



DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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UNCT/MCO: Samoa MCO

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Supporting the Governments of Cook Islands, Samoa and Niue to analytically understand and address impacts of the global crisis of food, energy and finance on national food systems

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

PUNOS: FAO, WFP

Stakeholder partner: National Government; Parliamentarians;

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

The Joint Programme (JP) is successfully implementing its project across the nations of Cook Islands, Niue and Samoa, but further work is still needed to achieve substantial success on all outputs.

Output 1:

First round of remote data collection completed in Samoa, with an increased sample of 1200 households. Results show a significant increase in the adoption of negative coping strategies, with households having to resort to more severe coping mechanisms to access food and other essential needs. Results from the interviewed sample show that households' adopting crisis or emergency coping strategies increased from 20% in March 2022 to 30% in September 2022. Among the most adopted coping strategies by interviewed households, spent savings remained constant throughout 2022 while less severe strategies have been progressively substituted by more severe ones, such as withdrawing children from school (13% of interviewed households). Increase in food prices has been listed as one of interviewed households main concern throughout 2022. Results have been published on the online country dashboard and dataset shared with partners. ~15 Samoan government officers from the Ministry and Agriculture and the Bureau of Statistics were trained on digital data collection through use of Kobo Toolbox. This will ease the data collection, analysis and data management and helps to improve the quality of data collected and evidence generated.

Output 2: The JP has collected impactful data from Samoa, Niue, and Cook Islands on CPI, tracking food and non-food items price changes from Jan 2019 to Sept of 2022. The results have been profound, with Samoa showing a 10% increase in CPI since January of 2019 and a 13% increase since January 2022 alone. Cook Islands has seen a 17% increase in CPI on food items since January 2022.

Fuel prices are staggering across the represented countries with 44% increase in petrol and 60% increase in diesel in Samoa and 19% increase in petrol and 20% increase in diesel in Cook Islands between January and August of 2022.

This JP is working closely with respective governments to track the changes in prices that directly affect peoples' food security and livelihoods. In October, the JP supported government representatives to present the findings of the data collected at the Asia Pacific Symposium on Agrifood Systems Transformation catalyzing discussions with other regional partners and stakeholders to explore avenues to address the crisis and be better equipped to deal with similar shocks in the future. The JP also brought together many high-ranking government delegates to the Pacific SIDS Solutions Forum in Samoa with the theme of "Working together to leave no one behind". The Forum offered a space for cross-sectoral discussions on agricultural, health, and technological approaches to achieve their SDGs. One session provided the opportunity for eleven Ministers and two government officials to speak directly to how COVID-19, border closures, and the 5F crisis compounded to affect their countries' economies, their people, and what they were doing to address it. Many delegates stressed their need for technical support to achieve food systems transformation.

Output 3: This JP has successfully developed strong relationships with its government counterparts and is now working closely with them to progress light early warning systems. Through this process, the JP developed a regional bulletin on the impact of the 5F crisis that has been shared with governments across the region.

This project will also use the data collection framework, the first of its kind in the Pacific region, to train government partners to use the tool to anticipate future shocks.

Output 4:

The PUNOs are taking two approaches to achieve this output: short-term projects to alleviate the pressures on food systems national governments are currently experiencing and the development of long-term concepts to be further funded by IFIs and donors.

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

- SDG 1.5 - By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

o The Pacific is already particularly prone to environmental shocks and disasters. The added economic shocks associated with the rise in prices of fuel, food, feed, fertilizer, and changes in finance have threatened to stagnant or even revert the Pacific's ability to reach its Sustainable Development Goals. In countries like Samoa, where the population experienced a 44% increase in fuel in six months and a 50% increase in the cost of a nutritious food basket, this project has helped to collect and analyse the increase in prices across food, feed, fuel, fertilizer, and finance and demonstrate the impacts on food security.

o The data collection has helped create a monitoring tool to help PIC governments track changes in prices and anticipate shocks.

- SDG 2.4 - By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

o This JP continues to support all three countries in readdressing their Food Systems Pathways.

o This JP has enabled a desk review of all three country food systems pathways through a social protection lens. This work will complement other work that is ongoing by the PUNOs.

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.

- Communicating with government representatives has been challenging as well as many governments are over-extended and unresponsive to unknown names.
- The above challenges created an opportunity to bring government officials to PUNO agencies as was done with the Asia Pacific Symposium on Agrifood Systems Transformations which took place in October and the Pacific SIDS Solutions Forum which took place in November.
- The connections made during these events have created significant momentum in achieving the JP objectives.
- As connection was only made with many governments in November, the no-cost extension of an additional 3 months has now enabled this JP to produce quality work before the conclusion of the project.

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

Scaling up and delivering sustainable outcomes is built into this project itself. The JP is working with government partners directly to identify next steps necessary to achieve their respective SDGs and has already initiated the process of developing concept notes for further actions. The Joint Programme is developing concepts to further Niue's national agriculture development through food systems strategy and to improve its information and data management capacities. The JP PUNOs are continuing conversations with other respective governments to identify their priority areas for further next steps. Thus far, the EU has been identified as a potential partner for SDG funding.

Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

To date, government personnel have been the direct beneficiaries of this project in the form of capacity building.

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

- Gender equality and women’s empowerment:

o This JP is successfully incorporating social protection measures in the food systems pathways of various countries across the Pacific and these will pay particular attention to vulnerable populations.

o This JP is mainstreaming gender equality into all aspects of the project including, but not limited to, ensuring any trainings maintain gender parity, consultations must accurately represent the population the policy changes will impact, therefore as many women as men are included.

- Principles of leaving no one behind

o The economic early warning system that has been developed through this project will support those impacted by economic shocks such as inflation. Populations like people living with disabilities, single-headed households, and the elderly are the most affected by such events. Through this project, governments will be more capable of anticipating economic shocks, communicating those to the public, and take action to support those most impacted by such shocks.

o One of the core elements of this JP is to build social protection into national governments’ food systems pathways.

o Anticipatory action concept is under development for consideration of regional donors. This will include significant elements of social protection as well.

o Data collected through the remote monitoring system (mVAM) allows gender and age disaggregation, as well as people with disabilities and households’ with children under 5 years old. The analysis of the data collected allows to identify which social groups are more vulnerable in terms of food security and access to essential needs for better targeting and support.

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);Adaptation of existing programmes (e.g. revision of eligibility criteria, removal of conditionalities);Capacity development (e.g. training of social workers, local governments, local communities);

JP address the below cross-cutting issues and principles of leaving no one behind

Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
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No	Yes	No	Yes
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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