



DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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UNCT/MCO: Honduras

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Nutrition SMART and Food Security Survey in Honduras to assess the impact of the crisis on children and vulnerable families

Thematic SDG Areas: Food systems transformation;SDG localization;

PUNOS:UNICEF, WFP

Stakeholder partner: National Government;Civil Society Organizations;Bilateral aid organizations;FAO/WHO and PAHO;Sub-national Governments;

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:

On-track (expected annual results-achieved)

Overall Progress

Through the UNICEF and WFP JP's implementation the Honduran government and other key stakeholders have updated relevant nutritional and food security data available for 4 prioritized regions of the country, accomplishing more than 90% of the first workplan's outcome. This information will allow the design of better policy measures and an informed decision-making process to respond to the current crisis affecting food security and child malnutrition in the country and in the long run it will increase the probability of achieving key SDG 2 targets. Before starting this initiative, WFP and UNICEF, led by the RCO, had advocated with several top government ministers, including the President and Minister of Presidency, for setting this topic as a priority on the government's agenda. As a result of this dialogue, a need was identified to have updated data to monitor the situation since the National Health and Demographic Survey (ENDESA) dated from 2019. Given the expertise that WFP and UNICEF have collecting and analyzing this kind of sectorial data, this JP was designed to support the government to quickly produce a study to assess the current situation on nutrition and food security in the most vulnerable regions. The SMART and CARI methodologies were identified as the most adequate and sound to carry out a survey and have the information collected and analyzed as soon as possible. To guarantee the initiative success and national appropriation, WFP and UNICEF sought a partnership with the National Statistics Institute (INE) for their expertise in conducting national surveys and producing official data. At the same time, UNICEF partnered with Action Against Hunger (AAH) for the coordination of the survey for its global expertise and leadership on the SMART and CARI methodology. A primary agreement was signed among these 4 organizations to start designing and planning the survey and to procure INE's capacity building. To ensure and integrated response, a broader technical group was organized including the Ministry of Health, the Nutrition Institute for Central America and Panama (INCAP) and World Vision (WV). Due to financial constrains the sample was design to be representative of 4 prioritized regions with high food and security nutrition levels: South with 42 municipalities, Occidente with 64, Valle de Sula with 7, and Gracias a Dios with 6. The study was design to collect information about

27 globally standardized indicators regarding Malnutrition, Infant and Child Feeding Practices, Food Security and Multidimensional Deprivation, including 4 SDG indicators from SDG 2. Cleansing process was done in real time while on the field work and the database on time by December 2022. Preliminary results for the study were ready at the beginning of January 2023 and they were discussed and analyzed among a validation group comprised of 26 representatives from 15 government and civil society organizations. They had a positive opinion of the study, including the speed with which it had been done since it took 4 months from the planning phase to have preliminary results which is not common for this type of studies that have taken more than a year in previous similar experiences. With the feedback received by all invited stakeholders, a first version of the study has been drafted and its under final review. The technical group is now designing a communication and incidence strategy based on the study results, planning to go at central and the regional levels included in the study inviting local authorities and key decision-makers at central level. Regarding output 2.1, support the government with a National Integrated Financing Framework and an updated Development Finance Assessment, a first selection process didn't include qualified candidates. A second process is on the way and this time it includes 4 qualified candidates. It is expected that the consultancy will begin in February.

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

- Evidence on the nutritional situation has been based on national data, which is updated every 7-10 years. After the last measurement of nutritional data in 2019 (ENDESA), Honduras went through several crisis that have worsened the food security and nutritional situation of various regions. Both Government and non-government stakeholders prioritized nutrition and food security interventions, but new data was needed for proper decision making to promote integral programs, policies' updating and fund mobilization towards achievement of SDG targets 3.8, 17.3, and 17.14.
- The JP has contributed to evidence generation that will help decision makers orient resources and activities towards the achievement of SDG target 3.2, prioritizing regions with moderate and severe food insecurity, as well as higher malnutrition percentages in the maternal and child population.
- The JP's interventions and programs will be better targeted to the regions identified with higher malnutrition rates, as well as higher percentage of the households in moderate and severe food insecurity. Information will also be useful for regional and municipal plannings, especially for those regions included in the study. The results are being validated by the relevant ministries, which will allow integration within different sub-sectors to make progress towards SDG target 2.2.
- The JP successfully had an involvement from the planning phase to the finalization phase from key Government stakeholders (National Statistics Institute), allowing empowerment of the methodologies implemented as well as acceptability of the results. Other key Government ministries were involved to validate results, which will enable integrated financing for future studies using the methodologies promoted by the JP.

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.

The planning phase had some constraints regarding the coordination between different stakeholders involved in the study. As a mitigation measure, regular meetings were scheduled to review all the requirements needed for the methodologies and prior to initiating the survey in field. This allowed better communication among the stakeholders, and the improvement of survey revisions and validations.

A good practice implemented was the involvement of all relevant actors from the beginning, allowing feedback on every step of the implementation process. Informative letters were sent to the directors and ministers, assigning focal points for the study, which later allowed a proper technical collaboration.

During the field work, there was a rigorous monitoring to avoid data processing errors, mainly because some of the materials needed weren't purchased on time and materials from a reserve were used instead (tablets). This was an adjustment made as a proposed solution to comply with the original planning dates for the survey field work finalization and latter data processing.

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

An advocacy strategy is being planned to convey the most important messages based on the study, identifying on the one hand, the most relevant stakeholders at the central and local level and on the other hand, the most effective means to promote a joint and intersectoral response to the vulnerable situation showed by the findings. In the same way, the study contains a series of recommendations that have been fed by the expert opinion of the actors who were invited to form part of the study validation group and that are expected to guide the actions to be developed jointly by central and local level actors.

In addition, through this JP an innovative methodology was implemented in the country to collect nutrition and food security data quickly and rigorously. This experience served to develop capacities, especially at INE whose staff was trained and had the

opportunity to continuously exchange with an AAH expert in charge of coordinating the survey. This experience can be used as a base to consolidate a mechanism for generating evidence on the food and nutritional security situation at more disaggregated territorial levels such as municipalities, which is one of the needs in which multiple actors agree upon. At the same time, this experience has the potential to serve as the basis for designing a monitoring system to assess the effectiveness of the programs that are implemented to improve the situation.

As stated before, there were difficulties with the selection process for the second output. The selection process is being done for the second time and is about to conclude with the selection of a candidate. This consultant will most likely start duty the first or second week of February: updating the data of the financing flows, update of the diagnosis of the policies that govern the main flows and constructing an Integrated Financing Strategy.

Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

Government: National Statistics Institute (INE), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Social Development
Subnational: Humanitarian Response Team
ONGs: Action Against Hunger (AAH), Central American Institute for Nutrition (INCAP), World Vision (WV), OXFAM, ADRA
Bilateral Organizations: AECID, USAID
Other: FAO & WHO/PAHO
An interinstitutional Technical Advisory Team was organized to provide continuous technical assistance in all stages of the study process, ensure the study quality and review the final results and report. This was comprised by INE, MoH, AACH, INCAP, WV, WFP and UNICEF
The rest of the stakeholders were engaged to validate preliminary study results and review the final report

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 implementation of the SMART-CARI survey prioritized the collection of post-pandemic data as well as potential impacts of the ongoing climate and economic crises on nutrition and food security of the most vulnerable groups, primarily focused on children under the age of 5, pregnant and lactating women. The JP aimed to contribute to the programmatic design and proper decision making for the advancement and achievement of several SDG 2 targets. The indicators collected through the study were related to maternal and child nutrition and feeding practices, as well as economic capacity to satisfy the households' essential needs, coping strategies, food consumption score, and others. The survey gathered sociodemographic data (percent of women head of household, head of household highest educational level, age of head of household), which is allowing the analysis of potential differences between nutrition and food security status according to gender, age and education of the head of household, which will allow to address gender inequalities through the implementation of nutrition and food security programs, and direct actions towards women empowerment in policies, programs and interventions. The study included all children and women found in the prioritized areas, irrespective of physical capabilities, age, or gender. Anthropometric measurements protocol was adjusted for children with disabilities. It is worth to highlight that this study considers La Mosquitia, this region is usually left behind because for security, geographical and economic reasons.

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);

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 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	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

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

N/A