



Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in SIDS

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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Cover Page

UNCT/MCO: Commonwealth of Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Resilient livelihoods and food security through data, digitalization and sectoral linkages

Stakeholder partner: National Government;

Thematic SDG Areas: Decent jobs & universal social protection;

PUNOs: FAO, WFP

Total estimated expenditures: US\$ 98,151.0

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): US\$ 353,303.4

Gender Marker: Gender-responsive (for example, the JP aimed to respond to specific gender needs, such as linking social assistance with GBV response services or maternal health support)

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Executive Summary

a. The Joint Programme (JP) “Resilient livelihoods and food security through data, digitalization and sectoral linkages” being implemented by FAO and WFP was approved by the SDG Fund April 2022, and subsequently launched for implementation in September 2022. The expected outcome of the JP includes is, farmers, fishers and vulnerable households are more resilient, is directly addressed by these complementary set of SDGs which link social protection to agriculture through the medium of pertinent data and information systems and more inclusive risk management practice. Major results within the reporting period were

- i. Hosting of technical stakeholder workshops that cultivated knowledge exchange and overall sensitization of the projects Theory of Change and project activities.
- ii. Ministry Approval for the formulation of Country Coordinating Committees in both countries.
- iii. Piloting digital registration for social assistance in Dominica (reaching 10% of social assistance beneficiaries); digital data collection will greatly enhance capacities for sex-disaggregated analysis.
- iv. Design of post-shock data collection tools in Dominica in response to November 2022 trough.
- v. Technical workshop on information management in Dominica and technical working group meetings on the development of an MIS system.
- vi. Lessons learned exercise in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on digital data collection following shocks.
- vii. Support for innovative social protection-related financing in Dominica.
- viii. Complementary data collection on food security and livelihoods in both countries that confirms current efforts within the realities of the food price crisis.

b. Implementation of project activities were constrained by Delayed launch of Joint Programme, which hampered officially taking forward certain activities. Elections in Dominica in late 2022 also paused activities and the re-organization of ministries will have ramifications for the future.

- c. Project expenditure and commitment were USD 98,151.03 and USD 353,303.37 respectively.
- d. In 2023 the following activities will be undertaken
 - i. DRM systems analysis for agriculture and the development of a Community Based DRM plan.
 - ii. Vulnerability, poverty, and risk assessments/analyses, inclusive of streamlining of indicators across sectors (inclusive of methods for data collection and units of measurement)
 - iii. Gap analysis for sectoral and household data systems which will provide an overview of data coverage, data management capacities
 - iv. Capacity building for technical officers, farmers and fishers in resilient livelihoods practices and technologies.

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 against 3 key results

Stakeholder buy-in

Stakeholder workshops were held in both beneficiary countries to provide an overview of the Joint Programme (JP) including its Theory of Change. It also served as a space where government entities share ongoing/planned projects that align with the JP's scope of work, and any other opportunities for additional support. The workshops also:

- a. Sensitized key/valuable stakeholders about the JP by engaging them in focused, participatory discussions and activities on how the JP can contribute to resilient livelihoods, food security, and mitigate the impacts of climate change and related shocks at the household, community, and national levels.
- b. Facilitated knowledge exchanges among stakeholders.
- c. Allowed for the refinement the project activities to their country specific context.
- d. Allowed stakeholders to pledge their commitment towards the implementation of project activities in 2023 and their completion.

Country Coordination Committee Approval

A key factor for successful project execution, is the governance arrangements. At the 2nd tier of project governance, is the Country Coordination Committee (CCC), the formulation of which was approved by the lead implementing Ministry in each country. Each CCC will be co-led by FAO and the Permanent Secretary of the designated implementing ministry in each country. The committee will also provide guidance and support to the implementation at all levels of sectoral initiatives with respect to building resilience in the agriculture and social protection sectors.

Progress on activities

Building on the on-going partnership of agencies with the governments of Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, progress was made on several activities.

Develop and strengthen digital data collection tools, processes and data management for routine programming and in response to future shocks and disasters:

A key element of the Joint Programme is how digital data collection can enable analysis of risk, vulnerability, and related factors across different sectors. In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, WFP held a consultation and a lessons learned workshop with the National Emergency Management Organization conducted to identify ways of strengthening their capacity to respond to shocks and opportunities and challenges to digitize their data collection and information systems. Consultations were held with social protection partners, particularly the Ministry of National Mobilization, on transitioning technical support on digital data collection into more long-term operations.

In Dominica, where the flagship social assistance programme (the Public Assistance Programme) has used paper-based data collection, substantial progress was made on transitioning to digital processes and also toward the development of an information management system for social assistance. In March 2022, Cabinet approved the establishment of a Management Information System (MIS) to enhance data collection and digitalization of current social protection programmes to inform shock-responsive social protection planning, programme design and targeting. A technical mission was undertaken, and an MIS Steering Committee Workshop was held to develop a roadmap for the establishment of an MIS, bringing together different parts of governments. A notable development is that the World Bank initiated a budget support loan to the government of Dominica and included

disbursement indicators linked to the MIS and digitalization support being provided by WFP under this Joint Programme. In November 2022 the digitalised PAP registration tool has been adapted in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture to assess impact-based insights for the agricultural sector; and then used in an emergency field assessment conducted jointly with government counterparts in the most cut off communities in Petite Soufriere following the East Coast Trough event.

Explore and facilitate access to gender-responsive and inclusive innovati

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

- SDG 2.4:
- SDG 8.3:
- SDG 13.1:
- SDG 17.8:

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 project was approved by the SDG Fund in April 2022, FAO the Lead PUNO was only able to complete its internal project approval process in August 2022. The project was officially launched in September 2022. This delay in obtaining FAO's approval, prevented the Joint Programme from being fully operational for four months, resulting in slow implementation for all outputs during 2022. Even though the countries were heavily involved in the project design, after the project launch, stakeholders had to be reengaged about the project and its objectives before activities could be implemented. Lack of appropriate staffing and capacity in place in the government units is a major bottleneck, as technical departments are overcommitted to multiple projects and workstreams.

Lessons learnt

- Time must be spent with senior policymakers to ensure that they understand the value and benefits of the activities under the project to national development goals.
- The use of focal points within the agencies will allow for inter-agency collaboration and ease of obtaining and collating data and necessary information.
- At the end of 2022, elections in Dominica and re-organization of ministries paused activities. Of note is that responsibility for social protection was moved from the Ministry of Youth to the Ministry of Health. Given the much larger portfolio of the Ministry of Health, this may pose a challenge to the prioritisation of these activities and will require re-developing technical and strategic relationships.

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

a. 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 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.

b. For the calendar year 2023 The PUNOs intend to execute the following activities:

- i. DRM systems analysis for agriculture and the development of a Community Based DRM plan.
- ii. Vulnerability, poverty, and risk assessments/analyses, inclusive of streamlining of indicators across sectors (inclusive of methods for data collection and units of measurement)
- iii. Gap analysis for sectoral and household data systems which will provide an overview of data coverage, data management capacities
- iv. Capacity building for technical officers, farmers and fishers in resilient livelihoods practices and technologies.
- v. Continuation of digitalization, information management support and innovative financing activities

Programmatic Survey

Total number of people benefited from the JP in 2022: 30

Percentage (%) of women benefited among the total number: 50

Percentage (%) of children & youth (0-24 years of age) benefited among the total number:1

Percentage (%) of older persons (age 60 and above) benefited among the total number:1

Percentage (%) of persons with disabilities benefited among the total number:1

Explain how people benefited from the joint programme.

22. The Stakeholder workshops were held in both beneficiary countries to provide an overview of the Joint Programme (JP) including its Theory of Change. It also served as a space where government entities share ongoing/planned projects that align with the JP's scope of work, and any other opportunities for additional support.

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

a. The project will promote gender equality and women's empowerment through the project's implementation. Activities will ensure that data is sex disaggregated and promote gender analysis. Also, as better data will allow for gender-responsive programming in each sector. The JP is also expected to promote the upscaling of good practices for agriculture disaster risk management by demonstrating their resilience-building potential and documenting the benefits from investing in these. Through inclusion of analysis on gender and groups at risk of being left behind, as well as activities to address specific constraints facing women, these efforts also promote gender equity.

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The JP is Gender-responsive (for example, the JP aimed to respond to specific gender needs, such as linking social assistance with GBV response services or maternal health support). 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
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Key meetings and events organized in 2022

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors event	Kick-off meeting
No, but planned in 2023	No and no plans yet	Yes, in 2022

Explanation if you have not held any key meeting/events.

Contribution to enhancing SDG Financing

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

How JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing