



DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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UNCT/MCO: Congo

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Building resilience of vulnerable communities, especially youth and women and people who lives in extreme poverty, through agri-food value chain analysis and promotion, market access facilitation promotion, access to social protection including cash-transfers, and innovative financing solutions.

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

PUNOS: UNDP, UNIDO, UNICEF

Stakeholder partner: National Government;

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

This item presents a brief status of actions completed and in progress by component. Details of progress will be recorded in an attachment (see Excel file).

Component 1: The evidence-based feasibility study is a building block for strengthening the Congolese cassava value chain, creating opportunities for the circular economy, energy transition, and food security to mitigate the impacts of the Ukraine crisis.

Actions in progress :

- A detailed mapping and performance analysis of the cassava value chain and existing industries of the selected products with proposals for improvement and/or development of agribusinesses;
- a study to increase knowledge and adoption of the circular economy in the cassava value chain;
- a mapping of financial support structures with an analysis of the supply of financial services, including a diagnosis of tax incentives and other facilities in force and their extension to entrepreneurs via the relevant public services

Component 2: The economic and social resilience of informal agribusiness actors, especially women, is promoted through priority access to existing social safety nets and innovative solutions for sustainable financing of social protection.

To achieve this result, several actions have been carried out and others are underway, namely:

Actions taken:

- An assessment of the state of the health and social protection system for women in the informal sector, including an analysis of social protection needs;

-A feasibility study for the implementation of a social protection scheme for actors in the informal agro-industry sector including innovative financing solutions;

- the preparatory phase of the socio-demographic survey on the situation of vulnerable populations, including women in the informal agribusiness sector. Several actions were carried out, namely: (i) The elaboration of terms of reference for the support to the reinforcement of the social protection system and the resilience of the communities in the Departments of Pool and Plateaux; (ii) The signature of a partnership agreement with the "Lisungi" social safety nets project; (iii) The recruitment of a consultant in charge of organizing and supervising a socio-demographic survey in the two intervention zones; (iv) The preparation of the survey tools and the analysis plan of the final report.

Actions in progress :

- Transfer of money to vulnerable women operating in the informal agribusiness sector who will be included in the future pilot project;

- Finalization of the socio-demographic survey, including: (i) recommendations are made to improve the tools for inclusion, targeting and registration of vulnerable populations and households in the RSU (ii) appropriate programmatic responses and policy options are identified and proposed to address the specific needs of the identified vulnerable populations.

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

- The implementation of cash transfer initiatives based on prior targeting of vulnerable people, and the establishment of a social protection system adapted to women in the informal sector, including innovative financing solutions for social protection, will contribute to strengthening the economic and social resilience of vulnerable groups in order to reduce poverty, strengthen the empowerment and improvement of women's economic activities and reduce inequalities among vulnerable groups, thus contributing to the achievement of SDGs 1, 5, 8 and 10.

- Diversification and processing of food products, particularly cassava, will help increase the productivity, production and quality of cassava and supply markets with basic food products (SDG 2);

- An enabling environment for the expansion of universal health insurance in the Congo will promote an increase in the rate of population covered by health insurance and the socio-economic resilience of the population, thus contributing to SDGs 1, 3, 10.

- Strengthened social support for vulnerable people as foreseen by the joint project will operationalize the principle of "leaving no one behind" and contribute directly to the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2 to eradicate poverty and hunger, but also indirectly to the achievement of SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and a growing economy), SDG 10 (reduction of inequalities) and SDG 13 (action for the climate)

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.

- The implementation of the joint project at the end of the year encountered scheduling conflicts with key partners engaged in other activities and anxious to finalize work plans already underway. The extension of the joint project was an opportunity that made it possible to calmly consider the continuation of the project.

- The expected results of this project will inform the government in the development of the national policy of social action with a particular focus on the social protection system adapted to women in the informal sector.

- The delay in launching the activities has not facilitated the respect of the commitments made for the timely realization of the project activities;

- Insufficient technical coordination of the project between the agencies involved.

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

To ensure scale-up and sustainability, the following steps should be advocated:

- Finalization and validation of ongoing studies and initiatives

- Ensure proper monitoring and evaluation of the project;

- Ensure visibility and communication of results to the general public;

- Coordination of the actions of the TFPs on social protection issues adapted to the needs of vulnerable groups to generate more impact;

- Mobilization of partnerships and resources for project scaling;

Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

The Government was mobilized through communication, sensitization and technical involvement with the heads of the sectoral ministries involved in the joint project.

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

Gender is included in the context analysis and core problem statement, as well as detailed in the project strategy - beneficiary component.

As part of the implementation, the interventions carried out under this joint project target vulnerable people, especially women, youth and children, as the main beneficiaries because of their vulnerability to the crisis in Ukraine and the rise in food inflation. For example, the joint project contributes to women's entrepreneurship through cash transfer initiatives in favor of women working in the informal sector, specifically in agribusiness, and to the strengthening of public policies in the context of the socio-economic resilience of vulnerable populations.

In order to leave no one behind, the recommended interventions aim to strengthen the inclusion of vulnerable people in the single social register and develop the resilience of these populations in the pilot areas of Ignié and Gamboma, by offering them the possibility of sustainable access to quality basic social services and economic activity. These two localities were selected on the basis of their vulnerability following analyses already conducted by the Lisungi project.

Because women and children bear the brunt of large-scale shocks and crises, the analysis plan for the final report will pay particular attention to the extent of disparities in access to basic social services, especially social protection, in the areas concerned; and the analysis of this data and information will need to reflect gender disparities and disparities between population groups.

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); Design of new gender-transformative programmes (e.g. new cash transfers to women-led households); Adaptation of existing programmes (e.g. revision of eligibility criteria, removal of conditionalities); Policy dialogues, advocacy (e.g. direct inputs to national policies, strategies, laws, including women's and girls' rights groups in coordination mechanisms);

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	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	Yes	No	No	Yes

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

The feasibility studies conducted by the joint project have, among other things, contributed to the development and strengthening of the women's agribusiness mutual.