



DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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UNCT/MCO: Lesotho

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Joint Programme on National Response to the Food Security Crisis in Lesotho

Thematic SDG Areas: Food systems transformation;

PUNOS:FAO, UNDP, WFP, UNCTAD

Stakeholder partner: National Government;Civil Society Organizations;

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:

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

Overall Progress

Overall, the project is on track with 3 months remaining to its completion. All the agencies have initiated project interventions and are working with relevant government ministries in the implementation of these outputs and activities. Below, is the progress reported at output and activity level.

OUTCOME 1: Lesotho has sustainable and inclusive domestic food production and supply chains that enable participation of smallholder farmers and MSMEs in domestic and regional markets, mitigate the high cost of food and mobilize private sector investment especially for women, youth, and people with disabilities:

Output 1.1 Local smallholder farmers and MSMEs test green and digital farmgate technologies to improve productivity, quality, and market value of agri-produce:

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Marketing, UNDP commissioned an assessment to determine capacity and needs for development of a functional supply chain linking farmers to domestic market outlets and facilitate identification of post-harvest solutions. In context of capacity gaps, investment, and technology requirement for instituting post-harvest support, the Ministry of Agriculture has recommended introducing aggregation facility for eggs, to be piloted in the Mhale'sHoek district. This will allow consolidation of daily production from local smallholder producers to collate daily production to address market requirement and to enable enforcement of production standards along the chain.

OUTPUT 1.2 Local private sector and investment mobilized to expand opportunities in the domestic market and bridge production gaps.

In consultation with local authorities in the district of Mhale'sHoek, UNDP and the Ministry of Agriculture are conducting a local scan and mapping of solutions for market access and aggregation to inform and validate the proposed aggregation egg producers. This is also aimed at popularizing and expanding functionality of the 'Marakeng (e-market) platform to trigger location and commodity-based information filter. With this, UNDP and the Ministry, will identify local private sector to mobilize and organize

local producers to consolidate production, establish standards for production, and seek market for the commodities. This process will be concluded in March 2023. The aggregator managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Marketing and the Lesotho National Farmers Union.

OUTPUT 1.3 Knowledge and capacities of local private sector and farmers are enhanced to participate in domestic and regional trade on key agricultural products in Lesotho.

This activity was spearheaded by UNCTAD to identify and document administrative procedures for trading (export/import) of three commodities. The project also collected all the data and information to be displayed on e-Regulations for Lesotho for the above-mentioned products and procedures. The documentation is being processed through field visits, according to e-Regulations methodology.

Through UNTAD support, 22 trade-related procedures required to export and import fruits, vegetables and meat are being documented in the Lesotho e-Regulations system (see: <https://lesotho.eregulations.org/>) offering online step-by-step and practical guides to trade strategic commodities for economic operators in line with article 1 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. These procedures were documented through on-site visits with the institutions involved (Departments of livestock, Agricultural research and marketing, Customs etc.) under the auspices of the Ministry of trade as coordinator of the National trade facilitation committee.

The documentation of these procedures is almost complete; the eRegulations team is currently proceeding with the validation process with the different institutions involved. Once the information is validated, the online documentation will serve as the knowledge base for simplifying procedures by enabling the quick identification of

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

This activity contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 1 focusing on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere; SDG2 that will focus on ending hunger , achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. SDG8.3 (encourage the formalization and growth of MSMEs); 16.3 (promote the rule of law); 16.5 (substantially reduce corruption and bribery); 16.6 (develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions); 16.10 (ensure public access to information).

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.

A lot of the documentation work has been done by regional eRegulations experts who also train the national owners of the system at the Ministry of trade in the process. One of the constraints is the lack of dedicated staff to take on the work of documentation of procedures which should be a core part of maintaining the national trade portal. More long term efforts should be invested in training staff on documentation and simplification techniques to help with the effective implementation of the Trade Facilitation agreement and its provisions and reap the benefits of eased trade for SMEs in particular.

One of FAO's assignment and private sector to establish the demand and supply of agriculture inputs required to increase the production and productivity. The changes in government leadership and the business environment has not been conducive to collect all the required data and provide a clear analysis of the situation. The merger of ministries and re-organization of the departments of Agriculture have slowed down the consultation process. The work on commodity value chains has proved to require more time to consult the within the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. The key lesson learnt so far is that there is keen interest and willingness among actors to deal with food insecurity challenge.

By clearly defining roles and responsibilities and increasing engagement with stakeholders, this promoted a sense of ownership and accountability for the system among all parties involved.

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

The participating PUNOs are now actively implementing the various components of the project. There are already regular meetings that focus on how to build synergies and complementarity among partners and work towards one common goal. The various products will be validated by stakeholders.

Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition

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

Under this Joint Programme, FAO and other agencies have integrated gender issues in all facets of its results matrix. The studies and tools have been designed to ensure that gender mainstreaming is incorporated in the work plan. In carrying out technical interventions across value chains, the participating agencies have incorporated gender analysis, using sex disaggregated data, and will pay attention to gender-differentiated impacts. FAO work will systematically examine and address women's as well as men's needs, priorities and experiences as part of the development of the proposal and planned interventions.

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);

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	No	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 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
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How and in which area your JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing