

Joint Programme Document and Fund Transfer Request

- Template -

Development Emergency Modality – Response to the Global Crisis on Food, Energy, Finance

Eligibility Check

Does the proposal address one or more of the following sectors affected by the global crisis? Select all relevant sectors.	☑ Food ☐ Energy ☐ Finance
What are the areas of intervention that will be implemented by this proposal? Select all relevant intervention areas.	 ☑ Data collection/analytics ☑ Help devise comprehensive preventative package of response measures ☐ Testing / catalysing new integrated policies, financing solutions, programmes
Is the proposal developed under the RC leadership to mobilize the UNCT to effectively and efficiency respond to the crisis?	⊠ Yes □ No
Does the proposal contribute to results in the UNSDCFs?	⊠ Yes □ No
Is the proposal building on and topping up an existing joint programme supported by the Joint SDG Fund?	☐ Yes ☑ No (If yes, please follow the specific guidance as per communications from the Secretariat)

Cover-page

MPTFO Project Reference Number	(Leave blank, for automatic population in Atlas)
Country	Syrian Arab Republic
Region	Arab States Region
Joint programme title:	Food Systems and the Impact of Crisis in Syria: Challenges and Opportunities
Outcomes(s):	Outcome 2: Better access for people, especially the most vulnerable, to social protection services,
	sustainable livelihoods, and inclusive and equitable socio-economic recovery.

Duration:	Maximum 6 months, no later than 31 December 2022
Anticipated start and end dates:	06/2022 to 12/2022
Short description	In order to: 1) better understand the impact of eleven years of conflict and the consequences of the war in Ukraine on Syria's food systems; 2) better understand the impact of the disrupted food system on the current food security crisis; 3) identify possible ways in which the current international assistance and national policies could be leveraged to address systemic issues, and; 4) identify major systemic bottlenecks in addressing food insecurity and how to tackle them; and 5) inform evidence-based practices and policies, the UNCT is proposing to undertake a geo-spatial analysis of food systems in Syria. This analysis would focus on large-scale migration and displacement and how they have changed the aggregate demand for food; current production patterns as well as the damage done to food production, processing and distribution infrastructure; and, the locations of principal markets for major food commodities (such as vegetable, fruit, staples, dairy, meat and poultry) and the flows of supply into and around major population centres for fresh produce and processed food. The proposed study would allow the UNCT to develop a clearer picture of the food security landscape in Syria in 2022 from a system perspective at the national and subnational levels, understanding key
	drivers and contributing factors to food insecurity and their differential impact on men and women in all their diversities, characterization of disrupted food systems and ultimately design early recovery programming that would help restore food systems in a more sustainable, climate resilient and inclusive manner and aim at reducing the vulnerability of the humanitarian response in Syria to rising global food prices. Particular attention will be given to the differential role diverse categories of individuals within the affected population such as women, youth, older people, persons with disabilities in Syria – have in relation to food systems, and how these have been who impacted by multiple shocks, as well as the negative coping mechanisms that may derive from changes in food production, food transformation and food consumption. The results of the study will be used to advocate for relevant policy changes.
Resident Coordinator	Imran Riza (<u>riza1@un.org</u>)
UN Joint Program RCO focal point	Francesco GALTIERI <u>francesco.galtieri@un.org</u> ; +963 11 612 98 11 ext. 310
DLING Load against ID Focal paint	LINDO Martti Antala (martti antala Quada arri)
PUNO Lead agency JP Focal point	UNDP, Martti Antola (martti.antola@undp.org)
Other PUNOs JP focal point	WFP, Mohamad Marji (mohamad.marji@wfp.org)
	FAO, Haya Abou Assaf (haya.abouassaf@fao.org)
	UNFPA, Janneke Bienert (bienert@unfpa.org)

Total budget:	
Source of funds:	
UN Joint SDG Fund	\$250,000
PUNO 1	
PUNO 2	
•	
Other sources	
SDG Targets directly addressed by the Joint Programme	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.7
Gender Marker	Select only one from the options below
	☐ GEN3: Have gender equality/women empowerment as the primary or principal objective.
	oxtimes GEN2: Make a significant contribution to gender equality/women empowerment.
	☐ GEN1: Make a limited contribution to gender equality/women empowerment
	☐ GEN0: Make no contribution to gender equality/women empowerment

JOINT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Situation Analysis

Max 500 words. A brief, evidence-based situation analysis of the development challenges to be addressed. It is connected to country analytical work as relevant. Apply a gender lens to the analysis and description of the problem.

Eleven years into the crisis, food insecurity has reached unprecedented levels in Syria. Today, according to the Humanitarian Needs Overview of February 2022, 13.5 million Syrians need some form of food or agricultural assistance, and at least 12 million – or 60 per cent of the population – are facing acute food insecurity. As a result, acute and chronic malnutrition levels are alarming and continue to increase, with women and children being the worst affected: about 5.5 million children under five years of age, and pregnant and lactating women, need nutrition interventions.

A major factor increasing food insecurity in Syria is decreasing agricultural production. Low water levels in the Euphrates River have triggered substantial harvest and income losses, which are coupled with drought-like conditions and existing damage and neglect of farmlands and irrigation systems as a result of more than a decade of crisis. Around 40 per cent of the irrigated agricultural areas are no longer able to rely on availability of water. Insufficient and poorly distributed rainfall in the 2020/2021 agricultural season, together with several heatwaves, the high cost of agricultural inputs, limited availability of irrigation water and high cost of fuel for pumping, resulted in a contraction of the harvestable cereal area. The estimated harvested wheat area (787 000 ha) was slightly over half of that harvested in 2019. The 2021 wheat production is estimated at around 1.045 million tons, down from 2.8 million in 2020, and only a quarter of the pre-crisis average of 4.1 million tons (during the period 2002-2011). The 2022 wheat production's preliminary estimates indicate that the production has been severely affected by the rain and temperature patterns in addition to high prices of fuel and other inputs.

The adverse impact of the war in Ukraine on food security is already being felt by the most vulnerable, and women are especially vulnerable to food insecurity and its health consequences. The price of WFP's standard reference food basket at governorate level during the second week of March 2022 was at its highest level since monitoring started in 2013; 18 per cent higher than in February 2022, and 12 per cent higher than the first week of March. The food and agriculture response in Syria has largely focused on meeting immediate needs, while occasionally contributing to longer term objectives. One example of such longer-term objectives has been increasing investments in all segments of the bread value chain, such as the rehabilitation of irrigation systems and bakeries, which directly contributes to supporting life-saving food assistance and preventing the collapse of a critical safety net in the country.

As relative security and access returned to most areas in Syria during 2019-2020, food insecurity that was once driven by conflict and displacement, has become increasingly fuelled by economic factors. This mutation of the food security crisis requires the UNCT Syria to tackle it more broadly within a food systems framework, specifically to understand the following four questions:

- a) To which extent have eleven years of conflict disrupted Syria's food systems, including increasing gender-related barriers and inequalities?
- b) To which extent is the current food security crisis a result of a disrupted food system, including in severing gender-related barriers and inequalities?
- c) How can the current international response be leveraged to address systemic issues?
- d) How can the UNCT and its partners tackle systemic bottlenecks to alleviate the humanitarian crisis?

Programme Strategy

Max 1000 words, summarizing the proposal, including (1) the rationale and relevance of the proposed approach; (2) the expected outputs and their contribution to addressing the impact of the global crisis, CF outcome(s), and related SDG; (3) How the JP results translate into medium-term policy and/or financing solutions; (4) Focus on vulnerable groups; (5) The role of wider UNCT and other stakeholders. Outline any potential risk you foresee in carrying out the strategy and how you plan to mitigate against such risk, if any.

Rationale and Approach

In order to: 1) better understand the impact of eleven years of conflict and the consequences of the war in Ukraine on Syria's food systems; 2) better understand the impact of the disrupted food system on the current food security crisis; 3) identify possible ways in which the current international assistance and national policies could be leveraged to address systemic issues, and; 4) identify major systemic bottlenecks in addressing food insecurity and how to tackle them; and 5) inform evidence-based practices and policies, the UNCT is proposing to undertake a geo-spatial analysis of food systems in Syria. This analysis would focus on large-scale migration and displacement and how they have changed the aggregate demand for food; current production patterns as well as the damage done to food production, processing and distribution infrastructure; and, the locations of principal markets for major food commodities (such as vegetable, fruit, staples, dairy, meat and poultry) and the flows of supply into and around major population centres for fresh produce and processed food.

This study would allow the UNCT Syria to develop a clearer picture of the food security landscape in Syria in 2022 from a system perspective at the national and subnational levels, understanding key drivers and contributing factors, characterization of disrupted food systems and ultimately to design early recovery programming that would help rehabilitate food systems in a more sustainable, climate resilient and inclusive manner and aim at reducing the vulnerability of the humanitarian response in Syria to rising global food prices. The key findings would also allow the UNCT Syria to facilitate evidence-based policy recommendations.

The analysis will be undertaken in a context and gender-sensitive manner, seeking to understand the dynamics of different local contexts and the differential experiences of men and women therein in order to avoid unintended negative impacts, maximize positive change in people's lives, and develop more effective and responsive interventions to the multidimensional socio-economic environment. Particular attention will be given to the differential role diverse categories of individuals within the affected population such as women, youth, older people, persons with disabilities in Syria – have in relation to food systems, and how these have been impacted by multiple shocks, as well as the negative coping mechanisms that may derive from changes in food production, food transformation and food consumption.

Expected Outputs

- 1) Improved understanding of the challenges and opportunities for **food production** including natural resource availability and management; agricultural inputs; practices including harvest and post-harvest; an assessment of import versus local production; the impact of livelihood coping mechanisms on the productive capacity of diverse households (e.g. female and child-headed) and diverse household members (e.g. pregnant and lactating women, older persons, etc.); the impact of conflict and crisis; long-term threats (such as climate change, drought, etc.). This study will highlight knowledge gaps, distinguish structural and conjunctural challenges, including gender inequalities and barriers, and identify opportunities for actions on good production that could alleviate the overall food crisis by increasing production and decreasing costs for consumers (while sustaining income for farmers and other food chain actors).
- 2) Improved understanding of the challenges and opportunities for **food transformation** including transport/distribution of food and the location of population; the availability and cost of energy; food quality, fortification, storage, handling processing and retailing and production of a set of supply chain studies to quantify flows of fresh produce and transformation pathways for a basket of key commodities (such as bread, tomato, other summer and winter vegetables, milk/dairy, poultry). This study will highlight knowledge gaps, identify and characterise key food system actors, including the roles of diverse men and women in different phases of food transformation process, distinguish structural and conjunctural challenges, and identify opportunities for actions on food transformation that can alleviate the overall food crisis by optimizing the value chain of key commodities.
- 3) Improved understanding of the challenges and opportunities in **food consumption** including affordability and purchases (supply and demand dynamics) for a diverse set of households and individuals; utilization by various household members; the impact of displacement (from self-sufficiency to market dependency); data on prices and income/livelihoods opportunities; data on balanced diets and nutrition awareness among men and women alike, and; changes in consumption patterns and diversities between men and women of various age and backgrounds. This study will highlight possible structural problems as well as opportunities for actions on food consumption (most humanitarian projects are consumption support projects) and link them to social protection issues.
- 4) Improved understanding of the principal **flows of food** into markets, with a focus on the main urban centres of Damascus and Aleppo, specifically to public and wholesale markets and to retailers, to illustrate how this has changed since the crisis, what the impact of the war in Ukraine has been, and outline the challenges and opportunities highlighted in the three key areas outlined above.
- 5) Improved practices to support a sustainable food system through the policy recommendations.

Based on the key findings in the four Outputs (Output 1-4), the project aims to conduct the **consultations and dialogues** with various stakeholders at international, national and local levels to develop strategic policy recommendations that will influence relevant policies and practices (Output 5).

These outputs will directly contribute to the aim of Outcome 2 of the UNSF to restore production for food and nutrition security; restore income and ensure sustainable living opportunities, and; improve basic productive resources infrastructure and the required assets for sustainable production, as well as the achievement of SDG 2. By granting specific attention to the differential impact on men and women to inform the design of interventions that are inclusive, appropriate and relevant to the needs and concerns of all, this study is also contributing to SDG5. This is in line with the 2030 Sustainable Agenda and the centrality of gender equality and women's equality to all SDGs.

Impact on Medium-Term Policy

The impact of UN assistance in Syria would be more sustainable, more cost-effective and gender sensitive if it were to also address food system challenges reflecting the diverse needs and constraints men and women are experiencing. The proposed analysis will identify key gaps that would need to be addressed as well as opportunities that could be capitalized on, whether in terms of technical support, advocacy, or early recovery programming. It will also allow for designing food system interventions in a more context-sensitive and gender-sensitive manner, allowing for the identification of how programming could be designed based on diversity of needs, constraints, and barriers, as well as capacities. It will then empower and benefit them fully from the food system. The results of the study will be used to advocate for relevant policy changes, despite the very limited fiscal space of Syria due to the crisis-affected economy.

The analysis would directly inform the programming of WFP, FAO, UNFPA and UNDP, as well as a number of HCT partners working on food security and livelihoods. At the same time, having a shared understanding of the challenges of food systems will allow to design UN programmes in a complementary way to national programmes to maximise impact and effectiveness even in a highly complex and politicised context.

Key Risks and Mitigation Measures

The current project period is for six months, while the study is to be conducted in a complex environment which may require sufficient time to ensure the approval of the government on the assessment and access to the areas that are targeted (Damascus and Aleppo, including rural areas) and identify quality experts to conduct data and information collection and analysis. PUNOs have been already conducting other assessments jointly such as the food security assessment by WFP and FAO, and the socioeconomic impact assessment by all four agencies, and will build upon ongoing initiatives to obtain the approvals from the government. PUNOs will liaise with their regional offices to tap into the existing networks of internal and external experts to ensure timely deployment of quality experts to conduct the data and information collection and analysis on time. The study will further contribute to understand the crisis economy dynamics around domestic food market supplies guiding the UNCT approach to ensure targeted interventions that are relevant to the needs, constraints and opportunities of various individuals within the affected populations.

Governance and implementation arrangements

Max 500 words. Explain the specific roles and responsibilities of RC/RCO, PUNOs and other partners – to ensure integrated implementation and effective governance under the RC leadership. Focus on coordination, decision-making, reporting and how transaction costs will be reduced. Explain why this is the best approach including how it avoids introducing parallel

structures to those that already exist, and confirm that existing structures and mechanisms of UNCT, government, and related programs/initiatives are leveraged.

The current proposal is a joint initiative of four agencies to support evidence-based advocacy and programming on food security and livelihoods under the UNSF Outcome 2 (socioeconomic recovery). UNDP as a co-chair of the UNSF Outcome 2 will lead the overall coordination and fund management, in close coordination with RCO. The design and implementation of the study will be jointly conducted by the PUNOs.

Under the leadership of RCO, the result of the study will be shared with the UNCT Syria to inform the advocacy and programming beyond the four participating agencies, as well as stakeholders including the donors for advocating for early recovery and resilience support, the importance of which has been highlighted in the Syria Pledging Brussels Conference VI in May 2022.

Legal context

Standard Basic Assistance Agreement for UNDP, which also applies to UNFPA; the Basic Agreement for WFP; as well as the Country Programme Action Plan(s) where they exist; and other applicable agreements for other participating UN organizations. For the Funds and Programmes, these are standing cooperation arrangements.

Agency name: UNDP

Agreement title: Country Programme

Agreement date: 17 December 2021 for the extension from January to June 2022

Agency name: WFP

Agreement title: Interim Country Strategic Plan (2022-2023)

Notification date: 12 January 2022

Agency Name: FAO

Agreement title: FAO work is determined by the UN Strategic Framework, in absence of a FAO CPF as a result of the crisis

Agreement date: 21 Mar 2022

Agency name: UNFPA

Agreement title: Country Programme

Agreement date: 17 December 2021 for the extension from January to June 2022

Outcome	1		Outcome 2: B inclusive and								t vulnerak	le, to social prot	tection servi	ces, sustainable	livelihoods
						fram mize					PLANNE	D BUDGET			Impleme
Output	Target/s	Lis	t of activities	7	8	9	10	11	12	Overall budget description	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contributions (USD)	Total Cost (USD)	PUNU/S	Implement g partner/ involved
		ident	esk study and Effication of data gaps												
		ger	gn context and nder-sensitive lection tools												
Output 1.1: Improved understanding of			ect and analyse ext and gender- sensitive							Contractual	50,000	N/A	50,000	WFP, FAO,	
ne challenges and opportunities for food production		dive	Carry out sultations with rse groups-e.g.							services	50,000	N/A	50,000	UNDP, UNFPA	
		iden Pro	tify bottlenecks opose feasible olutions and required oterventions												

Output 1.2: Improved understanding of the challenges and opportunities for food transformation	Desk study and identification of data gaps Design context and gender-sensitive data collection tools Collect and analyze sex and age disaggregated data Carry out consultations with diverse groups-e.g. men and women to identify bottlenecks Propose feasible solutions and required interventions				Contractual services	50,000	N/A	50,000	WFP, FAO, UNDP, UNFPA	
	Desk study and identification of data gaps Design context-and									
Output 1.3: Improved understanding of	gender sensitive data collection tools				Contractual				WFP, FAO,	
the challenges and opportunities in food consumption	Collect and analyze sex and age disaggregated data				services	50,000	N/A	50,000	UNDP, UNFPA	
	Carry out consultations with diverse groups-e.g. men and women to identify bottlenecks									

	Propose feasible solutions and required interventions							
	Desk study and identification of data gaps							
Output 1.4: Improved understanding of	Design context-and gender sensitive data collection tools							
the principal flows of food into	Collect and analyze data			Contractual	80 000	N/A	80,000	WFP, FAO,
markets, with a focus on the main urban centres of Damascus and Aleppo	Carry out consultations with diverse groups-e.g. men and women to identify bottlenecks Propose feasible			services		.,,	33,000	UNDP, UNFPA
	solutions and required interventions							
Output 1.5: Improved policies	Conduct consultations and dialogues with diverse stakeholders							
and practice for the sustainable food system	Develop and disseminate key policy			Contractua I services	20,000	N/A	20,000	WFP, FAO, UNDP, UNF
,	recommendations and practices							

Monitoring, accountability, financial management, and public disclosure

Standard text – do not change

Reporting on the Joint SDG Fund will be results-oriented, including gender results and evidence based. The Convening/Lead Agent will develop a simple final narrative report and submit it to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, through the Resident Coordinator no later than two (2) months after the operational closure of the programme activities.

The Resident Coordinator will be required to monitor the implementation of the joint programme, including the commitment to gender equality, with the involvement of Joint SDG Fund Secretariat to which it must submit data and information when requested. Additional insights (such as policy papers, value for money analysis, case studies, infographics, blogs) might need to be provided, per request of the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat.

PUNOs will be required to include information on complementary funding received from other sources (both UN cost sharing, and external sources of funding) for the activities supported by the Fund, including in kind contributions and/or South-South Cooperation initiatives, in the reporting.

PUNOs at Headquarters level shall provide the Administrative Agent with the following statements and reports prepared in accordance with its accounting and reporting procedures, consolidate the financial reports, as follows:

- Annual financial reports as of 31st December each year with respect to the funds disbursed to it from the Joint SDG Fund Account, to be provided no later than four months after the end of the applicable reporting period; and
- A final financial report, after the completion of the activities financed by the Joint SDG Fund and including the final year of the activities, to be provided no later than 30 April of the year following the operational closing of the project activities.

The Project will be using a pass-through fund management modality where UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will act as the Administrative Agent. The programmatic UN entity of the Facility shall assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent of the Joint SDG Fund (Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office). Such funds will be administered by each UN Agency, Fund, and Project in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures. The entity shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent. Indirect costs of the Participating Organizations recovered through project support costs will be 7%. All other costs incurred by each PUNO in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Fund will be recovered as direct costs. Procedures on financial transfers, extensions, financial and operational closure, and related administrative issues are stipulated in the Operational Guidance of the Joint SDG Fund. PUNOs and partners must comply with Joint SDG Fund brand guidelines, which includes information on donor visibility requirements.

Risk Management:

See further instruction below (delete the instructions before finalizing the ProDoc)

Risks	Risk Level: (Likelihood x Impact, as per instructions)	Likelihood: Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Essential – 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
Contextual risks	T	•		1	
Deterioration of security situation				Selecting the stable and politically sensitive geographical locations	
hampering access to the targeted areas	4	2	2	Regular Security Risk Management (SRM) assessments conducted for selected areas and adopting relevant mitigation measures	PUNOs
Programmatic and Operational risks		_	_		
Failing to obtain government approval resulting in to delays in field visits and pushing project timeline	12	3	4	Continuous joint advocacy with the government at the national and local level and tapping into existing data collection exercises	PUNOs
Failing to identify quality experts in a timely manner	12	3	4	Tapping into the PUNOs' global and regional networks of internal and external experts	PUNOs
Risk of data samples not inclusive and representative and diverse (e.g. men and women) enough to capture the route between food sources and proportion of the affected population and contextual topography	8	2	4	Alternative data collection methodologies: to gather data & analysis of field missions & triangulation of various sources including data from previous needs assessments	PUNOs

Risk of fast-paced shift in population movements and mass displacement as a result of droughts and deteriorating socioeconomic conditions resulting into invalid data clusters referencing methods and their impact on spatial data analysis	12	3	4	Use of tailored forms of clusters analysis and predictive modelling	PUNOs
Institutional risks					
Different expectation and direction by PUNOs including their HQs and regional offices hampering the smooth coordination and processes in conducting the study	4	2	2	Early engagement of respective HQs by PUNOs	PUNOs
Fiduciary risks		-			
Raising expectation of the stakeholders that the study will result in immediate support	9	3	3	Clear communications on the key objective of the study with key stakeholders at the onset of the study	PUNOs

Budget per UNSDG Categories

	PUNO 1 UND	•	PUNO	2 name	PUNO	3 name	PUNO	4 name	TO	ΓAL
UNSDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)						
1. Staff and other personnel	10,000		0						10,000	
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	0		0		0		0		0	
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	0		0		0		0		0	
4. Contractual services	195,500		0		0		0		195,500	
5.Travel	5,145		0		0		0		5,145	
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	0		0		0		0		0	
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	23,000		0		0		0		23,000	
Total Direct Costs	233,645		0		0		0		233,645	
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	16,355		0		0		0		16,355	
TOTAL Costs	250,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250,000	

Signature of Joint Programme document and Fund Transfer Request as per UNSDG budget categories.

I hereby confirm that the funds requested are in accordance with the approved Work Plan & Joint Programme Document. * I also certify that the copy transmitted to the MPTF Office is a true copy of the original which is secured by the RC Office. I have received documentation from Participating Organizations demonstrating Committed amounts where applicable. I also confirm that the PUNOs' indirect cost does not exceed 7%.

RESIDENT COORDINATOR	Imran Riza, UN Resident Coordinator
SIGNATURE	Date and Signature
	8 June 2022
PUNO Representative	Ramla Khalidi, UNDP Resident Representative
SIGNATURE	Date and Signature
	8 June 2022
PUNO Representative	Ross Smith, WFP Cou
SIGNATURE	Date and Signatur
	8 June 2022
PUNO Representative	Mike Robson, FAO Representative
SIGNATURE	Date and Signatu
	8 June 2022
PUNO Representative	Omar Ballan, UNFPA As <u>sistant Represe</u> ntative, OIC
SIGNATURE	Date and Signature
	8 June 2022