



DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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UNCT/MCO: Barbados MCO

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Barbados and OECS - Food Security and Livelihoods Resilience Through Analytical, Capacity Building and Policy Support in Response to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy and Finance

Thematic SDG Areas: Food systems transformation; Climate action & energy transformation;

PUNOS: FAO, WFP, UNCTAD

Stakeholder partner: National Government; 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

Progress achieved for this reporting period (October -December 31st, 2022):

Output 1.1: Development of a robust price monitoring framework across Barbados and the OECS. 75% complete
Data collection and analysis is being undertaken to map the current state of price monitoring systems, which will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the unique context and challenges pertaining to monitoring of prices for governments in the Caribbean. Convergence of micro and macro factors all affect prices at a regional, national, and sub-national level. Spikes in food prices has serious implications on vulnerable, lower income households in the region where high inequality exists. Fluctuations in prices, disruptions to trade systems and supply chains are key drivers to the increased cost of living. This study so far has undertaken qualitative analysis through engagements with government counterparts from key ministries in Barbados, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Initial findings have identified potential areas for harmonising existing efforts at the national level, for example, between statistical organisations/ministries collecting prices for Consumer Price Index reports and agricultural ministries undertaking price collection of agricultural produce and inputs. Harmonisation could deduplicate efforts and promote sharing of resources and information.

Output 1.2: Analysis of country-level impacts and technical and capacity building support in the identification of agriculture and livelihoods risk management options and policy interventions. 25% complete

Key project personnel for data collection were engaged, field level activities were designed in detail, TORs were finalized for technical implementing partners and for the development of the survey instruments for data collection. These efforts will lead to understanding the country level impacts of the triple crisis on food and allow for the prioritization of capacity building options to

improve the stakeholders risk reduction.

Output 1.3: Trade data collection and analysis with cost-effectiveness assessment of trade related regulations and consumer protection policies for one selected important staple food product with the aim to protect the most vulnerable from external shocks impacting on food security and build resilient business environment. 45% complete

Technical working group sessions in Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines were held to solicit perspectives of key stakeholders on non-tariff barriers (NTBs). Specifically, discussions focused on (1) identification of current NTBs; (2) global and regional trends in NTBs affecting the target countries; and (3) analysis of non-tariff barriers by product group. Preliminary results indicated the price control and monitoring mechanisms across target countries are limited and ineffective in application and that measures applied by the authorities to address the high costs of freight have had minimal impact on reducing the final consumer prices.

Output 1.4 (new) Capacity building on governments to collect/analyse data and design and implement responses to shocks (including related to food price crisis). 100% complete

Training was undertaken with the Barbados government to increase their capacity to analyse data and respond to shocks, with a focus on social protection. The training brought together 19 government of Barbados officials over 3.5 days. 100% of participants indicated that the workshop deepened their knowledge and skills. Through co-funding, WFP also undertook a well-received training with the government of Saint Lucia on data visualization and analysis, given the importance of visualization in communicating data and evidence to a variety of stakeholders.

Overall project progress as of Dec 31st, 2022: 61% complete

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

- The identification of pathways for the harmonization and streamlining of national efforts for price monitoring will contribute to Target 2.C. Specifically the aspect of “timely access to market information to promote the stabilization and consistent functioning of food commodity markets to reduce food price volatility”.

- Monitoring of price fluctuations can serve as an early warning system for disruptions to supply chain, due to natural disasters, pandemics, or political instability, which can cascade down from global or regional events (SDG 13.1).

- o SDG-Indicator-2.c.1-Food-Price-Anomalies can be leveraged to monitor domestic food markets. Government institutions can be guided and trained to calculating and interpreting this indicator and potential inclusion of this in their regular reporting. Anomalies can be used to trigger relevant policy decisions or social protection programmes to aid livelihood sectors and/or households who may be most vulnerable to these changes. (SDG13.1)

- SDG 8.3 – Making this data open and accessible to all will create value and promote sustainability for the information collected. Price information can be utilized by sectors and livelihoods which may need to undertake price negotiations of their produce (SDG 8.3). Identifiable trends can also play a predictive role for policy makers on designing programmes ahead of time for the most vulnerable sectors that may be impacted by price changes to increase their resilience to shocks (SDG 13.1).

- Strengthening of national level market price monitoring systems will improve overall data quality and availability and enhance capacity for small island developing states through upskilling of government counterparts in data collection, analysis, visualization, and reporting (SDG 17.18)

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.

Whilst the Joint Programme was signed on July 12, 2022, by WFP and UNCTAD, FAO was only able to sign the agreement on October 18th, 2022, after completion of its internal project approval process. This delay in obtaining official approval by FAO prevented the Joint Programme from being fully operational at the planned start date, resulting in delayed implementation for all outputs during the first 4 months.

There were also delays on data collection and analysis processes due to turnaround in receiving data and information from governments due to conflicting Ministry/Government workloads, government data sharing approval processes, the active hurricane season which ended 30 Nov, and the Yuletide holidays. This caused delays with implementing the data collection and workshop activities under outputs 1.2 and 1.3.

The JP team exerted their best effort to request all the required information and have followed up closely with government partners. The team also adjusted in the following ways to ensure the implementation of activities:

- While awaiting FAO’s signature on the Joint Programme document, all possible JP mobilization actions were conducted, such as the hiring of JP personnel, detailed design of field level activities and finalization of TORs of technical implementing partners.

- Governments were unable to host The Trade Technical Working Group meeting due to time constraints/conflicting activities. As a result, the joint workshops were reformatted to one-on-one key informant interviews. The approach taken provided a strong entry point in advancing the insights into these issues, the report mainly focused on key informant interviews and a desk review.

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

The lessons generated through the activities will contribute to regional and global evidence and good practices. To ensure scale-up, replication, and sustainability from the start, the programme will use the policy recommendations, to inform broader efforts in the region to promote the resilience of farmers, and vulnerable households. Experiences from the Caribbean and evidence generated by UNCTAD, WFP and FAO have played and will continue to play a role in regional knowledge exchange and transforming the capacities of governments to support people more effectively and equitably via various capacity strengthening and technical assistance activities taking place.

As the Joint Programme is scheduled to end in March 2023, the PUNOs intend to carry out the following activities to complete the JP.

- Finalization of data collection and analysis activities.
- Conduct capacity building activities for farmers in the four target countries on cost effective risk management options to combat price increases.
- Complete analysis of aggregate trade data extracted from the four target countries.
- Conduct Preliminary Report Validation Workshops in the four target countries.
- Development of a detailed analytical report with appropriate recommendations on findings.
- Development of policy recommendations and technical guidelines.
- Report drafts will be shared with government counterparts for their feedback to be incorporated into the final report. Following their endorsement, the report will be published on the relevant agreed channels.

Finally, as part of PUNO's commitment to support national governments and regional institutions to strengthen national and regional food systems, further harmonization efforts at the regional level has already been sought through CARICOM as a regional partner to coordinate the dissemination of the market price information into a regional platform. This platform will consolidate and monitor prices for food and other key commodities at the national and sub-national levels.

Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

Private sector stakeholders (Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Manufacturers'/Exporters' Association, Customs Brokers Association, Agricultural and Fishers Associations) were engaged only under output 1.3 in the Technical Working Group (TWG) discussion. In this session they provided their insights on current non-tariff barriers including inefficiencies in trade logistics and Customs clearance procedures. Under all outputs of the programme, Government partners (in all beneficiary countries) were engaged. Similar to their private sector counterparts they also gave their take on current non-tariff barriers. They also provided data to guide the price monitoring framework development. Additionally, officers from the Ministry of Agriculture had their capacities built in collecting, analyzing, and visualizing price related data but this was only undertaken in St Lucia and Barbados.

Key meetings and events organized

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors	Kick-off meeting event
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Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

While the Joint Programme does not have specific objectives on women's empowerment, capacity building activities were designed to be gender-responsive and ensure that women and youth are represented. In 2023, during planned capacity building activities in the OECS countries (Grenada, St. Lucia, And St. Vincent), the team will seek to ensure to have women and youth are well represented and empowered. Additionally, a refresher on gender mainstreaming will be provided. The JP is promoting human rights, specifically the right to adequate food by 1) improving the overall data quality and availability for

price monitoring; allowing countries to design programmes for the most vulnerable to increase their resilience to shocks, and 2) training farmers in cost effective risk mitigating agricultural practices will allow for them to cushion the increased costs effects on their production, without having to pass them to the consumer. Finally, the Joint Programme is taking an approach to price monitoring data underpinned by the principle of making data open and accessible to all, which will create value and promote sustainable use of the information collected.

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). N/A;

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