



## Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in SIDS

### Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

-

#### Cover Page

**UNCT/MCO:** Dominican Republic

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

**JP title:** Communities of Care in the DR

**Stakeholder partner:** Civil Society Organizations;Sub-national Governments;National Government;

**Thematic SDG Areas:** Decent jobs & universal social protection;SDG localization;

**PUNOs:** UNDP, ILO, UNFPA, UNWOMEN

**Total estimated expenditures:** US\$ 172,357.9

**Total estimated commitments (including expenditures):** US\$ 276,904.0

**Gender Marker:** Gender-transformative (for example, the JP explicitly aimed to address the structural and root causes of gender inequality, such as by combining social protection with community dialogues and economic empowerment activities that aim to shift gender social norms and power relations)

**Resident Coordinator:** Ramirez Villegas, Mauricio

**Resident Coordinator Email:** mauricio.ramirez@un.org

#### Executive Summary

Through the support of the SDG Fund Joint Programme on Social Protection "Communities of Care: Design and Implementation of the National Care Policy Pilot in Prioritized Territories in Dominican Republic", under implementation by UNDP, UN Women, ILO and UNFPA, national Care Policy is being strengthened and expanded from the pilot experience towards for the gradual consolidation of a National Care System. The main results achieved by the agencies and public institutions involved in the implementation of this program include: The joint program (JP) has impacted by the implementation of the Local Care Policy Pilot in one of the two territories prioritized by the Government, Azua. Based on the results, lessons learned, and good practices developed in this pilot experience, the Communities of Care strategy has been progressively adjusted, strengthened, and expanded to new municipalities, thus advancing in the reduction of the gaps between demand and public supply of care and consolidating itself as a policy towards the establishment of a National Care System. (2023-2027 UNSDCF, Cooperation Area 1: Equality and social inclusion Cooperation. Result 1. The State strengthens a comprehensive response to the reduction of poverty and inequalities.1.7. Development of national, local and community strategies for social mobilization and cultural change for gender equality and the empowerment of women [...] Effect 2. Access to quality, universal, inclusive and resilient social goods and services, without discrimination throughout the territory. 2.4. Support for the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of inclusive, equitable, quality, resilient and rights-based education policies and services.)

The technical-professional offer of the INFOTEP training professional programs for early childhood and elderly care, as well as the design of the offer for assistants of persons with disabilities, are under development and ongoing. (2023-2027 UNSDCF, Area 2: Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity, Result 3,– 3.9.Empowerment, financial inclusion and economic participation of women

under criteria of decent work, labor formality and equal pay.)

The joint program (JP) contributed to strengthen statistical and information systems through the support provided to the social system of beneficiaries (SIUBEN) in the collection of socioeconomic information on eligible households for the pilot of the National Care Policy, as well as through the support to the design and implementation of a georeferenced mapping of the care offer in the prioritized areas is under development. (Mainstreamed in the 2023-2027 UNSDCF - Data Development Approach 1.6. Strengthening of statistical capacities, with a territorial approach, for the generation, availability, dissemination, management, analysis and use of quality,)

Moreover, it is important to highlight that the Strategic Line 1.4. of the 2023-2027 UNSDCF, is aligned with the 3 main outcomes. This line relates to the “support for the implementation of a national system of quality care with the central responsibility of the State and the social participation of communities, families and the private sector [...]

The JP has contributed to SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Women and care workers are being benefited directly from the implementation of pilot Communities of Care. In addition, other groups in situation of dependency in the Care Pilot are being beneficiaries including people with disabilities, older persons and children and youth. Through this strategy, progress is being made in the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care work, mitigating inequalities in care work and addressing the obstacles that prevent women from obtaining decent paid work (SDG target 5.4). Also, the JP has contributed to SDG 8: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay [...]

## Annual Progress

### Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

On-track (expected annual results-achieved)

### Overall progress against 3 key results

- Outcome 1. The joint program (JP) has contributed to the implementation of the Local Care Policy Pilot in one of the two territories prioritized by the Government, Azua. In this sense, the Government has been supported in the Consolidation of the Intersectoral Care Table with governmental actors and in the development of the Local Care Table of Azua. To support the government in this regard, technical advice has been provided, including contributions to the Inter-institutional Collaboration Framework Agreement for the development of the Intersectoral Care Table and a methodological guide has been prepared for the elaboration and structure of the local care plans.

- Outcome 2. Statistical and information systems strengthened and contributing to the design, management, monitoring and evaluation of the National Care Policy in support of the achievement of SDGs and the strengthening of the National System of Public Planning and Invest and the Social Protection System.

The joint program (JP) contributed to support the social system of beneficiaries (SIUBEN) in the collection of socioeconomic information on eligible households for the pilot of the National Care Policy. Through technical support from UNFPA, SIUBEN carried out a survey with the goal of identifying the demand for care and future candidates for social benefits in vulnerable communities, as part of the joint program. The goal was to reach 9,000 homes and it excelled by completing 103%, equivalent to 9,246 completed home interviews.

As part of the effort to strengthen the design of the care policy and to complement the needs for measuring and evaluating impact, a georeferenced mapping of the care supply in the prioritized areas of the pilot is being carried out with UNDP's technical support. A service agreement with the UNDP Regional Gender Area was developed for the application of the mapping tool and a national consultant was selected for the recollection of information. A survey tool was developed and discussed with the national counterpart, as well as a methodological note to describe and establish the guidelines that define the scope of work. To date, a first proposal of a georeferenced mapping of the care supply of the province of Azua has been prepared. The mapping has a scope of 54,779 households, of which there are 93,72 men and 89,182 women according to SIUBEN data. This proposal is pending validation of MEPYD and other national counterparts to ensure that the necessary requirements have been met for the successful implementation of the pilot in Azua, to then proceed with the mapping of Santo Domingo Este.

Outcome 3. The joint program (JP) collaborated with the technical team of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPYD) through the review of the budget prepared by the government for the implementation of the care pilots. In this sense, a series of recommendations were provided to guarantee the financial allocation and economic support to the different institutions linked to the pilot. These inputs will facilitate in 2023 the realization of an estimate of costs and economic effects of the expansion of the Care System in the Dominican Republic. The communications strategy's goal is to make the initiative known to the general public and key stakeholders, and to strengthen commitment, recognition and appreciation to the equitable distribution of care work, thus promoting cultural and social changes that will lead to better practices that will benefit the population in general, but

specially women and most vulnerable groups. The strategy will initially be implemented on a small scale directly on the two selected territories, Azua and Santo Domingo Este, with a national scope, and will then be systematized identifying lessons learned and opportunities of improvement for the expansion phase. The terms for the implementation of this strategy have been prepared, discussed and agreed widely with Government counterparts involved.

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

- The JP has contributed to SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Women and care workers are being benefited directly from the implementation of pilot Communities of Care. In addition, other groups in situation of dependency in the Care Pilot are being beneficiaries including people with disabilities, older persons and children and youth. Through this strategy, progress is being made in the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care work, mitigating inequalities in care work and addressing the obstacles that prevent women from obtaining decent paid work (SDG target 5.4).

- The JP has contributed to SDG 8: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. The ILO's strategy is to promote the professionalization and formalization of care workers who regularly work in informal conditions (SDG target 8.5).

### **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.**

- External: The need for and importance of linking the political discourse (of the authorities) with the technical discourse is raised, as well as the need to strengthen inter-institutional work. This will be key so that in 2023 progress can be made towards the consolidation of the Care Communities, and to advance from this in the gradual construction of the Care System. This will be improved with the strengthening and activation of the Steering Committee for a more directed action.

- Internal: The final hiring process of the Inter-Agency Coordinator is essential. This process has been recently overcome by the completion of the recruitment of the coordinator. This will be essential in the implementation of the project together with the implementation together with the government and other counterparts.

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

- Next steps include the implementation of the communication strategy for the National Care Policy in the prioritized communities and finalizing the mapping and geo-referencing of the private and public supply of care services in the prioritized territories. Additionally, it will design the impact evaluation methodology for the National Care Plan.

This year, the technical-professional offer of training programs for early childhood care and care of dependent adults, the elderly, and/or the disabled will be updated and designed based on the best applicable international practices. In addition, the first cycle of the improved care training offer will be conducted in two pilot communities, with monitoring of performance and outcomes for future improvement recommendations, considering: a) training of trainers and b) first class of certified persons.

This year, based on the pilot experience, the JP will support the strengthening and expansion of the National Care Policy for the gradual consolidation of a national care system. To this end, we are going to develop an exercise to design and cost the expansion plan of the National Care Policy, integrating the lessons learned from the pilot experience. This costing exercise, which UN Women has already been carrying out in Mexico, Panama, and Peru, establishes a projection of scenarios for progressive access to care services and estimates the economic impacts in terms of direct job creation and increased fiscal collection.

- Also, as follow-up actions, that the JP will support the quality evaluation of programme as well as the data collection and systematization of to strengthen the National Care System in the country.

## **Programmatic Survey**

**Total number of people benefited from the JP in 2022: 27738**

**Percentage (%) of women benefited among the total number: 1**

**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.

- The elaboration of Azua's Local Care Plan, making the municipality a benchmark for the rest of the country, has been developed by representatives of the local government, the provincial government, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector and the 10 institutions of the Intersectoral Care Board and supported by SDG Fund. Having this local plan will allow the creation of opportunities for those who carry out care work, which has historically been assumed disproportionately by women, making it possible to reduce a significant gap in the time that men and women dedicate to care.
- The programme supported the identification of the demand for care in Santo Domingo Este, as well as possible future candidates for the reception of social benefits.

## Priority Cross-cutting Issues

### Cross-cutting results/issues

Considering cross-cutting results, it's important to highlight that, the regional experience of the UN System in the Latin American and the Caribbean region in supporting the design and implementation of care policies, especially ILO, UNWomen, UNDP and UNFPA, has served to advance more rapidly and transfer knowledge at the national level, contributing with specialized courses and tools that have already been tested in other countries. This also allows a much more unified and integrated approach to recognize and work towards the benefit of the population in general, but with a special emphasis on those groups in a more vulnerable situation such as people with disabilities, the elderly and young children, while freeing women from the overload of care work, in most cases unpaid, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

- International experience has enriched the human rights approach deemed so necessary in the current process of designing and reviewing care training programs. The approach that was prominent in the Dominican Republic was more focused on social and health care.
- The JP has contributed to SDG data results by gathering data according to SIUBEN's national methodology, which measures poverty according to the national definition. This survey method also gathers other types of information that allow for crossing and exploitation of population data for evidence-based decision-making.
- The support of the JP for the development of the Local Care Policy Pilot in Azua through the search for comprehensive solutions to the care needs of vulnerable households, the promotion of women's economic autonomy and the right to care for children, and people in situations of dependency (including older adults and people with disabilities) is accelerating the achievement of many goals related to the 2030 Agenda in a strategic and innovative way. The development of a Local Care Policy in the Dominican Republic is being a transformative initiative, consistent with the inclusive, multisectoral and cross-cutting nature of the SDGs that will contribute to the implementation of an innovative model of governance and intersectoral management to offer families an articulated package of services to facilitate care and labor insertion through it, with special priority on the poor and vulnerable population.

### How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The JP is Gender-transformative (for example, the JP explicitly aimed to address the structural and root causes of gender inequality, such as by combining social protection with community dialogues and economic empowerment activities that aim to shift gender social norms and power relations). Capacity development (e.g. training of social workers, local governments, local communities); Adaptation of existing programmes (e.g. revision of eligibility criteria, removal of conditionalities); 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
Yes	Yes	No	No

### 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, but planned in 2023	Yes, in 2022

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

N-A

**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 JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing**

N-A