



Joint Programme 2021 Annual Progress Report

SDG Financing Portfolio - Component 1

Cover page

UNCT/MCO: Cameroon

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2021

JP title: Implementing the Integrated National Financing Framework for Cameroon to Unlock, Leverage and Catalyze Resources to Accelerate SDG Achievement for Inclusive Growth

PUNOs: UNDP, UN-Women, UNICEF

Government partner: Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development

Target SDGs: SDGs 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17

Gender Marker: 3

Approved budget: USD 1,000,000

Co-funding: USD NA

Total Disbursement by 2021: USD 1,000,000

Total estimated expenditures: USD 404,073.2 (est. Delivery rate: 40.4%)

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): USD 425,448.8 (est. Committed rate: 42.5%)

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Executive Summary

1. Strengthening of Governance and coordination • The Steering Committee (the Coordination and Monitoring Committee) was created in March 2021 by the Minister of the Economy and Planning and provides space for multi-stakeholder engagement and dialogue around SDG Financing; it includes RCO, PUNOs, European Union, World Bank, African Development Bank, other stakeholders (private sector, civil society, local Authorities). It orientates strategic choices and supervises the project implementation. Two sessions were held in June and November 2021 • A national technical Secretariat was created to support the Steering Committee in the implementation of the project • Studies to assess the main platforms of dialogue between the government and other stakeholders (private sector, civil society and coordination mechanisms of technical and financial partners) were carried out to understand how best these platforms could contribute to an effective operationalization of the Cameroon National Development Strategy (NDS30) and the SDGs – three studies were commissioned.

2. Capacity building on SDG Financing

- a. A study to cost the National Development Strategy (NDS30 aligned on SDG) was done with the objective to evaluate long-term financing needs of the NDS30.
 - b. Progress was made on child and gender sensitive budgeting and planning, in continuity with the MINFI, the MINEPAT, the MTEFs
 - c. Gender is better taken into account in budgets with the introduction in the budget preparation of a circular on gender-related requirements.
 - d. A guide for integrating gender into budgets is now part of the finance law.
 - e. Initiatives to support municipalities for the development of financial resource mobilization strategies have been initiated.
3. Support to Private Sector Investment Environment: Investor mapping of business opportunities in agribusiness are done
Two studies on a) wheat substitute sector (local flours); and b) forestry-wood sector were done, identifying bottlenecks, availability of factors of production, markets, profitability, business opportunities along the value chains, potentials of investing in order to support development targets of the NDS30.

Annual Progress

Overall JP self-assessment of 2021 progress:

On track (expected results achieved)

Comments on self-assessment: The progress of the project is satisfactory with some expected results achieved; these will form the basis for the achievement of the remaining project outputs. The Project governance is reinforced and is more integrated with meetings of JP Steering Committee extended to representatives of all development actors (government, FTPs, donors, private sector, civil society, local authorities). These meetings as well as large consultations organized will facilitate the establishment of a national dialogue framework on SDG integrated financing.

UNS conducted a number of studies (SND30 costing, coordination framework assessment, investment mapping), which will be the basis of forthcoming output (INFFs, financing strategy, SDG acceleration compact).

The UN established a solid partnership with the Ministries of Finance, Economy and Planning, Women Empowerment and Family; this contributed to effective implementation of the project and to the visibility of the role of UN in Cameroon when it comes to supporting the country's public finance reform agenda (for better allocative and efficiencies of domestic resources). This led to the project being integrated into the global national architecture for budget preparation. UNS built the capacity of government on child and gender sensitive budgets in the annual budgeting cycle as well as in the mid-term expenditure framework

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

- a) Governance and coordination A Steering Committee was created in 2021 by the Minister of the Economy and Planning and provides space for multi-stakeholder engagement and dialogue around SDG Financing; it includes UNS, EU, World Bank, AfDB, private sector, civil society, local Authorities. It orientates strategic choices and supervises project implementation. Two sessions were held in 2021. A national technical Secretariat supports the Committee in implementing the project UNS supported assessment studies of the main dialogue platforms between the government and the other stakeholders (Private Sector, Civil Society and other FTPs). The studies will inform how best the stakeholders could contribute to an effective operationalization of the SND30 and the SDGs

- b) Research, assessments and feasibility studies • Costing the SND30 to evaluate long-term financing needs. Stakeholders discussed the results of SND30 and SDG costings, with regards to financing strategy, and the functioning of existing dialogue platforms between the key stakeholders identifying important avenues for resources mobilization in Cameroon. The Development Financing Assessment was updated to take into account local financing • Mapping and assessment of business opportunities in two sectors: a) the wheat substitute sector; and b) the forestry-wood sector. The assessment identified bottlenecks, analysis of potential business opportunities for private sector development along the value chains to support economic growth and SND30 targets • An evaluation study of existing dialogue frameworks between public, private sector and CSO, in view of the development of a coherent national multi-stakeholder dialogue platform on SDG integrated financing
- c) capacity strengthening for key stakeholders • A webinar was organized jointly by the Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD) and the Africa Training Institute (ATI) of the IMF in collaboration with the UNS, focusing on key fiscal issues around the SDGs and the SDG Investor Platform was launched during the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and the SDG Investment Fair • Technical assistance and capacity strengthening in gender responsive budgeting (GRB) reform in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance • Technical and financial support for updating and disseminating of GRB tools (including the presidential circular on budget preparation, the Ministry of Finance’s guidance on budget allocations and the gender report which is an annex of the 2022 Finance Law) and the capacity building of 40 (28 men and 12 women) budget officers from ten pilot ministries on Gender and Children Responsive Budgeting • The capacity of eight ministries was strengthened to prepare gender and child responsive annual and mid-term expenditures and budgets and its programme-based budgeting indicators that are gender and child sensitive into PROBMIS (an inter-ministerial information platform) for consistency between programming and the budgeting of public funds. Communications and IT equipment to municipalities for budget analyses have been ordered but not delivered due to COVID-19
- d) mobilization of new partnerships • UNDP received funding from BADEA (US\$19.8 million) to support SMEs impacted by COVID-19. UNDP collaborated with Sightsavers to assess civil society participation in public policy dialogues in June and November 2021 with 25 NGO representatives. UNDP partnered with CITI-Bank in order to promote new financing instruments such as SDG Bonds • UN Women collaborated with the IMF on the reform of gender responsive budgeting. IMF provided technical support for the elaboration of harmonized GRB tools and UN Women provided financial support for the validation workshop of these tools that are being updated by the national GRB committee. UN Women received USD50,000 from SIDA (through UN Women HQ) to support the improvement of the production and utilization of gender statistics for planning and public policy

Changes made to JP: The budget lines for UNICEF portion of the JP slightly changed to re-direct some of the contract budget lines towards salaries.

The budget lines of UNDP changed slightly in order to include Communication activities for the visibility of SDG Funds Projects and for more advocacy.

Main Challenges: • There were challenges organizing large training events due to restriction related to COVID-19. We resorted to small workshops and online meetings for joint validation workshop for the studies. • At UNDP (the lead PUNO), staff turnover has affected project implementation. Both the Senior Economist and the National Economist who were assuring the technical lead of the JP have left. The new Senior Economics arrived in August 2021. • Priority was given to COVID-19-related interventions. Measures were taken to continue JP Projects, given the high political support the project is garnering. • UN Women and the IMF are supporting the government to reform GRB, but UN Woman’s part of the support (capacity building of budget actors) is coming at the tail end after IMF’s support (development of the tools and guidelines). UNW continues to liaise closely with government and IMF to see that the project evolves smoothly up to the end.

Updates on SDG financing framework

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

Descriptions on progress by INFF building blocks

Inception Phase: N/A (INFF development is one of the Project objectives: the activities of the Project should lead to the operationalization of an INFF)

Assessment & Diagnostics: Several assessments and diagnostics have been done: • The existing Development Finance Assessment has been updated to include local financing issues • The Costing of SND30 aligned on SDG was done

- Assessments of the existing mechanisms of coordination between Government, PTF, Private Sector, Civil Society
- Mapping of Investments and Business Opportunities in Flour and Wood Sectors

Financing Strategy: NA (the financing strategy is being finalised)

Monitoring & Review: • Development of a methodological document for costing priority interventions and SDG Costing done • Implementation of an online application to facilitate the collection and updating of data.

Governance & Coordination: • An Extended Steering Committee was put in place and held two meetings with government and the following partners: UNS, European Union, World Bank, African Development Bank, other stakeholders (private sector, civil society, local Authorities). The Committee is housed in the Ministry of Economy and Planning. It orientates and supervises the project and its implementation • Assessment Studies of existing Coordination Mechanisms between Government FTP, Private Sector, Civil Society are done. Those studies will help operationalize an adequate national dialogue framework on SDG financing. • Organization of a consultation on the Project and on INFF issues between the Government and all development partners (Private sector, Civil society, Local Authorities) has been done.

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

How did the JP adapt to the COVID-19 context

- The Development Financing Assessment and SDG Costing have been updated in order to take into account challenges including health challenges and the deepening of decentralisation in the country

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The Gender marker was applied through the improvement of the quality of public expenditure by strong advocacy for institutionalizing Gender Responsive Budgeting approach into the national budgeting process. The implementation of the gender marker focused on transforming the national budgetary framework to be more gender responsive together with the political commitment of budget stakeholders, namely public policy makers across ministries and at the President's office as well as parliamentarians. Key achievements under this include: Capacity building of 30 budget officials and 10 gender focal points from pilot Ministries on GRB; Support for gender mainstreaming into the 2022 financial law through the development of GRB tools in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and the International Monetary Fund (IMF); support for the Development of the Gender budgetary report that was annexed to the 2022 Finance and support for the development of the result framework of the future National Gender Policy which is expected for next year.

Estimated % of overall disbursed funds spend on gender: 18%

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

- Dialogue on SDG and SND30 financing is more Inclusive dialogue including civil society as well as private sectors and local authorities
- Advocacy done for gender and child responsive budgeting
- Investment mappings focused on labour-intensive sectors (cassava, wood, banana plantain) and on agricultural sector central to nutrition

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

The Government has created the JP Steering Committee and the Technical Secretariat of the Project is h

- The Steering Committee Technical Secretariat is in charge with the implementation and of the monitoring of the project
- The Government has developed a first draft of the INFF of Cameroon
- All development actors have taken part in the steering committee and in the consultation around the Project (Government, Civil Society, Private Sector, FTP, Local Authorities) and they participated in the survey to assess the existing dialogue frameworks

Annual Reporting on Results

Results achieved in promoting the priority thematic SDG agendas

Governance SDG -:SDG 16 and SDG 17 These SDGs are promoted through strengthening of efficient institutions, public finance and data through the updating of the Development Financing Assessment, SDG Costing, coordination of development partners through the Steering Committee and enlarged consultations; through consolidation of the PPBS chain (planning, programming, budgeting and monitoring-evaluation) in social sector ministries in order to harmonize planning and budgeting. In addition, capacity building workshop for officials of social ministries in the integration of gender and the specificities of the child in MTEFs and discussion on the nomenclature / production of budget information were held. In the same context, a report of follow-up of the recommendations of the study on the traceability of public expenditure “PETS III” in Cameroon is available. A reflection workshop on the development of the citizen report on public social spending for periodic publication is completed. A timetable for drawing up the citizen report on public expenditure is available, as is the methodology validated by the Government. the capacity of decentralized local authorities has been strengthened.

People SDG – SDG 5 -Capacity building on SDG Financing A report of cross-cutting indicators of the Human Capital pillar of the national development strategy (SND30) consistent with the Strategic Performance Frameworks and MTEF of the relevant ministries is available, focusing on Women promotion. All the JP initiatives have led to the improvement of budgetary allocations in the social field, which between 2021 and 2022 experienced an increase of 8.9% for the health, education and social development sub-sectors in the 2022 Finance Law and the budgets are now more Gender responsive

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

Output 2.2: the State Budget (Health, education, agriculture and infrastructure sectors) is gender-responsive Technical assistance and capacity strengthening continued to be carried out during this period in gender responsive budgeting (GRB) reform in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance The JP provided technical and financial support for the actualization, development and dissemination of GRB tools and instruments in the country (including, the presidential circular on budget preparation, the Ministry of finances guidance of budget allocations and the gender report which is an annex of the 2022 finance law) and the capacity building of 40 (28 men and 12 women) budget officers from Ten pilot ministries on Gender and Children Responsive Budgeting. Furthermore, UNS with his partners. with regard to the child-sensitive budget, the social ministries have undertaken to increase the allocation devoted to children in the MTEFs. The change noted according to the finance law (2021 and 2022) is a positive variation in budgets devoted to social issues which increased between 2022 and 2021 by 4.84% for the education

sub-sector, 5.3% for the health sub-sector and 16.72% for the sub-sector social development and employment. Actions of PPBS consolidation were put in place in the social sector ministries including capacity building workshops in the integration of gender and the specificities of the child in MTEFs and on the nomenclature/production of budget, promotion of social accountability. The development of a strategy for mobilizing local resources is underway in 12 municipalities in the East and Adamaoua Regions to seek additional funds likely to meet the needs of children.

The capacity of eight selected ministries have been strengthened to prepare gender and child responsive annual and mid-term budgets. Including integration of the mid-term expenditures and mid-term budgets and its programme based-budgeting indicators that are gender and child sensitive into PROBMIS (an inter-ministerial information platform led by Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy and Planning) for consistency between the programming and the budgeting of public funds. Communications and IT equipment to partners at the level of municipalities for budget analyses have been ordered but due to COVID-19 have not yet been delivered to partners. Output 4 - Coordination of all PTF intervention – Several working sessions have been organized by the JP Steering Committee Secretariat involving representatives of RCO and PUNOS. Two Steering Committee meetings were held in June and November 2021. Communication activities have been reinvigorated with the recruitment of a communication specialist

Progress against JP-specific outcomes

SDG Financing Governance and Coordination issues: dialogues on SDG financing and SND30 costing are held through Sessions of the Extended Oversight Committee and Consultations involving all the development actors around SND30 Financing issues (Government, FTPs, Civil Society, Private Sector, Local Authorities)

Studies on Stakeholders Coordination Mechanisms have been carried out in order to improve dialogues and engagement of all development actors on SDG financing issues. This is expected to lead to a national coherent SDG financing framework. Investment mappings in Agribusiness also implemented to facilitate investors engagement in SND30 and SDG financing

The capacity building of actors in the PPBS chain, the training of public administrators to make the MTEFs child-sensitive, the capacity building of municipalities to mobilize local resources and the culture of social accountability have been elements that have helped to highlight integrated planning and financing document (outcome 2) in his first part (diagnostic).

Progress against JP-specific outputs

Under the output 2.2, the key achievement is that the national environment is enabled for a proper and sustainable gender responsiveness of the State Budget. This enabling environment can be verified through stakeholder engagement and commitment of government pilot institutions to implement the 2022 State Budget on a gender perspective.

Out of the 320 people expected to have resource mobilization skills, 178 have so far been trained. That is an achievement rate of 56%. The gap will be filled in 2022

Consultations involving all the development actors around SND30 financing and costing issues (Government, FTPs, Civil Society, Private Sector, Local Authorities) have been completed

Studies on Stakeholders Coordination Mechanisms done in order to improve dialogues and engagement on SDG financing issues in a coherent and integrated manner

Investment mapping in agribusiness are done to facilitate engagement of investors in the implementation of SND30 and SDG financing

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

The JP with the active engagement and complementary mandates and activities of the three PUNOs (UNDP, UNICET and UNW) is influencing the main policies relating to the financing and implementation of SND30, influencing the policy dialogues on financing for the SDGs guided by evidence, studies, established technical advisory role to the policy-makers and UN’s convenor ability to bring together the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family, Local Authorities, Private Sector, Civil Society. UNS supported important studies (DFA update, policy dialogue frameworks assessments, investment mappings). UNS also provided capacity building for budget efficiency and allocations taking into account child and women needs).

Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications

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

The JP improved collaboration between Government, the different ministries, civil society, IFIs, bilateral/multilateral actor, private sector, local Authorities, through the Steering Committee and large consultation held around SND30 financing issues and Costing. During these meetings, collaboration between Ministry of Economy and Planning, Ministry of Finances and Ministry of Decentralized has been reinforced with regards to financing issues as well as collaboration between Government, private sector and civil society. Many FTP have taken active part in these meetings.

The JP improved collaboration between UNS in one hand and facilitated the collaboration between UNS and the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Planning and Economy. Also there has been a collaboration with the IMF to support the strengthening of the GRB process in Cameroon. The JP contribution to this collaboration was quite important in the sense that it allowed the harmonization of resources (technical and financial) from various partner in order to achieve a common national goal and avoiding duplication of initiatives.

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

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

Comments on additional financing secured: The JP improved collaboration between Government, the different ministries, civil society, IFIs, bilateral/multilateral actor, private sector, local Authorities, through the Steering Committee and large consultation held around SND30 financing issues and Costing. During these meetings, collaboration between Ministry of Economy and Planning, Ministry of Finances and Ministry of Decentralized has been reinforced with regards to financing issues as well as collaboration between Government, private sector and civil society. Many FTP have taken active part in these meetings.

The JP improved collaboration between UNS in one hand and facilitated the collaboration between UNS and the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Planning and Economy. Also there has been a collaboration with the IMF to support the strengthening of the GRB process in Cameroon. The JP contribution to this collaboration was quite important in the sense that it allowed the harmonization of resources (technical and financial) from various partner in order to achieve a common national goal and avoiding duplication of initiatives.

JP organized events in 2021

JP Launch Event	Annual Donor Event	Partners Event
Yes in 2021	Yes in 2021	No

Number of strategic documents produced by the JP: 6

Number of strategic documents contributed by the JP: 0

Number of communication materials produced: 5

2022 Plans & Way Forward

JP priority activities & expected results for 2022

Outcome1: • Organization of SDG steering committee • Organization of benchmarking missions (Rwanda) • Organization of a forum on the development financing strategy • Validation of the DFA update • Elaboration of the financing strategy of the SND30 • Establishment of a minimum integrated statistical system for monitoring financing at the regional and local levels

Outcome 2: • Study on the identification of bottlenecks to achieving the SDGs • Establishment of a simulation model of the impact of SDG accelerators on development targets (SND30) • Development of a project document for an SDG Compact Trigger, an acceleration program • Development of a framework document on the functioning of the INFF (role of actors and interrelationships, proposals for texts, reporting scheme, etc...) • Organization of two capacity building sessions for government officials and other actors in the financing ecosystem

Output 2.2 1. Provide technical support for the review of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of 10 Ministries to align them with the gender objectives of the National Gender Policy. 2. Support the gender mainstreaming into the preparation of the 2023 State budget and the development of required instruments.

Output 2.3 Capacity building of decentralized local authorities and development of MTEFs

Outcome3: • Feasibility Study of the “Cameroon SDG One Fund Platform” • Dissemination of studies on business mapping in the forestry and local flour sector • Study on the mapping of gaps and needs in the agro-industry: fish sector

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

• The National Financing Strategy of SND30 aligned with SDG is completed and operationalized. • The governance and coordination organs and systems of the INFF are in place and functional • The budgetary process in Cameroon is more gender and children responsive

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

Result.1	Result.2	Result.3
Emerging (1-49%)	Advancing (50-99%)	N/A