



DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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UNCT/MCO: Gambia

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Impact assessment of the global security and inflation crisis on food security, nutrition and livelihood of people in The Gambia and support the development of an evidence-driven shock-responsive social safety net system

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

PUNOS: WFP, FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA

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

The United Nations (UN) in Gambia conducted surveys and analysis to understand the impact of the crisis on food security, nutrition, and livelihood. Through the Joint Programme (JP), the government's capacity was strengthened in building an evidence-driven and shock-responsive social safety net system. This allowed for the development of a comprehensive data collection and analysis framework that identified key trends and patterns in the impact of the crisis.

The JP successfully implemented activities related to organizing quality data assessments workshops, conducting food security surveys, updating nutrition indicators, and collecting market data. The UN system in Gambia, in partnership with the government, provided timely data to guide government policy and program planning, resulting in impactful assessments on food security situation in the country and facilitated effective response to food crises that emerged.

However, the October 2022 National Food Security Survey showed that moderate and severe food insecurity remain very high in the same areas identified by the 2021 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment. The survey revealed the highest prevalence of food insecurity compared to the previous studies. Central River Region recorded the highest prevalence of food insecurity.

Additionally, the results of the November 2022 Nutrition Surveillance survey showed that critical levels of malnutrition have been recorded in 6 out of 8 Local Government Authorities, with an increase in vulnerable groups with acute malnutrition from 2021 to

2022. These findings were further corroborated by the recent Cadre Harmonise, which revealed that the country is experiencing the highest number of food insecure people since 2017, calling for an urgent need for support for the affected households.

Outcome 2 of the JP has contributed to the country's priorities by strengthening the capacity of government institutions to design, implement, and monitor social safety nets programs. This has enabled the government to better respond to shocks and ensure that vulnerable populations are provided with the necessary support. Data collection phase for the Strengthened Government capacity in building an evidence-driven and shock-responsive social safety nets system outcome is ongoing, with data being collected from the 7 regions of the country and from 20 institutions.

In conclusion, the JP has contributed to strengthening the government's capacity to design, implement, and monitor social safety nets programs. However, the recent surveys have revealed a critical need for support for food insecure households in the country, which calls for urgent action. The ongoing data collection efforts aim to address this need and support the government in responding to shocks and ensuring vulnerable populations are provided with the necessary support.

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

The Gambia National Food Security Survey 2022, nutrition sentinel surveillance 2022 and market functionality index provided critical information on key food security indicators that constitute a baseline for any intervention aiming at contributing to SDG 2: Zero hunger and SDG 17. It equally supports in scaling up the targeting approach for food security interventions translated by a data driven approach aiming at managing resources and supporting the right people. In the image of the Market Survey, the Gambia National Food Security Survey considerably contributed to accelerating progress towards SDG 5: Gender Equality through the methodologies used for data collection and analysis to avoid gender biasness.

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.

- Different financing modalities of agencies in dealing with cooperating partners (direct implementation and transfer of funds to partners). For the same joint activities, some agencies used direct implementation and other transfer of funds to partners for implementation. Through regular communication and coordination, we were able to adjust and reach the objective of the programme
- Communication challenges between agencies that resulted in some delays. Several follow up meeting were organized. Check list and work plan were developed to follow up activities.
- Delayed recruitment of consultant to support shock-responsive social protection interventions
- Fund allocation has not been done in strategic way that take into account level of expertise and mandate of different agencies.

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

The implementation of outcome 2 “Strengthened Government capacity in building an evidence-driven and shock-responsive social safety nets system” is ongoing in 2023 but will be completed by the end of the JP. Development of the Shock responsive, gender focused social safety nets study that will provide analytical evidence to help develop a comprehensive strategy to support strengthening the social protection system for The Gambia. This will contribute to SDG 2 – zero hunger; SDG 5 – gender equality; SDG 17 – partnerships for the goal.

To ensure sustainability, the UN mainstream the JP into its joint workplans. The activities including market survey, national food security analysis, nutrition sentinel surveillance was implemented jointly with partners such as Ministry of Agriculture, Gambia Bureau of Statistics, National Nutrition Agency etc. The project has been designed together with partners. For instance, the targeting of beneficiaries is done by partners. Targeting Guide was developed to support partners who remain working with beneficiaries for different programme long after the project ends. Trainings on social protection and food and nutrition data collection and analysis is being provided to partners so they remain empowered to continue with ongoing activities. Food and nutrition surveys are absorbed by Agencies as part of their regular annual programs.

Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

- Gambia Bureau of Statistics – food security survey
- Ministry of Agroiculture – Food security survey and market functionality index
- National Nutrition Agency – Nutrition sentinel surveillance
- National Social Protection secretariat - Shock responsive social safety net

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 JP focused on gender-sensitive data collection and analysis to ensure that the needs of both males and females were considered. To do this, gender-disaggregated data was collected and used to inform the design and implementation of the social safety nets system. Women, as primary caregivers, were engaged and participated in the Nutrition and food security assessment to ensure their voices were heard and their needs were reflected. Data on food and nutrition was collected to help inform the development of policies and strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, the project ensured that the rights of all individuals were respected and protected during the assessment process, and that all individuals in the community were included, regardless of their gender, age, or socio-economic status.

With regards to gender, the National Food Security Survey attempts to mainstream gender into the data management cycle by making sure the information derived from the survey analysis is well disaggregated by gender. Besides, the WFP jointly with FAO successfully conducted a day workshop, aiming at identifying not only high priority data weaknesses and gaps but also partnership opportunities in addressing the issue related to SGD data.

At sub-national level data on gender and shock responsive social safety net is being collected at individual, household and community levels. To address issues around gender, women empowerment, SDG data, human rights, youths and principle of leaving no one behind – data being collected elicits for qualitative and quantitative measures to be used to assess how to develop shock responsive, gender focused social safety nets that ensure that no one is left behind. Data being collected is gender responsive and explicitly integrates universal human rights-based approaches to data management. Data will be disaggregated by sex and according to other relevant parameters such as sex, age, place of residence, belonging to minorities, disabilities and gender identity given in the Program Log frame.

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); Adaptation of existing programmes (e.g. revision of eligibility criteria, removal of conditionalities);

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

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