



Joint Programme 2021 Annual Progress Report

SDG Financing Portfolio - Component 1

Cover page

UNCT/MCO: Lebanon

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2021

JP title: Gender Responsive National Budgeting and Private Investing for SDG2-Zero Hunger

PUNOs: UNDP, FAO, UN Women

Government partner: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance

Target SDGs: SDGs 2, 16

Gender Marker: 2

Approved budget: USD 999,031

Co-funding: USD 116,000

Total Disbursement by 2021: USD 499,516

Total estimated expenditures: USD 84,165.57 (est. Delivery rate: 16.8%)

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): USD 143,215.6 (est. Committed rate: 28.7%)

RCO focal point name: Rony Gedeon

RCO focal point email: rony.gedeon@un.org

Executive Summary

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Annual Progress

Overall JP self-assessment of 2021 progress:

Not-satisfactory (majority of expected results not yet achieved; over 3 months delay in implementation)

Comments on self-assessment: Over the past period, the programme did manage to achieve the intended results as the activities were largely affected by the economic crisis and political turmoil that was dominating Lebanon since fall 2019. 1) the unfortunate developments imposed a shift in priorities, to cater for the new realities imposed by the crises. 2) Following its resignation in August 2020, the government assumed a caretaker role which left

little room for working on major policy changes in the absence of the proper decision-making function. 3) No budget laws were approved (2021 and 2022). Budget proposal for 2021 was prepared as a theoretical exercise and presented to cabinet in March 2021 4) The implications of the crisis largely affected the functionality of the public sector whose productivity was reduced to minimum, due to losses in the purchasing power of their income that exceeded 85 percent and the hike in transportation cost hindering daily commuting to offices.

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

- Following the formation of the new Government, the programme was rediscussed and re-endorsed.
- As part of the new activities that were included in the extension request, the UNDP has initiated the preparation of the TOR that will be performing an analysis of PFM landscape under output 2.3. • UNDP is currently in the process of the preparation of the ToRs related to the Committee Members with a clear governance structure • The Ministry of Finance front assigned focal points to act to act as a counterpart in the implementation of the programme activities and facilitate communication and ensure engagement at different levels of the Ministry. • UN Women kicked off efforts to contract a gender responsive budgeting expert in order to perform reviews of budgets and policies from a gender specific reference point. TORs are finalized and will be posted online in the coming period. • In order to ensure buy in from the government, the programme document was translated into Arabic to be presented to line ministries and cabinet. • In the previous period, UN Women also provided support to IMF working with the Ministry of Agriculture to support the development of a gender responsive budget statement. This resulted in a draft budget statement which was gender responsive, but was put on hold due to the previous status of a caretaker government in place. UN Women will continue support to influence this in the coming months. • In the same sense, UNW also attempted to ensure that any forthcoming recovery plans in Lebanon are gender responsive, including the importance of making sure gender responsive budgeting is mainstreamed. To this end, UNW developed an open letter to be sent to the IMF which includes a set of broad recommendations aiming to support the achievement of a gender responsive economic recovery in Lebanon, that should be incorporated into the discussions between the Government of Lebanon and the IMF, and integrated into the Key Performance Indicators used by the IMF to measure progress by the Government of Lebanon. • The previous period also resulted in mobilization of partnerships to study what support, through SDG2, can be provided to parliament given that it was politically active. This included meetings held with the Woman and Child parliamentary committee, as well as the SDG parliamentary committee, where consultants from UNW also met with MPs to see what possible support can be provided from a gender perspective on upcoming programmes. • FAO identified a gender Specialist in SDG2 public interventions inventory development after the preparation of the Terms of References. • Internal meetings including Team Leaders in Rome and Lebanon were held to guide and supervise the consultants' work. His official recruitment will be carried out early 2022. • The consultant will be responsible of desk reviews and mapping of existing strategies, policies and the inventory of projects. In addition, he will be responsible of coordinating this effort through organization meetings with UNDP//UN Women (as JP partners), and MoA, and with as well as with identified stakeholders. Most specifically, under activities 3.1 & and 3.2, the consultant shall initiate Informal meetings will be initiated with donors IFIs and key Private Sector actors initiate their detailed mapping in view of public-private dialogue SDG-2 Forum, develop TORs for Private-Public Forum and initiate a Baseline of Sources of Funding Available.

Changes made to JP: The project document was slightly modified to accommodate the changing context. No major change was done to the theory of change. Changes were suggested to the timespan and sequencing of activities to be able to align output of the project with the budget preparation process and to integrate key policy aspects that will result into upcoming budget laws.

The budgeting process, that was halted for the past two years, has been resumed by the newly formed government. Currently budget 2022 is being discussed by cabinet and will be soon transferred for parliament approval. This gives a positive signal that the process is back on track which is an essential catalyst for the project activities. The TOC, aiming at preserving the SDG2 related sectors in the context of economic and financial downturns, will be built around three interlinked streams which are based on the gender responsive SDG2 baseline which will be obtained through the analysis of the existing PFM landscape, mapping and analysis of the SDG2 policy framework, and review of existing SDG2 programmes using existing strategies' and policies. These streams are: (i) evidence-based and results-oriented budget decision making through (Gender Responsive) SDG2 mainstreaming stream; (ii) Strengthened Transparency, Accountability and Oversight for effective gender responsive SDG2 public invest-

ment implementation stream; and (iii) International Public Finance and Private Sector Finance Leveraging Stream. In terms of budget, changes in the prodoc reflect a budget reduction of USD 70,000 that was distributed among agencies on a pro rata basis.

Main Challenges: ? Over the reporting period, Lebanon has been hard hit by compounded crises that crippled normal life in the country, affecting economic, political, and social aspects. The economic and financial crisis that flared up in the fall of 2019 continued to escalate causing a severe deterioration in the country’s socio-economic conditions, and was topped up with the outbreak of the COVID19 virus and the explosion in the port of Beirut port On august 4, 2020.. These consecutive crises have been further exacerbated by an extended political deadlock following the resignation of the government in the aftermath of the blast, and the failure to form another one until very recently, with the formation of the Mikati Government in September 2021.

? These developments created a disabling environment for the activities of the project, and limited the initiation of activities with line ministries, due to the caretaker status of the government. The economic situation has made staff less available to their ministries, and the budget preparation process was completely halted. ? The ministry of agriculture, prior to the new government, opted to postpone any GRB work on their budgets until a new government was in place. ? Following the re-endorsement of the project document by the Ministry of Finance and the appointment of a new focal point to act as a counterpart, project activities can be resumed.

Updates on SDG financing framework

	Assessment		Monitoring	Governance
Inception phase	Diagnostics	Financing Strategy	Review	Coordination
Planned (0%)	Planned (0%)	Planned (0%)	Planned (0%)	Planned (0%)

Descriptions on progress by INFF building blocks

Inception Phase: NA

Assessment & Diagnostics: N/A An assessment of the PFM process is planned that will be based on existing assessments that were done including PEFA, PIMA and others.

Financing Strategy: NA

Monitoring & Review: NA

Governance & Coordination: NA

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

How did the JP adapt to the COVID-19 context

NA

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

NA

Estimated % of overall disbursed funds spend on gender: 0%

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

NA

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

NA

Annual Reporting on Results

Results achieved in promoting the priority thematic SDG agendas

NA

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

NA

Progress against JP-specific outcomes

NA

Progress against JP-specific outputs

NA

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

NA

Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications

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

NA

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

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

Comments on additional financing secured: NA

JP organized events in 2021

JP Launch Event	Annual Donor Event	Partners Event
No	No	No

Number of strategic documents produced by the JP: 0

Number of strategic documents contributed by the JP: 0

Number of communication materials produced: 0.5

2022 Plans & Way Forward

JP priority activities & expected results for 2022

- 1) Perform an analysis of PFM landscape using existing PFM assessments including PEFA, PIMA and other existing assessments
- 2) Provide support in developing an institutional arrangement between MOF and MoA to prepare budgets that reflect resource allocation on SDG2/gender and that enables reporting on the related indicators
- 3) Support MoF and MoA in developing forms, templates and classifications to align budget preparation with SDG 2
- 4) Develop a Methodological guide for SDG2 /gender Budget Allocation and Execution
- 5) Support MoA to present budget requests based on priorities and taking not consideration availability of adequate budget funds. This will be based on the review of existing strategies and policies related to the SDG2 that will be performed, and which will result in an inventory of programmes and initiatives to be prioritized for budgeting. Also, various strategies will be developed to enable MoA to create strong cases for funding including social and economic cost analysis.
- 6) Develop knowledge products on Gender responsive Budgeting, on Review of the Budgets of the Ministry of Agriculture, and on recommendations on how to make future budgets gender responsive.
- 7) Moving towards a programme-base and gender-responsive budgeting process to be promoted by the Ministry of Finance
- 8) Initiate meeting with the parliamentary committees, assess their needs, prepare advocacy materials, hold awareness events on SDG2, and develop policy briefs.
- 9) perform Mapping of donors, IFIs and private sector stakeholders.
- 10) Hold informal meetings with donors, IFIs and private sector
- 11) form and develop ToR for a private -public sector forum for the SDGs

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

- 1) Developing an integrated approach towards financing SDG 2-related initiatives and priorities, involving non-government partners including the private sector, IFIs, donors and others.
- 2) MoA to present budget requests based on priorities and taking not consideration availability of adequate budget funds. This will be based on the review of existing strategies and policies related to the SDG2 that will be performed, and which will result in an inventory of programmes and initiatives to be prioritized for budgeting. Also, various strategies will be developed to enable MoA to create strong cases for funding including social and economic cost analysis.
- 3) Develop knowledge products on Gender responsive Budgeting, on Review of the Budgets of the Ministry of Agriculture, and on recommendations on how to make future budgets gender responsive.
- 4) Moving towards a programme-base and gender-responsive budgeting process to be promoted by the Ministry of Finance

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

Result.1	Result.2	Result.3
Planned (0%)	Planned (0%)	Planned (0%)