

Joint SDG Fund  
PORTFOLIO ON INTEGRATED POLICY AND LNOB

## Joint Programme 2021 Annual Progress Report

### Template

### Cover page

**Country:** *Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau (4 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs))*  
**Joint Programme title:** *Strengthening Resilience of Pacific Islands States through Universal Social Protection*  
**Short title:** *United Nations Social Protection (SP) Joint Programme (JP)*

**Start date:** January 2020

**End date:** June 2022

**RC:** Simona Marinescu

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**Budget** (Joint SDG Fund contribution): \$3,000,000

**Overall budget** (with co-funding): \$3,386, 176

**Total estimated expenditure** (in USD, for the whole JP by 31 Dec 2021): \$1,129,967.36

**Total estimated commitments** (in USD, for the whole JP by 31 Dec 2021): \$791,066.07

#### Short description of the Joint Programme

The Social Protection Joint Programme (SP-JP) aims at increasing resilience through viable and financially sustainable SP systems that will address life cycle vulnerabilities strengthen SP floors and enhance employability. The objective is to develop universal, evidence-based, nationally owned SP systems and introduce SP floors to help accelerate Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) progress through integrated programming and Leaving No One Behind. The Programme is spearheaded by a Multi-Country Steering Committee (MCSC) and a Technical Committee for each of the four Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) (Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau). In line with the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and outcomes of the UNDP Pacific Strategy 2018-2022, the SP-JP adopts five strategic interventions in developing and strengthening coherent SP systems – data/evidence; inclusive participation and partnerships; sustainable finance; institutional coordination and capacity building; and outreach. The SP-JP has four outcomes: 1) universal, inclusive & equitable SP systems; 2) SP floors are

efficiently and effectively administered; 3) financial inclusion enables low transaction cost transfers of SP benefits; and 4) increased resilience through mainstreaming of disability, gender, youth and climate-related contingencies.

## Executive summary

The Joint SDG Social Protection (SP) Programme focuses on Strengthening the Resilience of Pacific Island States through universal social protection across the four (4) countries. It aims to develop evidence-based, nationally owned Social Protection systems to accelerate the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals through integrated programming in national and sub-national development and Leaving No One Behind.

The main focus of the annual work plan for 2021 was to complete the stock take, reviews and assessments of SP systems across all the 4 PICTs - to inform the ongoing development and improvement of SP systems. The findings from these SP reviews/assessments were used as the basis for the development of a proposed SP system for Samoa and to recommend areas for improvements of SP systems in the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. To ensure engagement of the respective governments and other key stakeholders in these review processes, consultations were held with key SP stakeholders and were presented with the findings of the reviews, using the Technical Committees (each for the four PICTs) as the national coordinating stakeholder mechanisms. Fundamentally, a proposed Social Protection (SP) policy and changes in existing SP systems are acceptable by governments for implementation, and this was regarded as a focus for achievement during the year.

Key activities relating to the strengthening of administrative and data/information management of SP systems (e.g., training for public servants on SP areas, awareness-raising on SP, improving payment systems for SP benefits, and development of Management Information System (MIS) for SP) are in progress with institutionalization processes to follow once there is a high-level endorsement of SP policies and recommendations for improvement in SP systems. The required legislative enactments, institutional arrangements, and implementation mechanisms will need to be developed and established.

## I. Overall progress and priority, cross-cutting issues

### I.1. Progress and work completed in 2021

The overall progress of the SP-JP implementation during 2021 and work completed are outlined as follows:

#### *SP-JP Outcome 1: Universal, inclusive & equitable SP systems Leave No One Behind*

Outcome 1 aimed at strengthening social protection floors that will contribute to poverty and vulnerability reduction across the four PICTs. Corresponding activities include stock take and reviews of existing social protection systems in the four PICTs, and identification of gaps and areas for improvements in social protection systems, through the lens of inclusiveness, equity, financial sustainability, gender sensitivity, and prioritized recommendations to governments. Other activities include the establishment of stakeholder engagement and coordination mechanisms in each country, analysis of fiscal space for social protection, implementation of a social protection pilot program for persons with disabilities (PWD), and capacity development training for strengthening existing social protection programmes. Progress and achievements made include:

- Completion of comprehensive stock takes and reviews of the social protection systems in Samoa, Cook Islands, Tokelau and Niue. The findings have informed the establishment of social protection floors and development reforms in existing social protection systems.
  - Following the completion of the reviews of social protection systems in Samoa, a Draft National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) was developed, to address the social protection development agenda for Samoa. The Draft Policy is being tabled to the Samoan Government for endorsement.

- The results/findings of the review of the social protection systems in the Cook Islands were used as the basis of discussions to address gaps and areas to strengthen social protection systems in the Cook Islands. Development partners have adopted the review findings in their social development programmes. The cabinet is yet to endorse the Business Case as per the findings of the SP stocktake and review report.
- The Stocktake and review of the Social Protection Systems in Niue ( including a costed Implementation Action Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework) have been submitted to the Government for consideration. The review process has enabled key stakeholders to come together to jointly discuss key SP issues and to offer solutions for SP improvements in Niue.
- The Review of Social Protection Systems in Tokelau is completed and will be presented to the key stakeholders in February/March 2022.
- Samoa Social Protection Indicators Matrix designed by SBS is being used to monitor the country's social protection progress, identifying data gaps and plans to address social protection gaps.
- Mediation trainings of elected mediators completed. Awareness programmes were to raise awareness of workers on mediation and at the same time encourage them to come forward with employment issues that they may encounter and should be addressed through mediation. Employment disputes are now referred to as mediation.
- MPI training workshop was delivered for the participation of a total of 20 members selected from the National Governments of Samoa, Cook Islands, and Tokelau. The training aimed to build the knowledge and skills of participants from the four PICTs in the development of their national MPI, ensuring that there is a multi-dimensional measurement of poverty beyond simplistic monetary measurements.
- Feasibility phase completed for social protection MIS development in the Cook Islands with MIS development for Niue under consideration.
- The integrated development of gender-responsive social protection mechanisms and initiatives into the overall SP system for Samoa is being completed.
- Consultations on C190 were conducted in Savaii in October 2021. There was also a mass media campaign whereby posters were distributed and posted in different areas in Savaii and Upolu in October and November respectively.
- The pre-departure orientation programmes for seasonal workers is completed.
- Training of labour inspectors on mediation is yet to start.
- The Disability Reference Groups (DRG) were established in Samoa, Niue and the Cook Islands. The Tokelau DRG is anticipated to be established in January 2022.
- Research on fiscal space and actuarial analysis is completed, was consulted upon and presented to all four countries. Findings from this analysis will inform the development of social protection measures for persons with disabilities.
- The progress of Pilot Projects for PWD Social Protection is outlined below:
  - *Cook Islands*: Pilot projects are completed. The Disability Employment Pathway project called the 'Rise and Shine Employment Program' builds the capacity of PWDs over 20 weeks in collaboration with potential employers. The graduation for this Employment Program was done on the first week of December 2021. The Production of the Cook Islands Disability Inclusive Policy in Braille and Audio Formats to improve and promote understanding of the Policy for PwD are also complete.
  - *Niue*: Strengthening the membership of the Niue *Tolomaki Auloa* Association to strengthen the work of the DRG has been a success with an increase in membership and activities over the last 2 quarters. The National Register of PWD for Niue is also complete.
  - *Samoa*: the development and proposal of 2 non-contributory universal disability Social Security Benefits are complete. There is also a draft of a Business Case and a draft Cabinet Paper to support the submission of this scheme to the Government. There is progress towards merging existing databases to form a national register of Persons with Disability to streamline and monitor the delivery of the social security benefit scheme. What remains for this work is consultations and consensus among key stakeholders before presenting to Cabinet.

- *Tokelau*: the cognitive assessment of children with intellectual disabilities as well as the survey of PwD in Tokelau is complete. Data captured has informed the establishment of a national register of PwD with data disaggregated including but not limited to subgroups. Tokelau now focuses on developing a National Policy on PwD and capacity development program to deliver disability-inclusive education training for teachers, identified members of the Department of Education and other concerned Ministries.

✚ ***SP-JP Outcome 2: SP floors are efficiently and effectively administered.***

Outcome 2 aimed at strengthening digital data and information management systems in all four PICTs, to improve the integrity, equity, and responsiveness of the social protection systems, including inclusive distribution of resources, as well as increasing efficiency and effectiveness of delivery set up in the four PICTs. This work will also involve improving the use of data innovation mechanisms such as the development of the Pacific Pulse Lab to measure poverty and address the vulnerability of 250,000 people in the four PICTs. The approved program document outlined a total of 10 activities under three outputs to be implemented to contribute to this overall outcome 2. Progress and achievements made include:

- Capacity building of the PwD understanding digital data systems is to support mainstreaming of disability inclusion. This activity is contingent on UNDP's work on developing mobile platforms and is scheduled to start in January 2022. TORs are being developed to align with the system set up by UNDP.
- Analysis on Samoa Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system was completed and being finalized. An analysis of the Niue CRVS system has been completed.
- Strengthening Social Protection data and information:
  - *Cook Islands*: The development of SP MIS progressed well. The feasibility and design phase are completed. The training and demo will take place in quarter 1 of 2022 and are planned to be live in quarter 2, 2022.
  - *Niue*: The development of SP MIS is in progress. The feasibility and design phase are ongoing. The training and demo will take place in quarter 1 of 2022 and plan to go live in quarter 2 of 2022.
  - *Tokelau*: The development of the SP registry progressed well. The development of the SP registry is ongoing and will be compliment by census 2022 data. The census data collection will take place in quarter 1 of 2022 and the most updated SP registry will be available in quarter 2 of 2022.
  - *Samoa*: The development of SP MIS has limited progress. The TOR and scope of work were developed and shared with the government. The implementation is delayed due to pending approval of the national SP policy by the government and the transition of the new government.
- TA to do the work on the upgrade of the OSH Registry selected and ToR completed
- MPI Development awarded to OPHI. The Consultant (Firm) will work with the Samoa Bureau of Statistics to develop the MPI for Samoa. The MPI will reflect poverty in different dimensions according to nationally defined indicators. The MPI will enable policymakers, implementers, and advocates as well as development partners to evaluate the effectiveness of existing public policy efforts and programmes (including Social Protection measures), and whether they are addressing the needs of different people who are living in the most vulnerable conditions in Samoa.
- Child Labour Rapid Assessment has progressed well. The planning phase including TOR has been finalized to engage the National University of Samoa. The survey design is ongoing, and implementation is expected to be completed in quarter 1 of 2022. The survey is implemented in collaboration with MCIL, ILO and UNICEF.
- The work on the upgrade of the Jobseekers registry in Samoa started in December 2021.
- The Samoa National Employment Policy 2021-2026 is completed and awaiting Cabinet approval.
- The OSH video for awareness programmes by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour is completed.
- Developed draft TOR on the Upgrade of the OSH registry.
- The implementation of identified activities in the Cook Islands is almost completed, Awaiting Cabinet Approval of ratification of the ILO Convention on Social Protection

✚ ***SP-JP Outcome 3: Financial inclusion enables low transaction cost transfers of SP benefits.***

Outcome 3 aimed at improving payment systems for all benefits through banks and mobile banking. Individual accounts will be used to collect remittances and monthly revenues will be used to guarantee borrowing for small business start-ups. Efficiency gains due to low transaction costs will be an indirect benefit. There are four activities under outcome 3: a review of the accessibility of SP payments by PWD in all 4 PICTs; gap analysis of existing mobile banking systems; design and testing of a universal mobile banking system; and reducing costs of remittances transfers (Samoa only). Progress and achievements made include:

- The review of Accessibility of the Payment System for PwD is to support mainstreaming of disability inclusion. This activity will be undertaken when the financial inclusion systems/applications are put in place (i.e., Activity 3.1.3 which is the Design and testing of a universal mobile banking system for payment of social benefits).
- TA on reducing remittance costs - report was completed and reviewed by the Technical Committee.
- TOR for the Banking Gap Analysis advertised. The TA will work with the Technical Committee to ensure to build and strengthen inclusive social protection system to improve financially inclusive social protection measures for improved coverage and reach of the population. The activity aims to support the financial inclusion of vulnerable groups whose social protection benefits can be distributed through the banking system to reduce transaction costs and to facilitate access to other social protection and financial services. This work will commence in February 2022.

✚ ***SP-JP Outcome 4: Increased resilience through mainstreaming of disability, gender, youth and climate-related contingencies.***

Outcome 4 focuses on improving labour market integration of jobseekers including persons living with disabilities, school dropouts, women and youth more generally. Also, as natural hazards and other climate change-related risks impact the poor more significantly, recognizing the solidarity nature of the Social Protection systems, specific benefits will be designed to help individuals and households recover from disasters. The status of the activities in this are as follows:

- Study on informal and traditional social protection completed, with recommendations on strengthening complementarity between formal social protection and informal and traditional mechanisms to increase the resilience of vulnerable groups.
- Existing Social Protection Taskforce located with the Samoa Ministry of Commerce, Industry is being utilized as the Samoa Impact Assessment & Monitoring (SIAM) Working Group to respond to COVID-19 impacts on employment and businesses.
- Ongoing engagement with representatives from the business sector (e.g., Chambers of Commerce) and key government agencies on the implementation of internship programmes for youth employment.
  - Continuous engagement with key government agencies (e.g., Samoa Business Hub) on engaging with interested and potential local people on the ‘Start Your own Business’ (SYB) Programme.
  - Discussions were also completed for internship programmes for youths hosted by the Samoa Chamber of Commerce and this activity will be implemented in quarters 1 and 2, 2022.
- Development of policy briefs to enhance stakeholder understanding about disaster resilience and investment in social protection. The first policy brief on mainstreaming disaster responsiveness in social protection was developed to be co-published with the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). The second policy brief on the operationalization of disaster-responsive social protection is being finalized for publication by the end of quarter 1 of 2021.
- Child Vendor Survey: The design of the child vendor survey has progressed in collaboration with MCIL. The survey is jointly supported by ILO and UNICEF. The ToR, scope of work and budget was finalized in quarter 4 of 2021. The survey team plans to implement the survey in quarter 1 of 2021.

- Initial discussions were carried out in January 2021 on the Upgrade of the Job Seekers Registry using the School to Work transition Programme identified in the Labour Market Survey
  - The review of the Samoa National Employment Policy (SNEP) 2016/2020 was completed. The report on the Review of the SNEP is completed. The new SNEP 2021/2025 is completed. The training programmes for vulnerable women in the Agriculture sector is envisaged to commence in February.
  - TOR on Designing innovative SP policies to protect workers and vulnerable groups in the context of more ambitious climate adaptation and mitigation strategies
- In partnership with the Samoa Business Hub Centre the training of vulnerable women in the farming sector in starting their business commenced in 2020 and will continue to 2021. The training started in 2020 for 10 female business operators in the farming area. These trainings will continue in 2021 for a different group of participants.
- The first brief on disaster-responsive social protection was completed. The second brief is being finalized. The third brief is underway.
- Awareness-raising about the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector will commence in January-June 2022 as some pilot projects are yet to be implemented to build on them

## **I.2. Transformational results for 2021**

***Result 1: In Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau the program will undertake the review and stocktake of existing social protection systems and provide country-specific recommendations of new/additional social protection programs and interventions for people left behind due to geography, multidimensional poverty, vulnerability to shocks, and discrimination.***

Through the Social Protection Joint Programme, comprehensive stock takes and reviews of social protection systems in all the four PICTs were completed. The Stocktakes and Reviews were undertaken through the lens of inclusiveness, equity, financial sustainability, gender sensitivity and prioritized areas for improvement.

Following the completion of the review of social protection systems in Samoa, a Draft National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) was developed, to address the social protection development agenda for Samoa. The Revised Draft National Social Protection Policy was submitted to the Samoan Government for review and endorsement. The approval of the NSPP by the Government will give social protection priority consideration as a key development public policy agenda for the first time in Samoa, with political will solicited for the adoption and implementation of transformational reforms in the areas of social protection in this small Pacific island country.

In addition, following the completion of the reviews of social protection systems in Tokelau, a Draft National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) was developed including a costed action plan and M&E framework, to address the social protection development agenda for Tokelau. The validation of the review report and draft policy is planned for quarter 1 of 2022.

In combating poverty and exclusion, the Social Protection Joint Program delivered multidimensional poverty index (MPI) training to statisticians from Samoa, Cook Islands and Tokelau as a capacity training initiative and laid the groundwork for the establishment of the MPI to measure national poverty needs and address life-cycle vulnerabilities. The development of the MPI for Samoa has commenced in January 2022.

***The estimated rate of completion as of 31 December 2021: 95%***

***Result 2: For Samoa, a nationally owned, inclusive, forward-looking and sustainable social protection policy, inclusive of social protection floors and a comprehensive long-term social protection development will be developed, and submitted to the Government of Samoa, for approval and implementation.***

The Social Protection Joint Programme support the development of the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) for Samoa providing strategic direction, coordination, and institutional arrangement at the multi-sectoral level to guide the establishment and implementation of social protection measures in Samoa. The Draft NSPP is the framework to address the social protection development agenda for Samoa. This will also inform the establishment of social protection floors with an enabling environment with effective and efficient social protection support for all, but mainly the vulnerable groups. The Policy has been submitted to MFAT for submission to Government through the National Policy Coordinating Committee (NPCC).

The translation of the Social Protection Policy into Samoan provided the opportunity for a wider audience of stakeholders to enhance their understanding of social protection floors and systems to support decision-making processes. It is about contextualisation and building ownerships of the social protection development agenda.

The completion of the assessment of the gender responsiveness system based on the Social Protection Floor Review has recognised gender issues that directly affect gender inequalities with the view to improve gender outcomes and avoid gender biases or discrimination in social protection.

Further, the development of the labour market component of Social Protection in Samoa involved the completed development of the Samoa National Employment Policy 2021/2025, which was informed by a comprehensive review of the Samoa National Employment Policy 2016/2020 which are being completed. Other milestones completed to strengthen the social protection policy framework in Samoa included the completed validation of the report on the Legal review in association with ILO Convention C190.

***The estimated rate of completion as of 31 December 2021: 90%***

***Result 3: For Samoa, the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau, systems, and capacities for the effective and efficient implementation of inclusive and sustainable social protection are strengthened through improvements in evidence-based knowledge building; integrated and innovative data and information management systems; coordinated policy, legislative reforms, programming and administrative capacities; and regular monitoring and evaluation for ongoing improvements and feedback learnings.***

The completed implementation of the following initiatives and milestones contributed to this transformational result area of the JP:

- ***Improvements in evidence-based knowledge***
  - Studies and analyses on the contribution to social protection of remittances and the contribution of informal and traditional systems in Samoa were conducted and have contributed towards building the evidence-based analysis and knowledge to inform ongoing social protection developmental work.
  - Research on Social Protection fiscal space and analysis for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) completed for all four countries (Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau) with Options Paper prepared for all 4 countries. The research findings were presented (webinar) to all four countries providing a deeper analysis for social protection requirements for persons with disability given they are amongst some of the most vulnerable persons requiring social protection priority consideration.
  - The delivery of the first MPI for 3 Countries, as a capacity-building initiative, and a prerequisite for the establishment of Multidimensional Poverty Index for some of the Countries. The Training covered both theoretical learning on the main axiomatic properties of Alkire Foster based indices, as well as Stata analysis and applications. 21 Participants (14 Female & 7 Males) from 3 Countries (Samoa, Cook Islands, Tokelau) attended and completed the MPI Training.
  - Capacity building of the persons with disabilities understanding digital data systems is to support mainstreaming of disability inclusion. This activity is contingent on UNDP's work on developing mobile platforms.

- **Strengthening integrated and innovative data and information systems**
  - Analysis on Samoa Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system completed and being finalized. Similar analysis on Niue CRVS system completed.
  - The development of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which commences in January 2022 will identify multidimensionally poor individuals as a complement to income poverty measures. Furthermore, enable policymakers, implementers, and advocates to evaluate the effectiveness of existing public policy efforts and programmes, and whether they are addressing the needs of different people who are living in the most vulnerable conditions in Samoa.
  - As part of strengthening active labour market employment support system services in Samoa, work has commenced for the establishment of the national Upgraded Job Seekers Registry and Occupational Safety and Health Registry with incorporated requirements to comply with international labour standards.
  - Strengthening Social Protection data and information in the Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau: **Cook Islands:** The development of SP MIS progressed well. The feasibility and design phase are completed. The training and demo will take place in quarter 1 of 2022 and the system going live in quarter 2 of 2022. **Niue:** The development of SP MIS progressed well. The feasibility and design phase are ongoing. The training and demo will take place in quarter 1 of 2022 and the system going live in quarter 2 of 2022. **Tokelau:** The development of the SP registry progressed well. The development of the SP registry is ongoing and will be compliment by census 2022 data. The census data collection will take place in quarter 1 of 2022 and the most updated SP registry will be available in quarter 2 of 2022. **Samoa:** The development of SP MIS has limited progress. The TOR and scope of work were developed and shared with the government. The implementation is delayed due to pending approval of the national SP policy by the government.
  
- **Policy, legislative reforms, programming and administrative capacities.**
  - The development of a National Social Protection Policy for Samoa is completed following stakeholder consultations and a TC validation workshop. The Policy has been submitted to MFAT for submission to Government through the National Policy Coordinating Committee (NPCC).
  - The policy has been translated allowing a wider audience to understand social protection and a better understanding of what social protection is about so they can make better decisions.
  - Ongoing support work for building disability-inclusive in the four PICTs included progress made with improving the profiling of persons with disabilities and providing capacity development and training programmes for persons with disabilities.
  
- **Regular monitoring and evaluation for ongoing improvements and feedback learnings.**
  - A Samoa Social Protection Indicators Matrix (SPIM), covering SDG indicators and other relevant indicators data gaps identified, and strategy developed to address data gaps had been developed by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics with support provided under the JP. The SPIM will be used as the M&E framework and a policy tool for determining and measuring Samoa social protection development performances.
  - Coordination of support by regional partners for the commencement of the work on CRVS to support better administration of social protection.

**The estimated rate of completion as of 31 Dec 2021: 60%**

### **I.3 Context and the overall approach**

The SP-JP is an intervention adopted and implemented in the context of small island developing countries with limited technical and administrative capacities. For most small island developing countries in the Pacific, including Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau, inclusive, comprehensive, equitable and sustainable social protection systems are not yet fully developed. The concept of a formal ‘inclusive SP system’ is seen as a novel idea. Existing social protection initiatives are fragmented, limited in scope and not linked to any coherent



policy framework. As such, programmes such as the SP-JP (seen as adopted and initiated by the UN agencies) will require sufficient time for building genuine engagement with key national government and non-government authorities and stakeholders. Work in 2021 focused on conducting stock take and reviews, assessments, and gap analyses, to inform the development of Social Protection (SP) floors and areas needing prioritized improvements with SP systems across the four PICTs. It was expected that this work will result in the establishment of proposed SP floors and improved SP schemes with appropriate recommendations to be presented to governments for consideration. At the same time, consolidated efforts were made to engage effectively with national stakeholders throughout the programme, to ensure that there is inclusivity in the development and strengthening of SP systems in the four PICTs, and there is national ownership of the reform processes of SP systems and there is capacity building for sustainability.

As a joint programme, effective coordination of activities among the five Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) is critical for achieving synergies and value for money of initiatives instigated and implemented under the program. This was an ongoing challenge given the many duplications and overlaps of initiatives and activities (under one programme) that are being allocated to different PUNOs to lead their implementation. Building a common understanding across PUNOs about the programme and how the different PUNOs are planning and implementing the different activities, and how they contribute to the same purpose and outcomes of the programme required regular meetings across PUNOs.

The main change that is anticipated for the programme is extending its implementation timeframe to allow the positive progress that is being made. For all four countries, the COVID 19 pandemic which commenced in early 2020, impacted delivery from the beginning with nationwide State of Emergencies (SOE), specifically for Samoa. The SOE has been in place since March 2020 and is still in effect with slight revisions from the government. These not only diverted the focus and priority of the Governments in terms of maintaining the SOE but also in terms of COVID preparedness and prevention plans.

In addition, political uncertainty in Samoa had put additional restrictions on the implementation of the activities of the social protection programme with activities at a standstill. At the time this report was written, the critical ministries have no Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), and with the new government, there is the need to have thorough discussions on the policy and the proposed social protection system design.

However, with the involvement of key stakeholders through the technical committees (TC), there is some improved buy-in and ownership of the programme at the national level. There is a need to continue to build this momentum. Continued engagement is critical for ensuring that proposed or changes in existing social protection systems are acceptable to the respective governments and that implementation of those changes/proposals is facilitated through collaboration and leadership commitment. Extension of the programme timeframe will give PUNOs and governments time to build such commitment to see through any positive outcomes coming out of the SP-JP.

### ***Ensuring an adaptive and strategic JP***

The SP-JP contributed to the UNDAF (now renamed UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) through contributions made to the UN Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018-2022 outcome areas (*climate change, disaster resilience, and environmental protection; gender equality sustainable and inclusive economic empowerment; equitable basic services; governance and community engagement; and human rights*) which are directly aligned to the UNDAF (or UNSDCF):

The SP-JP contributes to the UNPS four outcome areas through the expected achievements of its four outcomes (stated above) through the following 10 outputs:

- 1.1: Data-informed, nationally consulted, comprehensive and equitable SP floors designed and costed (policy, law, budget) to complement ongoing programmes and reduce poverty and vulnerability to socio-economic and climate-related risks.

- 1.2: Multi-year SP floor implementation plan adopted and budgeted [focusing on new components of the SP system while existing ones will be improved] to allow implementation as of year 2.
- 1.3: SP Pilot programmes implemented with the objective of national scale-up.
- 1.4: Existing SP Floors for Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau fully reviewed to strengthen inclusiveness, equity, effectiveness, efficiency and financial sustainability of contributive and non-contributive schemes.
- 2.1: Digital data systems in Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau strengthened to support registration and robust administration of the SP floor and programmes.
- 2.2: Integrated administrative systems such as registries and redress mechanisms are strengthened, in Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau.
- 2.3: Evidence-based financial management of SP systems.
- 3.1: Robust payment systems through the banking system designed and costed.
- 4.1: Labour market services designed and scalable in Samoa to improve working-age populations' access to jobs and incomes – with specific attention to ensuring access for women, persons living with disability, and young people.
- 4.2: Disaster-risk informed SP benefits and services integrated into SP floor.

Approaches to the implementation of the different initiatives/activities under the programme (e.g., stakeholder engagements, reviews and assessments of SP systems, developing proposed SP (for Samoa), recommending areas for SP improvement (for the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau), fiscal space analysis, developing SP data support systems have involved the following approaches:

- Ensuring that disaster and social-economic and climate-related risk responsive social protection are considered and integrated into SP reviews and strengthening initiatives of the programme. This had been considered in the social protection reviews and redevelopment initiatives for Samoa and the Cook Islands, the two countries that have completed their initial reviews. Policy briefs are being developed to help build understanding about this area.
- Gender balance representation of males and females in the TCs and DRGs as well as in consultations. For instance, two DRGs are female lead, supporting gender transformation with females in key decision-making and leadership positions. Participation of women within the DRGs supports the effective participation of women within decision-making processes that impact PWD.
- Representation of vulnerable groups (e.g., PWD) in SP processes of the programme with specific activities aimed at improving SP schemes/programmes for PWD.
- Ensuring that all SP reviews, assessments, and redevelopment work including pilot programmes include a gender-sensitive approach as a core element to consider.
- Reviews of SP systems include identification of key gaps across key areas/dimensions, such as population coverage levels, service delivery, administration (including payments/transfers), information and data registration and management, capacities and fiscal space, and labour market interventions, services and support.
- SP reviews and assessments are undertaken through the lens of inclusiveness, equity, financial sustainability, gender sensitivity, and prioritized recommendations.
- The development of SP policies (inclusive of SP floors) informed by evidence-based reviews/assessments which are also informed through stakeholder consultations.
- Ongoing engagement with key stakeholders (government and non-government) and PUNOs through their coordinated involvement and inputs provided through the TC meetings (every 2 months for Samoa and the Cook Islands and every 3 months for Niue and Tokelau).
- Regular meetings or catch-ups amongst PUNOs to build a common understanding of agency work plan implementation and to discuss issues impacting on progress especially concerning activities that required joint collaboration between and across PUNOs.

### *Link with UNDAF/ UNSD Cooperation Framework*

UNDAF's 4 principles of: (1) Leave no one behind (2) Human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment (3) Sustainability and resilience (4) Accountability are also the principles that guide the work of social protection. Social protection and the JPs role is to strengthen social protection to reach the poorest and those left behind. The programme is also the opportunity to build on national and regional level initiatives promoting inclusive and equitable growth through the development of a coherent social protection policy framework and the development of financially sustainable Social Protection Floors.

Similarly, social protection contributes to UNSDG through its four connected objectives of economic development, environmental sustainability, social inclusion and good governance.

### *COVID-19 impact*

COVID-19 impacts have added strain and competing priorities for Government counterparts resulting in delays in the implementation of some activities. Due to travel restrictions, programme staff and engaged consultants have been unable to travel to the 4 PICTs to assist with the initiation and implementation of activities. Therefore, programme staff and consultants have had to collaborate with counterparts remotely in the design, management, and implementation of activities. For some activities where national expertise and technical assistance are available, preferences were given to the recruitment of national consultants to provide technical assistance. Compliance with COV-19 State of Emergency rules (e.g., below 50) number of people in a gathering and social distance) have made it difficult to ensure efficient and effective implementation of some activities.

### *I.3 Update on priority cross-cutting issues*

#### *UN Development System reform - UN coherence at the country level*

All initiatives under the SP-JP are realigned to changing national priorities (see the programme document) through the ongoing involvement of key government agencies in the TCs and consultations undertaken as part of the implementation of the different activities. For instance, in the Cook Islands, UNESCO aligned the Pilot Project to the government's immediate priority to make the Cook Islands Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2020 -2024 available in braille and accessible formats. Such realignment is further enhanced through the development of concept notes and TORs for the different activities which provide an initial assessment of the current situations and the way forward for the implementation of activities. Ongoing engagement through the JSC and TCs and regular reviews of work plans through regular meetings of PUNOs and TCs further ensured that the JP remains strategic and catalytic.

The JP-SP aligns with the UN's Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) for countries by contributing to Pillar II – Social Protection. The JP-SP will work to design the Social Protection Floor for Samoa (and areas for improvement in the other 3 PICTs) to ensure universal access to benefits and services and reduce poverty. Activities will specifically focus on enhancing SP schemes/programmes including systems of administration across the 4 PICTs.

#### *SDG acceleration*

The SP-JP is expected to contribute to SDG outcome 1 (Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale) and outcome 2 (Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement). The programme is expected to address the following SDG targets:

- 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate SP systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.
- 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

- 4.2: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education.
- 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and SP policies.
- 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities.
- 10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and SP policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.
- 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
- 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.
- 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.

Reviews and assessments of SP in the 4 PICTs have helped build an understanding of existing SP systems and key gaps, which have informed the proposed SP systems and improvement areas that countries need to adopt and implement to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

### *Policy integration and systems change*

Development of MIS for SP is a forward-looking intervention that will integrate other government MIS across sectors to strengthen the existing SP system, reforms, policy review and decision making. The MIS for SP will also enhance shock responsiveness, coordination and coherence especially during crises such as COVID-19 and disasters.

Formulation of National Social Protection Policy is testimony to policy integration and coherence across sectors and stakeholders such as health, education, employment, youth, children, women, private sector, CSO and development partners. The proposed coordination mechanism brings together several institutions such as line ministries, private sector, community, CSO, FBO, academia, development partners and UN agencies.

### *Contribution to the improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups*

Reviews and assessments of SP systems (including existing schemes and programmes and their coverage levels) examined poverty and vulnerability levels, including identification of groups (PWD, children, mothers, elderly, etc.) that are most vulnerable based on poverty and vulnerability assessments. Proposed schemes and improvements are being recommended for improved SP for the identified vulnerable groups. For instance, the Review of SP in Samoa identified that PWD, young children and pregnant mothers are the most vulnerable people in terms of SP and hence should be given prioritized consideration for SP. In 2021, an estimated 100 people were consulted on the reviews and assessments. The number of individuals expected to reach through the SP-JP efforts is 5,000 (expected target for 1.1) if the full and effective implementation of the programme is realized as anticipated.

### *Mainstreaming gender equality and women empowerment*

The completion of the Gender Responsiveness systems assessment based on the Social Protection Floor Review has recognised gender issues that directly affect gender inequalities with the view to improve gender outcomes and avoid gender biases or discrimination

The Samoa National Social Protection Policy recognizes several issues that affect the development of a gender-sensitive Social Protection System in Samoa. This will provide the opportunity to address these gender issues and promote gender equality.

the SP-JP addresses gender mainstreaming and gender-sensitive SP through the programme implementation approaches. A gender transformative or gender-sensitive approach has been incorporated within all activities to ensure that women and girls with disabilities have equal access to programs, can participate and aims to

ensure they equally benefit from the strengthening of policy and planning frameworks fully and effectively. This approach will strengthen gender mainstreaming within disability policy and frameworks.

### *Human rights*

Reviews and assessments of SP systems, development of SP floors, and identifying areas for strengthening in SP systems required examining those systems through the lens of equality and inclusiveness (for gap analysis) which are principles of human rights and as such, those activities facilitate the mainstreaming of human right mechanisms in social protection. For instance, outputs 1.1.1, 1.2.1, and 1.3.1 of the programmes have been aligned with the rights enshrined in the CRPD, notably Article 8 (awareness-raising), Article 27 (work and employment) and Article 28 (equal access to an adequate standard of living and social protection), to support the mainstreaming of disability throughout SP-JP activities and the development of policy and planning frameworks. Human rights principles and mechanisms are also mainstreamed in activities targeting the strengthening of labour market social protection interventions (e.g., youth employment internship programmes) and services (e.g., mediation services) in Samoa and the Cook Islands.

### *Partnerships*

The partnerships fostered during the initiation of the programme in July 2020 has been maintained as an essential part of programme implementation to strengthen shared understanding and engage the support from government and non-government stakeholders about the programme. On the policy front, national consultations were conducted in June 2021 to engage stakeholders in the development of a National Social Protection Policy for Samoa.

The establishment of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and country Technical Committees across the four PICTs are continually utilized as platforms for building strategic partnerships with government counterparts and civil society. In 2021, 2 JSC meetings and 16 TC meetings were held.

Government ministries engagement and being consulted on an individual level on specific initiatives/activities to further solicit their inputs and support on those initiatives/activities and clarify implementation roles, approaches, modalities, and expectations. In the case of the Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS), partnerships have been formed with the SBS to host the MPI training and to take up the development of SP indicators and the development of a national MPI for Samoa. In addition, DPO's and Disability Service Providers in Samoa, Niue and the Cook Islands have been active in the development of the Pilot Projects and other activities in the JP-SP such as the Social Protection reviews. These are all aligned with the broader UNCT partnership approach as it supports durable partnerships between UN agencies, governments, civil society and the private sector.

### *Mobilizing additional funding and/or financing*

At the time of this report, there have been limited actions and there are no plans to leverage additional funding from other sources for JP-SP activities. Budget revisions have been utilized to reallocate funds within the four Outcome areas to complete the implementation of the activities. The funds available are sufficient to fund programme activities, as the 'no-cost extension' has been approved to complete the activities under this programme.

### *Strategic meetings*

There was one (1) Annual JP development partners 'donors' event during 2021, 2 JSC meetings and 16 TCs took place during 2021. During the development of the National Social Protection Policy for Samoa, and the feasibility phase of the development of MIS for SP, strategic partners were consulted throughout the process.

Type of event	Yes	No	Description/Comments
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Annual JP development partners'/donors' event*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consultation on the Social Protection Policy for Samoa</li> </ul>
Other strategic events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steering Committees on 30 March 2021 and 01 September 2021</li> <li>16 Technical Committee Meetings</li> </ul>

### *Innovation, learning and sharing*

The key innovation, learning and sharing from the implementation of the SP-JP include:

- In Samoa, there is no one government ministry dedicated to SP; instead, multiple ministries with some involvement within the provisions of Social Protection are all engaged through the TC as the coordinated mechanism. The lack of an identified ministry for Social Protection has led to difficulties in identifying which ministry would coordinate and drive the delivery of social protection activities and policy work. This has also created confusion and inefficient interactions and delayed implementation.
- The learnings to be implemented to minimize the risk and hesitation of the same situation arising for future programmes is to ensure that stakeholders and government ministries are involved and are engaged in the design to the finalisation of the programme proposal. Regular discussions with the governments should take place to confirm the lead ministry for the programme and sub ministries for specific components if required. These ministries will play a focal coordination role between concerned ministries and lead the submission of business cases and cabinet papers to the Government. Once the lead ministry is confirmed, the lead ministry (ministries) should be clearly communicated to all partners involved including civil society to reduce confusion uncertainty within activities.
- Any initiative is deemed to fail if the necessary initial steps are not properly given due consideration. Given that the programme document was developed without proper consultations with the government for initial inputs, there was a high level of hesitation from key government ministries to participate and be involved in the programme implementation. The programme was and is still seen as an imposition on the respective governments and countries. Maintaining interest amongst the TCs and building their sense of ownership of the programme are fundamental aspects requiring further investments and actions.
- SP-JP is a programme with one purpose with mutually reinforcing outcome areas and activities – implementation of other activities (by one PUNO) is contingent on the successful implementation of other prior activities (by other PUNOs). This interconnectedness of the SP-JP design required better coordinated and collaborative efforts amongst PUNOs. However, this was a challenge given that each PUNO operates within its own specific mandates and work plans, having the authority and flexibilities to change own work plans and implementation modalities which may result in the limitation of PUNOs giving due consideration towards how those individual changes can impact on other PUNOs work plan and activities as well as on the overall programme.
- The design of the programme did not clearly identify the manpower required for the effective and efficient implementation of the programme. This was left entirely to the respective PUNOs to determine. In some PUNOs, implementation of the programme was given to existing staff who are already operated within their own given job descriptions and existing workloads. This, together with the shared coordinating role between UNDP (as technical lead) and RCO has led to a lack of clarity around the implementation of that shared roles – what UNDP versus what RCO should be doing in the coordinating role.
- The novelty of adapting and developing social protection in contexts such as Samoa meant that sufficient time is to be allowed for social protection concepts to be widely discussed and accepted by counterparts including thinking about the contextualization of such concepts.
- The political turmoil in Samoa meant a delay in the implementation of activities as the new government did not take office until three months later. With the new Government in place, key documents to guide and facilitate the work of the country has been put on hold including the new Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS).

## **II. Annual Results**

## II.1. Overall progress

- On track (expected annual results achieved)
- Satisfactory (majority of expected annual results achieved)
- Not-satisfactory (majority of expected annual results not yet achieved)

Please, explain briefly:

Given the delay and competing priorities due to COVID 19 impacts, there were unforeseen challenges with the delivery of expected results for 2021. For all four countries, the COVID 19 pandemic which commenced in early 2020, impacted delivery from the beginning with nationwide State of Emergencies (SOE), specifically for Samoa. The SOE has been in place since March 2020 and is still in effect with slight revisions from the government. These not only diverted the focus and priority of the Governments in terms of maintaining the SOE but also in terms of COVID preparedness and prevention plans. The borders and travel restrictions impact on staff and consultants travel plans meant the work was remotely organized and conducted.

In addition, the political impasse of Samoa's election turmoil brought implementation to a standstill as the new government was not in order until three months later. Although months of political unrest and the prolonged constitutional crisis ended, problems remained including, critical ministries have no CEOs, important key documents to guide and facilitate work of the country being put on hold, and the new government to be informed and updated on the policy and proposed social protection system design.

Despite these challenges the following were successfully implemented.:

- SP stock take and review exercises were completed,
- fiscal space analysis with options papers for the four PICTs were developed and presented through webinar,
- National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) for Samoa was developed, consulted, finalized and submitted to Government for endorsement,
- the MPI training was successfully conducted virtually for 6 weeks,
- SP indicators were developed,
- NSPP was translated
- Support for MCIL and OSH activities
- MIS feasibility and design phases completed for the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau

Key progress and achievements made are outlined under 1 – Overall progress and priority, cross-cutting issues above.

## II.2. Contribution to Fund's global results

The SP-JP contribution to Fund's global results is provided under section 1 (*ensuring that JP remains strategic and catalytic and SDG acceleration*).

### • Contribution to Joint SDG Fund Outcome 1 (as per annual targets set by the JP)

Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale:

In addition, the SP-JP has overall contributed towards the global outcomes of the Joint SDG Fund with a particular focus on vulnerable people through the development and strengthening of SP universal, inclusive, and equitable systems that leave no one behind. The design and costing of SP in Samoa will allow the Government to consider options for the development of legislation and policy that will provide greater Social Protection in a comprehensive, inclusive, and sustainable manner. The JP-SP is greatly enhancing Government awareness, capacity and understanding of inclusive and nationally owned developed social protection systems.

- **Contribution to Joint SDG Fund Output 3 (as per annual targets set by the JP)**

- Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented:

The SP-JP activities are supporting the government of each PICT to identify SP policies and improvements to adopt and implemented including SP administrative systems, aligned with universal principles of inclusivity, equality, gender, sustainability and leaving no one behind social protection.

### **II.3. JP Outputs and Outcomes**

Information on the annual results already articulated in I above.

- **Achievement of expected JP outputs**
  - **Output 1** – social protection systems reviewed and analysed with recommendations used to design social protection floors and scale up social protection measures. Existing social protection floors will be strengthened to ensure inclusivity, equity and financially sustainable.
  - **Output 2** – digital information systems to be improved and strengthened to support integrated administrative systems and social protection programmes.
  - **Output 3** – Banking systems and mobile applications will be reviewed and assessed for their accessibility as a medium with low-cost transfers for social protection benefits.
  - **Output 4** – Employment and gender mainstreaming to improve working-age population access to jobs and incomes focusing on persons living with disability, women and young people.
- **Achievement of expected JP outcomes**
  - **Outcome 1** – the review and assessment of social protection systems achieved, and hope to reduce poverty rates in the 4 countries
  - **Outcome 2** – with social protection floors efficiently and effectively administered, administrative costs associated with social protection spending declines
  - **Outcome 3** – Financial inclusion in Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau will facilitate and allow for low transaction cost transfers of Social Protection benefits
  - **Outcome 4** – with Increased resilience as disability, gender, youth and climate-related contingencies are being mainstreamed

#### **Monitoring and data collection:**

Monitoring and data collection is through PUNOs and the TC. PUNOs are the representatives of the participating UN agencies, who report on the activities implemented under their SP work plan. Implementation is done on an agency level and reporting is to the TC and onward to the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for approval.

### **II.4. Lessons learned and sustainability of results**

Ongoing engagement and communications continue to ensure the most appropriate modalities for the implementation of the initiatives and activities under the programme. At the same time, foster and strengthen partnerships to ensure stakeholder collaboration and support for programme implementation. Joint programmes are an asset given the wide range of expertise that can be shared across the board for the programme. Most activities concerning the adoption, pilot and implementation of SP systems and support mechanisms were planned to take place in 2021, to inform further development and strengthening of Social Protection systems in Samoa. A key milestone is the completion of all Stocktake and Review Assessment of Social Protection Systems in the 4 countries. Other activities include for the first time virtual training for MPI which certified 21 Government public servants from Samoa (17), Tokelau (2) and Cook Islands (2). The training was used as a capacity-building initiative and a prerequisite to the establishment of the MPI for Samoa. In addition the development of Social Protection Indicators for Samoa to review the data status of indicators



relevant to social protection in Samoa to devise strategies to improve data production and quality to complement ongoing programmes and reduce poverty and vulnerability to socio-economic and climate-related risks.

The sustainability of results rests with stakeholders and partners taking ownership of the programme outcomes and results. The transformational change that can be achieved is only good if the onus on the government and stakeholders take ownership.

### **III. Plan for the final phase of implementation**

The main focus of the annual work plan for 2022 is to finalize and complete delayed, deferred and incomplete activities. Fundamentally, the Draft SP policy and changes in existing SP systems are acceptable by governments for implementation. Equally important is the high-level endorsement of the SP Policy as the institutional arrangements are required for the implementation of other activities, and legislative enactments and structural mechanisms to follow in their establishment. Other activities for implementation:

#### **All Countries**

- Implementation of the recommendations of the Stocktakes and Reviews of SP Systems
- Roll-out of the Social Protection training for public servants
- Capacity building of the PWD understanding digital data systems.
- Review of Accessibility of the Payment System by PWD
- Technical support for the development of scalable and integrated SP information systems

#### **Samoa:**

- Government of Samoa to endorse the SP policies as other PUNO activities depend on the government endorsement. This will also be achieved with legislative enactments and structural mechanisms to follow in their establishment
- Finalization of TOR for MIS (subject to the approval of National Social Protection Policy)
- Develop the MPI for Samoa
- Complete the Banking Gaps Analysis
- Design and testing of a universal mobile banking system for payment of social benefits
- Endorse the NSPP Samoan version
- Conduct Internship Programmes with Samoa Chamber of Commerce for youths' job seekers on the E-platform with the Samoa National Youth Council
- Conduct a follow-up Survey regarding the Rapid Assessment Survey of Street Vendors (Children) in Apia 2017
- Social Security Benefit for PWD
- Training for OSH Inspectors
- Training for Ministries of Finance, Women's Affairs and Social Services in evidence-based budgeting for SP (initial training and refresher training, 4 countries)
- Design innovative SP policies to protect workers and vulnerable groups in the context of more ambitious climate adaptation and mitigation strategies to promote social justice as out indispensable dimension of ambitious climate action.
- TA and policy guide on enhancing synergies between disaster resilience and investment in SP.

#### **Cook Islands:**

- Complete the Development of a mobile system for beneficiary access to information and citizens reporting mechanism and data analysis tool on Cook Island social protection systems
- TA and policy guide on enhancing synergies between disaster resilience and investment in SP.

- MIS feasibility and design phase are completed. The training and demo will take place in quarter 1 of 2022 and the system going live in quarter 2 of 2022.

#### Niue:

- Complete the Development of a mobile system for beneficiary access to information and citizens reporting mechanism and data analysis tool on Niue social protection systems
- TA and policy guide on enhancing synergies between disaster resilience and investment in SP.
- MIS feasibility and design phase are ongoing. The training and demo will take place in quarter 1 of 2022 and the system going live in quarter 2 of 2022.

#### Tokelau:

- Finalise Stocktake and Review of Social Protection System
- MIS census data collection will take place in quarter 1 of 2022 and an updated SP registry will be available in quarter 2 of 2022.
- Develop a National Policy on PWD and capacity development program to deliver disability-inclusive education training for teachers, identified members of the Department of Education and other concerned Ministries

### *III.1. Towards the end of JP implementation*

The implementation of the programme has been dependent on Consultants conducting stock takes and reviews and carrying out assessments of country systems and processes. Given the novelty of the proposal to develop nationally owned and comprehensive SP in Samoa, with more comprehensive changes in the other 3 PICTs, as well as the complexity of the changes pushed through under the programme, it was not realistic to see any approved increase in social protection benefits (i.e., transfers) fully implemented and operationalised by December 2021.

The development of the MPI for Samoa is crucial in that it will assist policymakers and decision-makers to make wise decisions for the betterment of the lives of the people of Samoa.

At this stage, no further modifications are anticipated to the SP-JP workplan.

### *III.2. Risks and mitigation measures*

Due to the global COVID-19 Pandemic, government attention in 2021 has been diverted from the priority of the JP -SP and therefore this risk level was raised from medium to high. PUNOs are continuing to work closely with government counterparts, and other stakeholders through discussions, negotiations and design of activities to deliver outputs in a flexible manner that continues to meet JP-SP outcomes within the given timeframe. The presentation of SP policies and reports to governments (e.g., Samoa government) including the implementation of other activities (MPI development, PWD social assistances, etc.) must take into account any political changes resulting from the March 2021 elections, and how they affect political acceptance of SP developed and proposed from under this SP-JP.

## Annexe 1: Consolidated Annual Results

### 1. JP contribution to global Fund's programmatic results

#### Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

Select up to 3 SDG *indicators* that your Joint Programme primarily contributed to (in relation to SDG targets listed in your JP ProDoc)

SDG: 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate SP systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

SDG: 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and SP policies.

SDG: 10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and SP policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

#### Global Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

Outcome indicators	Expected 2021 target	2021 result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
1.1: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope	1	3		1
<i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Social Protection Policy for Samoa</li> <li>Role of informal and traditional social protection</li> <li>Project Strategy: Developing Social Protection Indicators for Samoa under the Strengthening Resilience of Samoa Through Social Protection Programme</li> </ul>				
1.2: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale	2	2		2
<i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fiscal Space Option Papers – Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue &amp; Tokelau</li> <li>Project Strategy: Developing Social Protection Indicators for Samoa under the Strengthening Resilience of Samoa Through Social Protection Programme</li> </ul>				

#### Global Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Output indicators	Expected 2021 target	2021 result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
3.1 Number of innovative solutions that were tested (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)	4	3		4
3.2: Number of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	4	2		4
3.3 Countries where national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators has been strengthened	1	1		1

Did your Joint Programme contribute to the strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators in 2020-2021?

Yes

 No

Explain briefly: MPI Training, Mediation Training

## 2. Results as per JP Programmatic Results Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2021 target	2021 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
<b>Outcome 1: Universal, inclusive and equitable Social Protection Systems Leave No-one Behind.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant UNPS Outcomes #2, #3, #4, #5</li> <li>Relevant SDG Targets (#1.3, #2.1, #4.2, #5.4, #8.5, #10.4, #13.1, #17.1)</li> </ul>					
<b>Outcome Indicator 1-</b> Poverty rates in Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau declined as a result of inclusive Social Protection System		1%	Target for this indicator is for 2021 (assessed toward the end of programme)		
<b>Output 1.1 [Samoa]-</b> Data-informed, nationally consulted, comprehensive and equitable social protection floors designed and costed (policy, law, budget) to complement ongoing programmes and reduce poverty and vulnerability to socio-economic and climate-related risks					
Indicator 1.1.1 Number of individuals consulted in the design of the Social Protection floor disaggregated by sex		1000 (2020) 5000 (2021)	600		5000
Indicator 1.1.2 Number of civil society organizations participating in the design and testing of the SP floor components		10 (2020) 20 (2021)	10		
Indicator 1.1.3 Poverty and vulnerability mapping using data innovation has been completed to inform social protection floor budgeting		50% (2020) 100% (2021)	50%		
<b>Output 1.2 [Samoa]-</b> Multi-year social protection floor implementation plan adopted and budgeted [focusing on new components of the SP system while existing ones will be improved]					
Indicator 1.2.1 Number of Government and Parliament members trained in planning and budgeting, including Gender-based budgeting for the operationalization of the SP floor disaggregated by sex		100 (2021) 200 (2022)	0	New Government has only been in power for 6 months	
Indicator 1.2.2 Number of partnerships including public-private partnerships established for the operationalization of the SP floor		2 (2020) 4 (2021)	2		4
Indicator 1.2.3 Number of social workers trained disaggregated by sex		50 (2020) 100 (2021)	Assess towards the end of the programme		
<b>Output 1.3 [Samoa]-</b> Social Protection Pilot programmes implemented with the objective of national scale-up.					
Indicator 1.3.1- Number of school-age children benefiting from school feeding (disaggregated by sex)		500 (2020) 1000 (2021)	0		
Indicator 1.3.2- Number of certified civil society organizations providing social services# to people in need		10 (2020) 20 (2021)			
Number of PICTS that design Pilot Projects to draft frameworks or policies for the social protection of PWD		0.5 Samoa 1 Cook Islands			
<b>Output 1.4 [Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau]-</b> Existing Social Protection Floors for the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau fully reviewed to strengthen inclusiveness, equity and financial sustainability of contributive and non-contributive schemes					
Indicator 1.4.1 Reduction in a fiscal deficit of pension funds		10% (2020) 20% (2021)	Assess towards the end of the programme		
Indicator 1.4.2 Increase in number of persons living with disabilities who have		10% (2020) 30% (2021)			

access to benefits disaggregated by sex and disability					
Indicator 1.4.3 Increase in number of entitled individuals who gain access to other non-contributive schemes disaggregated by sex		10% (2020) 30% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.		
<b>Outcome 2: Social Protection floors are efficiently and effectively administered (financial management, institutional framework and capacity, evidence-based planning drawing on robust information management systems)</b>					
<b>Outcome Indicator 2-</b> Administrative cost associated with a unit of SP spending will decline		5%	Assess towards the end of the programme		
<b>Output 2.1- Digital data systems in Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau will be strengthened to support registration and robust administration of the Social Protection Floor and programmes</b>					
Indicator 2.1.1 Number of village registration points established for the implementation of the SP floor		100 (2020) 200 (2021)			
<b>Output 2.2- Integrated administrative systems such as registries and redress mechanisms are strengthened, in Samoa, the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau</b>					
Indicator 2.2.1 Number of public servants trained to assess eligibility and address claims for redress who received certification, disaggregated by sex		100 (2020) 200 (2021)	Training scheduled for 2022		
<b>Output 2.3 - Evidence-based financial management of SP systems in place</b>					
Indicator 2.3.1 Proportion of unfunded SP benefits		40% (2020) 10% (2021)	Assess towards the end of the programme		
<b>Outcome 3: Social Protection floors are efficiently and effectively administered (financial management, institutional framework and capacity, evidence-based planning drawing on robust information management systems)</b>					
Outcome Indicator 3: Non-bank transfer of SP benefits will decline		5%	Assess towards the end of the programme		
<b>Output 3.1- Robust payment systems through the banking system designed and costed</b>					
Indicator 3.1.1. The proportion of non-public employees beneficiary of SP with a bank account disaggregated by sex		30% (2020) 50% (2021)	Analysis / Assessment in progress		
Indicator 3.1.2. Number of people with disabilities who have access to mobile banking disaggregated by sex		100 (2020) 300 (2021)	Analysis / Assessment in progress		
<b>Outcome 4: Social Protection floors are efficiently and effectively administered (financial management, institutional framework and capacity, evidence-based planning drawing on robust information management systems)</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant UNPS Outcomes #1, #2, #3, #4, #5</li> <li>• Relevant SDG Targets (#1.3, #2.1, #4.2, #5.4, #8.5, #10.4, #13.1, #17.1)</li> </ul>					
Outcome Indicator 4-Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to the global gross domestic product (GDP) [SDG indicator 1.5.2]		5%	Assess towards the end of the programme		
<b>Output 4.1 [Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau] - Labour market services designed and scalable in Samoa to improve working-age populations' access to jobs and incomes with a specific focus on ensuring access for persons living with disabilities, women and young people</b>					
Indicator 4.1.1 Proportion of job seekers registered in the job mediation system (disaggregated by sex, disability and age group)		10% (2020) 30% (2021)			
Indicator 4.1.2 Percentage of job-seeking women enrolled in job mediation and vocational training services		10% (2020) 30% (2021)			
<b>Output 4.2 [Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau] - Disaster-risk informed SP benefits and services integrated into SP floor</b>					
Indicator 4.2.1 Proportion of SP budget allocated for climate-related contingencies		10% (2020) 20% (2021)			

Result / Indicator	Baseline	Expected 2021 Target	2021 Result	Reason for Variance	Expected Final Target
<b>Activity Level:</b>					
DRG was established in all 4 PICTs.		100% (2020)	75% (2020) (3 out of 4) 75% (2020) (3 out of 4)	Tokelau to establish DRG in 2022	100%
SP indicators for social inclusion/protection established.		100% (2021)	50% (2020) 50% (2021)		100%
SP systems for early childhood development established with costing included.		100% (2021)	Part of Child Sensitive Study		
Technical Committee established in each of the 4 PICT. TC meetings regularly.		100% (2020)	100% (2020) 100% (2021)		100%
SP Review Report.		100% (2020)	70% (2020) 100% (2021) [4/4]		100%
Business case with Cabinet Submission prepared and submitted to Government.		100% (2021)	70% (2020)		100%
Proposed SP System documented.		100% (2021)	70% (2020) 75% (2021) [3/4]		100%
Report on child-sensitive system		100% (2021)	Yet to start		
Gender-sensitive SPF incorporated		100% (2021)	50% (2021)	Study/Analysis completed, yet to incorporate	100%
Implementation Plan revised based on experts' inputs.		100% (2021)			
Consultations completed		100% (2021)	60% (2020)		
Awareness programs completed		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100%
SP taskforce established		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		
On-going Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) with the Seasonal workers completed.		100% (2021)	50% (2020) 100% (2021)		100%
National capacity trainings for constituents and labour inspections on cases of sexual harassment - and on mediating completed.		100% (2021)	60% (2020)		
Follow-up survey on Rapid Assessment Survey Samoa completed.		100% (2021)	Survey to be conducted 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022		100%
SP package established and piloted.		100% (2021)			
Capacity development trainings completed.		100% (2021)	Propose for 2022		
Review Reports completed.		100% (2021)	Yet to start		
SPFs reviewed incorporating expert inputs.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		
consultations meetings completed.		100% 2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		

Review reports endorsed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100%
Draft legislation completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		
Review reports endorsed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100%
Stakeholder coordination mechanisms in each country are established.		100% (2021)	100% (2021)	JSC established for SP-JP  TCS established for all 4 countries	100%
Capacity building of PWD conducted.		100% (2021)	Proposed for 2022		100%
Agreement on OSH data and information sharing established. Integrating OSH registries completed.		100% (2021)	50% (2021)	OSH Registries not integrated	100%
MPI established		100% (2021)	Proposed for 2022	Training to be conducted before MPI development	100%
Mobile platform for beneficiaries established and tested.		100% (2021)	Proposed for 2022		100%
Expert review of data systems completed.		100% (2021)	Dependent on the establishment of mobile platform		100%
Integrated SP information systems established.		100% (2021)	Propose for 2022		100%
OSH Registries System (MCIL) upgraded.		100% (2021)			100%
Citizens' reporting mechanism and data analysis tool using mobile phone technology developed and piloted.		100% (2021)	Proposed for 2022		100%
Training completed.		100% (2021)	Proposed for 2022		100%
Review report completed.		100% (2021)	Proposed 2022		100%
Gap analysis report completed.		100% (2021)	Evaluation completed.	Lack of local capacity, readvertised for International	100%
Universal mobile banking system for SP payment design completed and tested.		100% (2021)	Yet to start		100%
Report on cost of remittance transfers including through the use of fintech completed.		100% (2021)	30% (2020) 100% (2021)		
SP impact on social cohesion report completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		
Report on the role of informal systems for social inclusion and protection completed.		100% (2021)	30% (2020) 100%		
Report on policy guide on enhancing the contribution of trade to poverty alleviation and social inclusion completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100%

Job seekers registries modified and strengthened.		100% (2021)		Work started in 2021 and will continue to 2022	100%
Review of existing SNEP Report & new SNEP completed.		100% (2021)	50% (2020) 100% (2021)		100%
2 Internship programmes with SCCI were completed.		100% (2021)	50% (2020) 50% (2021)	The last internship will be implemented in the first quarter of 2022	100%
Partnership with SBH		100% (2021)	60% (2020) 60% (2021)	Ongoing	100%
Policies to protect workers and vulnerable groups developed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100%
Awareness-raising programs implemented.		100% (2021)	Ongoing	Ongoing	100%
Reports on work undertaken for horizontal and vertical scalability and readiness for use in humanitarian response.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100%
Policy guide on enhancing synergies between disaster resilience and investment in SP completed.		100% (2021)	50% (2020) 50% (2021)		100%



## Annexe 2: Strategic documents

### 2.1. Contribution to social protection strategies, policies and legal frameworks

#### Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

<b>Title of the document</b>	<b>Date when finalized (MM/YY)</b>	<b>Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)</b>	<b>If published, provide the hyperlink</b>
Role of informal and traditional social protection		Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Project Strategy: Developing Social Protection Indicators for Samoa under the Strengthening Resilience of Samoa Through Social Protection Programme	2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
ToR – Mobile System (Niue)		Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Cook Islands Fiscal Space -Options Paper	April 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Niue Fiscal Space - Options Paper	April 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Samoa Fiscal Space - Options Paper	April 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Tokelau Fiscal Space - Options Paper	April 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
ToR - Stocktake and Review (Niue)	April 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Samoa	April 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Stocktake and Review of SP System (Niue)	August 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Samoa	August 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
SP-JP Progress Report for Niue	August 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
SP-JP Progress Report for Samoa	August 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Stocktake and Review of Social Protection System (Tokelau) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costed Implementation Plan</li> <li>• Monitoring and Evaluation Framework</li> </ul>	2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Gender-Responsive Social Protection System in Samoa	December 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	

Gender Analysis of the (Existing and Proposed) Social Protection System in Samoa	December 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Stocktake and Review of SP System (Samoa)	February 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Samoa	January 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
SP-JP Progress Report for the Cook Islands	January 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
SP-JP Progress Report for Niue	January 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
National Social Protection Policy	July 2021 (awaiting Government approval)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
ToR – CRVS (Samoa)	July 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
ToR – Gap Analysis of the Mobile Banking Systems in Samoa (Samoa)	July 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for the Cook Islands	July 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
ToR – Development of Gender-Responsive Social Protection System in Samoa	June 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
SP-JP Progress Report for Tokelau	June 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
SP-JP Progress Report for the Cook Islands	March 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
SP-JP Progress Report for Niue	May 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
SP-JP Progress Report for Samoa	November 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
SP-JP Progress Report for the Cook Islands	November 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
SP-JP Progress Report for Niue	November 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Report on the Study on impacts of remittances and reducing remittance costs	October 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
ToR -MPI Development	October 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
ToR – Mobile System (Cook Islands)	October 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Samoa	October 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Samoa National Employment Policy 2021 - 2026	Awaiting cabinet approval	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

**Strategic documents for which JP contributed (but did not produce or lead in producing)**

<b>Title of the document</b>	<b>Date when finalized (MM/YY)</b>	<b>Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc.</b>	<b>If published, provide the hyperlink</b>
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						(Yes/No)	
MPI End of Training Report	October 2021	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Project Strategy: Developing Social Protection Indicators for Samoa under the Strengthening Resilience of Samoa Through Social Protection Programme	2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

## 2.2. Focus on vulnerable populations

### Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)
Gender-Responsive Social Protection System in Samoa	December 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Gender Analysis of the (Existing and Proposed) Social Protection System in Samoa	December 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Cook Islands Fiscal Space -Options Paper	April 2021	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Niue Fiscal Space - Options Paper	April 2021	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Samoa Fiscal Space - Options Paper	April 2021	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Tokelau Fiscal Space - Options Paper	April 2021	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	

### Strategic documents for which JP contributed (but did not produce or lead in producing)

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)
N/A								

## Annexe 3: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk Level:</b> (Likelihood x Impact)	<b>Likelihood:</b> Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	<b>Impact:</b> Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	<b>Mitigating measures</b>	<b>Responsible Org./Person</b>
<b>Contextual risks (e.g. social, environmental, security and safety risks)</b>					
Global or domestic climate, economic and/or fiscal shocks will divert government and PUNO attention and priority away from the JP.	Medium	2	3	Be flexible with partners on implementation	UNDP
<b>Programmatic/Operational risks</b>					
manipulation by vested interest groups (e.g., unions or faith-based organizations), leakages and dilution of benefits manifesting through community and family power structures, delays and gaps in service delivery due to a combination of remoteness, capacity limitations and infrastructure gaps.	Low	1	2	Engage stakeholders in the implementation  Keep partners and stakeholders updated on programme status	UNDP
Political opposition, coordination gaps and overlaps in mandates and Low 1 2 Working in partnership with government; investment in coordination mechanisms and UNDP 104 programs. Risks could arise from fiscal austerity drives proposed by IFIs.	Low	1	2	Strengthen partnership with stakeholders and government ministries  Continue TC platform for information and experience sharing  Regular communication on the status of the program	UNDP
<b>Institutional risks (e.g. political, regulatory risks)</b>					
<b>Fiduciary risks (financial risks, fraud &amp; corruption risks)</b>					
Unintended effects on costs and prices, project cost over-runs, misutilization of funds or resource capture at national or sub-national levels	Low	1	2	Closely Monitor budget utilisation	UNDP

## Annexe 4: Results questionnaire

- *Complete portfolio questionnaire online at:*  
<https://forms.office.com/r/H4eZakyx9H>