



## DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

### Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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#### Cover Page

**UNCT/MCO:** Ecuador

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

**JP title:** Preventing and mitigating a potential food crisis in Ecuador and strengthening the social protection in the face of a crisis

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

**PUNOS:** ILO, WFP, FAO

**Stakeholder partner:** National Government; Sub-national Governments;

**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

So far, within the joint program, the UN Agencies have implemented the following activities:

Within Outcome 1 "Generation of data and evidence on food security and nutrition of the vulnerable population in urban and rural areas"

- The process of collecting information from 2,200 households of small producers in 17 provinces of the country has been completed with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG). This information will allow ILO, FAO and WFP to assess food insecurity and malnutrition through the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) (ODS 2.1.2) and the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in urban and rural households. The team is currently processing the information.
- As part of the integrated response under a multilevel and intersectoral approach, food deserts and swamps were identified in the cities of Latacunga, in Cotopaxi province, Riobamba, in Chimborazo province, and Portoviejo, Manabí province. This knowledge allows ILO, FAO and WFP to prioritize areas of attention for different spaces for the marketing of products from peasant family farmers.
- MAG, ILO, FAO and WFP jointly developed a tool for modeling and predicting prices and their impact on food insecurity, which will be installed on MAG servers for use by its technicians in charge of data and information.
- ILO, FAO and WFP completed a predictive analysis on the possible impacts of the crisis on the gaps in social protection and informality in Ecuador, highlighting scenarios for the year 2025 for reducing informal employment and expanding social protection coverage. The Project's find successful scenarios require consolidating public policies to reduce poverty, creating quality employment, encouraging formal work instead of self-employment or independent work – where informality and a lack of social protection is generally higher – and strengthening universal social protection systems that protect all types of employment and

people.

- Finally, the project provided technical assistance to improve institutional capacities to collect and monitor SDG indicator 1.3.1 related to the implementation of social protection floors in the country.

Within outcome 2, comprehensive prevention and immediate response measures have been implemented to sustainably address the causes of a potential food crisis, contributing to SDG 1 and 2, generating:

- In coordination with the Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs), ILO, FAO, and WFP hosted farmers' fairs in the areas prioritized within the diagnosis of food marshes and aligned with the land use and management plan in 5 intermediate cities, with the participation of about 450 producers, 80 percent of whom were women. In this regard, and in coordination with MAG, GADs, and municipal governments, ILO, FAO and WFP agreed on a plan to develop differentiated spaces for Family Farming in the retail markets in Portoviejo, Latacunga and Riobamba cities.
- ILO, FAO and WFP developed a communication and education strategy to promote healthy eating. Moreover, ILO, FAO and WFP, in coordination with the municipal governments, delivered capacity building activities for small family producers who access suppliers in the marketing spaces (retail markets and farmers' fairs).
- ILO, FAO and WFP implemented four Field Schools to deliver trainings, including related to the adoption of innovative and efficient fertilization and soil nutrition measures, and update training curricula that is taught within the learning communities formed by producers in 24 Ecuadorian provinces.
- In coordination with the Agency for Regulation and Phytosanitary and Zoosanitary Control of Ecuador, Agrocalidad, software was developed to register bioinputs as part of its GUIA platform. Its operation will be piloted in biofactories that belong to the AFC producer organizations in Cotopaxi and Bolivar provinces.
- Within result 3: ILO, FAO and WFP strengthened institutional capacities to implement policies that increase re

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

- The joint program contributes to SDG 1, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere", by strengthening the social protection system, with the development of government capacity building activities and the generation of tools aimed at analyzing gaps in the coverage of the social protection system and informal labor.
- The program contributes to Target 1.5 by strengthening the resilience of small producers and the population in informal labor, as well by reducing their exposure and vulnerability to extreme events, such as food crisis and increases in prices of agricultural inputs. The project generated evidence and data on food and nutritional security concerning the vulnerable population, applying a survey of information in 17 provinces of the country through the FIES (SDG 2. 1.2) and the EFSA survey, in addition to the price change modeling and prediction tool that supports the National Government in forecasting changes and making timely decisions.
- By generating information on food insecurity and working with small producers so that they can increase their incomes, the joint program contributes to SDG 2, particularly target 2.3, corresponding to the improvement of agricultural productivity and the income of small producers. In this framework, the joint program works on the establishment of agricultural fairs in food deserts, the generation of schools, and the development and application of the International Code of Conduct for the Use and Handling of Fertilizers.
- Finally, the program also contributes to SDG 8, through policies and actions aimed at strengthening decent employment, from the generation of a tool for prospective analysis of coverage gaps related to the impact on the social protection system and technical assistance to the Government to assess and estimate the costs to close coverage gaps related to the impact of the social protection system and informality in Ecuador.

#### **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.**

- High turnover among managers and technicians at Government counterparts resulted in implementation delays. Moreover, concerning the project's data collection exercises, ILO, FAO and WFP identified a need to monitor the technical teams closely as to avoid errors in information gathering/data collection. Finally, ILO, FAO and WFP find that constant coordination with counterparts is key to implement actions follow up on results obtained through data collection exercises and activities.
- A good practice to emphasize for future interventions is the importance of implementing participatory activities with the populations that are directly affected by the crisis. Consultations in the relevant territory and with the affected populations allows the project teams to reformulate policy solutions proposed within component 3 and to establish a recommendations framework that is adjusted to reality. The Government can use this to generate specific actions within the framework of resilience and social protection in the face of crises.
- With respect to adjustments made in the implementation:
  - o Within Component 1, ILO, FAO, and WFP complemented the price prediction and modeling tool activity with a methodology of prospective models for the identification of pricing trends; this will strengthen the National Government's technical capacity and its ability to generate policies and strategies that support producers.

o Within Component 3, ILO, FAO, and WFP incorporated communication and socialization activities to publicize the technical teams' actions. A workshop and various documents, diagrams, and videos outlining project experiences and outcomes will be developed for MAG and Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion teams.

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

The activities carried out under the joint program were coordinated with government counterparts, which strengthens the relationship between ILO, FAO, and WFP. The Government of Ecuador commits to maintaining the instruments and actions generated through the project and ILO, FAO and WFP will support the Government in this handover process.

Several follow-up activities will take place in January and February 2023, including the delivery of a communication and dissemination process to publicize the joint program's findings. ILO, FAO, and WFP will deliver this to Government of Ecuador counterparts. This action aims to socialize the instruments and products generated through the joint program among technicians to strengthen their capacities related to resilience measures, social protection, and labor informality.

## Strategic Partnerships and Communications

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

The activities of the joint program are coordinated with actors of the National Government, mainly the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, and the National Institute of Agricultural Research, which are the counterparts in the processes carried out.

**Key meetings and events organized**

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

**Cross-cutting results/issues**

SDG indicator 1.3.1 measures the proportion of the population covered by social protection floors or systems, disaggregated by sex and distinguishing between children, the unemployed, the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, survivors of occupational accidents, and the poor and vulnerable groups. Prior to the implementation of the joint project, the last data consolidation for Ecuador was carried out in 2019 and there was no data disaggregated by sex. This project has made it possible to report on SDG 1.3.1 covering women, men, and children within each above category. This has also been useful so that the analysis of costs, scenarios and identification of funding sources can be specific to each of the populations.

On the other hand, the surveys on food insecurity, applied to 17 provinces at the national level, are disaggregated by gender, and will make it possible to develop a specific analysis of gender and the incidence of food insecurity in men and women.

The policy recommendations also have a cross-cutting gender approach, considering the existing differences between male and female producers and incorporating a specific analysis for these 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); Policy dialogues, advocacy (e.g. direct inputs to national policies, strategies, laws, including women's and girls' rights groups in coordination mechanisms); Capacity development (e.g. training of social workers, local governments, local communities);

**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	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	Yes	No	No	No	No

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

An analysis of the gaps in social protection is carried out and provides basic information to determine the need for investment and increased spending.