



DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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UNCT/MCO: Guyana

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: FAO and WFP Joint Development Emergency Programme for Food Security and Livelihoods Resilience in Guyana

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

PUNOS: FAO, WFP

Stakeholder partner: National Government; Academia;

Gender Marker: Gender-responsive (for example, the JP aimed to respond to specific gendered needs, such as linking social assistance with GBV response services or maternal health support)

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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

As of 31 December 2022, the Joint Programme is on track to delivering all its outputs by the revised deadline of 31 March 2023.

With regards to Output 1 on strengthening evidence based social protection programmes, the JP has supported the preparation and launch of the Guyana component of the August 2022 WFP Caribbean Food Security & Livelihoods Survey. Also, as part of the JP, FAO has signed a Letter of Agreement with the University of the West Indies to undertake an assessment of food, feeds, and input prices during the first quarter of 2023. Further, FAO has hired a consultant to oversee this research project and prepare a synthesis report based on both the WFP and FAO surveys.

With regards to Output 2 on strengthening the institutional capacity of the government in the design and implementation of social protection programmes, WFP partnered with the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security to develop targeting criteria for delivery of a one-off cash stimulus to specific participants of the Ministry's Women Investment and Innovation Network (WIIN) business programme. Through this JP, WFP has also provided training to the Ministry on the project cycle for social cash assistance in the context of Guyana, business process mapping, data collection and analysis skills for food, feeds, and input prices assessment. WFP and FAO have reviewed training needs on an ongoing basis and will share their findings in the next steps and sustainability section of the final progress report. FAO has also hired a consultant to coordinate an advocacy event to stakeholders based on the synthesis report.

With regards to Output 3 on expanding market-based interventions to boost the resilience of agricultural producers, both agencies

have developed, submitted, and received approval from the government for the cash transfers and agricultural input distributions. Having now agreed the final list of beneficiaries with their respective ministries, the implementation of these transfers and distributions are due to take place by the start of March ahead of project closure. Both agencies then plan to conduct an after-action review of this intervention through their normal programme management procedures, with their respective findings feeding into the final JP project completion report.

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

- The Joint SDG Fund project leveraged past FAO and WFP experience in the design and implementation of Government led cash assistance and agricultural input programmes in Guyana.
- Project efficiencies were gained through regular coordination meetings chaired by the RCO Economist, as well as direct interagency collaboration, which led to potential savings particularly in the areas of logistics, training, and communications.
- Further efficiencies were gained through informal coordination facilitated by the JP between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security which developed a mutual understanding of respective activities and helped to identify some process gaps and redundancies.
- The research products produced by each agency, alongside the upcoming synthesis report, will provide a shared analytical basis to promote greater agency coordination in the areas of social protection and food systems moving forwards.

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.

Some delays were incurred at the start of the project due to each agencies bespoke project approval and programme management procedures, which were neither aligned with each other nor the Joint SDG Fund's concept note bidding process. As such, the agency level project approval process that followed the original project approval from the Joint SDG Fund could only commence once funding had been received and took several months to finalize. The Joint SDG Fund could seek to mitigate the additional time and transaction costs arising from the dual / triple approvals processes through greater procedural alignment to enable more timely delivery of its emergency modalities.

The JP applied an informal approach to facilitating inter-ministerial coordination rather than seeking a formal agreement between the two ministries. This was due to the lack of established inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms in Guyana, differing ministerial priorities, and the tight timeline of the project. While this approach enabled a timelier disbursement of funds in line with the emergency modalities timelines, it also affected the ability to coordinate the designation of beneficiaries and synchronize the timing of the cash transfers and agricultural input distributions.

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

The JP will conclude its activities during the first quarter of 2023. This will include the preparation by the University of the West Indies of the analysis into country level impacts of fertilizer, feeds, and agriculture input prices, the preparation of a synthesis report and advocacy event based on both WFP and FAO surveys, the distribution of cash transfers and agriculture inputs to beneficiaries, and the preparation of agency and JP project completion reports that will include an assessment of training needs for social protection. FAO and WFP will conduct after-action reviews of their respective activities to further inform the way forward for future joint programming. The JP also highlights opportunities in better understanding institutional frameworks and areas for collaboration amongst partners and stakeholders.

Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

The Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Human Services and Social Protection were engaged to deliver the cash transfers and agricultural inputs. The University of the West Indies was engaged to prepare an assessment on food, feeds, and input prices.

Key meetings and events organized

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting Strategic partners/ donors Kick-off meeting event

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

During the implementation of this project, measures have been taken to ensure that the make-up of participant groups engaged in capacity building and social protection activities are at a ratio of at least 30 percent women. These measures included, but were not limited to, collaborating with farmers' organizations and women's groups to send direct invitations to women and youth, and ensuring a wider promotion of capacity-building activities through the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Human Services and Social Protection. By design, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security programme that is supported by WFP (WIIN - Women Innovation and Investment Network) seeks to empower women by helping them establish activities that increase livelihoods and resilience in the community.

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The JP is Gender-responsive (for example, the JP aimed to respond to specific gendered needs, such as linking social assistance with GBV response services or maternal health support). 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
No	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 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	Yes	No	No

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

The Joint SDG Fund project leveraged past FAO and WFP experience in the design and implementation of Government led cash assistance and agricultural input programmes in Guyana. Project efficiencies were gained through regular coordination meetings chaired by the RCO Economist, as well as direct interagency collaboration, which led to potential savings particularly in the areas of logistics, training, and communications. Further efficiencies were gained through informal coordination facilitated by the JP between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security which developed a mutual understanding of respective activities and helped to identify some process gaps and redundancies.