



Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in SIDS

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

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UNCT/MCO: Tokelau

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Accelerating SDG Achievement in Tokelau through integrated policy solutions

Stakeholder partner: National Government; Sub-national Governments;

Thematic SDG Areas: Decent jobs & universal social protection; SDG localization;

PUNOs: UNICEF, FAO, UNDP

Total estimated expenditures: US\$ 26,746.6

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): US\$ 56,146.6

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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Executive Summary

The Tokelau JP made progress despite many challenges and on-going border closures in 2022. The JP was officially launched in August 2022 in collaboration with Government of Tokelau and UN. The 3 PUNOs managed to discuss and receive endorsement of their respective workplans from respective government line ministries. Below is summary of major progress and results.

- For output 1, UNICEF is supporting Tokelau government in their active participation at a regional gathering across 15 Pacific countries on early childhood development for February 2023 and is also meeting with Tokelau government in February 2023 to discuss ways of accelerating the ECD workplan, including plans for a National ECD Forum to be conducted to gather key stakeholders together for young children and co-develop a policy with UNICEF support. This work is tied to SDG Target 4.2 and relates to country priorities as Early childhood education (ECE) remains voluntary in Tokelau. While the country enjoys a relatively high net enrolment rate of 95.3 in ECE (2016 data), there appears to be some disparity between boys and girls. Furthermore, it appears that a significant proportion of children are older than the official ECE age. A lack of data and information impedes a thorough analysis of the access and quality of ECE services in Tokelau.

- For output 2, UNICEF led review of policies and programs to address all forms of malnutrition has been completed for Tokelau in 2022. Based on this review, the Country Policy Briefs for Tokelau as well as Advocacy Brief for tackling overweight and obesity in Tokelau are being launched in quarter 1 of 2023.

- Despite no key progress or results for Outcome 3 lead by UNDP there has been important planning of the JP that has taken place. This included completed the workplans for both the schedule and budget of UNDP outputs for the Tokelau JP and meetings held with key partners. This work is related closely to SDG Target 14.2. Climate change and building resilience is a key theme of the national development priorities under the Tokelau National Development Framework, 2016-2020. Main priorities for Tokelau have been identified in the "Living with Change", an Integrated National Strategy for Enhancing the Resilience of Tokelau to Climate Change and Related Hazards, 2017-2030 (LivC). Its vision is for Tokelau to be a vibrant, innovative, climate-resilient, and climate-ready nation, with healthy communities, ecosystems, and an economy, that are all resilient in the face of change.

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 against 3 key results

The Tokelau JP made progress despite many challenges and on-going border closures in 2022. The JP was officially launched in August 2022 in collaboration with Government of Tokelau and UN. The 3 PUNOs managed to discuss and receive endorsement of their respective workplans from respective government line ministries. Below is progress by outputs:

- Output 1: UNICEF continues to support Tokelau government in implementing preparatory activities to develop a multi-sectoral early childhood development (ECD) policy. This includes planning meetings with the Ministry of Education to discuss the consultation and mapping of ECD services that would inform the ECD policy. Plans were in place to conduct a stakeholder meeting in October 2022, although Tokelau government has postponed it to 2023. UNICEF is supporting Tokelau government in their active participation at a regional gathering across 15 Pacific countries on early childhood development for February 2023. UNICEF is also meeting with Tokelau government in February 2023 to discuss ways of accelerating the ECD workplan, including plans for a National ECD Forum to be conducted to gather key stakeholders together to agree on priority outcomes for young children and co-develop a policy with UNICEF support.
- Output 2: UNICEF led review of policies and programs to address all forms of malnutrition has been completed for Tokelau in 2022. Based on this review, the Country Policy Briefs for Tokelau as well as Advocacy Brief for tackling overweight and obesity in Tokelau are being launched in quarter 1 of 2023. This evidence will also compliment the activities that will be supported by FAO in 2023 to strengthen food security and food systems.
- Output 3: UNDP is supporting with development of a sustainable atoll ecosystems and ocean management strategy. There is no progress and no key results achieved in 2022, apart from planning implementation of the JP. This included completed the workplans for both the schedule and budget of UNDP outputs for the Tokelau JP. As per UNDP requirements for the project the following plans and framework were completed for the Tokelau JP: a. Risk and Mitigation Plan; b. Stakeholder engagement Plan; c. Gender Action Plan; d. Monitoring Framework. The meetings held with key partner Conservation International to review activities and workplan and start process over UNDP Partner Capacity Assessment (PCAT) for implementation of activities in Tokelau, while planning LPAC and first meeting with Government of Tokelau, including Ministry of Climate, Ocean and Environment and TALO in early February 2023.

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

The ECD policy, and Social Protection promote integrated policies planning and financing, which is inclusive, gender-responsive, and ensures no child is left behind. These policies are multi-sectorial contributions across various SDGs, specifically SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 17. For instance, the ECD coordination mechanism brings stakeholders from various sectors together, such as health, education, nutrition, social protection, WASH, child protection, planning, and finance.

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 JP was designed and approved during COVID crisis and border were closed in 2022. While there has been no adjustment to the JP in 2022, however we might expect some adjustment with new Government in place in terms of areas of support which aligns with priorities of new Government. Some of the constraints are:

- Tokelau recently opened its borders with COVID-19 outbreak which has caused minor delays as well as Government reprioritizing its efforts towards containment. All fieldwork planned for Q1 of 2023 will be further delayed. However, remote implementation and support will be on going.
- Some delay in launching of the Joint Programme due to competing priorities of the Government. Second half of 2022 was quite busy for government stakeholders due to budget planning and formulation for next fiscal year. The Joint Programme was launched in Quarter 3 of 2022 following election period in late 2022 which further delayed some of the discussion and implementation.
- Operational issues is also hindered implementation such as recruitment of local technical assistance as it is difficult to send people to Tokelau.
- For Output 3 lead by UNDP– due to border closure and delays in response from the Government of Tokelau - LPAC and initiation of activities had to be postponed to 2023. Adjustments are being made accordingly to work plan and mission to be held in Q1-2023 upon special request to travel to Tokelau.

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

The three PUNOs has signed the workplan with Government of Tokelau under this JP for 2023. Tokelau recently has elected new Government and cabinet; hence, additional approval is required from the new cabinet. For Output 1: Tokelau government met with UNICEF in February 2023 and informed them that they need to re-consider whether a dedicated policy for early childhood development is still in line with their current government priorities. Cabinet has also been newly installed and would guide further prioritization of policies. If a policy is not needed, UNICEF and government agreed to discuss other areas of ECD support that may be provided, in line with the parameters of this grant. For Output 2: FAO has received formal endorsement from the Government for the implementation of the project and awaiting the Tokelau Authority's signature. In 2023, for Output 3 - the UNDP work will resume with a field mission to Tokelau to meet atoll-based stakeholders, collect preliminary data needed as part of the desk study of existing activities. We will conclude negotiation and complete the Partner Capacity Assessment (PCAT) and agreement with identified partner (Conservation International). The project will then be on track to finalize the Scoping Study - desk review on blue economy sectors overall and initiate the ocean management strategy to be finalized in 2024.

Programmatic Survey

Total number of people benefited from the JP in 2022:

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

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

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

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

Explain how people benefited from the joint programme.

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

- The ECD policy, and Social Protection is inclusive, gender-responsive, and ensures no child is left behind. These policies are multi-sectorial contributions across various SDGs, specifically SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 17. The policy development was participatory, and consultations were held with women groups, youth organizations, right-based organizations, and policymakers.
- From Output 3, this has been addressed in 2022 by completing and starting actioning the Gender Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

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

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.

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	Yes	No	No	No	No

How JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing

The JP is supporting situation analysis for ECD including drafting of costed National Action Plan and M&E framework. UNCIEF is also supporting with public expenditure tracking for ECD. The expenditure analysis will provide baseline evidence on how much is currently being spend on ECD, what are these interventions and who is funding those interventions. In addition, the costed action plan will provide what are gaps and how much more resources are required for ECD related interventions. This will allow for advocacy and leveraging additional resources from New Zealand Government well as from domestic resources.