



## DEVELOPMENT EMERGENCY MODALITY

### Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

-

#### Cover Page

**UNCT/MCO:** Uzbekistan

**Reporting Period:** 1 January - 31 December 2022

**JP title:** Multi-faceted response to the food and energy emergency in Uzbekistan

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

**PUNOS:** UNICEF, FAO, ILO

**Stakeholder partner:** National Government; Humanitarian actors; Civil Society Organizations; Social partners – Federation of Trade Unions and Confederation of Employers;

**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)

**Resident Coordinator Name:** Vidal Bruce, Rita Consuelo Fatima (RC a.i.)

**Resident Coordinator Email:** consuelo.vidal@un.org

#### 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

FAO: Needs Assessment and interactive training sessions (1st round) conducted for smallholders in the pilot areas of the Fergana valley, where smallholders were empowered to voice their needs and in turn receive feedback and on-the-spot technical advice from the FAO experts, with at least 30% participation of women. It is part of the technical assistance component to the government on the introduction of green farming practices, improving access to the agricultural techniques and inputs that are effective and suitable for family-level farming to boost the food self-sufficiency of rural households in Uzbekistan. Beneficiaries received a practical resource package containing manuals, instructions, and other relevant information, and later once these resource packages are tested, they will be recommended as part of the comprehensive support package to the government.

UNICEF: During the reporting period as part of the national consultations on defining multidimensional poverty in Uzbekistan, UNICEF, and CERR, in partnership with UNDP conducted a series of roundtables with national experts and officials as well as a nationwide survey of 1,500 households. The national consultations greatly informed methodology development for the multidimensional poverty measurement. Some of the preliminary data from the first round show that for more than 50% of households, access to such items as heating, uninterrupted electricity, and housing are components of poverty. Over a third consider at least two meals per day as an indication of poverty, however above 60% consider not having three meals per day a poverty indication when children 6-13 are concerned. More discussions around the findings of the first round are planned. The preliminary findings were also used to develop a more comprehensive set of survey instruments to now collect more in-depth information from over 4500 households nationwide. The field works for the second round of data collection will start in February

2023.

ILO: The ILO is developing an analysis of the impact of the increased energy prices on enterprises, their production and employment operations, and labor market conditions. For this purpose, the ILO developed an online questionnaire for employers in Uzbekistan and conducted the survey with enterprises assessing the impact of increased energy prices on their operations with a focus on effects on productivity, worker's salaries, and potential lay-offs and increase of overall unemployment in collaboration with the Confederation of Employers of Uzbekistan (CEU).

ILO also led the development of policy recommendations in extending coverage of social security programmes for youth, women, under or informally employed and unemployed with a specific focus on the agricultural and rural sectors.

The ILO is participating in conducting a representative household survey on multidimensional poverty in cooperation with UNICEF through supporting the survey, drafting the report, and conducting round tables and public discussions on poverty issues.

The ILO is developing a mobile application for agricultural workers to raise awareness about their social protection and labor rights and report any grievances with regard to irregularities in adhering to these rights. The mobile application is being developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction and the Federation of Trade Unions. Through this application, the ILO will support awareness among agricultural workers about their rights and obligations and informal employment. Along with this, the application will be promoted by social partners and government institutions as a grievance mechanism.

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

The JP accelerates Uzbekistan's progress toward achieving SDGs 1, 2, 8, and 10.

The JP will inform tailored responses to accelerate the achievement of SDG targets. For example, activities will enable the government to measure the extent of food and energy deprivation as well as other poverty dimensions and see how different they are for different groups. It will also allow for developing tailored responses.

#### **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 Joint Programme team partnered with the Centre of Economic Research and Reforms to establish a research team and to undertake a nationwide survey to measure the impact of the energy and food shocks on the well-being of families in Uzbekistan. The research/survey team has been established and the required international expertise was arranged. A detailed draft of the questionnaire and the sampling framework for the survey have been developed. The first round of data collection was completed. However, it took substantially more time to obtain the Government's clearance to approve the final questionnaire to undertake the nationwide survey on energy and food shocks. The setback with getting the required clearance caused delay necessitating the team to push the schedule resulting in the need for additional months to undertake the data analysis and prepare the findings of the report.

Further, the discussions with the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations as well as the Ministry of Finance to host the data to be collected for the mobile application took 3 months to reach an agreement on the technical aspects of aligning interoperability of the programming languages. It took additional time to obtain detailed inputs from the social partners on the databases' content, which was not originally planned. For the reasons above the Joint Programme team requested a three-month no-cost extension, which was granted. We expect more delays considering the major administrative reform and change resulting in abolishing old and creating new ministries and state agencies.

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

FAO: the second round of training in the Fergana valley will be executed in February 2023. Feedback is to be gathered from the residents of the pilot areas, where sessions also target understanding the local needs to develop a comprehensive recommendation package addressing them to the government.

UNICEF: Second round of fieldwork is expected to be carried out in February/March 2023. UNICEF partners with other UN agencies as well to successfully complete the intervention. Analytical work and development of policy responses using the findings will go beyond the current JP and UNICEF is working to mobilize more support for that purpose.

ILO: In 2023 the ILO will finalize the mobile application and further work on promoting the application among vulnerable groups –

women, persons with disabilities, informally employed, and unemployed through a series of radio talks on fundamental rights on labor and social protection with the participation of local NGOs.

The surveys on multidimensional poverty and enterprises on the impact of increased energy prices will be also finalized in March 2023.

As a part of the ongoing collaboration between IMF and ILO, we will promote adequate financing of social protection and crisis management.

## Strategic Partnerships and Communications

### Explain how diverse stakeholders were engaged with the JP

UNDP contributed to the Multidimensional poverty survey, OPM contributed development of the Measurement.

#### Key meetings and events organized

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors	Kick-off meeting event

## Priority Cross-cutting Issues

### Cross-cutting results/issues

FAO: Given the cross-cutting theme of the UNJP, many other opportunities for future collaboration are identified between agencies for the sustainability of the project. At FAO, there are possibilities for synergies between projects in the Fergana valley – e.g., upscaling the training sessions and piloting them in other districts of Uzbekistan. There is technical and advisory support that can be shared within FAO projects, which makes the component of the UNJP stronger in terms of expertise.

UNICEF: Given the comprehensiveness of the data that is supposed to be collected through the survey, the activity will allow seeing how for example multidimensional poverty affects men, women, young people, and children of different age groups. Such information will allow for tailored policy/program development to address poverty and vulnerability, especially considering food and energy deprivations from a gender perspective as well as from the perspective of vulnerable groups.

ILO: Mobile application “My work in agriculture” will address key aspects of labor and social protection rights of all vulnerable groups working in the agriculture sector through short articles on their rights and the possibility to submit complaints to NGOs and government bodies.

Surveys and analytical reports will provide a basis for developing additional policy measures to support vulnerable groups of the population.

### 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	No	Yes

**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**