



DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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UNCT/MCO: Afghanistan

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Afghanistan's Private Sector Capacities and Capabilities for Food Security: An Integrated Assessment

Thematic SDG Areas: Decent jobs & universal social protection; Food systems transformation;

PUNOS: UNCTAD, UNDP

Stakeholder partner: Civil Society Organizations; Private sector;

Gender Marker: Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm)

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Annual Progress

Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

Satisfactory (majority of annual expected results achieved; 1 to 3 months delay in implementation)

Overall Progress

- A literature review has been carried out to document the potential for food-producing micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to contribute to food security and increased exports of foodstuffs.
- A policy brief based on the findings from the literature review has been drafted and is being used as the rationale for the development of a concept note for systematic research on Afghanistan's MSMEs and their actual and potential role in economic recovery efforts.
- A national consultancy firm was contracted in January 2023 to conduct the survey for this project. The survey questionnaire (in English, Pashto, and Dari) developed by UNCTAD was finalized by the consultancy firm and used in training 32 national surveyors in January 2023.
- There have been delays in the issuance of the authorization letter from the Ministry of Economy and the sectoral agency (likely to be the National Statistics and Information Authority – NSIA) to allow data collection by the national consultancy firm in the eight zonal centers. Therefore, there is a probability that the consultancy firm will request a no-cost extension to allow them to complete the deliverable due to unavoidable circumstances.
- The survey is expected to be completed by February 28, 2023. The purpose of the survey is to examine the role of food-producing MSMEs in food security and exports of foodstuffs.
- The analysis of the survey data is expected to be completed by March 31, 2023.
- Due to factors beyond UNCTAD and UNDP control, the delay in procuring a national consultancy firm for the survey, and the delay

in de facto authorities granting permission for the survey, the report based on the analysis of the data from primary and secondary sources is expected to be drafted after March 31, 2023.

SDG Acceleration progress towards the SDGs, focusing on the main SDG targets

- Given the documented resilience of Afghanistan's MSMEs, any support provided by UN agencies to improve the operating conditions of MSMEs in Afghanistan as part of the efforts for economic recovery, including this JP, is likely to have an immediate impact and a high potential for longer-term sustainability.
- Continued support for Afghanistan's MSMEs is consistent with SDG1, SDG2, SDG5, SDG8, and SDG9.

Constraints that were encountered and any adjustments that were made to strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the JP and the coherence and coordination of UN system support.

There has been a general lack of interest by de facto authorities in facilitating the fieldwork for this research. Also, the recent ban on women and their working is likely to present challenges for the surveyors in reaching women-owned and/or operated enterprises. The national survey firm is making progress in securing the authorization letter from relevant authorities. Also, the data from women-owned and/or operated MSMEs will be collected by phone if necessary.

Next steps, scaling and sustainability [up to half a page]

This project focuses on food-producing clustered MSMEs. It is expected that the findings from this project will have implications more broadly and in relation to clustered MSMEs in all other sectors. In engaging the MSMEs' traditional governance structures, it is expected that there will emerge a more in-depth mutual understanding between the governance structures of MSMEs and UN agencies with mandates to support the private sector in Afghanistan. Also, by tapping into the synergies of clustered MSMEs with a focus on increasing trade between clustered MSMEs and non-domestic markets, any increase in trade is likely to persist long after the end of this project.

Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

This project has engaged with private sector associations such as the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries and the Afghan Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries. The project has also engaged individuals from the private sector's traditional governance structures such as Etehadia Meli Pishawaran.

Key meetings and events organized

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| JP steering committee/ programme board meeting | Strategic partners/ donors | Kick-off meeting event |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

The survey instrument is designed to collect gender-disaggregated data. Also, the survey will prioritize women-owned and/or operated MSMEs. In addition, it is widely recognized that the bulk of agri-products is produced with significant input from women and children as part of domestic daily chores.

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The JP is Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm). Evidence, data collection and analysis (e.g. gender assessments of programmes; policy briefs, costing for scale-up of social services);

JP address the below cross-cutting issues and principles of leaving no one behind

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| Human Rights | Persons with disabilities | Youth | Environmental and social standards |
| No | No | No | No |

Contribution to enhancing SDG Financing

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| Drafted a bill, strategy, and/or approved a law increasing the fiscal space for the policy in focus | Produced financing, costing, diagnostic and feasibility analyses as a basis to invest or increase spending on the SDGs | Improved efficiency (cost savings) in the management of programmes/schemes | Improved effectiveness (value for money; i.e. social impact of \$1 spent) of spending | Drafted policies/regulatory frameworks or developed tools to incentivize private sector investment on the SDGs | Structured new financial instruments (public, private or blended) to leverage additional funding |
| No | No | No | No | No | No |

How and in which area your JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing

n/a