



DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

-

Cover Page

UNCT/MCO: Lebanon

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Study of Lebanon's wheat value chain and rural migration to support sustainable food systems and enhance national food security

Thematic SDG Areas: Food systems transformation;

PUNOS:FAO, WFP

Stakeholder partner: National Government;Sub-national Governments;Private sector;

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: Riza, Imran

Resident Coordinator Email: riza1@un.org

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

During the reporting period, FAO initiated technical discussions with two Dutch institutions to support the implementation of the Wheat Value Chain Analysis within a Food Systems Approach. Consequently, two Letter of Agreements (LoAs) were prepared as follows:

- A first LoA was prepared between FAO and the Stichting Wageningen Research, Institute Wageningen Food & Biobased Research (WFBR) in the Netherlands. WFBR will provide support through guidance and contribution to the carrying out of a Food System Analysis of wheat and alternative climate-resilient crops (including cereals, legumes, tubers) that can be cultivated, processed and used in grain type processed foods in Lebanon.

This will lead to the identification of evidence-based entry points and/or potential interventions to alleviate the constraints and take advantage of opportunities in supply and/or demand of wheat and alternate staple crops foods.

The main outputs that WFBR will provide are:

- o A methodology including tools and materials to carry out the Wheat Value Chain Study in a Food Systems Approach, provided;
- o Insight on constraints/bottlenecks and opportunities to increase the cultivation of wheat and alternative climate-resilient crops in Lebanon and processing into food products, identified; and
- o A multi-stakeholders' workshop analysis for sharing findings and validation, organized.

- A second LoA was also prepared between FAO and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in the Netherlands whose aim is to support as well on the wheat value chain study and Food Systems Analysis, using a nutrition lens and analyzing the demand and supply side with attention to market trends, barriers to consumption (availability, affordability, and acceptability).

The main outputs that KIT will provide are:

- o Data collection tools and guidelines for fieldwork incl. Key Informant Interviews and/or Focus Group Discussions, designed and

developed;

- o Nutrition sensitive analysis of the Wheat Value Chain covering opportunities and constraints in i) supply, ii) demand and iii) potential for enhancing nutrition value and/or identifying suitable alternatives for wheat using a food systems approach with attention to market trends, barriers to consumption (availability, affordability and acceptability); and
 - o Facilitation of a multi-stakeholder workshop to share and validate preliminary findings and analysis at the end of the field mission.
- The above institutions will work closely with a national consultant who will be responsible in the overall desk review of existing wheat value chain and mapping of stakeholders and actors working in the wheat value chain in addition to data collection or focus group discussions when needed.
- WFP contracted an expert to carry out the wheat value chain assessment, including the nutrition component for wheat flour fortification.

The consultant' scope of services are the following:

1. An analysis of the prevailing global wheat products market and opportunities.
2. An analysis of the Lebanese wheat product market.
3. An assessment of wheat products in Lebanon.
4. An assessment of the possibility for wheat fortification.
5. A detailed mapping and value chain performance analysis of the wheat sector industry in Lebanon.
6. Leverage identification and recommendations.

The above mentioned services carried out by the consultant will contribute in the value chain analysis to:

- a. Document and track the path by which wheat is produced and imported in Lebanon with consideration to certification, grading, milling and cleaning, relevant blending, weighting, packaging and distribution.
- b. Identify the capacities and the requirements of the national infrastructure systems both private and government owned e.g. silo/storage; weighing; milling, cleaning, packaging etc. with particular consideration to quality management and control systems with focus on opportunities for wheat fortification.
- c. Identify wheat market sector stakeholders related to the value chain

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

The Programme is in process of contributing to the following SDGs and related targets:

o SDG 2- Target 2.4: Through the Wheat Value chain study, sustainability of the food systems will be ensured mainly with regard to strengthening the resilience of farmers in producing suitable and adequate wheat varieties with the aim of increasing productivity and strengthen their capacity for adaptation to climate change. Specifically contribute to finding alternate cereals or pulses crops to be identified and used as substitute to the wheat in bread.

The overall will contribute to improving the food security and nutrition situation of the population.

o SDG 17- Target 17.17: The wheat value chain study will be implemented between FAO and WFP and is in process to make the Food Systems Analysis integrated and in a participatory approach with several stakeholders, partners, actors and public institutions.

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 SDG/DEM Programme was extended in November 2022 until end of March 2023.

The reason for the extension in the implementation is that the consultative process and consolidation of government-related activities needed more time and discussions. Furthermore, as mentioned above, there are many stakeholders involved in the wheat value chains and coordination plays an important part in understanding the outputs developed by each institution.

The adjustment made to the Programme corresponds to that both FAO and WFP will join their efforts to achieve the Output 1, namely, the "Wheat Value Chain is mapped, assessed and analyzed along the different stages of the chain from production to consumption"

As such, on the scope level, and in light of the economic crisis and sharp increases in global food and fuel prices, WFP aims at focusing on investing in asset mapping research and contribute to the output 1 in the processing, trade and marketing elements of the study linked with a nutrition sensitive approach.

FAO will focus on the analysis elements of the wheat food systems (production, post-harvest losses...), mapping of stakeholders and actors as well as the enabling environment in addition to the institutional and governance and policy aspects of the study.

While some activities are already implemented, others faced during the reporting period additional constraints such as: contracting procedures are still taking longer than expected and because the process including multi-actors and stakeholders needs several

discussions and consultations to be carried out at field level and requires more time.

In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture, having elaborated a National Plan for soft wheat production, several interventions on wheat value chain are being currently implemented at the same time by other organizations such as the World Bank and some Non-Governmental Organizations and these institutions need to be consulted and coordinated to complement efforts and support and to avoid duplication of interventions.

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

As the Joint Programme will end in 2023, WFP and FAO are working jointly to continue the implementation of the activities of the wheat value chain study within a Food System Approach and in view of longer-term sustainable development of this chain.

To this effect, FAO and WFP will continue coordinating and liaising with all partners involved especially with both ministries of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy and Trade. In addition to other stakeholders (millers, bakeries, private sector) in order to contribute to strengthen the local production of suitable soft wheat production in order to reduce the dependency towards wheat imports and identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of this value chain.

The overall objective is to improve the food security and nutrition of the population help all actors involved in the chain to jointly work on addressing the gaps and weaknesses that will emerge following the study's implementation.

This is to be in line with ongoing interventions from other partners and donors tackling wheat value chain.

Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

The Programme is still having and aiming to have more consultation with Government counterparts mainly the Ministries of Agriculture, and Economy and Trade. Despite the disabling environment governing the country and the severe shortage in human and financial resources available to these institutions, they are trying to engage by prioritizing activities to help overcome the emerging difficulties. In the remaining lifecycle of the Programme, additional consultations will be carried out with different partners (donors, private sectors involving mills and bakeries) in addition to farmers. This is through Focus Group Discussions, bilateral meetings and interviews when possible.

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

Gender as a cross-cutting result and issue will be highly considered within the overall wheat value chain study and whenever applicable. From the available documentation during the desk review to mapping of stakeholders and actors to conducting data collection and focus group discussion until presenting the findings at the multi-stakeholder workshop that will be held at the end of the project.

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). N/A;

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 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 and in which area your JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing