



Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

SDG Financing Portfolio - Component 1

Cover page

UNCT/MCO: Haiti

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Haiti in Crisis: A National Consultation on Reform Priorities and Financing Options for Accelerated SDG Achievement

Stakeholder partner: National Government; Civil Society Organizations; IFIs/DFIs; Private sector; Bilateral aid organizations;

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

PUNOs: UNDP, UNCTAD

Top-up received as part of DEM: No

Total estimated expenditures: US\$ \$ 347,740.0

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): US\$ \$ 12,750.0

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

Haiti continues to be plagued by political instability, dramatic security concerns, an economic and social crisis, and blockades that affect the daily life of the population. Infighting violent gangs effectively control large chunks of the country with no meaningful resistance by government forces. The care-taking unelected government is unable to address major concerns of the population and, for the time being, there are no prospects for a political negotiation leading to a legitimate government. High inflation and the plummeting national currency are putting enormous pressure on the population, thus worsening its already dire poverty and malnutrition condition.

Despite the difficult conditions and logistical hurdles, such as road blockades and telecom outages that have increased throughout the year, the joint programme was nevertheless able to continue its progress and confirm its status as the sole effective national planning process under way leading to a medium to long term financing for development strategy.

With some delay, the Joint Programme was thus able to finalize the nine studies that assess the country's achievements, present conditions and prospects related to its development and financing strategies. Each study was presented and validated through one or more dissemination workshops attended by government officials, representatives from the civil society, the private sector and development partners. These studies are the foundation for the elaboration of the integrated national financing framework which should be implemented during the second half of 2023.

In September 2022, the Joint Programme also initiated a development finance assessment (DFA) which will draw lessons and conclusions from the nine studies and the upcoming first full-fledged national survey on development and financing priorities for Haiti that kick started in December.

Political stalemate of the country severely affected government policies in many areas including the elaboration of a new development strategy for 2030, which would incorporate the SDGs. The strategy process was formally initiated in 2021 but remained essentially inactive. It should be noted that without such a newly defined development strategy the INFF exercise would not be in a position to achieve its intended objectives. Furthermore, the joint programme helped the Ministry of Planning to reorganize its services and reinstate the planning process and seek financial and technical support from development partners.

Annual Progress

Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

Satisfactory (majority of expected annual results achieved; 1 to 3 months delay in implementation)

Overall progress and key developments to date (3 key JP milestones)

The joint programme contributed to policy changes in the following areas:

1) The JP was able to maintain the focus on medium-long term planning within key ministries, in particular the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Economy and Finance as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development. The involvement of these ministries also led to an internal reshuffling of the Ministry of Planning and the relaunch of the SDG roadmap and the development planning process which had been stalling over the past 12 months. 2) The outreach activities of the JP, in particular the workshops for the dissemination and validation of the nine studies, have considerably raised the awareness by national and international stakeholders. The JP was center stage at the One UN workshop in March 2022 and in bilateral meetings with other JP (Cuba and Gabon). Some of the major donors showed a marked interest in the planning process of the INFF and expressed their interest to contribute to the implementation of the resulting INFF.

3) The nine studies finalized in 2022 had the following conclusions/outcomes.

i. A review of the achievements in MDG/SDG, in view of rebuilding the social contract and combating extreme poverty, suggests to better align international financing with national development objectives.

ii. A study focused on the main productive sector of the Haitian economy, agriculture and fishing, and concluded to the need to enhance the government regulatory and promotional involvement, improve infrastructure for the food chain, introduce better public services in rural areas, as well as measures aimed at supporting leading value chains and financing schemes for the agricultural and fishing sectors overall.

iii. The report on private investments states that both domestic and international investments remain very low if compared to other countries in the Caribbean region. The report points to the need to improve the regulatory framework for private investment, promote private and mixed financing by financial institutions, reform trade policy, improve crucial infrastructure, support specific value chains and promote R&D in priority sectors.

iv. The impact of remittances and its potential for development finance was the object of another research: remittances represent almost one third of the Haitian economy and are mainly used for consumption, education, health and savings. The report suggests several measures aimed at improving the flow of remittances and facilitate

their productive investments.

v. A major analysis on the mobilization of public funding, both domestic and international: The review also involved the Commission for the reform of Public Finance and Economic Governance which acknowledged the report's analysis and recommendations in view of the fiscal reform, elaborated with the support by the IMF and enacted in December 2022, which introduced a new tax code for Haiti.

vi. The study on the potential of the national economy and exports identifies 11 possible areas of comparative advantage for Haiti and the policy reforms and means aimed at improving the competitive edge on the markets.

vii. A specific study on the fishing sector calls for an improved public policy, legislative frameworks and their implementation, and incentives to garner the potential of this industry to contribute to the livelihood of coastal communities while improving the food security of the Haitian population and generating export earnings.

viii. The study on sources for innovative finance hinted to the possibility of using ODA to mobilize domestic and international private finance, in particular through the Green Climate Fund and upcoming funds aimed at the blue economy, among other possible avenues for innovative finance.

ix. The Haiti Productive Capacities Gap Assessment lists the structural weaknesses and potential of the productive sectors and suggests a number of measures aimed at improving the productive capacities.

Main Challenges, adjustments and lessons:

The following constraints affect the country and any activities carried out at national or local level

- Since the 2018 turmoil and the assassination of the President Moïse in 2021, the country lives in an enduring political stalemate with a care-taking non-elected government which is unable to tackle the main issues that Haitians face on a daily basis and has lost any legitimacy in the eyes of the population.

- The security situation is extremely difficult and has worsened throughout 2022. Violent infighting gangs control a large part of the country, carry out murders and kidnappings and block local and national routes, effectively impeding actual meetings to take place.

- Shortages of fuel due to high prices and the blockade of the port by one of the gangs have created problems also for telecom and internet access. As a result, online meetings had to be canceled or postponed and government officials as well as UN personnel and JP experts were not able to carry out their work within the given timeframe

- Furthermore, the aftermaths of the 2021 earthquake, and the diving economic and social situation of the country, are inducing all stakeholders to tackle immediate needs arising from poverty, health and violence and to neglect medium to long-term planning, which is needed to help move the country address its structural problems

- These combined factors also have a discouraging impact on the population in general, as well as the public administration and its personnel. With a brain drain under way, many are also leaving the country to find better lives elsewhere, thus depleting the public administration and the private sector of some of its most vital energies

The joint programme has been constantly gauging the external situation and adapting its strategy and operations in order to be able to achieve its objectives. In December 2021, the JP Steering Committee approved a partial revision of the programme and work-plan and requested a one-year extension of the timetable which was granted by the SDG Joint Fund. Still, with the political and overall situation of the country deteriorating in even more in 2022, the JP experienced further delays, especially during the last quarter when the scheduled workshops for the validation of the UNCTAD studies had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, the JP continued working to achieve its main outputs.

SDG Acceleration

The joint programme has laid down some foundations for specific actions that target the following priority SDG identified in the original programme document, which focuses primarily on economic transformation and basic needs:

- SDG 1, no poverty: the joint programme contributed to follow a realistic approach to funding for the national

social protection programme and to present different scenarios depending on the national financing priorities. Furthermore, indications on strategic measures to be taken were proposed through studies and stakeholder consultations and will be encompassed in the DFA and the financing strategy;

- SDG 2, no hunger: the agricultural and fisheries sector has been the main focus of the reviews carried out by the joint programme and will be center stage in the financing and development strategy to be finalised in 2023;

- SDG 8, decent work and economic growth is another priority development goal for Haiti: the joint programme carried out a thorough analysis of the productive sectors and private investment and identified measures and financing priorities that should be considered within the overall financing and development strategy of the country. The JP conducted stakeholder consultations on these matters. The five studies that the JP conducted in this area are: Private Investments in Haiti's Sustainable Development Financing Strategies – Assessment and Perspectives; Development of the Rural Economy of Haiti – Assessment and Perspectives; Study on the Productive Capacity of the Haitian Economy; Haiti – SDG Finance, Production and Export Potentials; Scoping Study on the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector in Haiti.

Albeit with delays due to the above-mentioned situation of the country, the joint programme is following on its overall strategy based on the theory of change. It is effectively inducing the government through its key ministries, to relaunch the process of elaborating a new development strategy for 2030: the prior strategy approved in 2012 remained essentially on paper and has not been reviewed since.

Updates on SDG financing framework

	Assessment Diagnostics		Monitoring	Governance
Inception phase		Financing Strategy	Review	Coordination
Completed (100%)	Advancing (50-99%)	Emerging (1-49%)	Planned (0%)	Emerging (1-49%)

Descriptions on progress by INFF building blocks

Inception Phase: The government has officially adopted an INFF roadmap in the context of the SDG Roadmap approved in September 2021. The roadmap calls for an integrated approach to the country's development agenda involving several steps: i) formalizing the institutional framework for the elaboration of the revised strategy; ii) ensuring stakeholders' awareness and appropriation through communication and advocacy; iii) mobilizing and aligning means of implementation, in particular through the INFF, to achieving the goals and targets set by the new development strategy; iv) strengthen government planning, budgeting and monitoring processes; v) strengthen the national statistical system and set-up an observatory on the SDGs.

Assessment & Diagnostics: The joint programme has finalized nine studies on various financing and development topics. All studies were conducted with a participative approach, i. e. with some level of stakeholder consultations and surveys. This allowed involving a reasonable number of interested parties in the assessment of the evolution of development finance and/or the progress on the development goals. The study on the productive capacity of the Haitian economy adopted the methodology developed by UNCTAD to support developing countries in understanding the status of their productive capacity and how this can be improved. Following the revision of its workplan and the partial adaptation of its objectives in December 2021, the JP team initiated a development finance assessment (DFA) which would encompass the results of the nine studies on the financing and development strategies and propose a roadmap for the implementation of the INFF. The DFA is currently under way and will be finalized in the first quarter of 2023.

Financing Strategy: The DFA will include a set of recommendations for the financing strategy. The strategy itself will be elaborated in conjunction with the national development strategy for 2030 for which the government approved a roadmap.

Monitoring & Review: At this point in time the joint programme has not yet conducted a thorough analysis of the monitoring and review systems in place, nor has it formulated recommendations on the measures to be taken to improve them.

Governance & Coordination: The INFF Inter-ministerial Committee is a working group formed by representatives from key Ministries, with the inclusion of other stakeholders as observers or invitees. The Committee guides and contributes to both the design and the validation of the strategic document that will be drafted within the framework of the INFF/CINF. The Ministry of Planning is currently reviewing its organizational set-up to face the challenges linked to the implementation of the roadmap for the development and financing strategy. The DFA report will formulate recommendations on the appropriate governance and coordination set-up for the INFF, in conjunction with the strategic development plan.

Annual Reporting on Results

JP contributions to the Joint SDG Fund's global cost of living crisis

Next steps, scaling and sustainability [400 words]

The JP will organize in the coming months, with the support of the RCO, lead agencies and the main ministries a national forum on financing for development, which will validate the Development Finance Assessment and INFF Roadmap currently under preparation. Prior to that, specific workshops with stakeholders and development partners will help raise awareness around the INFF and the national forum, review the draft report and prepare the agenda for the forum.

A national survey on policy, economic and social priorities will be finalised in the first few weeks of the year and the result will feed the discussions at the national forum and the overall development strategy.

The progress of the joint programme in preparing a DFA and the INFF roadmap induced the government to relaunch the roadmap for the revision of the national development strategy, which was officially approved in September 2021 but not enacted thereafter. To this effect, the government will request support from the UN and other donors, including the European Union, which had already approved a specific budget line for the support.

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

Several studies realized by the joint programme also reviewed gender-related issues and recommended specific measures aimed at improving the social and economic condition of Haitian women. These target in particular enhancing women's rights and effectively enforcing their protection, promote further women's integration in the agricultural and fisheries value chain as well as have equal access to education and health. The citizen survey conducted in 2021 and finalized in 2022, indicated that nearly 38% of surveyed women considered that they have been discriminated in any circumstances, against 6% of men and 100% of non-binary persons. The new survey currently under way will expand the section on gender inequalities to gauge what measures would be considered most effective to counter gender violence and discrimination.

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);

Focus on LNOB cross cutting principles

Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
Yes	No	No	Yes

Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications

How did the JP facilitate collaboration with diverse stakeholders in the SDG financing space

The joint programme collaborated very closely with UNDP and secured additional funding to cover costs for the one-year extension of the programme. Good relations were established also with the EU, which is expected to finance the revision of the national development strategy to be effectively initiated in 2023. A close collaboration was also ensured with the team reviewing the cost estimates and financing needs and sources for the national social protection programme.

Donor and Strategic events attended by JP in 2022

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors event	Closing meeting/ event
Yes	Yes	No

JP contribution to SDG Financing

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

Main capacity building activities supported by the JP that allowed people to expand their knowledge on SDG Financing and INFFs

The joint programme organized approximately 20 workshops on various topics related to the financing and development strategies and conducted a high number of interviews with stakeholders to assess financing and development priorities for the country in the context of the INFF. The Joint Programme team members also participated and presented the INFF programme in several other events organised by the government or jointly with development partners. Furthermore, over 2000 private citizens have been extensively interviewed in the context of the first pulse survey and a similar number will be interviewed in the upcoming second survey.

