



Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in SIDS

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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Cover Page

UNCT/MCO: Haiti

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Supporting the economic resilience and food security of young people and women through social protection

Stakeholder partner: National Government; Sub-national Governments; Civil Society Organizations;

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

PUNOs: UNDP, ILO, FAO

Total estimated expenditures: US\$ 76,426.0

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): US\$ 91,736.0

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

Resident Coordinator: Richardson, Ulrika

Resident Coordinator Email: ulrika.richardson@un.org

Executive Summary

Since 2022, the country has experienced social unrest with looting of humanitarian facilities, fuel shortages, telecommunications disruption, insecure climate due to gangs' activities, Peyi Lock (country lock) from September to mid-November 2022. As a result, the United Nations has limited fieldwork to PC1/ lifesaving activities since September 2022. This has resulted in teams being unable to carry out field activities as this program is PC2.

The government has also requested the revision of the programme document to be further integrated with other pre-existing projects/programmes in the department of Grand'Anse. The governmental offices at local and national level were closed during peyi lock, which caused further delay in the signature of the document and the launching of the ceremony.

Major results:

- Programme document mainstreamed with other pre-existing programmes, including ADAPTIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR INCREASED RESILIENCE Program (PSARA), implemented by WFP and World Bank, on the same topic and the same department, in line with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST) request.
- Signature of the programme document by the 3 agencies (ILO, FAO, UNDP), RC, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST) and the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation (MPCE) at government level.
- The MAST appointed a focal point to oversee the implementation of the programme.

Annual Progress

Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

Not satisfactory (majority of expected annual results not achieved; over 3 months delay in implementation)

Overall progress against 3 key results

Outcome 1.- Increased economic participation of youth and women in agriculture and agribusiness and improved food security by 2023

FAO and ILO initiated a joint assessment with local partners to identify opportunities for agricultural transformation, including potential beneficiary farmer associations to improve the competitiveness of processed products and the availability of nutritious foods in local markets.

FAO and ILO also jointly identified farmer associations, comprised mostly of youth and women, with material processing to further involve the community in agribusiness. By establishing capacities for drying breadfruit, it offers an opportunity to grind breadfruit into flours (existing capacities in Grand'Anse) and offers a promising way to extend the shelf life of the fruit while creating a local, sustainable and high-quality staple food for local consumption and also with great export potential. This will help improve food safety in the department.

The ILO has recruited a dedicated project manager for this programme. In addition, the ILO engaged a partner to carry out a diagnostic exercise to assess the current regulatory framework for setting up agricultural businesses. They will provide recommendations to strengthen this regulatory framework and make it more effective and conducive to the creation of decent jobs and income generating activities.

Outcome 2: By 2023, humanitarian and development actors are strengthening their coordination in the implementation of economic resilience and food security programmes through a better understanding of target populations and through the establishment of an integrated information system that harmonizes targeting and limits duplication and promotes public policies.

Discussions were held with the MAST to identify synergies with other programs and projects, including PSARA. Discussions also focused on the strategy for implementing the dissemination of the PNPPS and the training required for MAST staff (including institutions subject to MAST authority). At the same time, discussions were held with the National Food Security Coordination (CNSA) on the operationalization of the National Policy and Strategy for Food Sovereignty, Security and Nutrition in Haiti (PSNSSANH).

Since mid-2022, however the situation was not conducive to holding multisectoral dialogues on this highly political policy in Grand'Anse, and further consultations are planned for 2023. In 2022, FAO supported the follow-up to the Food System Summit, including steps to implement the roadmap in alignment with the PSNSSANH. Regular meetings were held with the CNSA and other key stakeholders (UN agencies and donors) and Haiti regularly participated in the FS Coordination HUB meetings. The UNCT also contributed to the ECOSOC advisory group on Haiti and advocated and strengthened actions focused on addressing the food crisis and supporting the resilience of food systems in Haiti.

This program supports government institutions in the implementation of public policies. However, due to the country's situation and political environment, working at the policy level can be very challenge.

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

Some measures have been initiated to support SDG 2 with the identification of an agricultural value chain for which transformation capabilities will be supported to generate income and increase productivity for small food producers, established in farmers' associations. These measures will also support nutritional outcomes for the community through better availability of nutritious food. It is important to mention that breadfruit is a nutrient-dense source of carbohydrates, high in fiber, and low in fat.

Some measures were taken to support SDG 8, with the diagnosis of the regulatory framework to improve business generation and promote decent work in the agricultural sector.

Some steps have also already been taken to support SDG 5, to start building capacity in women-led agricultural enterprises.

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.

Country context

- In 2022, Haiti experienced a combination of socio-political crisis, gang-related insecurity, fuel shortages, along with high rates of inflation.

- Nearly half (around 4.7 million) of the Haitian population to experience Crisis level of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) or worse levels and require urgent food assistance. With increased humanitarian needs, the response is impeded by access constraints and operational challenges.

- Since July 2022, social protests against the high cost of living, disparities in fuel distribution, and insecurity have taken place across several cities, including Jeremie the capital of Grand'Anse department, where the programme is being implemented.
- The protests included barricaded roads, looting, and the destruction of infrastructure along with insecurity blocking access to fuel terminals. This situation further escalated in September. Armed gangs blocked the entrance to Varreux port, the key fuel terminal in the country resulting in heighten fuel shortages, limiting transportation, disrupting the supply chain of basic goods (such as food and water), and interrupting the provision of health services.
- On 2 October 2022, the Haitian national authorities confirmed two cases of Cholera, officially eradicated on year before.
- The UN system decided on PC1, restricted to life-saving activities, and to reduce the international footprint in Haiti. The international team working in non-life-saving activities was (and still is) evacuated with reduced capacities and difficulties in access to the field many activities were paralyzed.
- Currently UNDSS still rejects road travel from Port au Prince, impeding delivery of assets and resulting in high dependance on UNHAS services.
- Inflation reached an all-time high of 47.2 percent in October 2022, leads to increases in the market price of services and affects budget planning while further impacting vulnerable Haitians. Suppliers and service providers are reluctant towards participating in procurement processes, both due to inflation and insecurity.

The current context has delayed activities and strongly affected the implementation of the programme. Consequently, A no-cost extension might be requested and would result in a possible budget revision. Some activities planned in the program may be challenging to implement them in such a context by the end of the project and within available resources. This may include support for the PSNSSANH investment plan, some activities related to building community infrastructure, and/or other activities with the ministry.

Lessons learnt:

- To guarantee the One UN approach, a dedicated team at a technical level would be important. This is not possible with this program due to financial constraints.
- Policy implementation and dialogues, although critical in Haiti, are very challenging in the context of high socio-political and institutional instability.

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

In 2023, the first step will be the official ceremony for the launch of the programme after the signature of the document by the authorities at end of 2022.

The activities are resuming slowly despite remaining constraints (road access, inter alia).

For output 1, the next step includes launching a field school for farmers on agroforestry plots, establishing a small processing plant for breadfruit, and training farmer organizations to strengthen women-led agricultural enterprises in promising agricultural value chains and financial inclusion. Diagnosis of the regulatory framework will continue with workshops on the regulatory framework to improve the business environment for agricultural companies.

For outcome 2, the JP will require the designation of an MPCE focal point. Further discussions on PSNSSANH and PNPPS will take place, including outreach and advocacy. Discussions can be held with MAST and MPCE to establish a unified register of vulnerable people.

Programmatic Survey

Total number of people benefited from the JP in 2022: 0

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.

n/a

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

The joint program will primarily target women and youth from vulnerable households in rural areas of Grand 'Anse department. These two categories alone constitute more than 50% of the population, which participates considerably in the rural economy. However, they have more limited access to different types of agricultural support services such as credit, inputs or mechanization as well as to certain opportunities that would allow them to be more productive.

The joint program will also support a regulatory framework for the creation of enterprises (linked to social protection programs in the agricultural sector), strengthen production skills, and access to agricultural inputs and materials for women and youth in agricultural value chains. The program will also support the establishment of a pilot unified social registry to ensure coordination of humanitarian and development interventions and fill institutional gaps in terms of targeting vulnerabilities. It will identify and target the most disadvantaged people, either because they are in very remote areas of the country (exclusion) or simply because of social gender norms (discrimination).

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The JP is Gender-responsive (for example, the JP aimed to respond to specific gender needs, such as linking social assistance with GBV response services or maternal health support). value chains and producer organizations were selected that would effectively enable women's leadership, their economic empowerment and the development of their capacities. ;

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	Yes	No

Key meetings and events organized in 2022

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors event	Kick-off meeting
No, but planned in 2023	No and no plans yet	No and no plans yet

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

The situation in the country has deteriorated sharply since July 2022. The program was signed by the government counterparts after a major review in December 2022. In this context, no kick-off meeting or donor event could be organized.

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

n/a