



Joint Programme 2021 Annual Progress Report

SDG Financing Portfolio - Component 1

Cover page

UNCT/MCO: Mali

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2021

JP title: Joint Programme for Influencing Financing of Human Capital Development in Mali

PUNOs: UNICEF, UNDP

Government partner: Ministry of Economy and Finance

Target SDGs: SDGs 4, 16, 17

Gender Marker: 1

Approved budget: USD 963,000

Co-funding: USD 1,209,100

Total Disbursement by 2021: USD 390,000

Total estimated expenditures: USD NA (est. Delivery rate: NA%)

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): USD 201,843.8 (est. Committed rate: 51.8%)

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Executive Summary

During the period covered by the report, significant progress was made in terms of both the overall governance of the joint programme and its operational activities as per the agreed action plan.

Thus, a strategic steering committee for the joint programme was set up under the leadership of the government (Ministry of Finance), as well as specialized technical committees based on the thematic scope of the joint programme. These committees have played a crucial role in achieving the results obtained to date. The steering committee has organized all the high-level meetings to create a consensus at national level between the different actors at the decision-making level. It has also provided strategic guidance and the overall orientation of the joint programme. The specialized technical committees have played the role of implementation at the more operational level. They helped in the respect of the planning of activities and in the production of the different analytical documents and delivery of substantive work.

Three major results were achieved during the period: (i) The production of five (5) budget briefs in the areas of health, education, social protection, nutrition and water, hygiene and sanitation; (ii) Some forty executives from

the various ministries were trained in public financial management system and (iii) The joint programme assisted the government in the collection of data for the open Budget Survey (OBS 2020) while critically analyzing the implementation of the recommendations of previous surveys to identify bottleneck and redressal solutions.

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: Overall, the self-assessment of the Joint programme is “satisfactory”. The two PUNOs have developed an acceleration plan to mitigate the impact of the delay induced by the changes in the institutional context since the beginning of the implementation of the joint programme in 2020. The implementation of this plan is being bringing the Joint programme back on track, but the delay has not yet been totally absorbed. Important milestones have been reached and need to be consolidated.

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

During the reporting period the Joint Programme delivers on the following main areas: Governance and coordination: The steering committee held his mandatory meetings on a regular basis as outlined in the attribution’s statement. Ad hoc meetings were also held when needed to discuss specific issues around the JP or to boost the implementation. The steering committee also contributed to define the strategic orientation and guidance. His work has been instrumental for national consensus building and in linking the overall joint programme activities to the national agenda on SDGs. The technical committees set up as the operational arm have worked in a participatory manner to ensure that the guidance and orientations are translated at sectorial level.

Specific outputs of the Joint programme Budgets Briefs: Five (5) budget briefs were produced during the reporting period including health, education, social protection, nutrition and water, hygiene, and sanitation. This analytical work has led to the formulation of recommendations based on the main findings. Overall, the budget formulation needs to be improved to link the allocations on the sectors priorities as outlined in sectorial policies and international commitments. This will increase the coherence between the planning/programming and the budgeting processes. The economy, the efficiency, the effectiveness of expenditures and the credibility of the budget should be a focus for the government to increase the potential of the budgets to reach its goals. It is also recommended to clarify the inter and intra-sector allocations of budgets with a breakdown between Personal, Functioning and Investments allocations and expenditures. Improving procurement procedures and strengthening the capacity of the actors in the expenditure chain will contribute to the efficiency of expenditure execution procedures. To improve the adequacy and timeliness of the budget execution (currently 2/3 of the investment budget during the fourth quarter an implementation of a credible commitment plan and cash flow plan will be instrumental. The government should develop additional regulations governing the transfer of resources to local authorities and put in place rigorous measures to ensure fair and transparent allocation with a clear accountability framework. More in-depth studies should be carried out by the state to identify the reasons for the inter and inter sectors/ regions disparities in order to provide the appropriate solutions to improve equity in budget allocation.

Capacity building for key stakeholders: About 40 government officials and civil society representatives were trained in Public Financial Management System. The modules included (i) The PFM reform with focus on programme and results-based budgeting; (ii) Public procurement procedures; (iii) Decentralized budgets in line with the financial regime of the local governance entities and (iv) Public sector accounting. This first wave of training has been purposefully designed based on the training needs assessment of targeted audience. Open Budget Survey The specialized working group on “OBS” worked to respond to the questionnaire of OBS 2020 along with the retrospective analysis of the pending recommendations from previous survey. The bottleneck analysis of the implementation of the previous interventions in being finalized and will lead to the development of a government response plan to remove the bottleneck and the capacity building plan of the national directions involved in the implementation.

Registration of foreign aid in the state budget The joint program has made it possible to finalize the creation of a

software package called the “Integrated Public Aid Management System (SIGMAP)”, which will make it possible to create a framework for permanent and structured dialogue with technical and financial partners to commit them to providing the Government with data relating to their financing of the various sectors,

Changes made to JP: Changes made:

Outcomes’ end-line: Changed to 2025 to reflect the continuing efforts the two PUNO will continue beyond the period of the programme. This will be reflected and their respective Rolling Workplan 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025

Problem statement: Updated to reflect the recent results of the Public Expenditures and Financial Accountability conducted in 2021 for the period of 2018-2020.

Work plan: Slightly updated to describe the changes introduced (new activities or adjustments).

Output 1.1: Nutrition and WASH sectors budget briefs added to the initial list of sectors (education, Health and Social Protection). This is to be aligned with the national development framework CREDD

Output 2.1: The JP will build on the results of the Public Expenditures Review of Health and Education sectors already conducted by World Bank. There is no need to duplicate the efforts. The JP will contribute to widely disseminate the results of these 2 PERs and support the government in addressing the recommendations. In 2022 the JP will implement the PER of the Social Protection Sector.

Output 3.1: a) The “Costing of Human Development sector” was replaced by the Development Finance Assessment (DFA) exercise b) The “Fiscal Space Analysis for Human capital sectors” has been replaced by “The SDG financing strategy “which is more ambitious.

Risks analysis and mitigation measure: The risks linked to the forthcoming electoral process has been added with associated mitigation measures.

Main Challenges: From the beginning of the implementation of the joint programme the national context was relatively hostile due to institutional changes and their implications at policy and operational level. The joint programme started with a six-month delay. To overcome this delay, an acceleration plan was developed by the two agencies in consultation with the national side. This plan has gradually allowed significant progress to be made, but much remains to be done to consolidate the achievements and to give the work plan a boost. The national context also presents fiduciary risks which require prudent disbursements to limit the risks. As a result, financial implementation rates may appear low, but this is the result of a deliberate effort to mitigate risks.

Updates on SDG financing framework

	Assessment		Monitoring	Governance
Inception phase	Diagnostics	Financing Strategy	Review	Coordination
Emerging (1-49%)	Emerging (1-49%)	Planned (0%)	Planned (0%)	Emerging (1-49%)

Descriptions on progress by INFF building blocks

Inception Phase: Scheduled for the first half of 2022.

Assessment & Diagnostics: Scheduled for the first half of 2022.

Financing Strategy: Scheduled for the first half of 2022.

Monitoring & Review: Scheduled for the first half of 2022.

Governance & Coordination: The steering committee held his mandatory meetings on a regular basis as outlined in the attribution’s statement. Ad hoc meetings were also held when needed to discuss specific issues around the

INFFs to boost the implementation. The steering committee also contributed to define the strategic orientation and guidance. His work has been instrumental for national consensus building and in linking the overall joint programme activities to the national agenda on SDGs.

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

How did the JP adapt to the COVID-19 context

With the delay in the implementation due to institutional constraint, le Joint programme benefited from other relevant initiatives including evidence and knowledge generation activities on the pandemic. In this regard no radical change was made to align to the national response plan. However, in the implementation of the activities, efforts were made to consider a covid-19 lens and how the pandemic is having impact on socio-economic situation. For example, the budgets analysis acknowledged the resource flow as a result of the COVID-19. Surprisingly, some sectors such as social protection are far below the allocation of pre-covid level despite the social protection response plan to COVID-19.

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

Gender equality and the empowerment of women are mainstreamed across all outputs of the Joint programme in line with SDG priorities including SDG 5. The two PUNOs work closely to translate this programmatic intention into actions by influencing the national implementing institutions to secure the benefits of the project in the perspective of addressing gender discriminatory roles.

The budget briefs have including desegregation of data where possible to support gender-sensitive analysis.

Estimated % of overall disbursed funds spend on gender: 40%

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

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development goals in a national context marked by strong inequalities and the persistence of multifaceted conflicts and crises requires that “no one is left behind” In this perspective, UNCT has undertaken several actions, the most recent of which is the proposal of a matrix to categorize and prioritize the factors likely to cause particular groups of people to be “most left behind” or even Furthest Behind (FB)” in connection with the JP A day of reflection was organized for all the actors, to have a common understanding of the LNOB concept. A common definition of the content of the LNOB and a prioritization of Furthest Behind (FB) factors will facilitate the effective application of the principle of inclusion, a condition for achieving the SDGs and capturing the demographic dividend.

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

The Ministry of Economy and Finance, with the support of the country team formed by UNICEF and UNDP, provided strategic coordination on the financing of the SDGs. The joint program brought together CSOs, ministries in charge of finance, education, health-nutrition, social protection, water-hygiene-sanitation, child protection and country team, to carry out analyzes in the human capital sectors (Health, Education and Social Protection) to which were added sectors such as “water, hygiene and sanitation”, “nutrition” and “child protection”. This involved an analysis of the fiscal space and public expenditure devoted to these sectors through (i) a detailed review of the volume, distribution, and quality of expenditure and (ii) mechanisms for strengthening management systems. finance with a systemic focus that influences the quality of budget formulation and execution, with implications for the financing of basic social services.

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

The joint program has made it possible to finalize the development of a software package called the “Integrated Public Aid Management System (SIGMAP)”, which will make it possible to create a framework for permanent and structured dialogue with technical and financial partners to commit them to providing the Government with data relating to their financing of the various sectors, on a regular basis aligned with the needs for the availability of this data at the government level, with a view to preparing the budget, but also for other purposes contributing improving more general knowledge of the budgetary framework.

Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications

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

The joint program brought together CSOs, ministries in charge of finance, education, health-nutrition, social protection, water-hygiene-sanitation, child protection and country team, to carry out analyzes in the human capital sectors (Health, Education and Social Protection) to which were added sectors such as “water, hygiene and sanitation”, “nutrition” and “child protection”. This involved public expenditure devoted to these sectors through (i) a detailed review of the volume, distribution, and quality of expenditure and (ii) mechanisms for strengthening management systems. finance with a systemic focus that influences the quality of budget formulation and execution, with implications for the financing of basic social services.

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	Yes	No

Comments on additional financing secured: The joint program brought together CSOs, ministries in charge of finance, education, health-nutrition, social protection, water-hygiene-sanitation, child protection and country

team, to carry out analyzes in the human capital sectors (Health, Education and Social Protection) to which were added sectors such as “water, hygiene and sanitation”, “nutrition” and “child protection”. This involved public expenditure devoted to these sectors through (i) a detailed review of the volume, distribution, and quality of expenditure and (ii) mechanisms for strengthening management systems. finance with a systemic focus that influences the quality of budget formulation and execution, with implications for the financing of basic social services.

JP organized events in 2021

JP Launch Event	Annual Donor Event	Partners Event
Yes in 2021	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: 1

2022 Plans & Way Forward

JP priority activities & expected results for 2022

Taking advantage of the Non-Costs Extension under approval, in 2022, the PUNOS and the Government will give priority to the unfinished business of the joint programme while consolidating the progresses obtained so far. More specifically the following activities will be implemented : Budget briefs

Dissemination of the budget’s briefs completed in 2021 Sectorial advocacy notes based on the findings and the recommendation of the budget briefs to support the budgetary dialogue for the 2023 allocations with the aim to increase resources allocation for social sectors Institutionalization and reinforcement of the country’s ownership in the elaboration of the budget brief on an annual basis beyond the timeline of the joint project

Policy dialogue with other sector to stimulate self-funded budget briefs Open Budget Survey Dissemination of the recommendation and their implementation plan Finalization of the bottleneck analysis plan Training of national counterpart by staff from the International Budget Partnership Training in Public Financial Management System Public Expenditure Review (PER) for Social protection Sector Recording of ODA in the National Budget Secondment of economists Development Finance Assessment (DFA) Development of the national integrated financing strategy

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

At the end of the implementation of the joint programme, major transformative results will be achieved. The transformative nature of these results lies in the fact that they will have an impact that will last beyond the duration of the project.

The institutionalization of the regular production of budget notes will provide an advocacy tool to convince decision-makers to allocate resources to the social sectors, especially those related to human capital.

The recording of development aid in the national budget will make it possible to have greater readability of the resource framework and will improve the analytical assumptions that guide the preparation of the finance law and subsequent budget allocations.

National capacity building through training in public financial management and budget monitoring by civil society actors and parliamentarians will help to create progressively a culture of accountability.

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

Result.1	Result.2	Result.3
Completed (100%)	Completed (100%)	Completed (100%)