

**Joint SDG Fund**

**Joint Programme Final Narrative Report**

**PORTOFLIO ON INTEGRATED POLICY AND LNOB**

**Cover page**

**Date of Report:** 22 / July / 2022

<i>Programme title, Number and Country</i>
<p><b>Country:</b> MCO for Barbados and the OECS</p> <p><b>Joint Programme (JP) title:</b> Enhancing Resilience and Acceleration of the SDGs in the Eastern Caribbean: Universal adaptive social protection modeled at the community, national and sub regional levels</p> <p><b>MPTF Office Project Reference Number<sup>1</sup>:</b> 00119075</p>
<i>Programme Duration</i>
<p><b>Start date<sup>2</sup></b> (day/month/year): <b>14 January 2020</b></p> <p><b>Original End date<sup>3</sup></b> (day/month/year): <b>14 January 2022</b></p> <p><b>Actual End date<sup>4</sup></b> (day/month/year): <b>31 May 2022</b></p> <p><b>Have agencies operationally closed the Programme in its system?:</b> <u>Yes</u></p> <p><b>Expected financial closure date<sup>5</sup>:</b> <b>30 April 2023</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

<sup>2</sup> The start date is the date inserted in the original ProDoc submitted and approved by the Joint SDG Fund.

<sup>3</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

<sup>4</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

<sup>5</sup> Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

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**Programme Budget (US\$)**

**Total Budget** (as per Programme Document, without co-funding): **3,000,000.00**  
**Agency/Other Contributions/Co-funding** (if applicable): **1,804,402.00**

**Joint SDG Fund Contribution<sup>6</sup> and co-funding breakdown, by recipient organization:**

Agency/others	Joint SDG Fund contribution	Co-funding	Total
UNICEF	931,579	757,155	1,688,734
WFP	880,239	451,430	1,331,669
UNDP	411,667	350,000	761,667
ILO	372,181	85,817	457,998
UN WOMEN	404,334	160,000	564,334
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>1,804,402</b>	<b>4,804,402</b>

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<sup>6</sup> Joint SDG Fund Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

## Executive summary

The Joint Programme (JP) on Universal Adaptive Social Protection in the Eastern Caribbean achieved its goal of supporting the provision of predictable access to adaptive universal social protection for poor and vulnerable persons in the Eastern Caribbean through several interventions including:

- increase in social assistance support to vulnerable persons through temporary scale-ups in response to shocks, pilot programmes, and facilitating longer-term expansion of said programmes;
- strengthening of governments' capacities and resources to make evidence-based policy and operational decisions to improve the social protection system and make it more adaptive to shocks;
- support to ensure that policies, responses, and mitigation strategies foster better planning to reduce equity gaps and multi-dimensional poverty;
- provision of evidence-based data to inform decision-making and make social services more inclusive and foster linkages with labour market needs and opportunities;
- contribute to the strengthening of legal and policy social protection frameworks, with consideration of shock responsiveness;
- strengthening of the operational capacity of social protection systems using digital solutions and focus on national human resource development.

The JP also contributed to a more sustainable and resilient Caribbean by supporting governments through disaster risk management analyses, capacity development, and strengthening linkages between disaster risk management and social protection.

Though COVID-19 was a hindrance, by strengthening linkages that increase access to social protection and preparing systems to respond to shocks in the future, the overall objectives of the JP supported and enhanced interventions to respond to COVID-19 in Barbados and Saint Lucia. Almost 6000 individuals received direct cash assistance to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and Hurricane Elsa. Additionally, evidence of COVID-19 impact on vulnerable groups, including on women and children, were provided to policy makers who were also sensitised to the importance of increasing adaptability and coverage of social protection systems.

Knowledge sharing was an essential component of the JP to highlight good practices, lessons learned, and exchange experiences. The focus of government partners on capacity building was used as an opportunity to adapt the approach to learning and sharing, and to also emphasise capacity building at the national and regional levels, while capitalising on regional mechanisms to promote exchange and knowledge sharing. One result of this approach is that over 100 national staff across the Eastern Caribbean were positioned to use social protection tools to be more efficient and effective, and better respond to the needs of beneficiaries.

Another the key achievement of the JP is fostering closer links with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and regional organisations including the World Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), which provide opportunities to leverage the work of other partners and more coherently implement social protection initiatives.

**Result 1: *Contribute to the development of an adaptive, gender-responsive and universal social protection system in Saint Lucia and Barbados through integrated policy development, programme design and service implementation that is closely linked to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. This focuses on policy/legislative review and programme (re)design in Saint Lucia, social protection system assessment and recommendations in Barbados and an OECS Social Protection Strategy at the regional level.***

Estimated rate of completion as of JP end date: **95%**

**Result 2: *Support efficiency gains and financial sustainability; develop SOPs/protocols and strengthen the use of social and disaster-related data through modelling innovative approaches and programmes at the community, national and sub-regional level to complement national plans.***

Estimated rate of completion as of JP end date: **100%**

**Result 3: *Utilize research, intersectional analysis, monitoring and evaluation to support the evidence-based development of an adaptive system towards progressive universal coverage of social protection, while facilitating replication and expansion to other Eastern Caribbean countries.***

Estimated rate of completion as of JP end date: **100%**

## I. Overall progress and priority, cross-cutting issues

### I.1 Context and the overall approach

#### *Ensuring an adaptive and strategic JP*

- As a result of the social and economic impact of COVID-19, a main social protection priority for Barbados and Saint Lucia has been and continues to be support to vulnerable persons to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. In supporting countries' response, the Joint Programme (JP) reallocated approximately 18% of its budget to assist Barbados and Saint Lucia in their COVID-19 response measures. Consequently, the work plan was adjusted to close data gaps and support analyses to facilitate cash-based and in-kind support through national programmes using the Theory of Change which underpins the JP. Activities were amended and funds repurposed to support the expansion of social assistance to additional vulnerable households as well as households already under existing programmes. The OECS component was not adjusted since the OECS Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategy includes shock responsiveness at the regional level.
- By strengthening linkages that increase access to social protection and preparing systems to respond to shocks in the future, the overall objectives of the JP supported and enhanced interventions to respond to COVID-19. Socio-economic assessments generated evidence of COVID-19 impact, including on women and children. This provided valuable guidance to policymakers on the importance of increasing adaptability and coverage of social protection systems. Detailed analysis on vulnerability, financing mechanisms and the performance of social protection systems provided evidence and good practices to contribute to the goal of reducing structural inequality, reducing poverty, and building resilience in the target countries.
- Knowledge sharing was an essential component of the JP to highlight good practices, lessons learned, and exchange experiences. The focus of government partners on capacity building was used as an opportunity to adapt the approach to learning and sharing, and to also emphasise capacity building at the national and regional levels, while capitalising on regional mechanisms to promote exchange and knowledge sharing. One result of this approach is that over 100 national staff across the Eastern Caribbean were positioned to use social protection tools to be more efficient and effective, and better respond to the needs of beneficiaries.

#### *Link with UNDAF/ UNSD Cooperation Framework*

The JP was developed in accordance with the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework for the Eastern Caribbean (2017-2021) which established four (4) priority areas for the development of the sub-region: (1) An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean; (2) A Safe, Cohesive, and Just Caribbean; (3) A Healthy Caribbean; (4) A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean.

- The JP achieved results in supporting an inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean by enhancing social protection programmes and supporting increased access to social protection systems through:
  - (i) the increase in social assistance support to vulnerable persons, including targeted assistance to women and children, through temporary interventions, pilot programmes, and facilitating longer-term expansion of said programmes;
  - (ii) the strengthening of governments' capacities and resources to make evidence-based policy and operational decisions to improve the social protection system and make it more adaptive to shocks;
  - (iii) support to ensure that policies, responses, and mitigation strategies foster better planning to reduce equity gaps and multi-dimensional poverty;
  - (iv) the provision of evidence-based data to inform decision-making and make social services more inclusive and foster linkages with labour market needs and opportunities;
  - (v) the strengthening of the operational capacity of social protection systems using digital solutions and focus on national human resource development.
- The JP also contributed to a more sustainable and resilient Caribbean by supporting governments through disaster risk management analyses, capacity development, and strengthening linkages between disaster risk management and social protection.

#### *COVID-19 impact*

- For **Saint Lucia**, the JP supported the government's COVID-19 response by providing financial and technical assistance to expand social assistance programmes namely:

- Support to 794 new households (2,938 individuals) under the flagship Public Assistance Programme (PAP) for four months, which triggered a permanent expansion with support from the World Bank.
  - 50% increase in cash transfers under the Child Disability Grant and children in foster care for three months (312 with disabilities, 184 in foster care);
  - 100% increase in food vouchers for 79 households with persons living with HIV/AIDS for one year (1,224 males and 159 females);
  - Twenty-five (25) women headed households (including 96 children) received cash top-ups to access childcare and meet basic needs, and skills training to support them in accessing the labour market.
- In **Barbados** 115 households (593 individuals) comprising migrants, women at risk of trafficking, single parents and other vulnerable households who were unable to access COVID-19 programmes, received cash transfers. This initiative also benefitted from data analysis and management exercises.
  - For both **Barbados and Saint Lucia**, the JP generated evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable persons, including on women and children specifically, and supported decision-making by policy makers through the Microsimulation model on monetary and child poverty in Saint Lucia, study on the impact of COVID-19 on women frontline and essential workers in Saint Lucia, and socio-economic assessments of the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups in Barbados and Saint Lucia.

## I.2 Update on priority cross-cutting issues

### *UN Development System reform - UN coherence at the country level*

- The JP highlighted the value of UN entities working together to maximise benefits and support countries to accelerate their development agenda. Using their respective comparative advantages, collaboration among UN agencies helped to deliver better on the ground and leverage a wide range of stakeholders.
- Additionally, working with regional organisations such as the OECS and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), provided opportunities to not only test models in more than one country for future replication throughout the region, but also consolidate the One UN partnership with regional institutions.
- Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the coordination mechanisms under the JP brought strategic partners including International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to the table to provide strategic guidance on how the JP can be a catalyst for broader social protection reform and strengthening within countries and across the wider Eastern Caribbean.

### *Going beyond "business as usual" to produce catalytic results at scale*

Since COVID-19 has necessitated an adjustment in the traditional approach to interactions with partners, the governance arrangements under the JP proved useful in facilitating engagement with partners, for example:

- The JP facilitated, leveraged, and accelerated access to resources from IFIs and donors. The results of the CODI assessment in Barbados are being used to draft a Social Protection Policy and Strategy, which will enable access to a 3.5 million euro grant from the European Commission.
- The temporary expansion of the PAP in Saint Lucia enabled the government to reach a disbursement-based indicator under a USD 20 million World Bank funded project, to help mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and strengthen the social protection system including the permanent expansion of the PAP by an additional 1,000 households (a 38% expansion).
- The Country Coordinating Committees (CCCs) have gone beyond JP governance tools to promote wider coordination among government agencies and departments with a social protection lens, as well as other development partners working in-country. This provides opportunities for increased collaboration with other donor partners, identifying synergies and avoiding duplication. Examples include the World Bank funded review of Saint Lucia's Social Protection Policy informing the JP-supported review of Saint Lucia's Social Protection Bill; the World Bank Funded PAP Operations Manual to include a Chapter on Referrals and Linkages elaborated through the JP.
- Regular interaction among UN Agencies and with governments and donor partners facilitate complementary activities outside the JP. For example, ILO and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) are working

together on a framework for unemployment insurance in Saint Lucia, and the World Bank and UNICEF have started discussions on furthering the work done on the Microsimulation Model for Saint Lucia conducted under the JP.

- The results of the JP, both in terms of strengthening and integrating social protection delivery in the OECS, as well its role in increasing collaboration among countries and other development partners, was used in developing other JPs for the region.
- The advocacy work under the JP helped governments to look at how they can best prioritise social protection including scaling up of social protection programmes.

#### *SDG acceleration*

The JP accelerated achievement of the three identified SDG targets based on its impact on reduced structural inequalities for poverty reduction and resilience building, responding to SDG targets 1.3, 5.1, 5.4 and 13.1 respectively. The increased adaptability of social protection to shocks was achieved through:

#### **SDG 1.3 –**

- A permanent expansion of Saint Lucia’s PAP by 1,000 households was accelerated to allow the country to meet its target indicators to access a USD10 million loan from the World Bank. This increase in the PAP represents a 38% increase in coverage of this flagship social assistance programme;
- A 50% temporary increase in cash transfers to children with disabilities and children in foster care, and a 100% one-year increase in food vouchers to persons living with HIV/AIDS in Saint Lucia to help stem the effects of COVID-19 on these vulnerable groups;
- Cash transfers to 593 migrants, women at risk of trafficking, single parents and other vulnerable individuals impacted by COVID-19 in Barbados;
- Costed recommendations to assess the gender-responsiveness, comprehensiveness, and shock-responsiveness of the social protection system in both Barbados and Saint Lucia.
- Piloting of shock-responsive social protection measures in Saint Lucia, including new vulnerability/targeting tools and payment delivery mechanisms.

#### **SDG target 13.1 –**

- Integration of social protection and disaster risk management and other adaptive social protection initiatives in Saint Lucia through a shock responsive social protection roadmap and pilot study on identifying, targeting, and delivering social assistance to vulnerable persons; an assessment of Barbados’ disaster risk management infrastructure linked to the CODI (Core Diagnostic Instrument) assessment of the overall social protection system.

#### **SDG targets 5.1 and 5.4.**

- Productivity enhancement training for poor single mothers in Saint Lucia to increase their employment prospects;
- Strengthened the evidence-base to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work in Barbados and Saint Lucia;
- Strengthening regional statistical offices capacity in measuring SDG 5.4.1. (unpaid care work) through knowledge sharing from a pilot on measuring this indicator in the labour force survey.

#### *Policy integration and systems change*

- The work on the CODI (Core Diagnostic Instrument) assessment and the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) module in Barbados supports country dialogue on strengthening the social protection system and promotes coordination and exchange between several government departments and civil society including those related to health, education, and disaster management.
- Consultations on universal access to day care in Saint Lucia to inform social protection and legislation brought together persons from various sectors including government officials in the social protection system, women’s groups and gender advocates, civil society organisations, labour unions and the private sector.



- The consultations on the Social Protection Bill in Saint Lucia included a wide range of stakeholders including social protection and legal experts. The Bill will not only provide the legal framework for Social Protection but will also enshrine an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism to provide overall policy guidance and institutional collaboration. Similarly, the work on linkages and referrals in Saint Lucia will identify the different social protection programmes being administered by the government of Saint Lucia and define the process whereby beneficiaries under the PAP are referred and linked to other essential services including health, education, housing, and employment, thereby making the programme “fit for purpose.”
- Following the provision of top-ups to beneficiaries of the Child Disability Grant to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, a review of the programme has started under the JP, with the objective to improve Saint Lucia’s Child Disability Grant to become more inclusive and accessible, including in a context of shock-responsiveness. The work is being undertaken in the context of the broader work on disability conducted with support of the CDB.
- The OECS Social Protection and Social Inclusion Strategy, using a consultative and participatory process, provides a guiding framework for OECS Member States who are in the process of or planning to develop, revise, or implement their Social Protection policies including Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Saint Lucia and Anguilla.

#### *Contribution to improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups*

##### **In Saint Lucia:**

- The JP provided cash transfers for 4 months to 794 new households (2,938 individuals) that qualify for public assistance;
- All children registered under the Child Disability Grant and children in foster care (496) received a 50% increase in cash disbursements for a 3-month period;
- 79 persons living with HIV/AIDS received a 100% increase in food vouchers for one year (1,383 persons when household members are included);
- 25 single mothers (with a combined total of 96 children) registered under the PAP received cash top-ups and productivity enhancement training to assist them in getting qualified and accessing the labour market;
- 205 households (654 individuals) affected by 2021 Hurricane Elsa received cash-based assistance;

In **Barbados**, 115 households (593 individuals) comprising migrants, women at risk of trafficking, single parents and other vulnerable individuals received cash transfers;

Estimated number of individuals that were reached through JP efforts:

- Total number: 6,189
- Percentage of women and girls: 40%

#### *Mainstreaming Gender equality and women empowerment*

The JP addresses gender equality in three ways. Firstly, it seeks to accelerate SDG 5 as an outcome, secondly as a cross-cutting issue throughout the programme, and thirdly, through interventions specific to marginalised women that cannot be addressed through gender-mainstreaming. The JP focused on addressing gender disparities that exist in both the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its response, and to provide policymakers with a series of recommendations that would support greater access for women, improve governments capacity to target households in poverty. and ensure female headed households are aware of, and enrolled in national social protection programmes, thus addressing the gender gap in coverage of social protection. COVID-19 response efforts also considered the specific impacts, constraints and opportunities faced by women. The JP also addressed the relevance and importance of gender-sensitive budgeting as a key component in achieving universal adaptive social protection.

- **Indicator 1:** The evidence-base to recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the gender analysis of the 2016 Barbados Survey of Living Conditions revealed the need for a fairer distribution of unpaid care work and reduction in the gendered impact this has on women’s and men’s risk of poverty. The Study on the impact of COVID-19 on Saint Lucian women frontline and essential workers confirmed that the care needs of these workers have not been effectively addressed in the national response to the pandemic. A pilot with women beneficiaries of the PAP in Saint Lucia was initiated to link several services including childcare services to support women and provide them with access to employment. The collection

of multi-dimensional sex and age-disaggregated data for the purpose of analysis, vulnerability, and improving beneficiary targeting for Saint Lucia's larger social protection reform was also increased. At the regional level the pilot on the Labour Force Survey provides guidance on measuring SDG 5.4.1 (unpaid care work).

- **Indicator 2:** The CODI assessment in Barbados included representatives of both gender-focused government departments and civil society organisations. Of note is that 30 out of 34 participants in the E-Training programme on Social Protection Policy and Quantitative Techniques in Barbados were women. Further, the JP and the Bureau of Gender Relations of Barbados collaborated to sensitize relevant staff about the importance of gender-specific policies and budgeting in social protection programming.

Estimated % of overall disbursed funds spent on Gender equality and Women empowerment by the end of JP: 40%

### *Human rights*

- The support provided in Saint Lucia on the legal review of social protection (ongoing) contributes to the creation of an entitlement to social protection benefits, to ensure the permanence of these initiatives and give rights-holders the legal ability to invoke their rights, while providing a formal demonstration of the country's intention.
- The JP further ensured that ongoing and planned social protection initiatives in Saint Lucia addressed the rights of marginalized groups, and respond to the recommendations relating to inclusive data collection, poverty reduction and social protection specifically:
  - An Economic Recovery Plan by the Government, devised to stimulate the economy through the protection of livelihoods, focused on the social wellbeing of the population and sought to expand the Public Assistance Programme by 1000 households (from 2,600 to 3,600), with 794 households directly assisted under the JP;
  - The Public Assistance Programme (PAP), the country's main cash transfer programme is also being reformed with support from the World Bank and the JP;
  - The provision of an increase in the value of cash transfers to beneficiaries with specific vulnerabilities, such as children in foster care, children with disabilities and persons living with HIV/AIDS; and
  - The provision of child care services and skills training to poor single mothers to increase their ability to find employment.
- In Barbados, the CODI assessment provides recommendations to build a social protection system that is rights-based, universal, adequate, sustainable and shock-responsive. Additionally 115 vulnerable households comprising migrants and women at risk for trafficking received cash assistance to help them meet their basic needs.
- The OECS Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategy has included social protection principles derived from Human Rights Conventions and International Labour Standards.

### *Partnerships*

- Forging closer links with IFIs also working on social protection initiatives in the countries. UN Agencies have regular interaction with these IFIs to leverage and more coherently implement social protection initiatives.
- The JP's support for the expansion of the PAP in Saint Lucia assisted the transition to a permanent expansion supported by World Bank financing. The PAP expansion was implemented through a multi-partner effort including funding from India-UN Development Partnerships Fund, the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) totaling approximately USD 500,000.
- Supporting UNCT priorities by addressing, through a joint mechanism, the multidimensional challenges facing Small Island Developing States (including the multiple dimensions of poverty, exacerbated by shocks, such as hurricanes, but also COVID-19, with implications for e.g., employment/food security, health, education, and gender dynamics), which require tailored and combined expertise from various UN agencies.



*Mobilizing additional funding and/or financing*

- The was continuous dialogue both at the bilateral and multi-lateral level to mobilise additional resources. For example, complementary support for Joint Programme activities was provided by the India-UN Development Partnerships Fund, ECHO, FCDO, as well as internally by WFP and UNICEF. The temporary expansion of the PAP in Saint Lucia, supported in part by the JP, helped trigger funding by the WB-supported Human Capital Resilience Project for a permanent expansion.
- The finalisation of the Social Protection Bill for Saint Lucia will help the country achieve relevant indicators to access additional funds for social protection reform.
- The result of the CODI Assessment in Barbados triggered disbursements under the International Development Bank’s (IADB) Contingent Loan for Natural Disaster Emergencies and is supporting wider the country’s wider social protection reform including the preparation of that country’s Social Protection Policy which will trigger the release of funds from the European Commission.
- Some activities have resulted in increased social protection spending from country partners, for example counterpart funding for the cash transfers, and an increase in budget line for the intersection between disasters and social protection in the case of Barbados.

*Strategic meetings*

Type of event	Yes	No	Description/Comments
Annual JP development partners'/donors' event*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Final JP event (closing)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other strategic events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OECS Conference on Social Protection, presentation on JP in the Eastern Caribbean Development Partners subgroup on Equity and Wellbeing (this forum includes some of the SDG Fund donors and other development partners)

*Innovation, learning and sharing*

In keeping with the strategy of the JP’s Learning and Sharing Plan - to generate insightful evidence through the consolidation of data and information on vulnerability beyond poverty in the region - and in strengthening learning and knowledge sharing where there are identified gaps, the following key activities have been undertaken:

1. Development of knowledge products with a view to documenting key lessons learned from the project and/or examples from SIDS within and outside of the Caribbean:
  - Videos that highlight the impact of cash transfers in assisting beneficiaries to mitigate the effects of COVID-19’ explain the concept of social protection to the public; to highlight the lessons learned from responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and what it means for universal social protection; that highlights the importance of social protection in helping teenaged mothers to escape a cycle of poverty; focusing on the experiences of recipients of cash transfers through shock-responsive social protection.
  - Documentary on the impact of COVID-19 on women frontline and essential workers.
  - Webinars on experiences and lessons learnt from the COVID-19 response and how it informs broader social protection reform.
2. Knowledge sessions around: 1) vulnerability to shocks; 2) models of adaptive social protection for the region; 3) data and information sharing across sectors; (4) rights basis and implications for accessibility of social protection; ((5) improved data collection and analysis in relation to natural shocks, (6) financing for social protection in the post COVID-19 era, in particular:
  - The OECS Regional Conference on Social Protection to engage and share knowledge and experiences on various areas related to social protection including shock-responsiveness, financing (disaster risk financing and public financing for children), labour market interventions and gender-responsiveness;
  - An inter-UN discussion on the current debate on universal basic income and its implications for the Caribbean;

- Training on improved collection of data related to disasters and climate change to inform social protection vulnerability analyses;
  - Webinar on unemployment insurance to reinforce capacity and knowledge across the Caribbean;
  - E-Training program on Social Protection Policy and Quantitative Techniques for Barbados, which included virtual training sessions over an 8-month period;
  - Knowledge sharing event on how data can aid in making policy decisions and how the lack of data can hinder the ability to make evidence-based decisions;
  - Quantitative Training for Social Security Practitioners of the Caribbean;
  - Training on gender-responsive budgeting for adaptive social protection; and
  - A 7-month blended training programme involving key staff from Ministries of Finance and Social development to tackle challenges in public financial management (PFM) and improve execution of social protection budgets.
3. The establishment of a knowledge portal linked to the OECS Secretariat will not move forward. The OECS Commission advised that it is streamlining its many portals and electronic databases for a more integrated system and therefore not in a position to host the portal. The documents repository for the JP will be the SDG Fund page for the project.

## II. Final Results

### Overall progress

- All expected results achieved  
 Majority of expected results achieved  
 Only some expected results achieved  
 Please, explain briefly:

The Joint Programme (JP) has achieved all expected results.

- In Saint Lucia, due to COVID-19, the JP supported the strategic reallocations of JP funds, co-financing the temporary expansion of four different social protection programs: Public Assistance Programme (PAP) expansion, Child Disability Grant top-up, Foster Care Grant top-up, and a 100 per cent increase to persons living with HIV/AIDS. The JP also supported the transition to a permanent expansion of coverage by 38 percent of the Public Assistance Programme. Overall, the JP led the Government of Saint Lucia through the process of analysing social protection benefit payment options, generating learning for the future. Analysis was also undertaken, and legislative review was initiated (linked to the World Bank-supported Human Capital Resilience Project).
- In Barbados, a key achievement was the establishment of a coordination mechanism to support social protection training and the implementation of a system-wide social protection assessment and reform of the country's social protection system, including making it gender-responsive and establishing links to disaster risk management and triggering disbursements under the IDB Contingent Loan for Natural Disaster Emergencies.
- The also JP made progress on the development of an OECS Social Protection Strategy for the Eastern Caribbean.
- While some activities remain to be finalised these do not impact the overall achievement of results. For example, the revision of the Draft Social Protection Bill for Saint Lucia is still outstanding, which will not allow the JP to count the number of persons legally covered in the country as an achievement. However, the exercise has already benefited from an updated Social Protection Policy, consultations with key stakeholders, and "key asks and demands" resulting from national consultations on unpaid care and domestic work. Once completed the Social Protection will provide the legal framework for social protection in the country.
- The census pilot on measuring SDG 5.4.1 (unpaid care work) was discontinued following discussion with the pilot country, Grenada. Initially, the pilot was delayed until April/May 2022 because of high rates of COVID-19 infections. However, it was agreed that the results of the pilot on the Labour Force Survey which was conducted under the JP in 2011 already provided the evidence-based for measuring SDG 5.4.1 and

would be rolled out in the rest of the OECS and Barbados, as part of the scaling up of activities undertaken under the JP.

### *Contribution to Fund's global results*

#### ⇒ **Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale**

The JP contributed to Outcome 1 in both scope and scale through a combination of outputs and outcomes to inform policy and systems in support of adaptive and universal social protection:

- budget analysis and advocacy to ensure sustained domestic funding for social protection (including linked to disaster risk financing) together with support to governments to update policy and legal frameworks that are gender-responsive;
- the modeling of adaptive social protection programmes (pilot on shock-responsiveness and PAP pilot on women) at the community level to generate evidence to support scalability and multiplication;
- establishing synergies with initiatives and investments from IFIs - the World Bank's Human Capital Resilience Project and the CDB's Social Resilience Project in Saint Lucia, the European Commission's support to Barbados on social protection, and the OECS' policy on social protection in its member countries;
- supporting governments to respond to shocks (COVID-19, Hurricane Elsa) through social protection by temporarily increasing coverage and benefits;
- strengthening linkages between social protection and disaster risk management for a more adaptive system.

#### ⇒ **Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented**

- Pilot on shock responsive social protection which tested the identification, targeting and delivery of social assistance to vulnerable persons affected by Hurricane Elsa using a vulnerability index developed by the JP – SDG 1 and 13.
- CODI assessment, Disaster Risk Management module and roadmap on shock responsive social protection to provide recommendations to strengthen the overall social protection system and links with disaster risk management. Outcomes are being used to rationalise and restructure the social protection system, and strengthen linkages with sectors including health, education and disaster management – SDGs 1 and 13.
- Gender-responsive and child-sensitive recommendations to guide more targeted assistance to vulnerable groups - SDGs 1 and 5.
- Data collection tools and good practices to generate evidence for better policy making aimed at poverty reduction and reducing gender discrimination – SDGs 1 and 5.
- Capacity strengthening at the national level to better implement social protection programmes: SDG 1.

### *JP Outputs and Outcomes*

#### ⇒ **Achievement of expected JP outputs**

*Output 1.1 - Institutional capacities strengthened for integrated service delivery through the development of evidence-based, gender-responsive social and disaster risk management policy and legislation*

- Number of social protection or disaster risk management policies drafted including adaptive or shock-responsive social protection: 2
- Number of reports produced analyzing vulnerability (including disaggregation of data by sex): 7

*Output 1.2: Innovative financial strategies introduced to ensure fiscal sustainability and expanded coverage – Planned for 2021 as per original WP*

- Number of social protection fiscal analyses/expenditure reviews: 3
- Number of forward-looking financing strategies developed: 3

*Output 1.3: Implementation of national social protection programmes strengthened with improved management and operational tools*

- Number of tools, protocols and manuals on adaptive systems developed: 3
- Number of government staff trained (disaggregated by sex): 106 (78 females; 28 males)

*Output 1.4: Targeted communities' benefit from piloted social protection programmes designed to strengthen their ability to anticipate, absorb and recover from climate-related shocks and stresses*

- Number of households targeted receiving cash transfers through expanded national social protection programmes in Saint Lucia: 1,713
- Number of changes made as a result of pilot to social protection or DRM data management systems, delivery mechanisms, targeting, coordination or financing systems: 2

Output 1.5 Regional capacities are strengthened for adaptive social protection by engaging stakeholders for legal and policy coherence and south-south cooperation

- Number of South-South Cooperation knowledge-exchange and learning events: 7
- Number of regional frameworks, strategies and plans revised to include adaptive social protection considerations: 1

⇒ **Achievement of expected JP outcomes**

Through the above stated outputs, the JP has made considerable progress towards its intended outcome: Poor and vulnerable people have predictable access to universal adaptive social protection.

- The number of households which benefitted from adaptive social protection programmes has increased by more than 6,000 individuals.
- While many of recommendations from the JP have not yet been adopted into policy, the ongoing review of Saint Lucia Social Protection Policy and Bill and drafting of Barbados' Social Protection Policy relies heavily on the output of the JP. Additionally, partners are using the JP outputs to engage with other IFIs to leverage additional resources for social protection.

⇒ **Monitoring and data collection:**

- The monitoring of implementation is done through the CCCs. This has worked well. As a team the PUNOs and implementing partners can determine where challenges lie and jointly take action to alleviate them.
- The arrangement for data collection can be improved. Partners have expressed concerns about the many requests for data in an uncoordinated manner which places added pressure on limited human resources. UN Agencies were advised by national partners of a need for further collaboration among themselves to determine what data is required for each activity to limit the number individual requests to implementing partners. At the same time there is a dearth of available social protection data in the countries which pose a challenge for robust analyses.

### III. JP finalization and evaluation

#### *Final JP evaluation and lessons learned*

The date when the evaluation was launched (month/year): December 2022

The date when the evaluation report was approved (month/year): May 2022

#### *Main findings*

- The JP's contribution to the progressive realisation of social protection systems was highly relevant to the context and targeted SDGs; it became even more relevant in the COVID-19 context. Considerable progress was made on achievement of expected outputs and outcomes and the JP's indicators captured the critical results.
- Several factors influenced the achievement or non-achievement of outputs, including (i) the ability to leverage the work of other development partners in the region such as the World Bank and the CDB, (ii) the demand of government partners, (iii) the COVID-19 pandemic, (iv) political context in Saint Lucia, and (v) funding availability within a constrained fiscal space. The 'linking' aspect of the JP was multifaceted and led to several unexpected results: addressing domestic violence issues, expanding financial inclusion, and evidencing the demand for social protection systems strengthening. The PUNOs effectively adapted the JP to the COVID-19 context by supporting evidence-based decision making and using the real-time experience to learn and prepare the social protection systems to adapt to future shocks.
- The JP helped to strengthen government processes used to identify people in need and respond; this included both vertical and horizontal expansion of social protection benefits, and in both countries the JP supported important linkages between DRM and social protection. Beneficiary feedback reflected gratitude for the support provided and strong demand for further social protection system strengthening. This JP is

often referenced as one of the best collaboration examples in the region; it has already been used as a model and several of its aspects either replicated or extended.

#### *Main Conclusions*

- This JP provided an important platform for the formulation of effective and creative social protection strategies that respond to immediate and long-term needs of beneficiaries in the future. The JP considered and contributed to gender equality, equity, social inclusion and inclusion of persons with disabilities in numerous ways – by utilizing evidence of vulnerable people’s views in the design process, at the systemic level through facilitating modelling and effective scale up and adaptation of existing SP programmes, and facilitating the process of the respective beneficiary Governments in systematically considering social protection options to maximize beneficiary resilience and ensure gender sensitivity.
- The JP proved highly relevant within the Eastern Caribbean context, and even more in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, there has been considerable progress towards the expected outputs and outcomes of the JP which was facilitated by developing partnerships and collaborations beyond the PUNOs and RCO, as well as by government’s demand for strengthening social protection systems. There was evidence of the benefits of jointness and adaptability of the JP to respond to dynamic situations through leveraging comparative advantages and linking with development partners – the JP linked expertise and evidence to drive results.

#### *Key Lessons Learnt*

- The two-year timeline of the JP inhibits achieving transformative impacts, particularly in complex programmes bringing together multiple governments and regional institutions.
- The human resource capacity of partners should be considered in determining schedules for implementation of concurrent activities of PUNOs requiring feedback.
- Coordination and regular interactions among PUNOs, with government and regional partners and with donors contribute to advancing smooth implementation despite external challenges such as COVID-19.
- There are differences in financial and procurement procedures and processes among the different agencies and this needs to be recognised up-front to better facilitate inter-agency cooperation and to avoid varying/onerous requirements on national partners.

#### *Main Recommendations*

- Advocate for reviewing the timeframes for JP design and implementation.
- Develop a rubric of criteria to be used in validating the selection of PUNOs in future JPs to ensure coherent rationale for collaboration based on comparative advantages and mandates of each agency - with consideration of joint programming transaction costs.
- Systematically include mid-term reviews to enhance flexibility in future JPs and create space for reflection and revision of activities, budget, indicator targets, lesson-learning, etc.
- Where JPs work with governments to expand or pilot new ways of providing social protection support, advocate with Government counterparts to ensure that a strategy is in place to communicate the purpose and scope of pilot interventions with beneficiaries.
- The PUNOs and RCO should advocate with the governments of Barbados and Saint Lucia to sustain the CCCs that were established for this JP.
- Future efforts of PUNOs which scale-up/replicate this JP should replicate its systematic consideration of gender equality, equity, and social inclusion in their design and strategies.

#### *After the JP: follow-up and possibilities for sustainability of the impact and further scaling*

- UN Women and UNFPA with funding from Global Affairs Canada will be implementing a 4-year Joint Programme to boost women’s economic resilience by tackling the barriers that exacerbate their vulnerabilities to achieving economic empowerment, including reducing unpaid care work, promoting gender-responsive social protection and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The social protection component will build on the results of the PAP pilot on women in Saint Lucia which was conducted under the JP. Additionally, the pilot on the Labour Force Survey will be rolled out in the rest of the OECS and Barbados.
- Based on the results of the work on vulnerable communities in Saint Lucia conducted under the JP, UNDP plans to scale up its support to persons with disabilities to focus on social protection.

- UNICEF will continue its partnership and coordination with the World Bank to improve social protection implementation and systems building, build on the Microsimulation Model on Monetary and Child Poverty among other “child sensitive” programmes for Saint Lucia.
- ILO and CDB will continue cooperation on unemployment insurance in Saint Lucia.
- The analysis on disaster risk financing is laying groundwork for options related to macro-insurance, among others, which WFP will continue to build on with government partners following the end of the JP.
- Both WFP and UNICEF are expanding their role in Saint Lucia beginning with personnel stationed in-country to support further engagement with the government to build on the results of the JP.



## Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Results

### 1. JP contribution to global Fund’s programmatic results

#### Global Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

Outcome indicators	Expected final target	Final result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)
1.1: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope <sup>7</sup>	3	3	
<i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CODI Assessment and DRM module for Barbados</li> <li>• Expansion of Saint Lucia’s Public Assistance Programme to include new households</li> <li>• Review of Saint Lucia Social Protection Policy (with World Bank) to include adaptive social protection and gender-responsiveness, and to inform legislative reform</li> </ul>			
1.2: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale <sup>8</sup>	3	3	
<i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OECS Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategy</li> <li>• Recommendation from pilot on shock responsive social protection</li> <li>• Recommendations from pilot on Labour Force Survey to measure SDG 5.4.1</li> </ul>			

#### Global Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Output indicators	Expected final target	Final result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)
3.1 Number of innovative solutions that were tested (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)	2	2	While the testing of the microsimulation model to measure child and monetary poverty was successful, it has not been used as a policy tool.
3.2: Number of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	5	5	

Did your Joint Programme contribute to strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators?

- Yes  
 No

<sup>7</sup>Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

<sup>8</sup>Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

- Explain briefly:
- **SDG 1.3** – Supported Saint Lucia in implementing a permanent increase to the Public Assistance Programme by 794 households.
  - **SDG target 13.1** - Vulnerability analyses, targeting the integration of social protection and disaster risk management and other adaptive social protection initiatives including the response to COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters.
  - **SDG targets 5.1 and 5.4.** - 25 vulnerable women in Saint Lucia received productivity enhancement training to increase their employment prospects; training on the importance of gender-sensitivity in social protection programme in Barbados; strengthened the evidence-base to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work.

**SDG target 13.1 –**

- Integration of social protection and disaster risk management and other adaptive social protection initiatives in Saint Lucia through a shock-responsive social protection roadmap and a pilot study on identifying, targeting and delivering assistance to vulnerable persons; an assessment of Barbados’ disaster risk management infrastructure linked to the overall assessment of the social protection system.

**SDG targets 5.1 and 5.4.**

- Productivity enhancement training for 25 single mothers in Saint Lucia (beneficiaries under the Public Assistance Programme) to increase their employment prospects;
- Strengthened the evidence-base to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through retrospective study on past and ongoing investments in day care in Barbados and consultations on universal access to day care in Saint Lucia to inform the review of the Social Protection Bill.
- At the regional level, a pilot on the labour force survey to measure SDG 5.4.1 provide regional statistical offices with best practices in measuring SDG 5.4.1.

**2. Results as per JP Programmatic Results Framework**

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected final target	Final result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)
Number of households benefiting from adaptive social protection programmes (disaggregated by female/male-led household)	0	1598	1713 (2999 males; 2113 females + 592 children not disaggregated by sex)	Cash transfers provided to 115 vulnerable households in Barbados.
Social protection adaptivity and universality score (composite indicator, including gender)	0	3.25	3.2	This indicator focuses on St Lucia. Progress has been made on targeting, information management and payments, increasing the score to close to the target value. However more systemic changes will require more time.

Number of recommendations from Joint Programme adopted in policies and programmes	0	3	3	
Number of social protection or DRM policies drafted including adaptive or shock-responsive social protection	0	2	2	
Number of reports produced analyzing vulnerability (including disaggregation of data by sex)	0	7	7	
Number of social protection fiscal analyses/expenditure reviews	0	3	3	
Number of forward-looking financing strategies developed	0	2	3	The JP supported the National Insurance Cooperation Saint Lucia to conduct its 12 <sup>th</sup> Actuarial Review
Number of tools, protocols and manuals on adaptive systems developed	0	3	3	
Number of government staff trained (disaggregated by sex)	0	106	106 (78 females; 28 males)	
Number of households targeted receiving cash transfers through adapted social protection programmes in Saint Lucia (disaggregated by female/male-led household)	0	1598	1713 (2999 males; 2113 females + 592 children not disaggregated by sex)	Cash transfers provided to 115 vulnerable households in Barbados
Number of changes made because of pilot to social protection or DRM data management systems, delivery mechanisms, targeting, coordination or financing systems	0	2	2	While not permanent changes, the trialing of new payment mechanisms and the vulnerability index in Saint Lucia have both generated interest from the govt in adopting new approaches in the future.
Number of South- South Cooperation, knowledge-exchange and learning events	0	5	7	Increased demand for capacity strengthening by government partners
Number of regional frameworks, strategies and plans revised to include adaptive social protection considerations	0	1	1	

## Annex 2: Strategic documents

### 2.1. Contribution to social protection strategies, policies and legal frameworks

#### Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
Shock-Responsive Social Protection Report and Roadmap	Feb. 20	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Estimating the Impact of COVID-19 on Monetary and Multidimensional Poverty in Saint Lucia using a Microsimulation Model – and User Guide	Oct. 20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
Gender analysis of the Barbados Survey of Living Conditions 2016-17	Dec. 20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
"Voices of Saint Lucian Women: A Study of the Impact of COVID-19 on Frontline Workers, Small Entrepreneurs, Pre-School Teachers and Hospitality Workers"	Aug. 21	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
A Gender Responsive and Multi-Dimensional Socio-Economic and Climate-Based Vulnerability Analysis of the Saint Lucia Survey of Living Conditions and Household Budgets 2016	Jun. 21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
Gender-responsive assessment of Barbados' social protection response to COVID-19	Mar. 21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) Analysis	Apr. 22	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Study on Migration, Displacement and Shock-Responsive Social Protection in the Eastern Caribbean	Nov. 21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	<a href="#">Link</a>
Gender-responsive Assessment of Saint Lucia's COVID 19 Social Protection Response	Mar. 21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
OECS Social Inclusion and Social Protection Policy	In Draft	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Linking Disaster Risk Finance to Social Protection in Barbados	May 22	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Linking Disaster Risk Finance to Social Protection in Saint Lucia	Jun 22	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Gender Sensitive Assessment of Financing Modalities for Adaptive Social Protection (Barbados)	May 22	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Gender Sensitive Assessment of Financing Modalities for Adaptive Social Protection (St. Lucia)	May 22	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Saint Lucia Social Sector Policy Note	In draft	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	
Towards Universal and Adaptive Social Protection in Saint Lucia: The Development of a Vulnerability Index	Feb 22	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	
Towards Universal and Adaptive Social Protection in Saint Lucia: Livelihoods analysis	Feb 22	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Saint Lucia: Market functionality index	Oct 21	No	No	No	Yes	No	

## 2.2. Focus on vulnerable populations

### *Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP*

<b>Title of the document</b>	<b>Date when finalized</b> (MM/YY)	<b>Focus on gender equality and women empowerment</b> (Yes/No)	<b>Focus on children</b> (Yes/No)	<b>Focus on youth</b> (Yes/No)	<b>Focus on older persons</b> (Yes/No)	<b>Focus on other group/s</b> (List the group/s)	<b>Focus on PwDs</b> (Yes/No)	<b>Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability</b> (Yes/No)
Estimating the Impact of COVID-19 on Monetary and Multidimensional Poverty in Saint Lucia using a Microsimulation Model – and User Guide	Oct. 20	No	Yes	Yes	No		No	No
Gender analysis of the Barbados Survey of Living Conditions 2016-17	Dec. 20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		No	No
“Voices of Saint Lucian Women: A Study of the Impact of COVID-19 on Frontline Workers, Small Entrepreneurs, Pre-School Teachers and Hospitality Workers”	Aug. 21	Yes	No	No	No	Women frontline and essential workers	No	No

### **Annex 3: Results questionnaire**

<https://forms.office.com/r/DfvPvaGfsg>.

### **Annex 4: Final report on JP evaluation**

Attached.