors. North Macedonia prepared a green financing facility, which will partner with domestic banks to provide financing for renewable energy projects.

[8] All proposals are featured and marketed in a dedicated microsite of SDG Invest: https://sdginvest.jointsdgfund.org/.

Figure 5. Number of financial vehicles/instruments designed with Joint SDG Fund support



Furthermore, with support from the Joint SDG Fund, the UNCTs carried out 95 activities including design trials, investment pipeline assessments, market and legal assessments, and feasibility studies to inform the design of the financial instruments. Jamaica, for example, identified 25 potential investees as its emerging pipeline for the country's first impact fund. Bolivia completed several market assessments to design the interventions with the most social impact and support to the COVID-19 recovery. Zambia conducted a feasibility study on interventions in agriculture. Sri Lanka initiated a study of the country's financing architecture to inform the design of its proposed sovereign bond.

The Joint Fund and the UNCTs engaged with over 330 partners, from international financial institutions to private investors, at the global and local levels to ensure financial feasibility of the instruments and foster co-creation of the blended finance transactions. The Joint Fund partnered with UN agencies, including FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs to mobilize over 80 investors in thematic 'Investor Advisory Groups (IAG)' in support of the UNCT's investment proposals. The Groups served as a sounding board for the proposals, co-created the pipeline of investments, and facilitated co-investment opportunities with over 30 virtual meetings hosted between September to December 2020. This process resulted in reception of 89 letters of commitments / interests from the external investors to engage in future investment opportunities. The vast majority of the UNCTs and investors found the interactions to be helpful and showed positive intention to continue to work together through the investment cycle. This collaborative design process also contributed to build capacities of the UNCTs in structuring pro-SDG financing instruments, which is a new area of engagement for many UN agencies. These efforts to finetune the instruments and co-create with diverse stakeholder groups will continue in 2021.

Through this intensive design process, the Joint SDG Fund has selected 4 country proposals from Fiji, Indonesia, Malawi, Uruguay for its initial cycle of funding based on their stages of development and potential for leveraging finance at scale (see Box 2). The Fund will also manage an additional 12 proposals as an active pipeline within SDG Invest. Together, these Joint Programmes request a total of $125.9 million in funding from the Joint SDG Fund with plans to match this with $130.2 million in programme co-funding, which in turn hope to leverage over $5 billion in additional financial leverage from public and private investors.

Box 2. Snapshot of the 4 Joint Programmes selected for initial funding under Component 2

Fiji: Investing in Coral Reef and the Blue Economy

The Joint Programme will use blended finance to combat coral reef degradation, which threaten the sustainability and livelihoods of the Fijian society. The programme plans to introduce three innovative transactions: 1) a special purpose vehicle for locally managed marine areas; 2) a blended finance facility to fund a sanitary landfill, and; 3) a direct investment in an eco-fertilizer factory. The Joint SDG Fund has committed some $5.5 million, which will be matched by $4.7 million in co-funding and is expected to unlock $50 million in financial leverage.

Indonesia: Driving Public & Private Capital Towards Green & Social Investments

The Joint Programme aims to create a new generation of financial products to combat climate change at scale. The programme will support the expansion of thematic bond issuances and green sukuk at the subnational level, collaborate with a network of 14 banks to launch SDG-linked loans for small businesses, and capitalise the growing impact investment ecosystem by operationalising an impact fund. The programme, which requires $12 million in funding, is expected to unlock an estimated $4.55 billion in financial leverage for the SDGs.

Malawi: Build Malawi Window – A blended finance vehicle for agribusiness

The Joint Programme aims to create a structured blended finance vehicle, the first of its kind in Malawi, to invest in agriculture and other manufacturing and service supply-chains. The Joint Programme will invest patient capital and operate a technical assistance facility to help source an investment pipeline. The programme, which requires some $8.4 million in funding aims to mobilize an additional $28 million in financial leverage.

Uruguay: Renewable Energy Fund – Innovative Finance for Clean Tech Solutions

The Joint Programme aims to provide funding for Uruguay's energy transition to renewable energy. The renewable energy innovation fund is a blended finance window for green transition projects, which is coupled with a technical assistance facility. The programme which requires $11 million in funding aims to unlock $68 million in catalytic financial leverage towards the country's renewable energy transition.

An independent analysis of the Joint SDG Fund's Component 2 portfolio and active pipeline in comparison with a database of blended finance transactions have found the Joint Fund's investments to have a distinct comparative advantage in sourcing and structuring blended finance initiatives in sectors and countries that have previously struggled to attract investments.[9] Over one third of the investment proposals were sourced from LDCs and one-quarter from SIDS, which have not seen a significant amount of blended finance activities so far. The investments also showed a strong commitment to gender equality with 63 per cent of the proposals targeting Goal 5. However, the Fund faced difficulties in generating SDG investments in fragile and conflict-affected countries and in thematic areas related to Goal 10 (Reduced

[9] 'Reflections & Recommendations on Component 2 of the Joint SDG Fund', Convergence (2021)

Inequalities) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions) that remain more complex and layered to fit into investable blended financing opportunities.

Overall, the results under component 2 clearly shows the capacity and potential of the Joint SDG Fund to leverage its partnerships with the UNCTs and other partners to source and support the design and structuring of pro-SDG financial instruments. In a survey of the participating investors, the vast majority, 94 per cent, responded that they would like to continue working with the Joint Fund in 2021, and 83 per cent shared their interest in partnering and investing in the presented financial vehicles. Also, on the UNCT side, 93 per cent of the UNCTs responded that they planned to continue to work on the proposals even if they were not selected for funding. These are positive indications from the Joint Fund's partners on the Fund's strengths and unique position to devise a globally diverse portfolio of UNCT-led blended finance initiatives that can leverage financing at scale to accelerate economic recovery and progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

> "How to influence private investors to invest in impact? Investors are looking for rates of return…You can do something socially useful for the world with some of the frontier markets with a buffer from the Joint SDG Fund. You are combining your fiduciary obligations to your investors and doing something good."
>
> *David Rubenstein, Co-Executive Chairmen of the Carlyle Group (September 2020)*

How we made the progress

Contributing to UN Coherence and Delivering as One for the SDGs

> "The Joint SDG Fund is turning the UN reform ambitions into reality on the ground, through investments in social protection and unlocking private capital for financing the SDGs at scale."
> Anna-Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN *(October 2020)*

The Joint SDG Fund is designed as a country-focused instrument reinforcing the new generation of UNRCs and UNCTs to deliver as one to accelerate the SDGs. Therefore, the Joint Fund has selected and financed Joint Programmes that show potential both for SDG acceleration as well as for their contributions to enhancing UN coherence, efficiency, and effectiveness under the UNRC's leadership. Furthermore, UN coherence and efficiency enables Joint Programmes to have a comparative edge by leveraging cross-sectoral, inter-agency expertise and partnerships as shown in the sections above.

In a survey of the Joint Programmes under implementation, 90 per cent of the Joint Programmes reported to have made positive contributions to UN coherence and collaboration. The findings have also been validated by independent reviews of the portfolios based both on the surveys and key informant interviews. In both portfolios – integrated policies and SDG financing – the Joint Programmes indicated stronger coordination between participating agencies as well as with the UNCT overall. For instance, in Lebanon, the Joint Programmes led to wider collaboration among the UNCT members to produce several position papers and policy notes including a comprehensive UN position paper on social protection. In the Maldives, the Joint Programme resulted in bringing the UNCT together in mapping the SDG financing landscape and developing an integrated financing framework.

Furthermore, enhanced coordination and communication among the UN partners have resulted in improved policy coherence and an UN-wide concerted engagement with the Government on the SDGs. For instance, the work on SDG financing has led to enhanced coordination among the UNCTs on prioritising certain SDGs based on the country context and contributed to having structured engagements with the Government. The SDG financing strategy is also informing the development of common UN frameworks at the country level including the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Responses Plans (SERPs). In Timor-Leste and Guatemala, the findings and recommendations from the INFF process are informing the UNSDCF and contributing to the SERP. In Uzbekistan, the DFA findings have been incorporated into the Common Country Assessment (CCA) that will provide the basis in formulating the next UNSDCF.

In terms of reducing transaction costs across the UN Development System, 47 per cent of the Joint Programmes reported positive outcomes. The majority of the Joint Programmes considered it to be too early to assess the efficiency gains with less than one year, and in many cases less than six months, of implementation. Nevertheless, several Joint Programmes reported positive developments in sharing common approaches, streamlining parallel coordination structures, and having a concerted channel of engagement with the Government partners. The Joint Programmes also enabled structured coordination with non-resident UN agencies and regional commissions to leverage their expertise and partnerships. For instance, in Botswana, the Joint Programme on SDG financing enabled the UNCTs to consolidate the many inter-agency coordination structures and engagements around the SDGs into the National Steering

Committee on SDGs, which serves as the hub for SDG coordination and partnership with the Government on SDG financing. The Joint Programmes have also seen operational efficiency gains in terms of organizing joint meetings, field missions and assessment as well as streamlining procurement and using common implementation tools such as sharing of long-term agreements.

The role of the UNRCs has been recognized to be highly relevant and effective in promoting UN coherence and coordination for the Joint Programmes. In the integrated policy portfolio, for instance, the UNRCs provided weight to the politically charged social protection agenda and facilitated cross-sectoral coordination internally and externally. The UNRCs also provided a direct channel of contact with prime ministers, line ministers, and finance ministers in both portfolios of social protection and SDG financing, which resulted in the setup of inter-ministerial collaboration structures including committees on SDG financing and cross-sectoral collaboration on social protection.

The Joint SDG Fund has invested in programmes that facilitate wide engagement with diverse stakeholders from the Government, through the private sector, to academia and civil societies in both social protection and SDG financing. The Programmes have incorporated strong risk management systems and due diligence mechanisms for environmental protection. The majority of the programmes are addressing inequalities by targeting vulnerable groups especially women and contributing to the leaving no one behind agenda as a whole. Gender equality has been emphasized throughout the design and implementation of the Joint Programmes. For instance, women are the major beneficiary group targeted by the integrated policy and SDG financing portfolios with 80 per cent of the Joint Programmes having high-level results on gender equality and women's empowerment. However, more work is required to encourage the Joint Programmes' engagements and activities tailored towards youth and persons with disabilities and in ensuring no one is left behind in both integrated policy solutions and SDG financing.

Governance and Operational Efficiency

The Joint SDG Fund's operations have been guided by the leadership and strategic direction set by the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), chaired by the UN Deputy Secretary-General and Chair of the UNSDG that meets annually. The Strategic Advisory Group membership is comprised of representatives from fifteen Member States (rotational), and observers from the private sector and civil society. Under the strategic guidance of the SAG, that met in December 2020, the operations of the Joint Fund are managed by the Operational Steering Committee (OSC) that ensures the operational efficiency of the Fund and its close collaboration with the UN Development System at large and the UNRCs and UNCTs at the country levels. The OSC is chaired by UNDP with UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO and WFP as members along with UNDCO and MPTFO acting as observers and ex-officio members. The OSC has held meetings at least once every two months or more providing directions and decisions on the operations of the Fund, including instructing the design and selection of the calls, strengthening partnerships with UNDS and UNCTs, and ensuring the Fund's efficiency and effectiveness to respond to the country's needs and development context.

In terms of operation efficiency, the Joint SDG Fund has approved a total of 97 full Joint Programmes – 35 in integrated policies and 62 in SDG financing. In addition, 27 UNCTs received design-stage funds of up to $200,000 to support the design and structuring of strategic SDG investments. Furthermore, the Joint Fund made timely disbursements to 82 per cent of the approved full Joint Programmes within 6 months of the end of the calls for proposals, which was above the 75 per cent annual target.

In terms of delivery, the Joint Fund, as of 2020, transferred a total of $76.4 million to the approved Joint Programmes, among which $22.7 million, 30 per cent, has been expended. It is important to note that it was the first year of implementation for all 97 full Joint Programmes, among which 62 programmes had less than six months of implementation. Also, some programmes did experience challenges in accelerating delivery due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. That said, the Joint Fund recognized acceleration in programme delivery starting in the first quarter of 2021, with planned budget commitments accounting for 54 per cent of the disbursed funds at the end of the year. Hence, most Joint Programmes are on-track of delivering within the programme cycle with only minor extensions anticipated to carry out end of programme evaluations and financial closures.

Resource Mobilization, Partnerships, and Communications

Resource mobilization for the Joint SDG Fund has met significant challenges in 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on private and official donors as well as international financial institutions. Certain countries that have pledged funds to the Joint SDG Fund repurposed the contributions to the temporary UN COVID-19 Response & Recovery Fund in 2020. With emerging demands domestically in terms of loss of lives and livelihoods, donor governments and private sector partners alike have redirected new allocations of development financing to domestic matters as well as in responses to the global health crisis. Despite such challenges, the Joint Fund has raised $42.9 million in additional resources in 2020 with a total capitalization of $144.6 million since 2017 out of a total of some $190 million pledged by the donors to date. However, this is well below the annual capitalization of $290 million urgently requested by the UN Secretary-General and stated in the UN Funding Compact of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR).

The full replenishment of the Joint SDG Fund of $290 million per annum is paramount for maintaining the momentum generated towards SDG acceleration and ensuring demonstration effects from the SDG investments. The gap in funding also weakens the Fund's ability to serve as the enabler for the UN Development System reform by enhancing the role and capacities of the UN RCs and UNCTs in contributing to the SDGs.

Despite such challenging circumstances, the Joint SDG Fund has made major in-roads in positioning the Fund as a key driver of SDGs with both traditional donors as well as non-traditional partners including high-net-worth individuals, family offices, foundations and philanthropies in various countries. As part of the Joint SDG Fund's effort to increase its visibility and expand its donor base, the Fund organized a series of high-level events at the margins of the 2020 United Nations General Assembly, as well as the 2020 High-Level Political Forum, and the 2020 Financing for Development Forum. The high-level events convened decision-makers, experts and thought leaders to promote SDG integration and sustainable investing in the context of the Decade of Action. The Fund has also established partnerships with a wide range of public and private impact investors including commercial banks, asset managers, development finance institutions, and private sector impact investors in support of its SDG financing portfolio. The Fund will continue to leverage its partnerships to ensure financing of the Fund's catalytic portfolio and pipeline of investments and to support the full replenishment of the Joint SDG Fund.

In communications, the Joint SDG Fund officially launched its website – www.jointsdgfund.org – in December 2020, which greatly expanded the visibility of the Fund and its supported Joint Programmes. It also launched an online platform focusing on building the partnerships and investors' base for the SDG investment portfolio and active pipeline called 'SDG Invest': https://sdginvest.jointsdgfund.org/. Throughout the year, the Joint Programmes and UNCTs have produced over 100 press releases, blogs, articles and multi-media pieces that were published daily on the website and featured in its social media accounts. The Fund increased its digital presence with a verified Twitter account reaching 21.6 thousand followers and a professional profile on LinkedIn, Facebook and YouTube. For more promotional materials, 8 professional videos were developed, with features in articles, publications, and brochures.

The Fund also launched a podcast series called a ‘A Time to Act’ that featured Government leaders, civil society actors, venture capitalists and asset managers who emphasized the role and potential of leveraging finance towards the SDGs. The Joint Fund launched a youth corner in its website to feature activities and blogs on SDG promotion and acceleration from youth from different countries. The Joint Fund also organized and supported over 100 events from the high-level UN events such as the UN General Assembly and High-Level Political Forum, to investors’ conference including SOCAP, BIOFIN webinar, Mexican Impact Investing Summit, and the Caribbean Sustainable Investment Forum, promoting the Fund’s work and mandate. In great collaboration with UN Global Communications and partnering UN agencies, the Joint SDG Fund is strategically positioned to promote the message of SDG acceleration in the Decade of Action.

Conclusion: Urgent Call for SDG Acceleration

> "As we bridge the emergency response phase to the recovery and long-term sustainable development with the wind up and off ramping of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund into the Joint SDG Fund, it will be essential that Member States reassert their commitment and channel resources to the Joint SDG Fund as the preeminent funding mechanism for driving joint action by the UNDS on interventions that are fully aligned to the transformation required by the 2030 Agenda."
>
> *2021 Secretary-General's Report on the Implementation of the QCPR*

Despite the unprecedented developmental and operational challenges faced in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Joint SDG Fund has made major headways in its path toward SDG acceleration. The Fund rolled out an innovative portfolio of Joint Programmes that emphasized integration, leverage, and transformative system change in the context of the UN Development System reform. The Fund has leveraged the experience, expertise, and partnerships of the UNRCs and UNCTs at the country level to identify and invest in innovative Joint Programmes that are advancing the SDGs with transformative policies and financial leverage. It has also demonstrated the Joint Fund's potential as a critical enabler for UNDS reform and an enhanced UNRC and UNCT system. While the Fund recognizes some areas of improvement, which it will incorporate in future programming and implementation, the overall results validate the Fund's high-level assumptions:

Integrated policies work for the SDGs and for leaving no one behind.
The portfolio on integrated policies for social protection and leaving no one behind highlights the comparative edge that the UN jointly has in promoting cross-sectoral integrated policy solutions. It also validates the assumption of social protection as one of the pillar activities that has potential in providing contributions to advancing a wide range of SDGs. This comparative advantage in promoting integrated cross-sectoral policies was apparent in both lower and middle-income countries, where the Joint Programmes emphasizing inclusion and contributed to expanding the partnerships beyond traditional stakeholders. The Joint SDG Fund will continue to support its Joint Programmes in integrated policy to complete its results chain towards enhanced delivery of coverage, which in turn, will contribute to transformative progress towards the SDGs in 2021 and beyond.

SDG financing works to leverage partnerships and additional resources at scale.
The SDG financing portfolio has set the stage for strong coordination and cooperation among the Government, private sector actors, UN agencies and other partners in forming a concerted effort towards financing the SDGs based on national priorities and needs. We are already seeing the positive contributions the financing strategies are having in terms of national budgets, UNSDCFs and SERPs even at this early stage. Furthermore, the catalytic investments identified and structured through SDG Invest highlights the comparative edge that UNCT-sourced programmes combined with technical assistance from international and local expert groups can have in designing SDG-aligned financial vehicles/instruments and in developing a unique, bold pipeline of blended financing mechanisms that has potential in accelerating the SDGs.

Need full capitalization of the Fund to maintain the momentum for SDG acceleration and UN reform.
All in all, the Joint SDG Fund, even with its challenges operating under COVID-19, has shown concrete results in advancing integrated policies and SDG financing as possible paths towards SDG acceleration. At

the same time, it is seeing positive evidence of contributing to enhanced UN coherence and delivering as one in partnership with the Government and other global, regional, and local partners for the SDGs. In 2021, the Joint Fund will continue to deliver on SDG acceleration and financing especially targeted the geographies and populations most in need. It is currently planning to launch a dedicated call for proposal for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), valued at over $30 million, to support promising and bold interventions that directly address SIDS' vulnerabilities.

However, this path towards SDG acceleration and support to the leaving no one behind agenda can only be possible with continued support and dedication to the Joint SDG Fund by its partners. The replenishment of $290 million per annum as called by the UN Secretary-General is imperative in ensuring the success of the Joint Fund's mission. Leveraging the partners, resources and expertise of its stakeholders, the Joint SDG Fund will work to advancing the momentum in its journey towards SDG acceleration and UN reforms going forward.

Annexes

Annex 1. Joint SDG Fund Results Framework

Outcome level

Outcome 1. Integrated Multi-Sectoral Policies to Accelerate SDG Achievement implemented with Greater Scope and Scale		2020 Actual	2022 Target[10]
1.1.	# and % of Joint Programmes in which integrated multi-sectoral policies have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope	31 JP (89%)	34 JPs (97%)
1.2.	# and % of Joint Programmes in which integrated multi-sectoral policies have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale	25JP (71%)	28 JPs (80%)

Outcome 2. Additional Finance Leveraged to Accelerate SDG Achievement[11]		2020 Actual	2022 Target
2.1.	Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scope	N/A	1 by 3
2.2.	Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scale	N/A	1 by 5

Output level: Implementation Stage[12]

Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented		2020 Actual	2022 Target
3.1.	# of innovative solutions that were tested (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)	41 (33%)	109
3.2.	# of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	44	91
3.3.	# and share of countries where national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators has been strengthened.	24 JPs (69%)	31 JPs (89%)
3.4.	% of Joint Programmes that have a functioning partnership framework for integrated policy solutions to accelerate progress on SDGs	60%	100%

[10] The indicator targets have been revised in relations to the funding level of the Joint SDG Fund along with implementation of the Fund supported Joint Programmes.

[11] In 2020, the SDG investment portfolio focused on design-stage activities for 28 UNCTs. The catalytic investments will be launched in 2021 starting with the 4 JPs in Fiji, Indonesia, Malawi and Uruguay. Hence, it is too early to report on financial leverage from the portfolio of SDG investments.

[12] The distinction between readiness and implementation stages, which were envisioned in the design of the Joint Fund, are no longer applicable with the rollout focusing directly on implementing integrated policies and financing strategies under the guidance of the Operational Steering Committee. Hence, the result report focusing and has consolidated its results using the implementation stage indicators.

Output 4: Integrated Financing Strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented		2020 Actual	2022 Target
4.1.	# of integrated financing strategies/instruments[13] that were tested	59 financial instruments designed	74 financial instruments designed and investment ready
4.2.	# of integrated financing strategies that have been implemented with partners in lead	51 INFF strategies led by Gov under development	62 SDG financing strategies led by Gov implemented
4.3.	# of Joint Programmes that have a functioning partnership framework for integrated financing strategies to accelerate SDG progress	11 Oversight Committees formalized and 24 being established	52 INFF governance arrangements operational

Operational Performance indicators

Catalysing UN Coherence	2020 Actual	2020 Target
Average # of Standard Operating Procedures fully implemented by UNCTs in supported programme countries[14]	N/A	N/A
% of pooled funding of all funding going to UN agencies in supported countries (global target for each country is over 15%)	3.4% (2019) pooled funds against non-core funds[15]	12%
Level of coherence of UN in implementing programme country	90% of JPs reporting enhance UN coherence	100% JPs contributing to UN coherence
# and % of Joint Programmes with reduced transaction costs for the participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other joint programmes in the country in question	47% of JPs (46 JPs)	40% of JPs

Resource mobilization	2020 Actual	2020 Target
Volume of resources mobilized (in million USD)[16]	$144.6m	$300m

[13] Financial instruments refer to financial instruments and/or vehicles designed for leveraging blended financing for SDGs at scale through the SDG Invest portfolio.
[14] The indicator is no longer applicable following UNDCO's decision to disuse the SOP for delivering as one. Hence, this indicator will be reviewed and revised in 2021 in line with the updating of the Joint Fund's Results Framework planned in 2021.
[15] Calculated based on 2019 data which is available from the UN CEB Secretariat and MPTFO.
[16] Report based on cumulative funds mobilized from 2017 onwards. The target is also adjusted for cumulative funds.

# of Joint SDG Fund contributors	14	30
Volume of resources contributed from non-traditional donors (in million USD)	N/A	$5m
Volume of resource mobilized from the private sector (in million USD)	$0.08m	$3m
% of Joint Programmes with matched funding	93%	100%

Operational Effectiveness	2020 Actual	2020 Target
% of Joint Programmes received first instalment within 6 months of call for proposals	82%	75%
Number of programmes approved	97 JPs (28 design-stage UNCTs)	97
Annual % financial delivery	34% (54% committed)[17]	70%
% of direct cost expenditures (Secretariat expenditures)	7.9%[18]	<3%

Compliance with UN Standards	2020 Actual	2020 Target
Annual portfolio analysis informs the funding prioritisation by the Strategic Advisory Group	Yes	Yes
% of Joint Programmes that facilitated engagement with diverse stakeholders (e.g. parliamentarians, civil society, IFIs, bilateral/multilateral actor, private sector) (QCPR)	100%	100%
% of Joint Programmes that include addressing inequalities (QCPR) and the principle of "Leaving No One Behind"	89%	100%
% of Joint Programmes that featured gender results at the outcome level (QCPR)	80%	100%
% of Joint Programmes that undertake or draw upon relevant human rights analysis, and have developed or implemented a strategy to address human rights issues	100% for LNOB portfolio[19]	60%

[17] Delivery commitments are indicative of funds committed by the JPs by the end of 2020. This is presented to indicate acceleration of delivery in Q1 2021.
[18] Calculated against the 2020 total expenditures. While higher than the target of 3%, this is common for newly established pooled funds in its first few years of implementation, considering the time and resource required for full programmatic implementation. Furthermore, the full direct costs of the Joint SDG Fund of $2.46 million since its launch has been covered fully by the interests and investment income of $2.78 million generated by the fund to date.
[19] The SDG financing portfolio programmes are subject to UN agency policies and procedures on social and environmental screening that includes analysis and consideration of a wide range of human rights issues.

% of Joint Programmes that has planned for and can demonstrate positive results/effects for youth	39%	40%
% of Joint Programmes that have considered the needs of persons with disabilities (QCPR)	33%[20]	40%
% of Joint Programmes that have made use of risk analysis in programme planning, when relevant (disaggregated by country)	100%	100%
% of Joint Programmes that conducted do-no-harm / due diligence and were designed to take into consideration opportunities in the areas of the environment and climate change	100%	100%

***Note*:**
The Joint SDG Fund recognizes that the indicators presented in the Joint SDG Fund's Results Framework under both the developmental results and operational performance need modifications and updating considering that they have been designed during the inception stage of the Fund without full knowledge of its implementation. As stated in the Fund's TOR, the Joint Fund will initiate a review and revision of the Result Framework in 2021 to capture lessons learned from the 2019-2020 operationalization of the Fund under the guidance of the Strategic Advisory Group and the Operational Steering Committee along with feedback from the Joint Programmes and UNCTs.

[20] The figure reports % of Joint Programmes addressing the needs of persons with disabilities through their activities, rather than whether they have 'considered the needs', which is difficult to measure. The target has been adjusted to reflect this change in measurement as well.