



## Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in SIDS

### Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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#### Cover Page

**UNCT/MCO:** Guinea-Bissau

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

**JP title:** Building resilience in Guinea Bissau through a shock-responsive social protection system

**Stakeholder partner:** National Government; Sub-national Governments; Civil Society Organizations; Parliamentarians; IFIs/DFIs;

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

**PUNOs:** WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA

**Total estimated expenditures:** US\$ 132,000.0

**Total estimated commitments (including expenditures):** US\$ 306,688.0

**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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#### Executive Summary

In 2022, the joint programme supported the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity through the SDG-funded Joint Project with RCO, UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA to begin establishing the building blocks for the development of a shock-responsive social protection system to contribute to poverty reduction, social inclusion and improved well-being for the most vulnerable children and their families. For this purpose, a governance framework was established a technical and a steering committee comprised of national and international partners to effectively oversee the development of the national social protection policy and its corresponding strategy which is central in the SDG-funded joint programme.

The technical and steering committees will pursue activities in 2023 to support implementation and the development of the National Social Protection Policy and Strategy in partnership with and under the leadership of the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity as well as the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, WFP, UNFPA, UNDP, World Bank. Furthermore, UNICEF completed the contracting of Oxford Policy Management (OPM) to support the policy development process and in providing the technical assistance necessary to mobilize national and international partners. Much interest has been raised and engaged obtained so far to ensure coordinated approaches in the building of a viable social protection system.

WFP are leading the Cash Transfer related activities within the SDG Joint Project and has kickstarted activities in 2022 with the selection of local NGO as implementing partner. Most activities are planned to be implemented throughout 2023.

While in lead of the Social Registry delivery, UNFPA also is responsible for enhanced health service delivery in the Bijagos islands including through acquisition and allocation of an ambulance boat to the islands. During 2022, UNFPA initiated the boat procurement based on general guidelines for an ambulance boat. However, procurement has not yielded desired results as specifications were far beyond the budget allocated. To this regard, a process to acquire a within the budget and functional ambulance boat has been initiated including through identifying regional shipyards (building) that can respond both functionality

and feasibility. Under the overall implementation of the project, UNFPA has assumed the recruitment of the IUNV Monitoring and evaluation. The process was concluded successfully in 2022 and the UNV will be on board in March 2023.

## 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

As a building block for developing the social protection system, UNICEF through the consultancy firm Oxford Policy Management has completed the initial inception mission the process of drafting the National Social Protection Policy and its Implementation Strategy took place between the 13th and 20th of December 2022. During the mission OPM and the national consultant were able to meet key partners to discuss their expectations regarding the formulation of the Policy and Strategy development process and to collect key documentation for the diagnosis of the current situation of social protection in Guinea-Bissau and discuss and fine-tune the process work plan.

Moreover, UNICEF through OPM has completed the production of a document reviewing good practices in terms of social protection in African countries which is part of the process of preparing Guinea-Bissau's National Social Protection Policy. The review study of experiences in other African countries is motivated by the desire to bring examples of what is being carried out in countries with some similarities with Guinea-Bissau and what would be possible to be used as good practice to shape Guinea-Bissau Social Protection Policy. In addition, UNICEF has started during the reporting period, the preparation for capacity strengthening of members of the steering and technical committees on Social Protection to be able to effectively contribute to the National Social Protection Policy formulation.

During the reporting period, WFP working with partners has identify key regions with multiple deprivations where the SDG JP will be implemented which includes Gabu, Tombali e Bolama e Bijagos, identified local NGO as implementing partner to conduct activities throughout 2023 and also has contributed to strengthening the SDG JP collaborations between UN agencies and the lead Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity.

UNFPA has jointly work with both implementing partners to align the process of delivering the Unique Social Registry within the overarching framework of National Social Policy support being led by UNICEF. With the leading of DGSS at the Ministry of Women, UNFPA has initiated interactions with DGSS to ensure the process of devising the options of a Unique Social Registry is in line of the already established inter-ministerial group on Social Protection being led by the Ministry.

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

Despite progress made by UNICEF in implementing the building blocks for the SDG Joint Project, limited implementation capacity of the convening authority and delays in recruiting key project staff have slowed down implementation. In addition to capacity development, efforts will need to be made to draw out accountabilities of all actors to work synergistically towards building the social protection system that should have multiplier effects on resilience. As a result, the multiplier effects will contribute towards collaboration among development partners in joint programming to reach populations who are currently being left furthest behind with regards to key social development outcomes and the SDGs. Social protection initiatives must therefore be also integrated in sectoral programming in health and nutrition, education, water and sanitation and child protection to ensure that equity and social inclusion are central lenses for their development efforts to achieve the results required for the SDGs.

With the distribution of cash transfers, WFP will contribute to accelerating progress towards the following SDG targets: ODS. 1. End poverty in all its forms. ODS. 2. End hunger and achieve food security and improved nutrition. ODS. 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. All of this will be possible within the context of implementing the different activities foreseen in the CP in which each agency will implement its activity.

### 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.

- It is very likely that the SDG Joint Project will need an extension of 6 months to cover delays related to contracting of key project staff and late kick start of activities.
- The implementation of the project was delayed by the attempted coup d'état in February 2022 and then the dissolution of the parliament in May by the President, which contributed to a tense political situation in Guinea- Bissau and as result not providing the appropriate environment for early implementation start of the SDG JP.
- The PUNOs note that internal challenges faced by operational issues, due to the difficulty of coordination at the level of the technical committee, lack of project specific staff, which, if persisted, could jeopardize the achievement of the expected results but

these difficulties should also serve as lessons for better coordination among committee members.

- A key lesson learned from UNICEF regarding the SDG-Joint Project is the potential it has of being catalytic, however, collaboration with other development partners such as FAO and the World Bank is needed to construct a viable system. Advocacy for a common system, leveraging resources, deploying innovations and coordination, in addition to building of technical capacities are all essential building blocks for relevant and effective JP.

- The Ambulance boat procurement yielded no successful results as boat cost proved higher than the provision within the budget of the project. To respond to this while endeavoring to deliver, UNFPA has initiated a targeted procurement aiming to identify regional/local shipyards that can build and deliver an ambulance boat that is functional to respond to the services while affordable for the budget provided in the Project budget. An option to raise funds and top up on the provided budget is also an open option to mitigate the challenge.

- The project has faced challenges in working with national counterparts, it will be important to continue to raise the level of engagement at the highest government levels and effective partnerships to collectively develop a viable social protection system. The SDG-funded programme is proving to be catalytic in this regard. Government participation in regional and global meetings for technical capacity strengthening and building accountability systems in public finance management and social protection will serve as a key lever for change, particularly to countries with similar social, economic and language realities.

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

UNICEF will complete the planned activities for 2023, which consist as follows: Review of good Social Protection Practices within countries that have similar context to Guinea-Bissau context; Workshop for the training of the technical and steering committees in basic concepts of social protection to support the development of the National Social Protection Policy and its corresponding Strategy; Update the Social Protection Diagnostic Study in Guinea-Bissau; Definition of the bases of the National Social Protection Policy and its corresponding Strategy and finally, develop the Policy and Strategy.

For this 2023, WFP plans to visit the intervention communities; update of vulnerability criteria; targeting and selection of beneficiaries; distribution of cash transfers to selected beneficiaries; performing Post Distribution Monitoring. All these activities will be carried out in collaboration with other UN agencies, Central and Regional government institutions.

UNFPA will seek to fast track the 2023 activities in a collaborative fashion with other implementing Agencies and Funds as well as with the Government partner. In fact, UNFPA like other is already a member of the working group on Social Protection set by the Ministry of Women and comprising other relevant Government department. UNFPA will build on the consultancy already contracted by UNICEF to link the Social Protection Policy and Strategy to the establishment of Optional Framework for Social Registry including through an engagement of a consultant. While some regional/local shipyards have been tapped in to provide quotations for an ambulance boat, 2023 will see UNFPA intensifying the process to agree on specifications and move forward to production and foreseeing the ambulance delivery by the end of 2023.

## **Programmatic Survey**

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

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

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

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

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

**Explain how people benefited from the joint programme.**

The cash-based transfers initially planned for 2022, have been rescheduled to 2023.

## **Priority Cross-cutting Issues**

### Cross-cutting results/issues

The results emanated from UNICEF implementation of the SDG Joint Project activities has contributed to reinforcing the coordination between UN agencies, the lead convening authority (Ministry of Women, Family and Social Solidarity) and key stakeholders based on the principles of gender equality and women empowerment throughout the implementation period. Key building blocks have been put in place in the development of the National Social Protection Policy and Strategy. The strategy and the registry which compliments it will be designed with a human rights based approach and on the key principles of gender equality and leave no one behind. The design process will be inclusive based on continuous consultations with a wide range of stakeholder.

During the implementation of cash transfers for families in vulnerable situations the leading agency will further apply a gender-sensitive approach, noting the particular vulnerabilities of women, as the population that suffers the most from the impact of crises and shocks.

### 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). 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
No	No	No	No

### Key meetings and events organized in 2022

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

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

The donors meeting was scheduled to take place after soem strategic achievements of the JP. Unfortunately, due to operational delays, and resequencing of activities, these were not able to take place. The donor's meeting is expected to held after the draft policy is developed.

### 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

With support from the JP, the MWFSS has started the process of drafting the National Social Protection Policy and Strategy which will contribute massively to increase the budgeting and the legal framework for the social sector. In addition, during the reporting period UNICEF supported the participation of 2 staff members in the Abuja Integrated National Financing Framework and Open Budget which will help the Government of Guinea-Bissau through the Ministry of Finance to strengthen its public and private financing for development.