



DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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UNCT/MCO: Philippines

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Monitoring the Food, Energy, Finance Crisis towards Informed Policy and Response Options in the Philippines

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

PUNOS: WFP, ILO, FAO

Stakeholder partner: National Government;

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

Implementation of the joint programme (JP) achieved satisfactory progress for the reporting period as most of the planned activities were undertaken.

For component 1 (to improve existing data collection systems for monitoring the food, energy and finance crisis), the JP is providing reliable subnational data on the impacts of the global crisis on the ground. By using the World Food Programme's (WFP's) mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) survey, the JP provides the government with data at the household level of the general population. Data collection is being done in three rounds, with a target of 2,210 respondents per round. Two rounds of the mVAM survey were completed in 2022 (first round in October 3-31, second round in November 21-December 23). The initial survey found that while food insecurity, overall, remained low at about 11 percent, there were segments of the population that were disproportionately feeling the brunt of the global crisis. These were the agricultural sector and less educated households. The information the mVAM provided complemented what was public knowledge—that farmers and low-income households were struggling with higher inflation—but provided more context and clarity into their struggles. Both segments of the population were significantly more food insecure than the overall population: 24 percent of agricultural households were food insecure, while the figure was 16 percent for households whose heads only graduated from primary school. Agricultural households also experienced income loss at a much higher rate compared to non-agricultural households (46 percent vs. 35 percent). WFP also identified the Bangsamoro Administrative Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) as a crisis hotspot, which had a significantly higher food insecure population at 34 percent. Analysis of the second-round results is still on-going, though preliminary findings show that the agricultural sector is still the most impacted by the crisis.

For component 2 (to provide policy options for improved response measures to crises), the FAO-led “Rapid Assessment of the Philippine Agri-food Systems and its Vulnerability and Resilience to the Impacts of the 5F Crisis” started in Q4 2022. Data gathering (key informant interviews, FGDs, secondary data collection, and document analysis) was conducted and the study is about 60 percent completed as of reporting. Even through the course of data collection, analysis, and research deliberations, this study through its initial findings has already contributed to providing evidence and early recommendations in the dialogues between UN agency principals and government counterparts regarding the emerging crisis. In addition, the ILO-led “Assessment of the shock-responsive social protection system in the Philippines” also started in Q4 2022. Initial consultations with key national partners and other relevant stakeholders were conducted to identify main social protection programmes that have the highest potential to address the heightened needs of the vulnerable and affected population as well as potential capacity gaps to be addressed. The preliminary draft which includes the mapping of the elements of the existing social protection system and an in-depth analysis of its performance is available for review of internal UN agencies. The study is 80 percent completed and revised draft will be available for review of external partners by February 2023.

As groundwork for a multi-government agency approach, the JP conducted a workshop with partner government agencies (National Nutrition Council, Department of Agriculture, and Philippine Statistics Authority, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Labor and Employment) to disseminate the mVAM round 1 results and initial scope and findings of the two studies. The findings presented have urged government counterparts to reconsider the establishment of an inter-agency body to monitor and manage the crisis.

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

- The mVAM provides figures on national and regional food insecurity in the Philippines on an almost monthly basis, which before was only available annually, or updated even less often.
- The results of the mVAM identify segments of the population and regions of the country where food insecurity and the impacts of the global crisis are the highest. This granular information is not available through other surveys or resources.
- Towards SDG Target 2.C, the JP provides impact evidence on domestic food price anomalies caused by the crisis.

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 first three months (July to September 2022) of Joint Programme implementation coincided with the transition to a newly elected government in May 2022 which contributed to delays in start-up activities. In addition, there were scheduling constraints with the government agencies as competing demands for the time of technical staff dealing with the many other initiatives and programs made it difficult to set the consultations and meetings. Nevertheless, the JP focused on technical-level engagement with career government officials to get traction on JP activities.

At present, the main challenge for establishing the institutional mechanism is the ongoing absence of a full-fledged Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA). The government agencies involved in the JP opined that the DA should be the lead agency for any such inter-agency task force / forum /body for the monitoring and response to the crisis. The PUNOs are currently exploring engagement strategies to hurdle this constraint.

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

The Joint Programme design includes a specific sub-output for the activation of government-led institutional mechanism to utilize the monitoring system and policy options to be developed. Potential options being explored are: the National Nutrition Council – a longstanding government inter-agency body – which said that current nutrition monitoring systems need to be improved and expressed interest in utilizing the mVAM to better understand nutrition needs at the local government level; and the Department of Social Welfare and Development which said that they would be open to working with us on improving monitoring of food security among the poor and vulnerable. Follow-up discussions have been, and will continue, to be held with the Philippines Statistics Authority and the Department of Agriculture which also expressed interest in this regard. IFIs such as the World Bank and IMF are also interested in the results of the MVAM now and going forward.

Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

Through the inception workshop and briefing on the first round of survey results, the JP brought together several national government agencies that are involved in addressing the various elements of the triple crisis, namely: Department of Agriculture, Department of Labor and Employment, Philippine Statistics Authority, National Economic and Development Authority, and the National Nutrition Council.

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

Mobile phone surveys tend to be biased towards more urbanized areas (because of better mobile reception) and more affluent households (since more household members tend to be phone owners). To mitigate this bias, from the onset of the first round, we aimed to interview more households from municipalities to represent rural households. In analyzing results in the first round, however, the JP still found that less educated/lower income households were underrepresented. In response to this, soft quotas were set for the second round to reach agricultural households and less educated households.

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 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