

Joint SDG Fund
PORTOFLIO ON INTEGRATED POLICY AND LNOB

Joint Programme 2021 Annual Progress Report

Cover page

Country: Rwanda

Joint Programme title: Accelerating Integrated Policy Interventions to Promote Social Protection in Rwanda

Short title: Accelerate Integrated Social Protection

Start date (day/month/year): **1st January 2020**

End date (day/month/year): **30th June 2022**

RC (name): Fodé Ndiaye

Government Joint Programme Focal Point (name and ministry/agency): Crispus Ayebare, Ministry of Local Government

Representative of Lead PUNO (name and agency): Julianna Lindsey, UNICEF

List of PUNOs: UNICEF, WFP, FAO

RCO Main JP Focal Point (name): Sibylle Kamikazi **E-mail:** sibylle.kamikazi@un.org

Lead Agency Main JP Focal Point (name): Charlotte Taylor **E-mail:** chtaylor@unicef.org

Contact person for Joint Communications (name): Maureen Twahirwa **E-mail:**

Maureen.twahirwa@un.org

Budget (Joint SDG Fund contribution): **US\$ 2,000,000**

Overall budget (with co-funding): **US\$ 3,040,000**

Total estimated expenditure (in USD, for the whole JP by 31 Dec 2021): US\$ 908,473

Total estimated commitments (in USD, for the whole JP by 31 Dec 2021): US\$ 1,299,669

Short description of the Joint Programme (max 1 paragraph):

The focus of this joint programme is to support and accelerate the Government of Rwanda's efforts for integrated social protection to end poverty in all its forms, leaving no one behind. It will provide innovative solutions for identified gaps at policy/strategic, system and community levels, accelerating results as envisaged in the national Social Protection Strategic Plan (2018-2024) and the national Joint Multisectoral Action Plan to Eradicate Extreme Poverty and defining leveraging mechanisms to accelerate the implementation of the agenda 2030.

Executive summary

In 2021, the Joint Programme in Rwanda accelerated the implementation of key interventions across all programmatic areas (policy/strategy, systems and community level support).

Result 1: Enhancing integrated and shock-responsive social protection, including through stronger evidence, improved targeting and coordinated service delivery.

A high-level Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) policy forum organised by the Joint Programme with the Government brought together policy makers and technical staff across key sectors to agree on operationalisation of the policy commitments on SRSP and inform the development of national guidelines. The revised Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy was submitted to Cabinet, and the National Disaster Preparedness Plans kicked off to operationalise the policy objective of disaster management mainstreaming across sectors, particularly social protection. The PUNOs supported the Government in defining a poverty graduation measurement approach feeding into the draft National Strategy for Sustainable Graduation. This supports realistic projection of potential results and clarifies the M&E approach for this core reform agenda of graduation. On targeting, the PUNOs supported the Government in finalising data analysis for the new Ubudehe categorisation for social protection targeting. The results have been submitted for Cabinet approval. The JP also continued supporting the review of the Household Profiling System for the multi-sectoral monitoring of needs and coordination of social protection and complementary services. The system will also feed data into the upcoming national Social Registry that will be piloted in 2022.

- Estimated rate of completion as of 31 Dec 2021: 80%

Result 2: Supporting resource mobilization efforts for the Social Protection sector in Rwanda by leveraging on existing and new partnerships and providing technical assistance to inform policy updates and scale up existing programmes.

The Joint Programme is supporting the Government in the design of the Social Protection Sector Financing and Resource Mobilisation Strategy that will be prioritized alongside the Mid-Term Review of the SP Sector Strategic Plan in early 2022. Budget briefs presenting allocations to social protection programmes in 2022/23 were developed and disseminated at a policy dialogue on 'Investing in Children in Rwanda' that was co-hosted with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. Technical input from the PUNOs was provided into the design of the new and revised cash transfer components of the national flagship social protection scheme VUP. Considerable resources were mobilised for the training of the para-social workers and scale-up of Village Savings & Loan Associations. The PUNOs also secured additional funding from the EU to support the COVID-19 response in the social protection sector, complementing the investments of the Joint Programme in SRSP.

- Estimated rate of completion as of 31 Dec 2021: 70%

Result 3: Improving the delivery of integrated social protection interventions at the community level in 5 districts building on new integrated case management and referral models through strategic partnerships leveraged by the PUNOs with government agencies (MINALOC-LODA, MINAGRI, MINEMA) and key implementing partners (World Relief, Urunana).

The activities at community level in the five districts ran throughout the period, providing an integrated package of capacity strengthening and direct support for community livelihoods and graduation, including support to Village Savings and Loan Associations, development of business plans for funding through an innovative seed funding facility which can later be considered by government as part of Cash Plus initiatives to promote graduation from poverty, and community assets and infrastructure. The PUNOs provided training and coaching to operationalise the reformed case management system designed to enhance poverty graduation results through systematic needs assessment and coordinated support by front-line workers and services. Communication messages were disseminated in the districts, focused on rights, social protection services and entitlements and graduation from poverty to increase communities' knowledge of existing social services.

- Estimated rate of completion as of 31 Dec 2021: 70%

I. Overall progress and priority, cross-cutting issues

I.1 Context and the overall approach

Ensuring an adaptive and strategic JP

The COVID crisis emerged in Rwanda in March 2020, three months after the launch of the Joint Programme. A re-prioritization exercise was undertaken with the government in June 2020, leading to UNICEF redirecting US\$ 83,000 of its JP budget towards community sensitization in the five districts and at national level while WFP and FAO re-allocated US\$ 70,000 and US\$ 30,000 to Output 3 respectively to scale up the seed funding and other measures supporting innovative poverty reduction solutions at district level.

The JP also adapted itself to important developments in the policy framework for SP. In June 2020, the GoR adopted a new *Ubudehe* framework with a new set of socio-economic categories and more objective criteria to classify households. The JP mobilized resources to support the delivery of technical assistance and financial support for the implementation of the nationwide exercise of household categorization which was initiated in October 2020 and completed in 2021. These developments were reflected in the revised JP work plan and budget as part of the targeting interventions under Output 2.

The Theory of Change (ToC) outlined in the original ProDoc remains unchanged. The ToC resulted from extensive consultations among PUNOs with Government institutions concerned by the intervention notably the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) and Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA), Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) and Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA). Adjustments were made in the output indicators and target values of the JP results matrix in August 2021 in line with the work plan and budget revision and endorsed by the Steering Committee.

Link with UNDAF/ UNSD Cooperation Framework

The JP supports the delivery of the UNDAF II in its 2nd pillar on Social Transformation as part of the UN contribution towards national sustainable development through the Government of Rwanda's National Strategy for Transformation (NST1). In collaboration with partners, the UN in Rwanda through this JP contributes to the achievement of outcome 4 of the UNDAF: "By 2023, people in Rwanda, particularly the most vulnerable, have increased resilience to both natural and man-made shocks and enjoy a life free from all forms of violence and discrimination".

The UNDAF emphasizes the improvement of disaster management, preparedness, and response approaches within social service delivery and existing national programmes, including through the expansion of the coverage of social protection systems. The JP continued to broker dialogue between the ministries relevant to emergency management and social protection and held a policy forum on shock-responsive social protection. The policy forum, based on the 2020 assessment report¹, brought together Government ministries, development partners and civil society to discuss and strengthen policy coherence and collaboration among the different sectors that contribute to shock-responsive and climate-sensitive social protection. Strategic policy actions developed during the forum will be used to inform and advance programming and coordination. Farmers were engaged in agriculture activities such as terracing and provision of potato seed and fertilizer inputs which contribute to increasing their productivity and resilience.

The JP is also contributing to UNDAF Outcome 2 on equitably, productively and sustainably managing natural resources and addressing climate change. The JP is providing quality vegetable seeds and supporting the population through capacity building on vegetable growing on a small area of land in demonstration plots after which, every beneficiary will replicate at his/her home.

COVID-19 impact

Since the COVID-19 pandemic emerged in Rwanda in March 2020, the Government of Rwanda has undertaken intensive resource mobilization efforts in line with the adoption of an Economic Recovery Plan (ERP) in April 2020, which included a Social Protection Response Plan, to address the socio-economic impact of prevention measures. This plan was formulated with contributions from the DPs in the Social Protection sector, including the JP PUNOs led by UNICEF. The SP response prioritized the accelerated expansion of the existing social protection safety nets under the Vision 2020 *Umurenge* Programme (VUP). PUNOs engaged in early analysis

¹ WFP (2020). Assessment of the Sensitivity of the Social Protection Sector in Rwanda to Climate-related Shocks.

of the budgets voted for fiscal years 2020/21 and 2021/22 and conducted advocacy efforts both through GoR and DP coordination fora and bilateral channels.

JP activities were re-purposed towards the COVID-19 response by putting more emphasis on the community level support, as documented earlier in this section. In 2021, community workforces and vulnerable households from the JP districts were reached through community sensitization to increase their motivation to claim their rights/access relevant social protection services/entitlements available to them and to demonstrate intent to take proactive action and seek innovative solutions to transitioning out of poverty and build resilience.

The JP secured US\$ 500,000 from the EU to support the COVID-19 response through targeted technical assistance to strengthen core social protection systems for targeting, monitoring and evaluation and accountability. The shock response work of the JP will contribute to institutionalizing the COVID learning into government guidelines, policies and systems beyond COVID.

I.2 Update on priority cross-cutting issues

UN Development System reform - UN coherence at the country level

The JP has brought together UNICEF, WFP and FAO, and every PUNO has its comparative advantage and expertise: UNICEF has played a big role in knowledge generation and capacity building of the players in the social protection sector, WFP has focused on shock responsive social protection and FAO on nutrition and food security. From the design stage of the JP, the PUNOs and RCO have planned, implemented and monitored JP activities in a joint fashion. Where possible, consultancy assignments are designed jointly and often co-financed for e.g. in the case of the design of the Household Profiling Monitoring Framework and Tools and of the Social Protection Financing & Resource Mobilization Strategy (planned for early 2022). At community level, the bulk of the JP support is delivered through a partnership with the same NGO on the basis of a single work plan, to ensure coherence and synchrony in the implementation of activities.

Going beyond "business as usual" to produce catalytic results at scale

The JP supports the GoR efforts towards achieving more integrated social protection to end poverty in all its forms, leaving no one behind. To achieve this overall objective, the government in partnership with PUNOs have worked on the review of the VUP programme document design which is currently awaiting Cabinet approval to embrace some tailored lifecycle approaches and ensure effective delivery of some safety net programmes including child, elderly and disability grants as well as putting in place interventions to allow social protection to be more responsive to shocks. A study to assess Gender, Inclusion and Safeguarding in the existing VUP safety net programme will be co-financed by the JP in early 2022 and inform the design of the new VUP grants as well as the Mid-Term Review of the Social Protection Strategic Plan which is one of the final policy level activities SDG JP activities planned in the first half of 2022.

On 9th December 2021, the PUNOs engaged high level government officials, development partners and civil society representatives in a policy forum on shock responsive social protection in Rwanda to strengthen policy coherence and collaboration at strategic and programme planning among different sectors contributing to shock-responsive levels and climate-sensitive social protection. This was a major milestone that advances a long-standing policy aspiration to develop a shock-responsive component in VUP and better integrate shock-affected households in the national social protection system, building synergies between the strong disaster management and social protection sectors. The forum also brought in the Ministry of Environment, creating awareness and highlighting opportunities for social protection to contribute to the national climate agenda. The JP team will continue to support Government efforts to develop a shock-responsive social protection strategy in 2022.

The partnership between the JP and BRAC USA to develop a graduation measurement options paper with M&E and learning recommendations will not only facilitate determination of social protection beneficiaries' graduation from extreme poverty in Rwanda but has also informed the design of the new National Social Protection Graduation Strategy which was recently finalized by the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) and awaiting approval by Cabinet. The engagement of BRAC provided a platform for their experts to review and give high level inputs to the Graduation Strategy and shed light on the importance of coordination between sectors, data sharing and the additional resources required to generate the anticipated results from graduation approaches.

In 2021, the JP continued to work on strengthening social protection targeting and delivery systems through the finalization of the new Ubudehe Categorization which serves as a proxy for the targeting of social protection

beneficiaries and improving the household profiling M&E framework which is seen as a crucial dataset that will serve as a source of information for the new social registry which is under development. The framework allows the facilitation of innovative solutions such as the inclusion of gender-sensitive and shock-responsive indicators into the social protection M&E systems and ensuring the government's capacity to measure and use data for future evidence-based planning and budgeting. The JP has also supported the analysis of existing systems of cash transfers and benefits to streamline and improve targeting.

The implementation of poverty reduction and resilience-building activities at community level started in January 2021 following the finalization of agreements between PUNOs and World Relief (selected NGO) with an integrated package of support in five districts, which are supplemented by specific interventions supported by PUNOs. The community level interventions include the testing of a seed funding facility that supports community level competitive innovative income generating business ideas which can later be considered by government as part of Cash Plus initiatives to promote graduation of the most vulnerable social protection beneficiaries from extreme poverty. The community level support delivered through the JP has been the first experience of its kind whereby UN agencies work together on social protection at district level and has allowed the JP to engage in a comprehensive package of capacity strengthening of local actors.

SDG acceleration

- SDG 1.1. *By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day* – **Progress:** The JP has contributed to the development and revision of integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievements implemented with greater scope and scale in Rwanda.
- SDG 1.2 *By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions* – **Progress:** The JP support has been geared towards building coherence and synergies between social protection, agriculture and livelihoods, disaster management and complementary services, are timely and of high policy relevance.
- SDG 1.3 *Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable* – **Progress:** The JP has strengthened social protection systems in terms of targeting, M&E and case management to deliver more integrated and responsive services to the most vulnerable households.
- SDG 1.5 *By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters* – **Progress:** Capacity of local leaders and communities has been strengthened to engage in seasonal livelihood programming taking into account climate patterns in the target districts.
- SDG 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* – **Progress:** Innovative community solutions designed in a gender, child and nutrition-sensitive manner have been rolled out to enhance resilience and adaptive social protection of vulnerable and food insecure people in the 5 targeted districts which are disaster prone areas.
- SDG 2.2. *By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons* – **Progress:** Nutrition sensitive social protection interventions have been implemented in 5 districts and tools institutionalized to ensure the replication of some of the models (e.g. Village Savings and Loan Associations combined with community sensitization on nutrition practices) countrywide.

Policy integration and systems change

The highlights of the JP support in integrating policies across sectors and institutions include:

- The development of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework and tools for the Household Profiling system as well as the exercise of classifying all households in the new *Ubudehe* socio-economic categories adopted in 2020. These systems will continue to serve as proxies for the targeting of beneficiaries for the different government and donor supported social services in the short and medium term. They will inform the government initiative of developing a social registry supported by the World Bank and contribute to solving inclusion and exclusion errors in Rwanda's current targeting system.

- The graduation measurement options paper developed with the support of BRAC USA and the high-level policy recommendations provided for the finalization of the National Graduation Strategy will inform the design of the graduation package linked to the measurement approach. This will allow a realistic prediction of targeted numbers of households who can graduate from extreme poverty in the midterm review of the Social Protection Sector Strategic Plan (SSP) 2018-2024.
- The revision of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy has been finalized and validated and is going through executive approval processes. Related work on the development of sectoral preparedness plans has taken off with the draft plans under review prior to stakeholder validation. The national plans address how emergency management systems can provide specific support to meet various needs during a crisis (i.e. assistance to vulnerable groups; damage control and initial rehabilitation; food and nutrition interventions; search, rescue and evacuation interventions, mass fatality management; shelter; and water, sanitation and hygiene).
- Progress has been made in linking the social protection and emergency management sectors; with the relevant ministries engaging in discussions prior to and during the policy forum on how to strengthen policy linkages and coordination to support emergency response through social protection mechanisms.

Contribution to improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups

The key target groups of this JP are the communities identified as the most vulnerable to economic and climatic shocks, primarily women-headed households, households with many children, and households with disabilities. More specifically:

- A baseline survey was conducted in the 5 districts of the JP and collected data on the status of beneficiaries such as their assets, source of income, access to financial services, saving practices and their knowledge on social protection entitlements and eligibility before JP interventions.
- The integrated case management and referral model piloted at community level in the 5 JP districts is supporting coordinated service delivery with the aim to institutionalize collaboration mechanisms that bring together the different community workforces and other service providers by creating linkages in the delivery of services to poor and vulnerable households.
- 130 new Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) were established in the 5 JP districts with a total of 3,234 members and provided hands-on support on business and savings skills. The VSLAs support vulnerable households in the beneficiary cells (female headed households, teen mothers, households with nutrition issues and with persons living with disabilities) including the youth.
- A seed funding facility was rolled out to support competitive innovative income generating business ideas and project proposals are being selected for funding to enhance beneficiaries' graduation.
- Capacity building on Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) was completed in the 5 districts reaching a total of 99 officials (64 men and 35 women) with the aim of providing better programming to define effective pathways of support to reduce vulnerabilities and helping to generate information based on seasonality shocks.
- Capacity building of Business Development Advisors (BDAs) and Local Government staff to sustainably support business development for bankable projects through the seed funding facility was provided.
- Asset support was provided, notably through the construction of a Poultry house and terracing of over 35 hectares with inputs and fertilizers provided to communities to improve productivity of their land.
- Beneficiary households were supported to ensure sustainable access to nutrition-rich fruits and vegetables increased through functional community demonstration and household level kitchen gardens and education on balanced diets.
- Communication messages were disseminated on households' rights, social protection services and entitlements and how these can be accessed to enhance graduation from extreme. Through this work, communities (especially households with children under five) are increasing their knowledge of the availability and benefit of existing social services.

Estimated number of individuals that were reached through JP efforts in 2020-2021:

- **Total number:** 3,325 households were reached through the community level support of the JP.
- **Percentage of women and girls:** 51% are the women headed households.

Mainstreaming Gender equality and women empowerment

The below analysis provides an update of how Gender was mainstreamed in the second year of implementation of the JP according to the various categories of the Gender marker:

- **Context analysis integrate gender analysis:** The JP activities designed at community level target women-headed households through the integrated social protection policy delivery, including teen mothers and youth. The JP also focuses on strengthening the gender dimension of the M&E system, analysis of data and reporting.
- **Gender equality mainstreamed in proposed outputs:** Gender sensitivity is mainstreamed through all three outputs to ensure the PUNOs mainstream gender throughout the JP implementation. The outputs perfectly contribute and align to the SDG priorities including SDG 5. They systematically address the gaps in this area at policy, system and community levels including procedures to clearly indicate the level of roles and responsibilities at central, district and community level.
- **JP output indicators measure changes on gender equality:** The JP has 2 outcome indicators, one of them (2.1) being a full gender sensitive outcome. 50 per cent (1.1.1; 1.2.1; 1,2,2; 2.1.1; 2.1.3 & 2.1.4) of the total output indicators (11) are also gender sensitive. Moreover, the key target groups of the JP are the communities and individuals at risk of being left behind and most vulnerable to economic and climatic shocks, primarily the women-headed households (including teen mothers), households with large number of children and households with disabilities. The 12 output indicators show that gender equality is part of the measures to track progress and attainment of expected results. It is assumed that gender equality shall accelerate the expected changes.
- **PUNOs collaborate and engage with government on gender equality and the empowerment of women:** The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) and other line Ministries were consulted during the JP design, country analysis, strategic prioritization. They are among the secondary circle of stakeholders identified as part of the JP as well as a member of the Social Protection Sector Working Group and are kept informed of the achievements of the JP.
- **PUNOs collaborate and engage with women's/gender equality CSOs:** The JP is working with two NGOs at community level: (i) World Relief for the delivery of an integrated package of support on social protection services and innovative solutions for resilience-building and poverty reduction solutions identified through community based participation processes involving women and men, and (ii) Urunana Development Communication, for the delivery of community sensitization through social behaviour change communication. Both NGOs work in the same districts and cells and include women empowerment elements in their activities and work directly with women across the various beneficiary groups (women headed households, youth, teen mothers and persons living with disabilities). The Village Savings and Loan Associations have had a notably higher uptake among women (65%), compared to men (35%).
- **JP proposes a gender-responsive budget:** Gender is being mainstreamed into the activities along the project implementation process, the budget contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment is on track to reach the minimum target of 30 per cent of the total budget across results and outputs.

Estimated % of overall disbursed funds spent on Gender equality and Women empowerment by the end of 2021: 47% (US\$ 948,672)

Human rights

The human rights mechanisms mentioned in the JP ProDoc are the Convention for the Rights on the Child (CRC), the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD).

These human rights conventions have been mainstreamed to a large extent in the analytical works undertaken in 2021, e.g. the ongoing assignment for the revision of the Household Profiling indicators and development of the M&E tools will propose improvements on child- and gender-sensitive indicators. At community level, target groups involving female headed households (including teen mothers), households with more than 3 children and households with people with disabilities have been prioritized as beneficiaries of integrated case management and referral, access to opportunities of economic empowerment and community sensitization. The selected interventions contribute to addressing root causes of poverty and promote more economic equality in the communities by strengthening the resilience of these households.

Partnerships

- The strong commitment from the GoR to collaborate with the UN on the Social Protection agenda was characterized by regular contact, e-meetings and follow-up of progress on JP activities with MINALOC and LODA playing a central role as custodians of the SP sector within government. Policy dialogue between ministries related to social protection was advanced with a focus on how different sectors (environment, emergency management, gender and family promotion, agriculture, planning and finance) can contribute to effective management of shocks and resilience building in communities and households.
- The JP was catalytical in enabling the signing of a first multi-year MoU between WFP and the Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA) and the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA) that will support the multi-year implementation of shock-responsive social protection policy priorities.
- The JP has contributed not only to broader UNCT collaboration and cohesion but also to the entire DPs forum on Social Protection. The JP represents and positions well the three PUNOs and UN system in the policy dialogue on Social Protection; a visible illustration of this is that UNICEF and WFP each co-lead a subcommittee of the SP sector working group.
- The JP led to a first-time multi-agency collaboration with a single NGO (World Relief) that resulted in the design of a multi-sectoral and integrated approach to social protection at community level building on the resources and technical expertise of each PUNO. This was facilitated by the growing flexibility that is being availed through the UN Reform, allowing agencies to use each other's procedures for contracting.

Mobilizing additional funding and/or financing

- The intermediate results from the modelling of integrated case management and referral and village savings and loan associations (VSLA) and other nutrition sensitive social protection interventions in the 5 JP districts are attracting the attention of different donors in the Social Protection Sector Working Group. The case management model has also informed the operational guidelines of the newly established mechanism of community level para-social workers workforce which is being supported by the government and the World Bank. This workforce is seen as an important tool that will enhance social behavior change and improve service delivery at community level.
- The JP has partnered with the government to train 7,500 para-social workers on the VSLA model in 14 districts so that communities can be mobilized to enhance their saving habits and to be sensitized on smart spending. The modelling of case management at community level has continued to inform the government on the alternative ways of enhancing coordination of community level proximity services provided by different workforces established at village and cell levels.
- The diagnostic study on shock-responsive social protection provides recommendations on the concrete activities or instrument that can be implemented as shock responsive social protection measures and this has not only informed the social protection shock responsive policy forum that took place in December 2021 but also the review of the VUP programme document (supported by the British High Commission) and the mid-term review of the Social Protection Sector Strategic Plan (to be supported by the JP in early 2022). The expectation is that these updated plans and targets will provide a more solid basis for the sector to continue attract further funding from donors in the longer run.
- Terms of reference for the Social Protection Sector Financing and Resource Mobilization Strategy were developed by the PUNOs and are under discussion with the Government. Contracting is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2022 and the assignment will be carried out in synchrony with the Mid-Term Review of the SSP.
- WFP signed an agreement in 2021 with the EU and received a grant of US\$ 500,000 for technical assistance to support the Government of Rwanda's COVID-19 recovery efforts by strengthening core social protection systems targeting, monitoring and evaluation, accountability as well as evidence generation on food security which will serve to complement and scale up activities planned under the JP.

Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Description/Comments
Annual JP development partners'/donors' event*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>No JP partnership or donor event was held in 2021.</i>
Other strategic events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>A high-level Shock Responsive Social Protection policy forum was held on 9th December 2021 with government partners (social protection, emergency management, environment, agriculture, et al), development partners, civil society,</i>

			<i>academia and experts from PUNO regional offices and headquarters.</i>
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Innovation, learning and sharing

The JP has been putting emphasis on the documentation of experiences in the 5 districts; investing in strong M&E processes (baseline, end-line surveys and routine monitoring) through its partnership with World Relief and identifying key moments of consultation to share learnings from various pilots with policy makers and other stakeholders at central level. The JP is building on nutrition sensitive social protection modelling work initiated by UNICEF and World Relief in 2019 and has taken the experiences to the next level by rolling out a seed funding mechanism with a total budget of US\$ 90,000 and expanding the scope for poverty reduction and resilience building by introducing larger scale opportunities for income generating activities at community level.

Strong involvement of MINALOC, LODA and District authorities is seen in the implementation of the project with World Relief and this increases the level of confidence for the sustainability of achievements as well as the scalability of the models being tested. The JP has and will continue to carry out regular field visits to the 5 districts, including with government, to document the implementation of activities. A Steering Committee meeting was convened in August 2021 to share progress on the Joint Programme with all stakeholders and a joint field mission undertaken by the PUNOs in September 2021 to review the progress made in two districts.

The JP regularly updates the SP development partners' group on diagnostic and systems support underway. The JP continued to work through existing policy dialogue fora, such as the Social Protection Sector Working Group, to share lessons learned from the field with national stakeholders.

A photography plan was also developed for the entire period of the JP to capture key events and milestones to be documented throughout the duration of the JP.

II. Annual Results

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: 1/ After considerable implementation delays in 2020, community level work kickstarted early 2021 and considerable progress has been made in reaching the JP beneficiaries. 2/ Further dissemination and discussion of the diagnostic study on shock-responsive social protection and consultations were done through the policy forum on shock-responsive social protection; from which priority policy actions on shock-responsive social protection have been identified and will be included in the subsequent planning and implementation. 3/ Important diagnostic works were completed, such as the review and update of the Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Policy and the development of Graduation measurement options feeding into the National Graduation strategy.

Contribution to Fund's global results

- ⇒ **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":** The JP has supported the development of several diagnostic works in the Social Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction sectors with the aim of strengthening synergies across institutions and increase the coverage and access to key programmes (see list in annexes). Revised policies will be operationalized in 2022 through the implementation of the National Graduation strategy and Disaster Risk Reduction preparedness plans, among others.
- ⇒ **Contribution to Joint SDG Fund Output 3 (as per annual targets set by the JP) "Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented":** Several innovations have been designed and tested at community level through the JP, including nutrition sensitive social protection interventions, support to income generating projects through a seed funding facility and larger scale agricultural support to communities.

JP Outputs and Outcomes

- ⇒ **Achievement of expected JP outputs**

Output 1.1.: *Integrated policy framework for social protection is effectively in place, linking cash transfers and subsidies with livelihood and economic empowerment (specifically for women), disaster management and complementary social services.*

- The diagnostic study on shock-responsive social protection was disseminated during the high-level policy forum on shock-responsive social protection. Study findings were also used to inform policy discussions on targeting and programme design.
- The graduation measurement recommendations were developed and incorporated in the draft National Graduation Strategy.
- Revision and validation of the Disaster Risk Reduction & Management Policy and Strategic Plan were finalized and validation processes are ongoing. Draft sectoral disaster preparedness plans are undergoing validation and approval.

Output 1.2.: *Strengthened Social Protection delivery system allows for improved M&E, case management and targeting of the key target groups.*

- The review of the household profiling indicators to improve their responsiveness to children, gender and ensure they are shock responsive as well as development of a household profiling M&E framework and tools to support regular monitoring of the socio-economic status of vulnerable households is expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2022.
- The new Ubudehe classification process was completed putting more emphasis on the concept of graduation from extreme poverty and foreseeing measures for the impact of change on individual households strengthened grievance and complaints mechanisms. UNICEF partnered with Urunana Development Communication and the GoR to develop and disseminate messages through the media and other actors to increase the knowledge and awareness of the population on the new Ubudehe framework and categorization criteria.
- The capacity building of the social protection community work force (para-social workers) under the integrated case management and referral model has fostered stronger linkages with other community work forces from other ministries (community health workers, friends of the family, agricultural promoters, etc.) to strengthen referrals and harmonization of reporting channels.

Output 2.1: *Innovative community mechanisms are in place to strengthen delivery of nutrition-sensitive, resilience-enhancing and adaptive social protection to vulnerable and food-insecure people, particularly in climate-shock prone areas, in a gender-sensitive way.*

- 130 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) were established in the 5 JP districts (1 sector, 1 cell per district) with a total of 3,234 members with hands-on business and savings skills enhanced with the support of community-based village agents. The VSLAs target vulnerable households in the beneficiary cells (female headed households, teen mothers, households with nutrition issues and with persons living with disabilities) including youth.
- Capacity building of Business Development Advisors (BDAs) and Local Government staff to sustainably support business development for bankable projects was completed. The BDAs will support the beneficiaries of seed funding to develop bankable projects to be funded by Seed Funding, as it is stipulated in the operational guidelines also developed. Seed funding is being invested into innovative resilience building and poverty reduction interventions in the 5 JP districts.
- Community based participatory planning workshops were conducted to identify the underlying causes of poverty, livelihood opportunities and community-led initiatives for resilience building to be supported in the JP.
- The same NGO for joint implementation of activities at community level (co-financed by the 3 PUNOs) was selected and now is implementing activities based on a common approach for poverty reduction and resilience building inspired by the community-based planning process.
- The JP worked closely with the government to kick-start community sensitization activities linked to the new *Ubudehe* categories and other general issues around Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) at large. Urunana DC, a local NGO, is implementing the SBCC support in the 5 JP districts.

⇒ **Achievement of expected JP outcomes**

Outcome 1. *The national social protection system effectively delivers sustainable and long-term child, gender and nutrition-sensitive safety nets for the most vulnerable households to increase their livelihoods and access to social services.*

- The development of Rwanda Graduation measurement recommendations
- The revision of Disaster Risk Management Policy and Strategic Plan
- The development of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework and tools for the Household Profiling system as well as the exercise of classifying all households in the new Ubudehe socio-economic categories adopted in 2020.

Outcome 2. *National and sub-national institutions have increased technical and institutional capacities, and communities have enhanced resilience to respond to climatic shocks.*

- Community level support was launched to deliver a comprehensive package of nutrition-sensitive, shock-responsive and resilience building activities in 5 districts² through the NGO World Relief which was selected by all 3 PUNOs. These efforts are complemented by the intensification of SBCC efforts in the same districts and via national media channels through a partnership agreement signed between UNICEF and a local CSO.
- Technical assistance to Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops was provided to operationalize the new mechanism of community level frontline para-social workers nationwide. The workshops targeted the Director of Social Protection, the SP officers (district and sector), the Data management specialist and 1 representative of NGOs from each of Rwanda's 30 districts. The JP also trained 43 para-social workers and 5 sector development officers on the new para-social worker guidelines in the 5 JP districts (1 sector, 1 cell per district). This will enhance coordination and service delivery through the creation of linkages with other community worker forces from other ministries (community health workers, friends of the family, agricultural promoters, etc.) to strengthen referrals and harmonization of reporting channels.
- Vegetable seeds were purchased to support 3,331 households across the 5 JP districts. Vegetable seeds provided include carrots, green amaranths, beet, leeks, onion and eggplant. Preparation of 86 demonstration plots and kitchen garden are almost complete and the seeds will be planted by January 2022.

⇒ **Monitoring and data collection**

A baseline survey was conducted by World Relief in the sectors/cells of intervention in the 5 districts of the JP and the report is available. The baseline survey has collected data on the status of beneficiaries such as assets, source of income, access to financial services, savings practices and their knowledge on social protection entitlements and eligibility before JP interventions. It also assessed the capacity of proximity workforces and local government staff to accelerate social protection services and serve the most vulnerable.

The PUNOs, government counterparts and the implementing partner will continue to monitor community level activities through joint field visits to assess progress and organize workshops to discuss and document some lessons learnings.

Lessons learned and sustainability of results

The Joint Programme has been an innovative and catalytic tool for the UN in Rwanda to build stronger synergies and coherence in its approach to Social Protection and strengthen its multi-stakeholder support by supporting stronger linkages in policy design and programme implementation across key institutions.

All interventions have been carefully designed and planned in consultation with government counterparts at central and decentralized level. Policy reviews and diagnostic works have benefited from international expertise and responded to the needs and emerging priorities of the Social Protection and affiliated actors. Over the course of the past two years, strategic engagement of the JP stakeholders has contributed to building a stronger understanding of the Social Protection sector and unpacking the complexities related to shock responsive social protection, graduation from extreme poverty, capacity building of service providers and adaptive planning at community level.

III. Plan for the final phase of implementation

Towards the end of JP implementation

At the policy level, the Joint Programme will work with MINALOC to develop a Social Protection Sector Financing Strategy that will shed light on funding needs and potential sources over the next few years, and recommend innovative and sustainable resource mobilization strategies to increase the investment from both domestic and

² Burera, Kirehe, Karongi, Nyamagabe and Rutsiro districts.

international sources. A study to assess Gender, Inclusion and Safeguarding in the existing VUP safety nets programme will be co-financed by the JP in early 2022 and inform the design of the new VUP grants as well as the Mid-Term Review of the Social Protection Strategic Plan.

Furthermore, the JP will take forward the outcomes of the Forum on Shock-Responsive Social Protection to support the Government in developing a strategy and operational guidance document on shock-responsive social protection. This process will be accompanied by national level training on shock-responsive social protection to key line ministries and agencies involved in the strategy development process. An emergency simulation will be organised to test the guidance as well as the national preparedness plans that were drafted in 2021 and undergoing validation in early 2022 to further build synergies between the systems and approaches across the social protection and disaster management sectors. The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy is expected to be validated in the first quarter of 2022, during which an implementation plan accompanying the policy will be developed with Joint Programme support.

At the systems-level, guidance on shock-responsive targeting and on climate-sensitive assets will be developed, which is a core tenet and a KPI of the Government's Social Protection Strategic Plan's aspiration to use particularly the Public Works scheme for enhanced management of disaster and environmental risks and shocks. Household profiling data collection tools will be rolled out and district data managers will be trained on the methodology and tools for more regular monitoring of household welfare and access to basic services.

At the decentralised level, the Joint Programme will continue to strengthen the districts' disaster management planning and skills through training as well as the capacity building of para-social workers on integrated case management and referral.

Income generating projects proposed by vulnerable households and communities will be implemented with seed funding and technical support. The documentation of this innovation and other pilots implemented at community level will be prioritized for advocacy and institutionalization of some of these approaches.

The procurement activities for the small livestock, fruit trees and the milling machine to be provided to Burera beneficiaries will be completed. With the support of World Relief, distribution of fruit trees and capacity building on farming techniques through demonstration plots will continue.

Risks and mitigation measures

The Joint Programme continues to benefit from full support from the central and local government for the delivery of activities and is building linkages with other institutions relevant in the implementation of JP (e.g. Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rwanda Development Board). Priorities identified in the revised work plan adopted by the Steering Committee in August 2021 remain relevant in the COVID-19 context, especially those addressing shock-responsiveness social protection mechanisms, targeting approaches and community homegrown solutions for resilience-building. Social protection continues to be one of the priority areas that is supporting the economy to recover from the effects COVID-19 pandemic. The main risks are summarized below:

Risk 1: The third and fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in new restrictions and a full lockdown in Kigali and half of Rwanda's districts took place July 2021. This situation slowed down the implementation of activities at various levels: (i) the policy level activities and diagnostic works; (ii) the systems strengthening activities including the nationwide capacity building of para-social workers, case management and referral training activities; and (iii) the community level activities due to the restrictions of movements in many districts and limitations imposed on community gatherings and meetings.

A new Minister of Local Government was appointed in March 2021 and this provided momentum for renewed strategic engagement on Social Protection. Further, a new Director General for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and a new Director General for Community Development and Social Affairs were appointed to the Ministry of Local Government in July 2021; these positive developments helped to address some of the challenges in the strategic management and implementation of the policy agenda of the JP as a number of positions in key directorates had been vacant in the Ministry since November 2020.

- Impact on JP finalization (1-3): 2 = Medium
- Type of risk (e.g. operational or systemic): Operational and systemic.

Risk 2: Despite the government willingness to increase investments in social protection, expansion plans are constrained by the limited fiscal space exacerbated by the COVID-19 effects and competing priorities among

social sectors. This may hinder the scalability and sustainability of the JP results. The Resource Mobilization and Financing strategy will play an important role in advising on financing solutions for the SP sector.

PUNOs are actively engaged in discussions with existing and incoming donors supporting the Social Protection sector and conducting regular analysis of budget allocations to the sector. The RC and PUNOs were involved in a number of advocacy efforts in April-June 2021 as the draft finance law for 2021/22 was being finalized, and continued their efforts with the government to emphasize the importance of allocating more resources to social protection in line with the ambitions laid out in the Social Protection Response Plan addressing the secondary effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A fiscal space analysis of social sectors is ongoing and budget briefs focusing on social sectors were published by UNICEF under the umbrella of the INFF Joint Programme (window 1) and propose a number of scenarios and recommendations for the government and development partners.

- Impact on JP finalization (1-3): 1 = Low
- Type of risk (e.g. operational or systemic): Systemic.

Risk 3: The co-funding of the JP by the different PUNOs is reliant on their yearly allocation of regular resources, and in some cases the approval of pipeline projects, funded by external donors takes some time. Being a counterpart fund, agencies have continued to prioritize the activities of the JP.

New donors have entered the Social Protection sector as a result of the COVID-19 (e.g. Belgium, Germany) and this also comes with new opportunities of co-financing for the UN in Rwanda. After the European Union (EU) re-purposed part of its budget support to the social protection sector in the second half of 2020, WFP signed an agreement in 2021 with the EU and received financial support for TA focusing on core social protection systems targeting, monitoring and evaluation, accountability as well as evidence generation on food security which will serve to complement and scale up activities planned under the JP.

- Impact on JP finalization (1-3): 2 = Medium
- Type of risk (e.g. operational or systemic): Systemic

Annex 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 social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable*
- **SDG 1.5** *By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters*
- **SDG 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*

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 ³	1	3	Emerging priorities were integrated in the JP work plan throughout implementation.	3
<i>List the policies:</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy (MINEMA) • Draft National Graduation Strategy (MINALOC) • Draft revised VUP programme document (MINALOC) 				
1.2: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale ⁴	1	0	Mid-Term Review of Social Protection SSP has been postponed to Q1 of 2022.	1
<i>List the policies:</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the pipeline for 2022: MTR of the Social Protection Strategic Plan foresees the revision of targets of SP intervention in terms of population coverage. 				

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
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³Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

⁴Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

3.1 Number of innovative solutions that were tested (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)	2	2	Nutrition sensitive SP pilot interventions are underway. Projects supported by seed funding will kick-start in January 2022. Results to be shared by end of JP.	2
3.2: Number of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	1	0	Implementation will depend on approval of revised policies expected in 2022	1

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

Yes

No

Explain briefly: The PUNOs supported the operational roll-out of the integrated case management system through development of training materials and approaches that were tested in the five districts in the Joint Programme, for further scale-up nationwide by the Government. The programme also supported testing better linkages between the local Business Development Advisors and social protection beneficiaries for the development of business ideas for seed funding to be awarded to the best business ideas in 2022.

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
Outcome 1: The national social protection system effectively delivers sustainable and long-term child, gender and nutrition-sensitive safety nets for the most vulnerable households to increase their livelihoods and access to social services					
Outcome 1.1 indicator Number of extremely poor population benefitting from direct income support schemes (UNDAP 4.1)	271,258 HHs (FY 2017/18)	355,864	504,010	Horizontal expansion of some social protection programmes as one of the COVID-19 social protection measure effected in 2020 and continued in 2021.	445,003 (subject to revision during Mid-Term Review of Social Protection strategic plan)
Output 1.1: Integrated policy framework for social protection is effectively in place, linking cash transfers and subsidies with livelihood and economic empowerment (specifically for women), disaster management and complementary social services					
Output 1.1.1 indicator The JP contributes to enhancing DRM, Agriculture, Child- and Gender-sensitivity in the revised Social Protection policy and strategic framework'	No	Yes	yes		Yes

Output 1.1.2 indicator # of Disaster management policy and strategy documents developed to advance adaptive social protection	0	2	2	The final documents have been validated and undergoing executive approval.	2
Output 1.1.3 indicator # of options paper and costing-exercise of measuring graduation from extreme poverty presented to the SP working group	0	1	1		1
Output 1.2. Strengthened Social Protection delivery system allows for improved M&E, case management and targeting of the key target groups					
Output 1.2.1 indicator # social protection M&E systems that have indicators that are gender, child and shock-responsive	0	1	0	M&E framework not yet finalized.	1
Output 1.2.2. indicator # of initiatives supporting improved targeting, including households affected by shocks	0	3	0	The government decided to re-purpose these activities in favor of community level activities that have a direct impact on reducing COVID-19 effects	3
Output 1.2.3 indicator # of government staff have strengthened capacity to effectively support households in natural disaster-prone areas	0	20	6	Training was for central government officers on shock-responsive social protection	20
Output 1.2.4. indicator # Guidelines and tools developed to support building of the Social Development Advisors system (including Community Consultative Committees for Development)	0	2	2		2
Outcome 2: National and sub-national institutions have increased technical and institutional capacities, and communities have enhanced resilience to respond to climatic shocks					
Outcome 2.1 indicator # of social protection interventions that are modelled to include nutrition, child, gender and shock-sensitive measures and targeting criteria (UNDAP)	0	2			2
Output 2.1. Innovative community mechanisms are in place to strengthen delivery of nutrition-sensitive, resilience-enhancing and adaptive social protection to vulnerable and food-insecure people, particularly in climate-shock prone areas, in a gender-sensitive way					

Output 2.1.1 indicator # of community-identified innovative initiatives for poverty reduction and environmental issues are provided with seed funding and productive assets	0	50	201 projects have been pre-selected	The selection process will be finalized in January 2022 and that is when we shall have the final numbers	50
Output 2.1.2 indicator # of Districts that have operational integrated case-management and referral mechanism that links proximity workforces	0	5	5		5
Output 2.1.3 indicator # of Local Government staff with enhanced skills in livelihood enhancement, financial inclusion, and shock-responsiveness and adaptation	0	100	99	Consultative and training workshop on seasonal livelihood programming (resilience, livelihood enhancement, preparedness and mitigation of impacts of shocks held	100
Output 2.1.4. # of community workforces trained to enhance their capacity in the delivery of integrated social protection services	0	800	798		800
Output 2.1.5. indicator # of households in the 5 targeted cells (districts) who have knowledge on <i>Ubudehe</i> categorization and social protection measures in the context of COVID-19 and on factors and behavioural drivers affecting the change from dependency mind-set to self-reliance and resilience.	N/A	600	600		600

Annex 2: Strategic documents

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

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
Assessment of the sensitivity of the social protection sector in Rwanda to climate-related shocks	April 2020	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	https://www.wfp.org/publications/assessment-sensitivity-social-protection-sector-rwanda-climate-related-shocks-wfp-2020
Budget briefs on the social protection budget and nutrition budget allocations in FY 2020/21	December 2020	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Budget Briefs • Education Budget Briefs • WASH Budget Briefs • Nutrition Budget Briefs • Social Protection Budget Briefs • National Budget Briefs
Budget briefs on the social protection budget and nutrition budget allocations in FY 2021/22	November 2021	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Paper on Graduation Measurement Recommendations (BRAC USA)	November 2021		Yes	Yes	Yes		Not published.

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing)

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
Economic Recovery Plan and Social Protection Response plan (GoR)	April 2020	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Revised VUP programme document	Approve by MINALOC September 2021 but awaiting cabinet Approval	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
National Graduation Strategy	Finalize by MINALOC in December 2021 but still awaiting cabinet approval	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)
AISPR project baseline report (World Relief Rwanda)	January 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Guidelines for the provision of seed funding to VUP beneficiaries	September 2021	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (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)
New Ubudehe Category report	Finalized by MINALOC in October 2021 but still awaiting cabinet approval	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	

Annex 3: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix

Risks	Risk Level: (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
Contextual risks (e.g. social, environmental, security and safety risks)					
<p>The joint programme could still suffer from implementation delays due to external, contextual factors beyond UN agencies' control, which may require involve stakeholders to shift their focus and capacities away from the programme.</p> <p>Potential contextual risks identified are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rwanda is currently facing a new wave of COVID-19 infections linked to the Omicron variant while 40% of the total population was reported to be fully vaccinated by end December 2021. • Rwanda is in a volatile region and may experience an influx of refugees or a decline in available products or rise in prices, as a result of forced border closures. • Climatic shocks and related natural disasters occur in Rwanda may occur because of its geography, specifically drought and land-slides. 	Medium	4	3	<p>Strong coordination and collaboration with all partners will be maintained, having the Steering Committee as a decision-making organ in place, which includes government partners and can act fast on any changes in context.</p> <p>Regular communication, scenario planning and coordination among PUNOs, RCO, Government and the implementing partner to coordinate activity implementation and identify ways to enable particularly the community-level activities to progress amidst the COVID-19 context; combined with modifications to activity modality (e.g. virtual meetings) and additional investment in COVID-19 preventive measures (masks, sanitizer, social distancing).</p> <p>Also, the M&E and reporting systems of the programme are linked to Government annual targets as much as possible, which has ensured</p>	RCO

				commitment of the Government to the programme.	
Programmatic/Operational risks					
The limited incentives amongst different stakeholders not directly involved in social protection, to strengthen multi-sectoral coordination around social protection in rural areas, is a risk to their active involvement.	Medium	3	3	<p>This risk was considered during the consultation processes when developing this proposal, and consultations were held as much as possible with the relevant stakeholders and intensified at PS level in the second year of the JP. A shock responsive social protection forum was successfully held in December with a wide array of stakeholders, giving impetus to strengthened multi-sector engagement for remaining period of the JP.</p> <p>The JP builds on synergies and complementarities with other programmes in the social protection sector to avoid overlaps and strengthen existing coordination mechanisms.</p>	UNICEF, WFP
Institutional risks (e.g. political, regulatory risks)					
Changes in mandate of government ministries and agencies involved in adaptive social protection might result in challenges in implementation of different components that the programme is aiming to integrate.	Medium	2	4	The Rwanda UNCT continues to actively involve government stakeholders from the planning stage through regular meetings, as well as by ensuring the ownership of the lead ministry on coordination around social protection.	RCO, UNICEF

				The SP Sector Working Group is used as a platform to keep a large number of affiliated ministries and agencies informed on the programme, which will smoothen any mandate-shifts that may take place during the implementation of the JP.	
Fiduciary risks (financial risks, fraud & corruption risks)					
The co-funding of the programme by the different PUNO's is reliant on their yearly allocation of regular resources, and in some cases the approval of pipelined projects, funded by external donors.	Low	1	3	<p>The estimations of co-funding per PUNO in the budget are the most modest estimations. Furthermore, they were based on both secured funding and the trend of annual regular resources allocated over 2018 and 2019.</p> <p>The programme's financial strategy (JP ProDoc section 2.4) aims to leverage on (initial) programme results and unlock additional funding for the social protection sector (which has been greatly facilitated by the COVID-19 context).</p>	UNICEF, WFP, FAO
The limited fiscal space to expand Government's investment in social sectors may hinder the sustainability of the results	High	4	4	The programme will invest in efforts to support the development of a SP financing strategy in early 2022 and to engage in close advocacy with other partners to increase or, to a minimum, maintain the current investments in social protection.	UNICEF

				Community level support is being extensively documented and good practices (including costing of innovative approaches) shared at policy level with national stakeholders and development partners.	
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Annex 4: Results questionnaire

- Complete portfolio questionnaire online at: <https://forms.office.com/r/H4eZAKyx9H>