



## DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

### Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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#### Cover Page

**UNCT/MCO:** Cambodia

**Reporting Period:** 1 January - 31 December 2022

**JP title:** Strengthening Cambodia's socio-economic resilience to global crises and food system shocks.

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

**PUNOS:** FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP

**Stakeholder partner:** National Government; IFIs/DFIs;

**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:**

On-track (expected annual results-achieved)

##### Overall Progress

With effective monitoring and reporting mechanism in place, targeting the key drivers of the evolving crisis for Cambodia, the joint programme provided timely analysis and recommendations to the Government of Cambodia and development partners to support better policy responses and to prioritize the use of the limited national budget resources for supporting recovery and social assistance measures for the most vulnerable.

The process for collecting data to inform the Crop Forecasting bulletin has been established and is running. The process that involves triangulation of three different data sources include, a new Household survey was conducted country wide, with a network of key informants and remote sensing. A HH survey was undertaken from 10 December to 24 January, with 1,238 respondents from all provinces, except Phnom Penh. 64% were households engaged in agriculture. A template of the bulletin and contents has been developed. A formal validation with MAFF and other stakeholders will be conducted at the beginning of February before its release. The key informants' network was established, and approximately 150 districts officials were interviewed by MAFF/GDA. For agricultural and trade statistics data, GDA will share the information soon.

Two waves of the expanded Covid-19 Socio-economic survey were completed by end of 2022, with an additional survey planned in January 2023. The survey included 1,500 households to support understanding of the overall socio-economic impact (combined with Covid-19 continued impacts), and 500 respondents in the Farmer Survey. The survey data analyzed so far confirm vulnerability of Cambodian households to price crisis, with significant increases in job security and reduction of income, after a period of increasingly positive trends since the end of 2021 when the opening of Cambodia's economy and borders occurred. Positive findings

were highlighted in Wave 10 (Apr/May'22), showing that the household income and employment have improved, with fewer households engaging in negative livelihood and food-based coping strategies, such as spending savings, borrowing money, or selling assets. The findings also indicated positive trends linked to children's learning and wellbeing. Given the added impact of the global inflation and price crises fueled by the Ukraine war, the round 11 (Sept/Oct'22) indicated a deterioration in the economic situation of the households. More than a quarter of households experienced significant economic shocks due to high food prices and high costs of fuel. The Farmers Module indicates that the price crisis can have longer-term effects on crop and livestock production and prices. Half of the farmers are impacted by lower access to fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides, due to price increase and low level of income to use for such expenditure. This is worrisome, as majority (73%) of the farmers in the sample are subsistence farmers and belong to the most vulnerable groups of population.

In June/July 2022, a market assessment across Cambodia to include an additional 12 markets in its monthly market monitoring with a view to better track the impact of the global food and fuel crisis on local food prices and market functionality was conducted. In addition, the list of food commodities in the monitoring was expanded to track price changes in a larger basket of essential foods. Results indicate a gradual increase in the cost of WFP's basic food basket between February and October 2022 (by 15%) followed by a downwards trend starting in November last year, in line with easing global food and fuel prices. Similarly, market functionality and the number of customers visiting markets improved in the second half of the year, after a steady deterioration during the first six months of 2022. In December 2022, the cost of the basic food basket was approximating its value during the previous year (-1.9%). Official food inflation in 2022 was 5%. However, some food commodities in the monit

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

The work under the SDG Joint Programme contributes to SDG 1 (target 1.1 and 1.2); SDG 2 (target 2.1). The data generated by the joint socio-economic impact survey and the market monitoring also contribute to SDG 2 (target 2.1 Access to food, and target 2.2 End all forms of malnutrition). The data collected through the surveys directly relate to the social protection measures by national authorities on short-term cash transfers for the near-poor to mitigate impacts of inflation in Cambodia.

#### **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.**

Lessons indicated included, for example, a joint presentation given to development partners and donors which brought extra added value. The findings of the joint programme were shared with Development Partners community in December 2022 and will be further disseminated to national partners. The SDG Joint Programme built on the ongoing joint collaboration among agencies and has contributed to strengthening joint planning and advocacy by the UN Agencies involved in the programme.

Challenges faced included, for example, the fact that the process to establish the mechanism to retrieve data and information has proven more challenging and resource intensive than expected. There was need to make considerable use of technical expertise provided by HQ and regional offices to supplement and support the activities in country. It was also observed that while some of these studies are of great contribution to understand better the socioeconomic context, it is important to be aware of the political economy too. Sometimes these findings can be controversial and thus not well received by authorities. This is an important lesson for future studies.

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

PUNOs are planning one more round of the expanded Covid-19 Socio-economic survey which will be implemented in January 2023. The elements of the survey are gradually included in the data collection efforts of national partners in social protection to ensure sustainability. The results of the 3 surveys will be included in the cumulative analysis of the Socio-economic impact assessment implemented since 2020 with an objective of understanding the trends in vulnerability to multiple crisis, especially of the vulnerable populations (linked to massive crisis such as Covid-19 and price crisis as well as crisis and shocks linked to Cambodia context) to better understand the patterns of coping, resilience and vulnerability, to inform delivery of the social protection and other programmes.

PUNOs are preparing various training workshops for the Agricultural Marketing Office (AMO) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) on collection and analysis of price data of food commodities, to take place in the first quarter of 2023. The workshops aim to strengthen national capacities around market price data gathering and analytics, which is crucial to understanding the impact of economic shocks, particularly for the most vulnerable, and design adequate economic and social protection response measures.

PUNOs have established a longstanding relationship with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, in particular in terms of modeling

and estimation of the impact of shocks like COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine. A memorandum of understanding is about to be renewed to give continuity to the capacity building the ministry and, thus, to the analysis of the changing socioeconomic context.

## Strategic Partnerships and Communications

### Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

National partners appreciated receipt of data and analysis on impacts. The data were also appreciated by IFIs – ADB for further development of their programming. AMO/MAFF have been engaged for market price monitoring. A joint presentation given to development partners and donors was given on the results and findings in December.

#### 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

The expanded Covid-19 Socio-economic survey data focus on gender variable and highlight routinely the gender-specific trends as they occur, with focus on understanding the status of women-headed households who are considered one of the most vulnerable and at-risk populations in Cambodia. The survey additionally oversamples the IDPoor households, as well as households with members who are Persons with Disability.

### 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). socio-economic survey focused on gender as one of the main analysis variable, with focus on women-headed households and the macroeconomic modeling policy brief disaggregates impact of unemployment by sex;

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

Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

## 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 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
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No

Yes

Yes

Yes

No

No

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

The joint programme established and strengthened tools for data collection, analysis and forecasting with a particular emphasis on macro and socio-economic variables, the agricultural sector's productivity, food prices and markets functionality and household livelihoods, food security and nutrition. The data and analysis were used for analysis and management of programmes resulting in effectiveness and cost savings.