



## DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

### Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

-

## Cover Page

**UNCT/MCO:** Kyrgyzstan

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

**JP title:** Closing statistical data gaps to measure impacts of war and enhancing the government's ability to mitigate the negative consequences

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

**PUNOS:** UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, WFP

**Stakeholder partner:** National Government; Sub-national Governments; IFIs/DFIs;

**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)

**Resident Coordinator Name:** Grawe, Antje

**Resident Coordinator Email:** grawe@un.org

## Annual Progress

### Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

Above expectation (expected annual results fully achieved and additional progress made)

### Overall Progress

- The JP conducted the rapid assessment of the statistical capacity to assess financial flows, which are typically published quarterly late by the relevant Government agencies, with significant gaps identified. In addition, alternative sources of information have suspended publication of their data. The Central Bank of Russia reported that it temporarily suspended publication of data on cross-border personal transfers.
- The JP worked closely with the World Bank to use some data from the Bank's household survey. The JP initiated surveys to assess impacts on microenterprises, retirees, and people with disabilities-groups not traditionally covered by the World Bank surveys.
- The JP also conducted three rounds of nationwide vulnerability and food security remote assessment (mVAM) in the Kyrgyz Republic in August, October and December 2022 to provide near real-time analytics on food security and essential needs across the country. It allows the UN and its partners to assess the impact of shocks, including the current global food crisis, on food security and nutrition and to develop recommendations and strategies to improve food security status, and to inform the new National Food Security and Nutrition Program for 2023-2027. The latest update in December 2022 food security assessment found that 15% of households or more than 1 mln of population were acute food insecure. The regular food prices monitoring helped to inform programmatic response and improved targeting of Government's crisis response programming.
- The JP analysed the impact of the crisis on price and availability fluctuations of agri-food inputs, including fertilizers and other

agri-chemicals, fuel, seeds, and financing of agriculture. The study analysed four selected products such as wheat, sugar, potato and beef and provided recommendations, which can be reviewed in the output report. The evidence and data collected, as well as policy recommendations issued, informed the development of the National Food Security and Nutrition Program until 2027.

- The JP also initiated an analysis of the impact of price and availability fluctuations of agri-food sector inputs, including fertilizers and other agrochemicals, fuels, seeds, and financial resources, on agri-food production and food security, and on the effectiveness of regional agri-food policies in a view of the impact of the war in Ukraine and related sanctions. The analysis will be also looking at the structure of Kyrgyzstan's food distribution network and the role of smallholder self-sufficiency in food security in Kyrgyzstan, potential market opportunities for the Kyrgyz agri-food products. Results will be available in 2023.
- The JP also supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labour, Social Welfare and Migration and development partners with intensive capacity building aimed at sustainable transition of enhanced programmes and targeting/monitoring tools to national ownership.
- An online food availability monitoring system is currently being tested by the Ministry of Agriculture in two districts. The system is designed to provide information on the quantities and prices of key food commodities in the country and to enable the Government to make policy decisions on production, import/export, pricing strategies, and food reserve management. The JP-supported methodology and data collection system have been accepted and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture. Further expansion and implementation of the system across the country will be supported through 2023. This will enable the Ministry of Agriculture to monitor the availability of socially important food in all regions of the country to balance short-term urgent interventions with longer-term resilience efforts.
- Linked to the above, the JP explored potential scenario modelling and simulation tools to better understand the impact of economic indicators (remittances, income, inflation, prices, etc.) on poverty levels and food security of vuln

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

The JP contributes to of SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 17 (Partnership).

SDG1: The JP supports the Government to assess the potential impact of the Ukrainian crisis on the most vulnerable groups of population, allowing to develop evidence-based mitigation policy measures.

SDG2: The JP supports the capacity of Government to improve the food security status and vulnerable populations in the Kyrgyz Republic have enhanced access to diversified employment, income opportunities and exposed to the impacts of climate variability and change are better able to cope with shocks and benefit from more resilient food system.

SDG12: The JP contributed to the development of the National Food Security and Nutrition Program until 2027, with policy recommendations derived from analyses on agri-food production paired with nutrition-specific evidence and policy advice on food consumption from the Fill the Nutrient Gap Analysis and the National Integrated Micronutrient and Anthropometric Survey.

SDG17: The JP contributes to strengthening the partnership for the goals by involving the stakeholders into the analysis and developing the respective policy recommendations as well as by presenting the results to feed into the UNCT's joint efforts in the new UNSDCF.

#### **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.**

Challenges: Overall, no major constraints were observed. However, some of the original plans did not materialise due to the weak commitments of the state partners, the National Statistical Committee for example. Also, with a complicated overlay of positive and negative effects of the triple crisis, the initial JP design and work plan drew attention away from the multi-layered and unprecedented shock to the global food system, which also in the Kyrgyz Republic hit the most vulnerable the hardest, while also creating opportunities for others, and with recovery effects and government investments as well as delays in the expected effects of sanctions on remittance and local growth, remains a still hidden fragility not aligned with the global hunger narrative. Therefore, the JP requested an extension for additional three months to complete on-going activities and sustain the results. The extension will also give an opportunity to the JP to incorporate the findings of other surveys, by non-UN institutions, which will enrich the findings.

Lesson learnt: The implementation was impacted by lengthy UN procedures, all tenders were delayed, sometimes affected by the circumstances beyond the JP control. With ambitious handover objectives for Government to sustain the analytical tools beyond the duration of the initial seed funding, the longer-term financing considerations require a plan from the onset.

Good practices: The impact assessments helped to further strengthen the UN 'one-voice' policy advice to the Government and minimize potential fragmentation in policy response in the context of multiple shocks. The JP provided additional avenue to advocate for changes to better protect poor and vulnerable.

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

1. The JP will ensure that the findings of the impact assessment and recommendations inform new social protection sectoral programme 2023-2026 and its monitoring plan. The latter is one of the priorities of the National Development Programme till 2026 aligned with the SDGs.
2. The JP will develop a consolidated report, which will incorporate the JP findings and recommendations for the Government on mitigating the impact of the crisis. The findings of the JP will be shared with the Government during the planned workshop and will be presented to the UNCT, particularly outlining the linkages to UNSDCF outputs, inform needed adjustments to the Joint Work Plans, the Common Country Analysis Annual review and other plans that can further sustain the policy directions and recommendations of this JP.
3. The JP will continue to support the scaling up of the tools developed and the expansion at the country level in early 2023. The results informed the new National Food Security and Nutrition program (2023-2027) and several activities will continue as part of that program supported by the UNSDCF's Food System output and others. National ownership and interest to continue monitoring key indicators is secured through investment in digital tools, thus even if certain risks and fragilities of the Kyrgyz socio-economic situation have not yet become visible, the analyses continue to guide the support of shock-responsive and nutrition-sensitive social protection as well as resilient food systems.

## **Strategic Partnerships and Communications**

### **Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP**

The JP closely engaged with the President's Administration and Cabinet of Ministers that ensured that the findings and recommendations of the impact analyses translate into the strategic level Government action plans to mitigate the impact of the crisis. The other important partners of the JP were the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Labour, Social Welfare and Migration that both served as key recipients of the findings and results and ensured a follow-up of all necessary and relevant activities. National Statistics Committee was involved in WFP's availability monitoring digital tool and further supports its roll out. The JP partnered with the World Bank to use the data collected under "Listening to Kyrgyzstan" survey to assess the impact of the crisis on vulnerable groups and to assess the feasibility of deploying the SHAPES tool. The JP developed tools to be used by sub-national Government bodies and provided hands-on advice and training for improving targeting with the digital social passport and optimized social registry management at local level.

### **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**

Through the series of analyses supported by the JP, the Government will be able to identify the most vulnerable groups that may have been negatively affected by the crisis and design more tailored programmes. More specifically, microenterprises, informal

workers, retirees, and people with disabilities are the groups that are not targeted by the regular World Bank assessment. The sampling will cover 400 representatives for each group. The findings of another analysis, which included 1,800 households across the country, found that reliable criteria should be used for determining eligibility for social protection. The further investment in digital tools in the agriculture and the social protection sector are key to reform and repurpose general universal subsidies towards temporary, better targeted programs for global food security and sustainable food systems, which the UN country team has subscribed to in the UNSDCF, the SDG Fund thus facilitates future programme implementation beyond participating PUNOs.

**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	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 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		No	No	No

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

The JP is using the extension period granted to assess and combine relevant data sets produced to assess the triple crisis as well as data sets available with the National Statistics Committee and other relevant actors to ideally build dashboards with modelling and forecasting capabilities, a respective feasibility study for the SHAPES tool is underway. If possible, to deploy, this will become the platform for anticipatory action and forecast-based financing planning, which in turn can attract new funding to a more effective shock-responsive and targeted social protection and disaster response management approach.