



DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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UNCT/MCO: Nepal

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Assessing the impact of the global crisis on the agriculture and food security situation in Nepal

Thematic SDG Areas: Food systems transformation;

PUNOS: WFP, FAO

Stakeholder partner: National Government; Sub-national Governments;

Gender Marker: Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm)

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Annual Progress

Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

On-track (expected annual results-achieved)

Overall Progress

Major achievements from WFP side within the reporting period included:

1. One in-depth assessment using face to face household survey with a total of 3,000 HHs from 200 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) completed.
2. One remote mVAM survey completed, preliminary analysis and report writing completed, combined report will be released in first quarter of 2023
3. Regular monthly market monitoring is completed, with 7 market updates published (June to December 2022) and a market assessment using Market Functionality Index (MFI) completed and published with monthly market update report of November 2022. WFP regular monthly market monitoring will continue until at least March 2023.

Findings of both the remote and face to face household surveys showed a notable impact of the global crisis on the food security situation of households in Nepal, with a 3.6% increase in food insecurity in October compared to June 2022. The surveys also provided a snapshot of the geographic locations and household characteristics of the most affected in order to inform potential programmatic responses and longer-term interventions that could target these groups. Prices of key commodities monitored under monthly market monitors remained high throughout the second half of 2022, however the increasing trend seemed to stabilize towards the end of the year. Karnali province continued to have consistently higher prices of most commodities compared to the other provinces in Nepal.

At the same time, major achievements under FAO included the preparation of a desk study report by reviewing secondary data and information. It is updated with data and information (till Dec 2022). The report has been shared with National Planning Commission (NPC) for their review and feedback. Stakeholder and expert consultation in all 7 Provinces and report writing were also completed

and shared with NPC. The consultations were carried out to get views and feedback from experts and relevant stakeholders on the impact of global crisis on food security and agriculture production and come up with possible policy/programme recommendations. The analysis on prevalence to moderately or severely food insecurity of the population using FIES is ongoing, and the joint report will be released by February 2023, which will provide recommendations on policy and programme adjustments based on the evidence generated under the JP towards the achievement of SDGs.

Both WFP and FAO presented the preliminary findings on the impact of the global crisis on the food security and agriculture situation in Nepal (derived from household surveys, market monitors, desk review and stakeholder consultations) to the Food Security Donor Group meeting.

As of December 2022, most of the outputs under this Joint Project have been completed.

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

The preliminary findings shared with government and the humanitarian and development community in Nepal outlined the impact of global crisis on the progress of achieving SDG 2.1, while providing the necessary information to design and implement response programmes contributing to SDG 17.14. Evidence generated on the prevalence of moderately or severely food insecurity of the population using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale will further help to assess the progress of SDG 2 indicators for achieving zero hunger in Nepal. This evidence will contribute as well to inform the design of policies and programme to achieve zero hunger by 2030 for both government and development partners.

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 long festive season in October together with the parliamentary elections at both federal and provincial levels that took place on 20th November, and subsequent additional time for the formation of a new government, resulted in delays for the planned federal consultation meetings with the relevant government policymakers, experts, and other stakeholders. Similarly, survey data collection took place during the implementation of the election code of conduct which required the JP to obtain a letter from the government to ensure timely implementation of planned activities.

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

Under the JP, WFP is planning to carry out another round of mVAM household survey in order to assess the progress on SDG 2.1 indicator especially on the food insecurity situation and inform the government and other stakeholders to address the food insecurity situation for achieving zero hunger by 2030. WFP will also advocate and lobby to put additional programmes to address the food insecurity situation.

WFP and FAO intend to continue food security and market monitoring in collaboration with Government of Nepal however additional resources are required to do so. Both agencies also plan to include food security indicators in the regular and periodic government surveys such as Nepal Living Standard Surveys, Annual Household Surveys conducted by Central Bureau of Statistics Nepal.

Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

The study on assessing the impact of the global crisis on food security and agriculture production is conducted under the leadership of the National Planning Commission (NPC), Government of Nepal, where NPC formed a high-level committee under the chairmanship of honorable member of National Planning Commission who oversees the research, assessments and inter-governmental coordination portfolio of the NPC. Other members in the high-level committee included representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Agriculture and Livestock Development, Commerce, Industries and Supply, National Bureau of Statistics, and Department of Customs. The lead by NPC as the apex body for policies and planning is critical to utilize information for the upcoming programmes and policies generated through household surveys and stakeholder consultations. In addition, the stakeholder consultation engaged with sub-national governments at the Provincial level helped to assess the impact of global crisis and possible policy and program measures.

Key meetings and events organized

JP steering committee/ Strategic partners/ donors Kick-off meeting
programme board meeting event

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

The assessments undertaken under this JP looked into the impacts of the global crisis and highlighted the food security situation through a gender, disability and social inclusion lens. The assessments outlined the relationship between female headed households, education levels of women, ethnic minorities, and households with disabilities and chronic illness with regards to overall household food security. The impacts of the crisis on specific groups helped to provide evidence for targeting to ultimately ensure the principle of leave no one behind. The consultation workshops also ensured the participation of women and other disadvantaged groups, so that their specific issues and views were well captured to inform on the impact of the global crisis on food security and agriculture.

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); 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
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

No changes so far, however evidence is still being collected/disseminated and potential changes on SDG financing could result from that. That said, this is beyond the scope of the JP.