



DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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UNCT/MCO: South Sudan

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Assessing the impacts of Ukraine's crisis on food security in South Sudan

Thematic SDG Areas: Food systems transformation; Climate action & energy transformation;

PUNOS:FAO

Stakeholder partner: National Government; Sub-national Governments; Civil Society Organizations; Humanitarian actors; Private sector; IFIs/DFIs; Bilateral aid 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

The JP contributes to SDG targets i.e. SDG 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy). The main activity of the JP is to understand the impact of the conflict in Ukraine on the fragile food security and energy situation in South Sudan. This study was sub-contracted to a research firm, DETCRO, which is nearing the finalization of the study and had requested a no-cost extension to the study, till the end of February 2023, because of delays associated with the late transfer of funds. As of now, the consulting firm is planning to conduct two workshops; (a) Validation workshop on 30 March 2023 (b) Presentation of findings to a wider audience on Mid- April 2023.

So far, given that the impact study is yet to be completed, the findings have not been applied to change any response to the global crisis that has been occasioned by the conflict in Ukraine. However, preliminary findings show that research participants demonstrated a sophisticated understanding of the global impacts of war in Ukraine and appreciated that attention was being devoted to this issue. Across locations, the impacts that war in Ukraine had on humanitarian assistance and donor priorities was at the forefront of people's minds, though they were also aware of impacts in terms of food and fuel prices.

Furthermore, the analysis of secondary data shows that the proportion of the population affected by high food prices, insecurity and drought increased dramatically after January 2022. The data also shows that exposure to high food price shocks is strongly correlated with a reduction in Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), a critical measure of food security. Trends from pre- to post-Ukraine time periods show improving scores for female-headed households in terms of HDDS, Food Consumption Scores (FCS)

and Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI), suggesting that they may be more resilient in the face of these shocks – there is need to investigate this further to understand the reason behind this finding.

The JP's three outputs have progressed as below:

a) Output 1.1 (Enhanced and gender responsive data collection approach for Ukraine's crisis impact analysis on food security) – DETCRO has ensured, to the greatest extent possible, that the data collection exercise was gender-sensitive and female interviewers were used to interact with female respondents.

b) Output 1.2 (Conducted comprehensive impact analysis for South Sudan) – the impact analysis study is almost completed, with the consulting firm DETCRO currently working on the draft report in readiness for the validation workshop scheduled for 30 March 2023. Completion progress can be estimated at 80%.

c) Output 1.3 (Ukraine's crisis impact study key results shared and validated) – as indicated above, the presentation of key results will be conducted in two workshops to be held on 30 March 2023 and Mid-April 2023, with the former being a validation workshop with the contracting agencies (FAO, WFP, UNWOMEN, RCO) and the latter being a presentation of findings workshop to a much wider audience.

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

The JP will majorly contribute towards the reduction of poverty and hunger (SDGs 1 and 2 respectively), Gender Equality (SDG 5) and options for affordable and clean energy (SDG 7) through the identification of how the conflict in Ukraine is impacting on the food security and energy situation in South Sudan and how response can be tailored to address the impacts and mitigate their effects.

The findings of the impact survey will also inform policy formulation, particularly financial ones, to ensure that the ensuing economic impacts are lessened so that South Sudanese can afford to purchase commodities, including food, from the local markets and that the country can be able to import food from alternative markets if need be. It is also envisaged that after indicating the impacts of the conflict in Ukraine on the food security and energy situation in South Sudan, it will become more urgent for the Government to increase investment in the agricultural sector to enhance self-reliance in terms of food production so that the population is able to grow what they eat.

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 major constraint that resulted in the delayed start of the impact study is the late transfer and receipt of the funds for the project i.e. the project technically commenced in July 2022 as per the award, but the funds reflected in the account around mid-September 2022.

Another challenge was related to logistics of moving to the research locations because some of the research locations are considered hard-to-reach and must rely on the UNHAS schedule. Trying to create a schedule for the research team that perfectly fitted the UNHAS schedule was challenging, and this further delayed the survey.

Some of the lessons learned and good practices adopted during the implementation of the impact study is the gender sensitivity of the whole exercise that saw the inclusion of female researchers. This ensured that perspectives of women respondents were captured in an environment that they felt safe in.

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

Once the draft report is completed, there will be two workshops. The first will be a workshop on 30th March 2023 to validate the findings and this will be attended by the consultant firm (DETCRO) and the contracting stakeholders (i.e. FAO, WFP, UNWOMEN and RCO). With the feedback from the validation workshop, DETCRO will revise the draft report further in preparation for the presentation of the findings to a wider audience in Mid-April 2023 consisting of stakeholders from various institutions, including Government, UN, Donors, CSOs, Academia etc.

The final report will be disseminated widely to various agencies involved in emergency response and development programming in South Sudan to inform their new interventions or re-programming of existing projects to address the effects of the conflict in Ukraine on the food security and energy situation in South Sudan.

Findings that will require further investigation will also be highlighted and it is envisaged that further resources will be availed later in the year to address those findings.

The JP's activities did not come to an end in December 2022 but instead activities were rolled over to 2023 under a no-cost extension modality. The final report of the impact study is expected by 30 May as we are planning for two validation workshops - 30 March 2023 with PUNOs and RCO and Mid-April 2023 with wider audience involving UNCT, government, CSOs, and private sector.

Strategic Partnerships and Communications

Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

Government both at state and national level, citizens, experts from UN and development partners and CSOs were interviewed during data collection.

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

The JP's Gender Marker is "GEN1: Make a limited contribution to gender equality/women empowerment". Thus, the JP ensured that women participated in the data collection exercises to ensure that women's perspectives were captured in an environment that felt safe so that they could truthfully express themselves.

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);

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	Yes	Yes	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