



Joint Programme 2021 Annual Progress Report

SDG Financing Portfolio - Component 1

Cover page

UNCT/MCO: Benin

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2021

JP title: Support the SDGs-based Budgeting in Benin Through Fiscal Space and Efficiency Enhancement

PUNOs: UNDP, UNICEF

Government partner: Ministry of Economy and Finance

Target SDGs: SDGs 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15

Gender Marker: 2

Approved budget: USD 836,000

Co-funding: USD 155,000

Total Disbursement by 2021: USD 836,000

Total estimated expenditures: USD 790,735 (est. Delivery rate: 94.6%)

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): USD 818,715 (est. Committed rate: 97.9%)

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Executive Summary

The 3 most important achievement of the joint Programme are :

- The implementation of the joint program has enabled UN agencies to achieve some important results in 2021. These include: 1. The finalization of the ten-year action framework for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in Benin 2021-2030. This report is part of the logic of providing development actors and their partners with a decision-making tool. It is a tool that has made it possible to “identify, with the sectors and other actors in the implementation of the SDGs, specific interventions with a strong ripple effect to effectively and sustainably remove the bottlenecks that hinder the implementation implementation of the SDGs”. SDGs over the next decade”.

- The finalization of the compendium entitled “Guides for the production of budget management instruments in program mode”. This tool makes it possible to meet the needs for increased skills induced by Organic Law No. 2013-14 relating to finance laws (LOLF) for the benefit of the different categories of budgetary actors (decision-makers, managers, experts, etc.) . for its implementation, the executives of the General Directorate of Budget were trained on the 2030 Agenda and the priority targets of the SDGs in Benin. Initiatives are underway to improve the knowledge of government officials on UNDP’s SDG budgeting framework. The objective is to identify key reforms to be supported to improve the orientation and implementation of the 2030 priority agenda.
- Capacity building of key actors on the financing of the SDGs and on the community monitoring of the SDGs : 23 planning directors and 23 SDG focal points from the sectoral ministries were trained on the identification and implementation of high-impact projects. impact on the SDGs and 25 executives from the Ministry of Development and the Ministry of Finance on innovative financing mechanisms. For community monitoring of the SDGs, 150 representatives of the Network of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Sustainable Development Goals (RODD) and its affiliated Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) benefited from this training, which will strengthen the development of local voluntary reports.

Annual Progress

Overall JP self-assessment of 2021 progress:

Satisfactory (majority of expected results achieved; 1 to 3 months delay in implementation)

Comments on self-assessment: All the achievements planned in the projects have been carried out with the exception of the finalization of the national development financing strategy which constitutes an important part of the mechanism for the implementation of the INFF in Benin.

Overall progress and key developments to date (3 key JP milestones)

During the update period, JP key activities covered important developments: governance and coordination of resource mobilization, assessments on SDG financing, and capacity building of key stakeholders on SDG financing. The main key activities of the JP are:

- Support to the Ministry of Economy and Finance on the study and internalization of the policy and institutional assessment process (CPIA) through the establishment of auto-evaluation mechanism of the Ministry’s CPIA. the diagnosis allowed to: (i) carry out a diagnosis in the sense of the CPIA for Benin; (ii) develop a global action plan with a follow-up mechanism; (iii) review recent reforms in the different sectors of interest for the CPIA evaluation; (iv) identify good practices in comparator countries in areas where Benin has work to do; (v) map out urgent reforms to improve Benin’s CPIA ratings; and (vi) propose a CPIA self-assessment system for Benin.
- Elaboration of a national development financing policy and a resource mobilization strategy for the achievement of the SDGs. This activity is being implemented throughout four steps as follows: (i) a synthesis of DFA (development financing assessment) is carried out; (ii) identification of most appropriate financing mechanisms for Benin (domestic, external, private and innovative) including those adapted to the social sectors; (iii) strategic orientations of development financing in Benin; and (iv) development of resource mobilization strategy document for the achievement of the SDGs. These documents (policy and strategy) will allow the country to update the country’s fiscal policy.

-Capacity building of national actors on innovative financing instruments: For this purpose, one activity is being implemented through the organization of a training workshop on innovative financing tools and instruments for all the directors involved in resource mobilization in the ministries of economy, finances, and development. - Also, in

the capacity building and monitoring of the SDGs at the local level, the JP organized a training workshop for trainers of Civil Society Organizations, technicians and executives of decentralized and deconcentrated services for the elaboration of the performance of community bulletin (BCP) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). - Organization of a capacity building workshop in the benefit of all the Ministries on the identification and implementation of project with high impact on SDG. -Organization of Capacity building for Ministry of finance and Ministry of development officials on innovative financing and key stakeholders on SDG financing. -Mobilization of private sector council members and civil society organization in the process of development of national policy for development policy as well as all the development partner such as UE, GIZ, World Bank, IMF and the UN agencies.

Changes made to JP: As part of the implementation of component 1 of the SDG fund, UNCT requires a no cost extension of the project for three months. Indeed, a major activity of the work plan has experienced delays in implementation, due to the institutional changes made by the Government within the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the main implementing partner of the activity. This is the activity relating to the finalization of the National Strategy for Financing for Development. This no cost extension will not induce a change in approach, strategy, Theory of Change, expected results, workplan, budget, etc of the JP. This will be a three-month extension for the completion of the activity on INFF.

Main Challenges: As part of the implementation of PC activities in 2021, the main challenges encountered are: - Delay in the implementation of some of the planned activities due to the COVID 19 pandemic. - Institutional changes within the government structure and the transfer of responsibilities between the ministry in charge of finance and the ministry in charge of development have delayed the implementation of activities. These major constraints delayed one of the project’s flagship activities, namely the finalization of Benin’s development financing strategy.

Updates on SDG financing framework

Inception phase	Assessment Diagnostics	Financing Strategy	Monitoring Review	Governance Coordination
Previously Completed	Previously Completed	Emerging (1-49%)	Advancing (50-99%)	Advancing (50-99%)

Descriptions on progress by INFF building blocks

Inception Phase: A DFA was previously developed . This DFA provided an INFF roadmap which has been implemented by the ministry of finance. The Civil Society Organization and the private sector are part of the implementation.

A workshop was organized to launch the development of the national policy for the development financing and the strategy of resource mobilization for the SDG achievement. At this workshop, the methodological approach of the national policy for development financing as been validated by all the stakeholders.

Assessment & Diagnostics: The documentary review has been done and data collection is underway through a questionnaire developed and sent to all stakeholders (government, civil society, private sector, development partners) The draft of the diagnosis is currently under review. However, it should be noted that the DFA previously conducted addressed the diagnosis which is being revised as part of the finalization of the development financing strategy.

Financing Strategy: Although the financing strategy is under development, the Government, with the support of the United Nations, in particular the achievements of the JP, has succeeded in mobilizing the SDG eurobonds

Monitoring & Review: NA

Governance & Coordination: NA

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

How did the JP adapt to the COVID-19 context

The following measures has been taken to adapt the JP activities to the COVID-19 context - Meetings were done online if applicable - All the capacity building and the methodological approach workshop were carried out with vaccinated stakeholders and respecting the barrier measures. - Toolkits to fight against covid has been provided to the participants of all the face-to-face activities - Unvaccinated people were able to follow the training sections online

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The initiative promotes gender mainstreaming through the financing systems, with the ultimate intention to address gender inequalities in the means of implementation of the development priorities/interventions. While implementing the JP activities we have ensured the participation of women. We encouraged them to express their point of view. They have been part of the capacity workshop at a rate of 25 percent.

Through the INFF initiative one concrete entry is the SDG budgeting, as such, beyond gender budgeting, we should promote, we can ensure that the aim of the proposal is to anchor the SDGs into the budgetary systems/process (public budget reviews, but also ensuring SDGs targets are part of the COA of the public budget). Another suggested approach, connected with mainstreaming gender through private sector related work, is related to the Gender Seal. SDG aligned frameworks for the issuance of bonds or monitoring business practices will include gender. Gender disaggregated impact analysis of proposed tax reforms etc.

Estimated % of overall disbursed funds spend on gender: 30%

Alignment with cross-cutting UN issues (e.g. human rights, decent work, inclusion, LNOB)

The project is aligned with the National Development Plan, some project interventions aim to strengthen coordination to ensure better integration of the SDGs into national development strategies. The project strengthened the budgeting process based on the SDGs and the principle of leaving no one behind, human rights and inclusion

How did the JP work to build ownership and buy-in of key stakeholders

Leadership in the implementation of activities has been held by the government structures. Government procedures were also used in the implementation of the JP. For national ownership, the elaboration of the national development financing policy and the resource mobilization strategy a national team has been set up by the Minister in charge of finance. All the consultants and firm recruited to carry out the JP activities were national. In the same way, the resource persons identified for the animation of the training workshops are executives of the country

Annual Reporting on Results

Results achieved in promoting the priority thematic SDG agendas

The interventions carried out within the framework of the SDG Fund have made it possible to accelerate, as a priority, the achievement of the targets of SDGs 16 and 17 and have improved the framework for the implementation of all the other SDGs.

JP contributions to the Joint SDG Fund's global results (especially around Outcome 2 & Output 4)

The annual results have been achieved and the main objectives of the work plan have been achieved. With regard to the outcome on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of resources allocated to the SDGs, the project contributed to the refinement of budgetary processes focused on the implementation of the SDGs with a modernization of management of the Public Investment Program and building the capacity of actors in the budget chain aimed at integrating the SDGs into the Public Investment Program.

With regard to the outcome on the integration of policy planning and financing functions, the project contributed, following the Diagnostic Evaluation of Financing to the strengthening of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), the work within the framework of the development of the National Development Financing Policy (PNFD) 2021-2030 has been launched.

With regard to the strengthening of policies and capacities for investment in the social sectors, the ultimate goal is to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs through the mobilization of additional resources with a view to reducing poverty, social inequalities and have a lasting impact on the most vulnerable groups. In addition, the SDG acceleration framework and its action plan have been finalized as part of the Decade of Action for the SDGs, as well as capacity building for national experts on integrated planning and reporting of the SDGs and of Agenda 2063 using IPRT.

Progress against JP-specific outcomes

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Progress against JP-specific outputs

The annual results have been achieved and the main objectives of the work plan have been achieved.

The process of refining budget processes focused on the implementation of the SDGs continued, with the design of a new management platform for the Public Investment Program, the establishment of a new model for the selection of public portfolio projects and capacity building of key actors.

The SDG acceleration framework and its action plan have been finalized within the framework of the Decade of Action for the SDGs as well as the capacity building of national experts on integrated planning and reporting of the SDGs and the 'Agenda 2063 using IPRT.

The capacities of civil society actors have been strengthened for the design, development and local and participatory monitoring of the SDGs at the grassroots level.

Following the finalization of the of Development Financing Assessment (DFA), the strengthening of the National Integrated Financing Framework (INFF) continued with the launch of the National Policy of Development Financing (PNFD)

JP contributions to strengthening UN coherence, partnerships and reducing duplications of efforts

Each agency of the United Nations system commits its skills according to its roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the joint program. If necessary, these agencies will seek the expertise and skills available at their regional offices or at their headquarters. In addition, bilateral (GIZ, EU) and multilateral (BM, IMF, AfDB...) partners who support the government in the area of mobilization and effective and efficient use of resources or who will engage in activities of the joint program will also make their experts available. In case of specific need, partnerships will be established with its specialized institutions with proven skills

Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications

How did the JP facilitate collaboration with diverse stakeholders in the SDG financing space

We worked on government leadership and involved CSOs, the private sector and donors such as the World Bank, IMF, GIZ and all UNCTs. There was a frank collaboration between the main actors of the Ministry of Planning/Development and the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Did the JP secured additional financing (co-funding/co-financing) from the following stakeholders:

Government	Donors & IFIs	Private Sector	PUNOs	Other Partners
Yes	No	No	Yes	No

Comments on additional financing secured: We worked on government leadership and involved CSOs, the private sector and donors such as the World Bank, IMF, GIZ and all UNCTs. There was a frank collaboration between the main actors of the Ministry of Planning/Development and the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

JP organized events in 2021

JP Launch Event	Annual Donor Event	Partners Event
No	No	No

Number of strategic documents produced by the JP: 7

Number of strategic documents contributed by the JP: 10

Number of communication materials produced: 2

2022 Plans & Way Forward

JP priority activities & expected results for 2022

In 2022, it has been planned to: - Elaborate the Strategic diagnosis of development financing Development of the draft National Development Financing Policy (NDFP) - Finalize the NDFP and the resource mobilization strategy for the achievement of SDG

3 major transformative results that will be achieved by the end of the JP

#NAME?

Estimated rate of completion for each result as of 31 Dec 2021

Result.1	Result.2	Result.3
Completed (100%)	Advancing (50-99%)	Completed (100%)