



Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in SIDS

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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UNCT/MCO: Suriname

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Leaving No One Behind, Building Resilience, and Improving Livelihoods of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs) in Suriname

Stakeholder partner: National Government; Sub-national Governments; Civil Society Organizations; Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs) through their traditional leadership and umbrella organisations (VIDS, KAMPOS) & Adolescent and youth ;

Thematic SDG Areas: SDG localization; Solutions for internal displacements; Capacity Development of Local Partners & Inclusion;

PUNOs: UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, UNWOMEN

Total estimated expenditures: US\$ 68,157.9

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): US\$ 83,458.4

Gender Marker: Gender-transformative (for example, the JP explicitly aimed to address the structural and root causes of gender inequality, such as by combining social protection with community dialogues and economic empowerment activities that aim to shift gender social norms and power relations)

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Executive Summary

1) During this reporting period, the foundation was laid in having key actors / stakeholders on board in the process of inclusive / participatory policy development, which included completing an inventory / assessment of existing policies regarding Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs). Most importantly, the JP was able to mobilize and engage the main target group (ITPs) through their traditional authorities / leadership and representative organizations – the PUNOs managed to create interest among the ITPs to participate in the process of policy development (an Engagement and Info Session was held with Indigenous Leaders in August at Washabo and another with Tribal Leaders through a Krutu in November at Zanderij I).

2) Awareness was created among public policy makers regarding inclusive and integrated policy development for ITPs through a brainstorming / dialogue session with public policy officials within the Government of Suriname. The first intervention on W.A.S.H. also took place in the village of Apetina at South Suriname, while priority setting on water provision dialogue between UNDP, UNICEF, VIDS, KAMPOS and Ministry of Natural Resources/Department of Water Provision took place as well (this latter activity built on initial work done under the project “Mitigating Impact of COVID-19 on ITPs”).

3) In the process of designing the livelihood and empowerment programme for the ITPs, the JP engaged relevant stakeholders, including the ITP communities, relevant NGOs and the Bureau of Gender Affairs (within the Ministry of Home Affairs) to discuss

issues related to food security, climate resilience and gender equality – all of which impact ITP communities in Suriname. These meetings enabled the team to understand the situational context of the ITPs and to appropriately scope the engagement to be implemented. The above mentioned guided the development of the capacity strengthening program with the Medical Mission aiming to reduce early motherhood. In this training 75 health care assistants of the Medical Mission (whose main task is providing health care in the deep rural areas and interior) were trained in identifying and working with influencers and peer educators.

Annual Progress

Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

Not satisfactory (majority of expected annual results not achieved; over 3 months delay in implementation)

Overall progress against 3 key results

Under Output 1.1: An inventory of existing policies was done to contribute to the development of an integrated policy. Inclusive and participatory policy formulation for vulnerable groups is a novel concept in the Surinamese context whereby awareness-raising and mobilization of key actors and stakeholders is essential to move the process forward. The JP was able to mobilize and engage the target group, namely the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs) through their traditional authorities / leadership which represents their highest level of leadership, supported by their organizations; this method creates interest among the ITPs to participate in the process of policy development. In August, an engagement and information session was held with Indigenous Leaders at Washabo (Western Suriname) and a traditional meeting (referred to as a Krutu) was held with Maroon Tribal Leaders in November at Zanderij I. Notably, ITP youth was engaged during the development of the National Strategy on Adolescent Health for 2023 – 2030. At these meetings traditional leaders of villages from across the country participated. Also, awareness was created among public policy makers regarding the inclusive and integrated policy development through a brainstorming / dialogue session with public policy officials. These platforms of dialogue are essential to the process of the policy making.

Under Output 1.2: Support was provided to the rehabilitation of a surface water filtration system for the school and community in the village of Apetina, in the South of Suriname, reaching 400 Indigenous community members and children and providing access to water in close collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources. Support was also provided to preparatory work formalizing a W.A.S.H. intersectoral coordination platform. Hygiene and COVID related awareness focusing on vaccination and hygiene continued in marginalized (deep rural and interior) areas including in Indigenous and Maroon communities. Furthermore, priority setting on water provision dialogue took place between UNDP, UNICEF, VIDS, KAMPOS and Ministry of Natural Resources / Department of Water Provision, building on initial work done under the project “Mitigating Impact of COVID-19 on ITPs”. Discussion on the selection of villages was also extended to the Indigenous and Tribal Leaders, who consulted their respective communities in adherence to FPIC (Free, Prior, and Informed Consent) protocol. And finally, under the ASRH programme with the Medical Mission, 75 Health Care assistants were trained in “identifying and working with influencers and peer educators” on August 23, 2022. The Liaison Officer and two (2) members of the UNFPA Youth Advisory group provided the training.

Under Output 1.3.: The JP engaged relevant stakeholders, including de facto representative NGOs for the ITP communities and government stakeholders, in collaboration with the Bureau of Gender Affairs, PUNOs, and regional counterparts and experts on food security, climate resilience and gender equality. The outcome of these discussions provided inputs into the adaptation and proposed design of the livelihood and empowerment programme as well as the adjustment of the workplan - with the Medical Mission addressing early motherhood, which will benefit ITPs, specifically women and girls, to make informed decisions. An additional situational analysis and needs assessment will be conducted in early 2023, in collaboration with NGOs working within the target communities. It is important to note that there was a slow start to programmed interventions under these technical areas. The Programme Focal Team (PFT) for the programme was guided by representatives of the ITPs, who also sit on the PFT, on approaches for networking and introducing these specific development areas to the communities. In this regard, the PFT followed the engagement structures and protocols defined for the ITP communities, allowing the JP to build trust.

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

- The JP is all in-line with the “Leave No One Behind” principle and contributes to the achievement and acceleration of SDGs 1, 2, 5, 16 and 17. While these will be the primary SDGs that the JP works to accelerate, the interrelated nature of the SDGs means that all Goals will be influenced by the implementation of this JP.
 - So far, through its activities, the JP has contributed to Target 16.7 (Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels), exemplified by the dialogue and inclusion of the communities through ITP leadership and umbrella organizations related to protection of women, children on gender-based violence
 - The JP has also contribution to SDG target 5.6 (Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights), specifically through the training of health care providers which will ultimately improve the delivery of evidence-based adolescent-friendly information on contraceptives.
 - Finally, the JP worked to accelerate SDG target 6.1 (By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all) through the rehabilitation of a water filtration system, and preparatory work on W.A.S.H. coordination platform.

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.

- In terms of challenges, the continuation of measures introduced to stem the transmission of COVID-19 impeded upon some actions originally intended in 2022. Furthermore, macroeconomic conditions, inflation and its impact on the cost of travel impacted the number of target communities that could be included in the planned project activities. However, this presented a great opportunity for the JP to complete awareness raising sessions (a lengthy process) as well as capacity building.
 - The flooding emergency in the Brokopondo and Sipaliwini district, predominantly inhabited by the Indigenous and Tribal communities, further challenged progress on the JP shortly after Launch as it diverted the attention and efforts of various partners including the government ministries and ITP organizations, to provide response to the calamity.
- In terms of Lessons Learned, the team did not take into consideration, during the proposal drafting stage, the lengthy time required for mapping of the villages and the collection of baseline information from the Indigenous and Tribal communities, processes for consultations with ITPs, and adherence to the FPIC protocols. Furthermore, more regular monitoring/evaluation of the progress on the JP is needed in order to ensure that the work plan is adapted as needed.
- In terms of Coordination and Coherence, it is important to note that the collaboration with the ITP umbrella organizations, the engagement of the ITPs from the project drafting stage to project implementation, has been extremely positive. There continues to be active participation, engagement and ownership of the decision-making process by the ITP partners to the JP. Challenges are discussed openly, as are the appropriate mitigation interventions. Building upon their experiences of what works and what doesn't work, the partnership with the ITP organizations (VIDS and Kampos) and the Medical Mission has been favorable.

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

The JP will continue the participatory process for formulating an Integrated Rural Development Policy to support participation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. This would be executed through a complement of consultancy services and other technical support from the JP's in-house specialists. Gaps and challenges in current policies that limit the participation of the Indigenous and Tribal Communities will be examined and analyzed; furthermore, options to ensure inclusivity, reduce vulnerabilities and inequalities will be discussed and documented. To strengthen the Indigenous and Tribal communities' participation in the processes, an intercultural communication strategy would be prepared and executed. Through strategic consultations with all stakeholder groups' current practices as well as future scenarios would be examined, and benefits prioritized.

The JP expects that the new policy would be fully reviewed and discussed with a view to having a submission for endorsement by the parties before the close of 2023. Special attention would be given to advocacy and further awareness and sensitization sessions. Capacity development initiatives would include the development of didactic material needed for skills training and coaching on policy interventions and on project technical project areas. Special attention would be given to introducing appropriate technologies to complement on-going systems and practices to ensure resilience building. In addition, further training would be given to the PMU on project coordination and management.

Programmatic Survey

Total number of people benefited from the JP in 2022: 706

Percentage (%) of women benefited among the total number: 60

Percentage (%) of children & youth (0-24 years of age) benefited among the total number:30

Percentage (%) of older persons (age 60 and above) benefited among the total number:10

Percentage (%) of persons with disabilities benefited among the total number:1.5

Explain how people benefited from the joint programme.

The JP focuses on addressing the positions of groups left behind or at risk of being left behind, in specific Indigenous and Tribal communities, with special focus on women and girls, and youth. Through the W.A.S.H. aspect of the JP, the programme directly benefits a subset of the target group by improving access to and quality of drinking water; and indirectly addresses the improvement of health. Through the trainings, the JP will support in improving knowledge on how to provide information on Sexual Reproductive Health to the ITPs; it will also improve delivery of knowledge on how to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse while working with ITPs. Finally, the trainings will also focus on educating Government, civil society and implementing partners on the use of the FPIC methodology.

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

- The JP is focused on Leaving No One Behind; working on the inclusion of marginalized groups like ITPs, females and youth is essential for achieving the necessary policy interventions under this JP.
- The JP continuously ensures a cross-cutting approach. For example, ITP youth was engaged at different forums for the development of related policies including the adolescent health policies.
- This JP approaches activities with a lens on gender, health, financial inclusion and the intersection with climate change. For example, the impact of early motherhood and its relation to health, income, development and other building blocks for resilience was made visible through the assessment of the socio-economic impact of adolescent motherhood in Suriname which led to one of the JP's key activities under Output 1.3.

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The JP is Gender-transformative (for example, the JP explicitly aimed to address the structural and root causes of gender inequality, such as by combining social protection with community dialogues and economic empowerment activities that aim to shift gender social norms and power relations). 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);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
No	No	No	No

Key meetings and events organized in 2022

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors event	Kick-off meeting
Yes, in 2022	Yes, in 2022	Yes, in 2022

Explanation if you have not held any key meeting/events.

NA

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 JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing