

Joint SDG Fund
Joint Programme Final Narrative Report
PORTFOLIO ON INTEGRATED POLICY AND LNOB
2022

Cover page

Date of Report: *26 January 2023*

Programme Title, Number and Country

Country: **SAMOA**
Joint Programme (JP) title: **Strengthening Resilience of Pacific Islands States through Universal Social Protection**
MPTF Office Project Reference Number¹:

Programme Duration

Start date² (day/month/year): **01 January 2020**
Original End date³ (day/month/year): **31 December 2021**
Actual End date⁴ (day/month/year): **31 December 2022**

Have agencies operationally closed the Programme in its system?: **Yes/No**
Expected financial closure date⁵: **December 2023**

Participating Organizations / Partners

RC (name and email): **Dr Simona Marinescu, E-mail: simona.marinescu@un.org**

Government Focal Point (ministry/agency, focal point name and email): **Samoa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Cook Islands (Ministry of Internal Affairs), Niue (Ministry of Social Services), Tokelau (Office of Counsel)**

RCO Focal Point (focal point name and email): **Latoya Lee, Email: latoya.lee@un.org**

Lead PUNO Focal Point (focal point name and email): **Christina Mualia-Lima, Email: christina.mualia-lima@undp.org**

¹ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

² The start date is the date inserted in the original ProDoc submitted and approved by the Joint SDG Fund.

³ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁴ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

⁵ Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

Other PUNO Focal Points (focal point names and emails): Ronesh Prasad, Email: roprasad@unicef.org
 Peone Fuimaono, Email: peeone.fuimaono@unesco.org Nobuko Kajiura, Email: kajiura.unescap@un.org
 Laufiso Tomasi Peni, Email: peni@ilo.org
 Quandolita Reid-Enari, Email: quandolita.reid-enari@undp.org

Programme Budget (US\$)

Total Budget (as per Programme Document, without co-funding): **USD 3,000,000.00**

Agency/Other Contributions/Co-funding (if applicable): USD 386,176.00

Joint SDG Fund Contribution⁶ and co-funding breakdown, by recipient organization:

Agency/others	Joint SDG Fund contribution	Co-funding	Total
PUNO1 – UNDP	USD 1,205,097.00	USD 34,000.00	USD 1,239,097.00
PUNO2 – UNESCO	USD 675,373.00	USD 183,876.00	USD 859,249.00
PUNO3 – UNICEF	USD 500,000.00	USD 60,000.00	USD 560,000.00
PUNO4 – ESCAP	USD 219,350.00	USD 108,300.00	USD 327,650.00
PUNO5 – ILO	USD 400,180.00	-	USD 400,180.00
Total	USD 3,000,000.00	USD 386,176.00	USD 3,386,176.00

⁶ Joint SDG Fund Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

Executive Summary

The Joint SDG Social Protection (SP) Programme focuses on Strengthening the Resilience of Pacific Island States through universal social protection across the four (4) Pacific Island countries of Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. It aims to develop evidence-based, nationally owned Social Protection systems to accelerate the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals through integrated programming in national and sub-national development and Leaving No One Behind.

The Joint Programme (JP) has made significant progress towards strengthening the sustainable and inclusive social protection agenda in the targeted countries. Through a series of in-depth analyses and stock-taking reviews of the social protection systems in Samoa, Cook Islands, Tokelau, and Niue, the JP supported by strong data and evidences the JP has been able to pursue the recommendations to inform national policy formulation and establishment of social protection floors and development reforms in national social protection systems. One of the good examples of targeting the most vulnerable groups was the Fiscal Space analysis that looked at strengthening social protection measures for persons with disabilities as some of the most vulnerable individuals and groups. Further, support towards the development of nationally defined Multidimensional Poverty Indexes (MPIs) in the targeted countries will further strengthen the capacity of the national counterparts or public servants and key stakeholders in assessing and identifying poverty gaps and deprivations in national and local levels and to inform relevant and appropriate policy and programming responses.

Also, capacity building and knowledge sharing among the national partners in four countries have been a primary focus since the start of the JP implementation. Initiatives, support and activities implemented and provided under the Programme have led not only building the technical capacity of the stakeholders and partners on various aspects of the social protection systems and services, but also helped improved an informed and better understanding of the stakeholders and partners regarding the need for inclusivity, better targeting, and sustainability of national social protection systems. One of the great achievements of the JP was the strengthening of access of the wider population, including the most vulnerable groups through digital platforms and devices, with new and promising partnerships established and strengthened with local mobile providers. Support provided with the establishment of national Management Information Systems has been truly instrumental and will help the national stakeholders and partners in Niue, Cook Islands and Tokelau to provide better-targeted support to the vulnerable groups in need.

Building the awareness, understanding, and cooperation and strengthening the capacity development of key stakeholders from the government and non-government (private sector and civil society) have been a key important achievement of the JP. This was facilitated through the monthly, bi-monthly and quarterly meetings of the selected Technical Committees (representing key non-government and government stakeholders) across the four countries and the Multi-country Steering Committee. At the inception of the JP, the team faced certain resistance to the whole idea and concept of Social Protection. At this point in time, following the completion of two years into the JP, there is now a general acceptance and appreciation of the contribution of nationally defined and inclusive social protection to the national development agenda and efforts to address poverty and vulnerabilities. There is a general understanding and awareness of the importance of social protection responses to life cycle contingencies, threats, risks and shocks. The ongoing/regular conversations via the involvement of the different stakeholders through the workings and dialogues of the Technical Committees have helped with improving such awareness, understanding and capacity development in social protection.

Result 1: In Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau, the Programme completed stock takes and reviews of existing social protection systems and provide country-specific recommendations of new/additional social protection programmes and interventions for people left behind due to geography, multidimensional poverty, vulnerability to shocks, and discrimination.

Stock takes and Reviews

The findings of comprehensive stock takes and reviews of the social protection systems in Samoa, Cook Islands, Tokelau and Niue have informed the establishment of social protection floors and development reforms in national social protection systems across the four countries. Translation of the assessment into local languages and contexts allowed a wider audience to better understand social protection and informed better decisions.

Costing of the Informal Social Protection in Samoa

The UNDP undertook a costing exercise of informal systems contributing to social protection in Samoa which helped with determining the monetary value of the informal social protection system in Samoa which till now has been left unrecorded or little documented evidence for wider understanding.

Gender Responsive Social Protection System / Gender Analysis

The analysis of the Gender Responsiveness of the Social Protection system of Samoa commissioned by UNDP was conducted to assess whether the Samoa Social Protection system is Gender Responsive. The analysis concluded that the systems need to include the improvements in women and women issues to be considered a gender-sensitive SP system, as well as a great need to improve social services for the wider population with gender mainstreaming and targeting to be strengthened.

Completion Rate: 100%

Result 2: For Samoa and Tokelau, a nationally owned, inclusive, forward-looking and sustainable social protection policy, inclusive of social protection floors and a comprehensive long-term social protection development has been developed, and submitted to the Governments of Samoa and Tokelau, for approval and implementation.

The approval of the Social Protection Policy by the Samoa and Tokelau Governments will give social protection priority consideration as a key development public policy agenda for the first time, with political leadership solicited for the adoption and implementation of transformational reforms in the areas of social protection in these small Pacific Island countries.

ILO reaffirmed its commitment to enhance the rights of workers and improve working conditions and entitlements completed Samoa's second National Employment Policy 2022-2027 and the Cook Islands Labour and Employment Relations Act.

Cook Islands and Niue plan to develop national social protection policies informed by the comprehensive stock takes and reviews that were conducted and supported under the Programme.

Completion Rate: 100%

Result 3: For Samoa, the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau, systems, and capacities for the effective and efficient implementation of inclusive and sustainable social protection are strengthened through improvements in evidence-based knowledge building; integrated and innovative data and information management systems; coordinated policy, legislative reforms, programming and administrative capacities; and regular monitoring and evaluation for ongoing improvements and feedback learnings.

Mobile App

UNDP reaffirmed its commitment to digital transformation in its efforts to enhance Samoa's social protection system. As such, a mobile application was developed through the Samoa National Provident Fund (SNPF) enabling SNPF members (35,742: 16,393 females 19,349 males) to access information pertaining to their accounts as well as existing and new social protection benefits. The SNPF is a universal social protection measure in Samoa and the mobile application will enhance SNPF coverage and outreach for the wider population. A similar tool was also developed in Cook Islands enabling citizens to report cases of unavailability, delays in and quality of delivery of public services in addition to accessing information and benefits which marks a significant step as the country is set to embark on its digital transformation journey along with Niue supported by financial resources mobilized through Joint SDG Funds.

Management Information System

The development of the social protection management information systems (MIS) in the Cook Islands and Niue have completed after the findings and recommendations were validated and endorsed by the respective governments. Currently, the implementation phase is ongoing including support and maintenance. In Tokelau, the JP team in close collaboration with the national partners has focused on the development of the National Social Protection registry. The registry design was endorsed by the partners. Implementation and data collection were collected in October 2022. In Samoa, the data collection and preliminary dissemination of the Child Labour survey findings were presented to key stakeholders. To advance data and information on Social Protection the JP held a series of consultations with the Government of Samoa and the National Provident Fund. However, the key agreement was that since there is no clear mandate for a specific ministry for social

protection, the development of MIS has progressed slowly but remains an area for further work and support once policy directions are clear and provided from the government agenda.

Gaps Analysis of the Mobile Banking Systems in Samoa

The Banking Gaps Analysis for Samoa has been completed. The analysis aimed to support the financial inclusion of vulnerable groups whose social protection benefits can be distributed through the banking system to reduce transaction costs and facilitate access to other social protection and financial services.

Social Protection Training

The MPI training workshops were delivered for the participation of a total of 20 members selected from the National Governments of Samoa, Cook Islands, and Tokelau. The training helped build the knowledge and skills of participants from the four PICTs in the development of their national MPIs, ensuring that there are multi-dimensional measurements of poverty beyond simplistic monetary measurements. This has been a prerequisite for Samoa to develop its MPI.

Under the JP, support to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour on the Occupational Health and Safety Training for OSH Inspectors to assist with addressing issues relating to occupational safety and health was completed

The JP enabled UNDP in collaboration with the UNESCAP conducted a two component Social Protection Training for Government Officials in Tokelau and Samoa. The training raised awareness and understanding on social protection systems and contexts in the respective countries. Participants acknowledged learning new concepts and their application specific to their country context as appropriate. Also acknowledging that the concepts and terminologies seem complicated but when explained and discussed are common to the country and their engagement in the social protection work. The training benefitted a total of 27 Government Officials: (Training of Trainers: 8 participants – Samoa 3F, 32M / Tokelau 23F) (SP Short Course Training: 19 participants – Samoa 11F, 14M/ Tokelau 4 F) who reported an increase in knowledge of concepts related to social protection and its application within the country context.

Completion Rate: 100%

Result 4: Existing social protection initiatives are fragmented and limited in scope, and the adoption and implementation of universal social protection systems are relatively novel in the four PICTs. As such, there is a great need to develop a better, well-informed, and common understanding of what is social protection (re principles, components/ingredients, schemes, programs, institutional and customization aspects, fiscal space, etc.), including what is required by the different PICTs based on their current social protection systems and contexts.

Given the novelty of the adoption, development and implementation of formal social protection systems (i.e. concepts, ideas, schemes, programs, etc.) in the PICTs, and especially in Samoa, the demand-driven capacity building response on social protection was expanded to cover a whole range of topics and areas of social protection, while also incorporating contents that ensure contextualization of the training to respond to the training needs of participants across the four PICTs. Through collaboration with UNESCAP and the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), a 2-purpose training was delivered for public servants in Samoa and Tokelau.

Multidimensional Poverty Index and Digital Data Systems

The JP has been promoting the establishment of the Multidimensional Poverty Index in Samoa, Cook Islands, and Tokelau. The initiative was supported by a series of theoretical learnings on the main axiomatic properties of Alkire Foster-based indices, as well as Stata analysis and applications that helped to build a capacity of 21 specialists from the national partners' organizations, including 14 female representatives.

Digital Data System Training for People with Disability helped the persons with disabilities to access and understand the digital data systems. This activity is contingent on UNDP's work on developing mobile platforms.

Fiscal Space Analysis

With UNESCO taking the lead, research on Social Protection fiscal space and analysis for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) was completed and Options Papers were prepared for all four countries (Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau). The research findings were presented providing a deeper analysis of social protection requirements for persons with disability given they are amongst some of the most vulnerable persons

requiring social protection priority consideration. The JP will be focusing on further work with the national counterparts to translate the recommendations of the analysis into specific policy measures.

Completion Rate: 100%

I. Overall progress and priority, cross-cutting issues

I.1 Annual Progress and work completed

SP-JP Outcome 1: Universal, inclusive & equitable SP systems Leave No One Behind

Outcome 1 aimed at strengthening social protection floors that will contribute to poverty and vulnerability reduction across the four PICTs. Corresponding activities include stock take and reviews of existing social protection systems in the four PICTs, and identification of gaps and areas for improvements in social protection systems, through the lens of inclusiveness, equity, financial sustainability, gender sensitivity, and prioritized recommendations to governments. Other activities include the establishment of stakeholder engagement and coordination mechanisms in each country, analysis of fiscal space for social protection, implementation of a social protection pilot program for persons with disabilities (PWD), and capacity development training for strengthening existing social protection programmes. Progress and achievements made included:

- Comprehensive stock takes, reviews and assessments of Social Protection in Samoa, Niue, Tokelau and Cook Islands completed; with findings and recommendations (through the lens of inclusiveness, equity, financial sustainability, gender sensitivity, and prioritized recommendations) used to develop the National Social Protection Policy for Samoa and Tokelau on social protection gaps for improvements; and to strengthen social protection systems for Niue and the Cook Islands. Final documents were presented to the respective governments for consideration and further action.
- Through an inclusive and nationally driven process the Programme supported Samoa to develop a forward-looking sustainable social protection policy, inclusive of social protection floors and comprehensive long-term social protection systems. At present, the Policy is being reviewed by the National Policy Coordinating Committee for submission and endorsement by the Cabinet and reworked into a Framework by Government to incorporate and include related programmes and activities under social protection. The approval of the policy will enable the prioritization of social protection as a key development public policy agenda for the first time, with political leadership solicited for the adoption and implementation of transformational reforms in the area. Furthermore, UNDP undertook a costing exercise of informal systems contributing to social protection in Samoa helping to determine the monetary value of the informal social protection system in Samoa which till now has been left unrecorded.
- SP-JP Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and Technical Committees (all 4 PICTs) established. The JSC had held four meetings and Technical Committees (TCs) held 20 (Samoa), 10 (Niue), 11 (Cook Islands) and 8 (Tokelau) meetings during the life of the programme (July 2020-December 2022). The TCs have been used as stakeholder coordination platforms for consultations and consolidated inputs on various aspects of activity implementation.
- Disability Reference Groups (DRGs) established in all 4 of the 4 PICTs; the national stakeholder engagement and coordination instrument for all SP initiatives/activities for Persons with Disabilities (PWD). DRGs have actively participated and contributed to SP Reviews, Pilot Projects for PWD designs and SP Fiscal Space Analysis for PWD.
- Completed the Research on fiscal space and actuarial analysis, was consulted upon and presented to all four countries. Findings from this analysis informed the development of social protection measures for persons with disabilities. The final reports were submitted to the TCs and respective governments in April 2021.
- Completed the Samoa Social Protection Indicators Matrix (SPIM), a strategy developed to address data gaps had been developed by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics. SPIM will be used as the M&E framework and a policy tool for determining and measuring Samoa's social protection development performances. The SPIM can be also used to measure national performances against the SDGs and regional indicators.
- Consultations, awareness and training programmes were conducted on reforms of the Labour and Employment Relations Act to inform stakeholders, Constituents, and the public at large on Legislative and Policy Reforms to enhance the Rights of Workers and further improvement of Working Conditions and Entitlements. Finalised the Labour and Employment Relations Act in the Cook Islands and Samoa.
- Consultation and Validation workshop for stakeholders in Government Ministries and Non-Government Organisations was conducted virtually in December 2020 on the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the World of Works (C190) and its accompanying Recommendation R206. The Convention sets out a clear and common framework to prevent and address violence and harassment, based on an inclusive, integrated and gender-responsive approach relating to labour market aspects of social protection.

- The Social Protection Taskforce under the ambit of the Samoa National Tripartite Forum implemented work on ratification of identified ILO Convention on violence and Harassment in the World of works, C190. The Taskforce was involved in the monitoring of the preparation of ILS reports
- Inclusion of the Sexual Harassment Section under the Amendments of the Labour Employment Relation Act 2020
- Samoa is the first country in the Pacific to conduct labour dispute conciliation and mediation for the Labour Inspectors under the new amendment to labour law.
- There were 6 Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) Programmes that were conducted since December 2020 for at least 600 Seasonal workers who left for employment in New Zealand in January 2021. A Review of the Seasonal Works Pre-Departure Orientation to address the challenges of labour exploitation in the Seasonal works programme
- Completed consultations with Constituents and Civil society in the Cook Islands consultations on the ratification of the Social Protection Convention.
- SP package pilot for PWD saw the Government of Samoa has rolled out the national disability grant/benefit for persons with disability in Samoa funded under the national budget for the first time in 2021. Similarly, an increase in senior citizens' benefits has been approved and rolled out. The MWCSO is the key Agency to facilitate with stakeholders the creation of a register of Persons with Disability to collate and maintain data on persons with disability in Samoa and develop a business case and cabinet paper to support submission to the Government.
- Mediation trainings of elected mediators completed. Awareness programmes were to raise awareness of workers on mediation and at the same time encourage them to come forward with employment issues that they may encounter and should be addressed through mediation. Employment disputes are now referred to as mediation.
- Work on the Development of a mobile system for beneficiary access to information and citizens reporting mechanism and data analysis tool on social protection systems in the Cook Islands completed, with further support of the iPhone version to ensure all mobile versions of the app are accessible. The final Report has been received. MIS development for Niue is under construction.
- The achievements of the Pilot Projects for PWD Social Protection are outlined below:
 - *Cook Islands*: Pilot projects are completed. The Disability Employment Pathway project called the 'Rise and Shine Employment Program' builds capacity of PWDs over a course of 20 weeks in collaboration with potential employers. The graduation for this Employment Program was done on the first week of December 2021. The Production of the Cook Islands Disability Inclusive Policy in Braille and Audio Formats to improve and promote understanding of the Policy for PwD are also complete.
 - *Niue*: Strengthening the membership of the Niue *Tolomaki Auloa* Association to strengthen the work of the DRG has been a success with an increase in membership and activities. The national Register of PWD for Niue is also complete.
 - *Samoa*: the development and proposal of 2 non-contributory universal disability Social Security Benefits is complete. There is also a draft of a Business Case and a draft Cabinet Paper to support submission of this scheme to the Government. There is progress towards merging existing databases to form a national register of Persons with Disability to streamline and monitor delivery of the social security benefit scheme. What remains for this work is consultations and consensus among key stakeholders before presenting to Cabinet.
 - *Tokelau*: the cognitive assessment of children with intellectual disabilities as well as the survey of PwD in Tokelau is complete. Data captured has informed the establishment of a national register of PwD with data disaggregated including but not limited to subgroups. Tokelau now focuses on developing a National Policy on PWD and capacity development program to deliver disability inclusive education training for teachers, identified members of the Department of Education and other concerned Ministries.

SP-JP Outcome 2: SP floors are efficiently and effectively administered.

Outcome 2 aimed at strengthening digital data and information management systems in all four PICTs, for the purpose of improving the integrity, equity, and responsiveness of the social protection systems, including inclusive distribution of resources, as well as increasing efficiency and effectiveness of delivery set up in the four PICTs. This work will also involve improving the use of data innovation mechanisms such as the development of the Pacific Pulse Lab to measure poverty and address vulnerability of 250,000 people in the four PICTs. The approved program document outlined a total of 10 activities under three outputs to be implemented to contribute to this overall outcome 2. Progress and achievements made include:

- Multidimensional poverty index training conducted in collaboration with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) on MPI and its development at the national level completed. The training aimed to build the knowledge and skills of participants from the four PICTs in the development of their national MPI, ensuring that there is a multi-dimensional measurement of poverty beyond simplistic monetary measurements. The training was a requirement for Samoa to develop its MPI.
- Upon completion of the MPI Training, the OPHI worked with the Samoa Bureau of Statistics to develop the MPI for Samoa. The MPI will reflect poverty in different dimensions according to nationally defined indicators. The MPI will enable policymakers, implementers, and advocates as well as development partners to evaluate the effectiveness of existing public policy efforts and programmes (including Social Protection measures), and whether they are addressing the needs of different people who are living in the most vulnerable conditions in Samoa.
- Strengthening Social Protection data and information:
 - Cook Islands: The development of SP MIS completed. The training and demo was conducted in quarter 1 of 2022 and went live in quarter 2, 2022.
 - Niue: The development of SP MIS is in progress. The feasibility and design phase are ongoing. The training and demo will take place in quarter 1 of 2022 and plan to go live in quarter 2 of 2022.
 - Tokelau: The development of the SP registry progressed well. The development of SP registry is ongoing and will be compliment by census 2022 data. The census data collection will take place in quarter 1 of 2022 and the most updated SP registry will be available in quarter 2 of 2022.
 - Samoa: The development of SP MIS was delayed due to pending approval of the national SP policy by the government. This will not be implemented due to approval issues.
 - Analysis of Samoa and Niue CRVS systems completed and submitted to the relevant governments for implementation.
 - Newly developed OSH (Occupational Safety and Health) Labour Inspection Registry on paperless purpose
 - Completed upgrading the Job Seekers Registry (Job Seekers online Services)
 - Child Labour Rapid Assessment has completed. The survey was implemented in collaboration with MCIL, ILO and UNICEF.
- Full employment of ILO interns under the Green Jobs for Green Works Internship Programme on Waste Management.
- The Samoa National Employment Policy 2021-2026 is completed and awaiting Cabinet approval.
- The OSH video for awareness programmes by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour is completed.
- Awaiting Cabinet Approval of ratification of the ILO Convention on Social Protection.
- The Social Protection Training was conducted in collaboration with ESCAP and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS). Participants included for Samoa: MCIL (2), MESC (3), PSC (2), MoF (2), MWCSO (3), UNDP (3). For Tokelau: Statistics (1), Central Office (2) Finance (1), Education (1). The training was delivered virtually for 1 ½ hours a day, 2 days a week. The training also included a Train the Trainer (TOT) Component, and the TOT participants were required to attend an extra 3 sessions. Training was completed with country presentations on Wednesday 23rd November 2022.
- Gap Analysis of the Mobile Banking Systems in Samoa completed. This will build and strengthen inclusive social protection systems to improve financially inclusive social protection measures for improved coverage and reach of the population. The activity aims to support the financial inclusion of vulnerable groups whose social protection benefits can be distributed through the banking system to reduce transaction costs and to facilitate access to other social protection and financial services.
- The design of Child Sensitive Social Protection Training completed. The training was delivered face to face from 21-15 November 2022 in Niue. About 30 participants benefitted from this training including key government ministries, NGOs, NDMO, Police, MP's, Village councils.

SP-JP Outcome 3: Financial inclusion enables low transaction cost transfers of SP benefits.

Outcome 3 aimed at improving payment systems for all benefits through banks and mobile banking. Individual accounts will be used to collect remittances and monthly revenues will be used to guarantee borrowing for small business start-ups. Efficiency gains due to low transaction costs will be an indirect benefit. There are four activities under outcome 3: review of accessibility of SP payments by PWD in all 4 PICTs; gap analysis of existing mobile banking systems; design and testing of a universal mobile banking system; and reducing costs of remittances transfers (Samoa only). Progress and achievements made include:

- Ongoing support work for building disability-inclusive in the four PICTs included progress made with improving the profiling of persons with disabilities and providing capacity development and training programmes for persons with disabilities.
- Community consultations on the Social Security Benefit Design for Persons with Disabilities completed. Feedback to finalize the Business Case and Cabinet Paper to present to TC and Cabinet and await Cabinet directive to launch of the Social Security Benefit for PWD.
- Report on remittance costs submitted. Final editing for publication is completed.
- The Banking Gap Analysis completed. The consultancy was to ensure to build and strengthen inclusive social protection system to improve financially inclusive social protection measures for improved coverage and reach of the population. The activity aims to support the financial inclusion of vulnerable groups whose social protection benefits can be distributed through the banking system to reduce transaction costs and to facilitate access to other social protection and financial services.

SP-JP Outcome 4: Increased resilience through mainstreaming of disability, gender, youth and climate related contingencies.

Outcome 4 focuses on improving labor market integration of jobseekers including persons living with disabilities, school dropouts, women and youth more generally. Also, as natural hazards and other climate change-related risks impact the poor more significantly, recognizing the solidarity nature of the Social Protection systems, specific benefits will be designed to help individuals and households recover from disasters. The status of the activities in this are as follows:

- Study on the informal and traditional social protection in Samoa completed, with recommendations on strengthening complementarity between formal social protection and informal and traditional mechanisms to increase the resilience of vulnerable groups.
- Ongoing engagement with representatives from the business sector (e.g., Chambers of Commerce) and key government agencies on the implementation of internship programmes for youth employment.
 - Continuous engagement with key government agencies (e.g., Samoa Business Hub) on engaging with interested and potential local people on the 'Start Your own Business' (SYB) Programme.
 - Completed internship programmes for youths hosted by the Samoa Chamber of Commerce.
- Initial discussions were carried out in January 2021 on the Upgrade of the Job Seekers Registry using the school to Work transition Programme identified in the Labour Market Survey
- The review of the Samoa National Employment Policy (SNEP) 2016/2020 was completed. The report on the Review of the SNEP is completed. The new SNEP 2021/2025 is completed. The training programmes for vulnerable women in the agriculture sector completed.
- The first brief on disaster-responsive social protection was completed.
- Existing Social Protection Taskforce located with the Samoa Ministry of Commerce, Industry is being utilized as the Samoa Impact Assessment & Monitoring (SIAM) Working Group to respond to COVID19 impacts on employment and businesses.
- Development of policy briefs to enhance stakeholder understanding about disaster resilience and investment in social protection. The first policy brief on mainstreaming disaster responsiveness in social protection was developed to be co-published with Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE).

1.2 Context and the overall approach

2.1 Broader context and JP changes

The JP is an intervention adopted and implemented in the context of small island countries with limited technical and administrative capacities. For most small island countries in the Pacific, including Samoa, Niue and Tokelau, inclusive, comprehensive, equitable and sustainable social protection systems are not yet fully developed. The concept of a formal 'inclusive SP system' is seen as a novel idea. Existing social protection initiatives are fragmented, limited in scope and not linked to any coherent policy framework. As such, programmes such as the SP-JP (seen as adopted and initiated by the UN agencies) will require sufficient time for building genuine engagement with key national government and non-government authorities and stakeholders. Before going into the implementation of core SP activities, the first 3 to 4 months of the programme focused on building the needed engagement as well as shared understanding amongst the PUNOs and national stakeholders about the programme and its intentions. Initial consultations indicated a high level of hesitation and lack of buy-ins from

stakeholders, with the original programme document generally regarded by many stakeholders at these initial as being developed without due national consultations.

The PUNOs (as leading implementing agencies) of the programme lack having any coherent understanding of the programme, in terms of how all their own work could jointly contribute to the implementation of the work plan of the programme. Some of the existing work of PUNOs became part of the work plan but their contribution to the overall outcomes of the programme was unclear. The development of a SP-JP consolidated (all PUNOs) multi-year (July 2020-Dec 2021) work plan based on revised work plans from all PUNOs helped provide more clarity around implementing modalities, timelines, deliverables, and resourcing requirements for the implementation of the different initiatives/activities. Regular joint discussions amongst PUNO and through TC meetings have helped PUNOs to slightly revise their work plans and activities given the identified overlaps with some activities and adapt implementing approaches and modalities in responding to the environment. For instance, all activities relating to the reviews and assessments (e.g., activities 1.1.5, 1.1.6, 1.2.1, 1.2.3) are being consolidated into one TOR for one technical assistant to carry out, with room open for more assistance provisions when needed. The development of concept notes has helped clarify actions to undertake with the implementation of a specific initiative/activity following an assessment of existing situations and gaps and the requirements under the programme.

2.2 Ensuring an adaptive and strategic JP

All initiatives under the SP-JP are realigned to changing national priorities through the ongoing involvement of key government agencies in the TCs and through consultations undertaken as part of the implementation of the different activities. For instance, in Cook Islands, UNESCO aligned the Pilot Project to the government's immediate priority to make the Cook Islands Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2020 – 2024 available in braille and accessible formats. Such realignment is further enhanced through the development of concept notes and TORs for the different activities which provide an initial assessment of the current situations and the way forward for the implementation of activities. Ongoing engagement through the JSC and TCs and regular reviews of work plans through regular meetings of PUNOs and TCs further ensured that the JP remains strategic and catalytic.

In addition, efforts were made to ensure equal and easy access to social protection services through the development of Mobile Applications. For Samoa, UNDP aligned the mobile application to broaden access and improve citizen reporting mechanisms to the Samoa National Provident Fund, increasing accountability of the related institution.

Similarly, the Government of Tokelau had identified that developing and improving its social protection systems requires improving data and evidence especially given the challenges associated with data/information collection across the remote atolls, as well as limited technical capacity in-country. UNDP has aligned the database development to assist Tokelau with the development of a suitable national statistical database for its National Statistics Office. This includes the provisions of capacity development for office staff as well as improving equipment, hardware, software and other resources.

2.3 Ensuring that JP remains strategic and catalytic.

The SP-JP contributed to the UNDAF (now renamed UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) through contributions made to the UN Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018-2022 outcome areas (*climate change, disaster resilience, and environmental protection; gender equality sustainable and inclusive economic empowerment; equitable basic services; governance and community engagement; and human rights*) which are directly aligned to the UNDAF (or UNSDCF):

The SP-JP contributes to the UNPS four outcome areas through the expected achievements of its four outcomes (stated above) through the following 10 outputs:

- Data-informed, nationally consulted, comprehensive and equitable SP floors designed and costed (policy, law, budget) to complement ongoing programmes and reduce poverty and vulnerability socioeconomic and climate-related risks.
- Multi-year SP floor implementation plan adopted and budgeted [focusing on new components of the SP system while existing ones will be improved] to allow implementation as of year 2.
- SP Pilot programmes implemented with the objective of national scale-up.

- Existing SP Floors for Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau fully reviewed to strengthen inclusiveness, equity, effectiveness, efficiency and financial sustainability of contributive and non-contributive schemes.
- Digital data systems in Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau strengthened to support registration and robust administration of the SP floor and programmes.
- Integrated administrative systems such as registries and redress mechanisms are strengthened, in Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau.
- Evidence-based financial management of SP systems.
- Robust payment systems through the banking system designed and costed.
- Labour market services designed and scalable in Samoa to improve working age populations' access to jobs and incomes – with specific attention to ensuring access for women, persons living with disability, and young people.
- Disaster-risk informed SP benefits and services integrated in SP floor.

Approaches to the implementation of the different initiatives/activities under the programme (e.g., stakeholder engagements, reviews and assessments of SP systems, developing proposed SP (for Samoa), recommending areas for SP improvement (for Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau), fiscal space analysis, developing SP data support systems have involved the following approaches:

- Ensuring that disaster and social-economic and climate-related risk-responsive social protection are considered and integrated in SP reviews and strengthening initiatives of the programme. This had been considered in the social protection reviews and redevelopment initiatives for Samoa and Cook Islands, the two countries that have completed their initial reviews. Policy briefs are being developed to help build understanding about this area.
- Gender balance representation of males and females in the TCs and DRGs as well as in consultations. For instance, two DRGs are female lead, supporting gender transformation with females in key decision-making and leadership positions. Participation of women within the DRGs supports the effective participation of women within decision-making processes that impact PWD.
- Representation of vulnerable groups (e.g., PWD) in SP processes of the programme with specific activities aimed at improving SP schemes/programmes for PWD.
- Ensuring that all SP reviews, assessments and redevelopment work including pilot programmes include a gender-sensitive approach as a core element to consider.
- Reviews of SP systems include identification of key gaps across key areas/dimensions, such as population coverage levels, service delivery, administration (including payments/transfers), information and data registration and management, capacities and fiscal space, and labour market interventions, services and support.
- SP reviews and assessments undertaken through the lens of inclusiveness, equity, financial sustainability, gender sensitivity, and prioritized recommendations.
- The development of SP policies (inclusive of SP floors) informed by evidence-based reviews/assessments which are also informed through stakeholder consultations.
- Ongoing engagement with key stakeholders (government and non-government) and PUNOs through their coordinated involvement and inputs provided through the TC meetings (every 2 months for Samoa and Cook Islands and every 3 months for Niue and Tokelau).
- Regular meetings or catch-ups amongst PUNOs to build common understanding of agency work plan implementation and to discuss issues impacting on progress especially concerning activities that required joint collaboration between and across PUNOs.

2.4 Link with UNDAF/UNSD Cooperation Framework

UNDAF's 4 principles of: (1) Leave no one behind (2) Human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment (3) Sustainability and resilience (4) Accountability are also the principles that guide the work of social protection. Social protection and the JPs role is to strengthen social protection to reach the poorest and those left behind. The Programme provided the opportunity to build on national and regional level initiatives promoting inclusive and equitable growth through the development of a coherent social protection policy framework and the development of financially sustainable Social Protection Floors.

Similarly, social protection contributes to UNSDG through its four connected objectives of economic development, environmental sustainability, social inclusion and good governance.

2.5 Covid-19 impact and adaptation

There was repurposing of funds for Covid-19 adaptations. The expectation was that adaptations will be clearly identified and implemented following the completion of the SP reviews and assessments across the four PICTs. The reviews of SP in Samoa and Cook Islands have identified the need for SP policies and systems to address COV-19 adaptations including future disaster and social-economic and climate-related risk-responsive social protection systems.

Covid-19 impacts have added strain and competing priorities for Government counterparts resulting in delays of implementation of some activities. Due to travel restrictions, programme staff and engaged consultants have been unable to travel to the 4 PICTs to assist with the initiation and implementation of activities including the Pilot Projects. Therefore, programme staff and consultants have had to collaborate with counterparts remotely in the design, management and implementation of activities. For some activities where national expertise and technical assistance are available, preferences were given to the recruitment of national consultants to provide technical assistance. Compliance with COV-19 State of Emergency rules (e.g., below 50 number of people in a gathering and social distance) has made it difficult to ensure efficient and effective implementation of some activities.

1.3 Update on priority cross-cutting issues

3.1 UN Development System reform - UN coherence at the country level

All initiatives under the SP-JP are realigned to changing national priorities through the ongoing involvement of key government agencies in the TCs and through consultations undertaken as part of the implementation of the different activities. For instance, in Cook Islands, UNESCO aligned the Pilot Project to the government's immediate priority to make the Cook Islands Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2020 -2024 available in braille and accessible formats. Such realignment is further enhanced through the development of concept notes and TORs for the different activities which provide an initial assessment of the current situations and the way forward for the implementation of activities. Ongoing engagement through the JSC and TCs and regular reviews of work plans through regular meetings of PUNOs and TCs further ensured that the JP remains strategic and catalytic.

The JP-SP aligns with the UN's Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) for countries by contributing to Pillar II – Social Protection. The JP-SP will work to design the Social Protection Floor for Samoa (and areas for improvement in the other 3 PICTs) to ensure universal access to benefits and services and reduce poverty. Activities will specifically focus on enhancing SP schemes/programmes including systems of administration across the 4 PICTs.

3.2 Going beyond "business as usual" to produce catalytic results at scale

The Program pushed to go beyond 'business as usual' across the targeted countries. It gave the opportunity for Pacific island countries' governments, stakeholders, and partners to think and consider social protection as measures to address their huge vulnerabilities and especially looking at interventions to address weaknesses in both informal and formal social protection mechanisms and measures. This includes thinking about the fiscal space component of social protection and how social protection can really help countries to respond and recover from crises, risks, threats and other contingencies.

3.3 SDG Acceleration

The SP-JP expected to contribute towards SDG acceleration as follows:

- i. SDG outcome 1 (Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale)
 - Implement nationally appropriate SP systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

The findings of comprehensive stock takes and reviews of the social protection systems in Samoa, Cook Islands, Tokelau, and Niue have informed the establishment of social protection floors and development reforms in national social protection systems across the four countries.

The Costing exercise of the Informal Social Protection system in Samoa UNDP undertook a costing exercise of informal contributors to social protection in Samoa helps to determine the monetary value of the informal social protection system in Samoa which till now has been left unrecorded.

ii. SDG outcome 2 (Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement). The programme is expected to address the following SDG targets:

- **2.1:** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
- **4.2:** By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education.

The JP has been promoting the establishment of the Multidimensional Poverty Index in Samoa, Cook Islands, and Tokelau. The MPI looks at poverty in different dimensions according to nationally defined indicators. The MPI will enable policymakers, implementers, and advocates as well as development partners to evaluate the effectiveness of existing public policy efforts and programmes (including Social Protection measures), and whether they are addressing the needs of different people who are living in the most vulnerable conditions in Samoa.

- **5.4:** Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and SP policies.

Studies and analyses on the contribution to social protection of remittances and the contribution of informal and traditional systems in Samoa were conducted and have contributed towards building the evidence-based analysis and knowledge to inform ongoing social protection developmental work.

Costing of the Informal Social Protection in Samoa UNDP undertook a costing exercise of informal contributors to social protection in Samoa helping to determine the monetary value of the informal social protection system in Samoa which till now has been left unrecorded.

- **8.5:** By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities.

ILO reaffirmed its commitment to enhance rights of workers and improve working conditions and entitlements completed Samoa's second National Employment Policy 2022-2027 and Cook Islands Labour and Employment Relations Act

ILO Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment in Workplaces has passed the Report on the "Legal Review of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work" focus on the Assessing the scope for law and policy report in Fiji pursuant to the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2009 and provided recommendation towards the ratification and application of C190 in Samoa that Samoa National Tripartite Forum has supported the ratification of this instrument.

- **10.4:** Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and SP policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

For Samoa and Tokelau, a nationally owned, inclusive, forward-looking and sustainable social protection policy, inclusive of social protection floors and a comprehensive long-term social protection development has been developed, and submitted to the Governments of Samoa and Tokelau, for approval and implementation.

The approval of Draft Social Protection Policy by the Samoa and Tokelau Governments will give social protection priority consideration as a key development public policy agenda for the first time, with political leadership solicited for the adoption and implementation of transformational reforms in the areas of social protection in these small Pacific Island countries.

- **16.6:** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

- 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.

Reviews and assessments of SP in the 4 PICTs have helped built an understanding about existing SP systems and key gaps, which have informed the proposed SP systems and improvement areas that countries need to adopt and implement to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

3.4 Policy integration and systems change

Through an inclusive and nationally driven process UNDP supported Samoa to develop forward-looking sustainable social protection policy, inclusive of social protection floors and comprehensive long-term social protection systems. The approval of the policy will enable prioritization of social protection as a key development public policy agenda for the first time, with political leadership solicited for the adoption and implementation of transformational reforms in the area.

The development of the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau do not have national social protection information systems. The JP supports the development of national MIS to ensure there is a national registry of all citizens and their essential information (e.g., income levels, dependents, employment status, current benefits, and health) which are needed to assess their life cycle conditions and vulnerabilities and are to be used to determine social protection schemes and programs they need. The MIS provides information for social welfare, active labour market, disaster and resilient, and other social protection policy and programming responses.

Further efforts were made to ensure equal and easy access to social protection services through the development of a Mobile Application enabling members of Samoa National Provident Fund SNPF to access information pertaining to their accounts and also register online for existing and new social protection benefits. Similar tool was developed in Cook Islands broadening access to information on social protection and improving citizen reporting mechanisms to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, thereby increasing accountability of the related institutions.

3.5 Contribution to improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups

Reviews and assessments of SP systems (including existing schemes and programmes and their coverage levels) examined poverty and vulnerability levels, including identification of groups (PWD, children, mothers, elderly, etc.) that are most vulnerable based on poverty and vulnerability assessments. Proposed schemes and improvements are being recommended for improved SP for the identified vulnerable groups. For instance, the Review of SP in Samoa identified that PWD, young children and pregnant mothers are the most vulnerable people in terms of SP and hence should be given prioritized consideration for SP. The following number of individuals were reached through the SP-JP efforts, as implementation of the programme ends:

- An estimated total of 574 persons with disabilities and 284 persons without disabilities were reached by the programme in 2010 through its component and activities specifically targeting PWD. A total of 1,936 PWD and 256 persons without disabilities in 2021.
- An estimated total of 515 individuals (60% females and 40% males) were consulted on the reviews and assessments in 2020. In 2021, a total number of 100 individuals were further consulted on the analyses and evaluations together with the remaining work of the programme. In 2022, a further 500 was consulted on the development and assessment of apps as the programme heads to completion.
- The Fiscal Space analysis conducted with the support of the JP in all four targeted countries has focused on strengthening the space for persons with disabilities as one of the most priority considerations for the social protection systems. Dedicated capacity building to the PWDs assisted with access to social protection services through the mobile devices.
- Child Labour Survey findings served as food for thought to the national partners to agree on decisive actions to eliminate the child labor trends.
- The focus of the JP on helping the national partners to establish and develop the Multidimensional Poverty Index for Samoa will support the Governments' efforts to look at the nature and trends of poverty from a broader perspective and give the partners a clearer picture of the levels of poverty, all of these will contribute to decision making and development of decisive measures to alleviate poverty and vulnerability.

- As a key step towards poverty reduction in Pacific, UNDP supported the introduction of the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index in Samoa, Cook Islands and Tokelau which is expected to enhance understanding of existing inequalities and areas for improvement and thereby inform strategic planning. The MPI provides more in-depth measure and understanding of poverty going beyond the traditionally used monetary measure which is expected to positively contribute to development initiatives.
- Estimated number of individuals that were reached through JP efforts:
(The data in this response should align with the data from the Annex 3 / Result questionnaire)
 Total number 30,000
 Percentage of women and girls: 60%

3.6 Mainstreaming Gender equality and women empowerment

The analysis of the Gender Responsiveness of the Social Protection system of Samoa commissioned by UNDP was conducted to assess whether the Samoa Social Protection system is Gender Responsive. The analysis concluded that the systems need to include the improvements in women and women issues to be considered a gender-sensitive SP system.

A gender transformative or gender sensitive approach has been included in all activities to ensure that women and girls and those with disabilities have equal access to programs, are able to fully and effectively participate and aims to ensure they equally benefit from the strengthening of policy and planning frameworks. This approach will strengthen gender mainstreaming with the disability policy and frameworks.

3.7 Human rights

The Reviews and assessments of SP systems, development of SP floors, and identifying areas for strengthening in SP systems required examining those systems through the lens of equality and inclusiveness (for gap analysis) which are principles of human rights and as such, those activities facilitate the mainstreaming of human right mechanisms in social protection. For instance, outputs 1.1.1, 1.2.1, and 1.3.1 of the programme have been aligned with the rights enshrined in the CRPD, notably Article 8 (awareness-raising), Article 27 (work and employment) and Article 28 (equal access to adequate standard of living and social protection), to support the mainstreaming of disability throughout SP-JP activities and the development of policy and planning frameworks. Human right principles and mechanisms are also mainstreamed in activities targeting the strengthening of labour market social protection interventions (e.g., youth employment internship programmes) and services (e.g., mediation services) in Samoa and Cook Islands.

3.8 Partnerships

Building partnerships during the initiation of the programme in July 2020 was an essential step that was undertaken and was considered as the programme implementation processes to build shared understanding and getting the government and non-government stakeholders engaged in the programme. This was important given concerns raised by the stakeholders that the original programme document was developed with limited national consultations and stakeholder inputs. As such, national consultations held during the implementation of the activities ensured that stakeholders were consulted. A Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and country level Technical Committees (across the 4 PICTs) were established and initiated by August 2020, which were used as the platform for building strategic partnerships with government counterparts and civil society. During the implementation period of the programme, the SP-JP Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and Technical Committees (all 4 PICTs) established. The JSC had held four meetings and Technical Committees (TCs) had held 20 (Samoa), 10 (Niue), 11 (Cook Islands) and 8 (Tokelau) meetings during the life of the programme (July 2020-December 2022). The TCs have been used as stakeholder coordination platforms for consultations and consolidated inputs on various aspects of activity implementation.

Over the life span of the programme, specific ministries concerned with specific and related initiatives/activities were consulted on an individual basis, to further solicit their inputs and support on those initiatives/activities and to clarify implementation roles, approaches, modalities and expectations. For instance, engagement have been formed with the Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) to host the MPI training and to take up the development of SP indicators and to develop the national MPI for Samoa. In addition, the statistics officers in Tokelau and Samoa have been active in the social protection trainings conducted by the Institute for Development Studies under the leadership of UNDP in collaboration with UNESCAP.

Furthermore, DPO's and Disability Service Providers in Samoa, Niue and the Cook Islands have been active within the development of the Pilot Projects and other activities in the JP-SP such as the Social Protection reviews. These are all aligned with the broader UNCT partnership approach as it supports durable partnerships between UN agencies, governments, civil society and the private sector.

3.9 Mobilizing additional funding and/or financing

There have been no plans to leverage additional funding from other sources for JP-SP activities-

3.10 Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Description/Comments
Annual JP development partners'/donors' event*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Joint Steering Committee and Technical Committees' meetings</i>
Final JP event (closing)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Will be arranged around February 2023 once evaluation is completed.</i>
Other strategic events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Regular meeting updates with development partners and key stakeholders including national government counterparts.</i>

3.11 Innovation, learning and sharing

Key innovation, learning and sharing from the implementation of the SP-JP include:

- In Samoa, there is no one government ministry dedicated to SP; instead, multiple ministries with some involvement within provisions of Social Protection are all engaged through the TC as the coordinated mechanism. The lack of a clearly identified ministry for Social Protection has led to difficulties in identifying which ministry would coordinate and drive the delivery of activities and policy work. This created confused and inefficient interactions and delays within the implementation of activities. This issue is presented in the greater Joint Program, with no clearly defined ministry to lead SP review, assessment and policy work.
- The learnings to be implemented to minimize the risk of the same situation arising for future programmes is to ensure that prior to the finalisation of the programme proposal, advanced discussions with the governments is to be conducted to confirm the lead ministry for the programme and sub ministries for specific components, if required. These ministries will play a focal coordination role between concerned ministries and lead the submission of business cases and cabinet papers to the Government. Once confirmed, the lead ministry (ministries) should be clearly communicated to all partners involved including civil society to reduce confusion uncertainty within activities.
- Any initiative is deemed to fail if the necessary initial steps are not properly given due consideration. Given that the programme document was developed without proper consultations with government for initial inputs, there was a high level of hesitation from key government ministries to participate and be involved in the programme implementation. The programme was and is still seen as an imposition on the respective governments and countries. To build stakeholder support and engagement (through the TCs), the first 3-4 months of the implementation phase was spent on the conducting of consultations, having one-on-one and group discussions with key ministries about the programme, and for setting up the TCs. Maintaining interest amongst the TCs and building their sense of ownership of the programme are fundamental aspects requiring further investments and actions.
- SP-JP is a programme with one purpose with mutually reinforcing outcome areas and activities – implementation of other activities (by one PUNO) is contingent on the successful implementation of other prior activities (by other PUNOs). This interconnectedness of the SP-JP design required better coordinated and collaborative efforts amongst PUNOs. However, this was a challenge given that each PUNO operates within own specific mandates and work plans, having the authorities and flexibilities to change own work plans and implementation modalities which may result in the limitation of PUNOs giving due consideration towards how those individual changes can impact on other PUNOs work plan and activities as well as on the overall programme.
- The design of the programme did not clearly identify the manpower required for the effective and efficient implementation of the programme. This was left entirely to the respective PUNOs to determine. In some PUNOs, implementation of the programme was given to existing staff who are already operated within their own given job descriptions and existing workloads. This, together with shared coordinating role between UNDP (as technical lead) and RCO has led to lack of clarity around the implementation of that shared roles – what UNDP versus what RCO should be doing in the coordinating role.

- Social Protection being a novelty concept in the Pacific Island countries required training for government officials and stakeholder on how to relate and contextualize the concept for local implementation. The MPI training allowed for statisticians from the four countries to understand the value of using the MPI to determine poverty in different dimensions based on nationally defined indicators. Similarly, the 2 phased social protection training for government officials allowed the officials sufficient time to discuss and think about social protection concepts so to enhance knowledge and understanding on social protection and its concepts and contextualize to suit local contexts.

3.12 Strategic communications

The following are the SP-JP strategic communications undertaken during the implementation of the JP:

- 2 Human Stories for the Cook Islands can be accessed on www.intaff.gov.ck under Labour and Consumer Business Unit for Cool Islands
- [Httos://medium.com/@undpsamoa/exploring-scoail-protection-options-in-samoa-855flaef4c96](https://medium.com/@undpsamoa/exploring-scoail-protection-options-in-samoa-855flaef4c96) - Samoa
- <http://www.ws.undp.org/> - UNDP in Samoa, Cook Islands, Tokelau & Niue. (UN Samoa – 11 June 2021)
- newspaper articles were created in partnership with the Samoan DRG and published in 2 local newspapers, the Samoa Observer and Samoa Global News. The articles focused on the establishment of the DRG, the Pilot Project and objectives of the greater JP-SP.
- 2 policy briefs to enhance stakeholder understanding about disaster resilience and investment in social protection.
- UNESCO: 2 articles that were published within the National newspapers of Samoa including the
 - i. Samoa Observer, <https://www.samoobserver.ws/category/samoa/74917?fbclid=IwAR23t23PIR9otIMM8OHsc5Xrxje0bt3w4JP4It7zz3fldg6b2qQImYsVVVs> and the
 - ii. Samoa Global News <https://samoaglobalnews.com/samoa-designs-first-disability-focused-social-protection-program/>
- Press release communicating partnership between UNESCAP and SBS on the development of social protection indicators for Samoa.
- UNESCO Pacific Newsletter April – June 2020 - <https://mailchi.mp/1091aaae34a0/unesco-pacific-newsletter-april-june-2020>
- UNESCO Pacific Newsletter July – Sep 2020 - <https://mailchi.mp/8e2df63335b2/unesco-pacific-quarterly-newsletter>
- UNESCO Pacific Newsletter Oct – Dec 2020 - <https://mailchi.mp/a5804eb024a1/unesco-pacific-quarterly-newsletter>
- Learnings shared and discussed amongst TC members at their meetings.

II. Final Results

Overall progress

- All expected results achieved
- Majority of expected results achieved
- Only some expected results achieved

Please, explain briefly: All planned activities and expected results of the Social Protection programme were implemented and achieved.

Contribution to Fund's global results

The SP-JP contribution to Fund's global results is provided under section A.1 (*ensuring that JP remains strategic and catalytic and SDG acceleration*).

In addition, the SP-JP has overall contributed towards the global outcomes of the Joint SDG Fund with a particular focus on vulnerable people through the development of SP universal, inclusive, and equitable systems that leave no one behind. The design and costing of SP in Samoa will allow the GoS to consider options for the development of legislation and policy that will provide greater Social Protection in a

comprehensive, inclusive, and sustainable manner. The JP-SP is greatly enhancing GoS awareness, capacity and understanding of inclusive and nationally owned developed social protection systems.

The SP-JP activities are supporting the government of each state to identify SP policies and improvements to adopt and implemented including SP administrative systems, aligned with universal principles of inclusivity, equality, gender, sustainability and leave no one behind social protection.

⇒ **Contribution to Joint SDG Fund Outcome 1 (as per targets set by the JP)**

- Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale
- Samoa Social Protection Policy
- National Employment Policy 2021/2025
- Stocktake and Review of Social Protection System in Cook Islands
- Final Assessment of the Social Protection System in Niue
- Samoa Social Protection Report
- Tokelau Assessment of the Social Protection System

⇒ **Contribution to Joint SDG Fund Output 3 (as per targets set by the JP)**

- Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented
- Innovative solutions tested
 - Pilot Project for PWD in Cook Islands
 - Cook Islands Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2020 – 2024 translated into Braille and accessible formats
- Integrated policy solutions implemented with national partners in lead
 - Samoa Social Protection Policy now reworked by Government to be a Framework for Social Protection activities
 - Cook Islands Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2020 – 2024 translated into Braille and accessible formats
- National capacities to implement, integrate, cross sectoral SDG accelerators strengthened

JP Outputs and Outcomes

⇒ **Achievement of expected JP outputs**

- 1.1 Samoa
 - i. 500
 - ii. 10
 - iii. 20%
- 1.2 Samoa
 - i. 0
 - ii. 4
 - iii. 0
- 1.3 Samoa
 - i. 0
 - ii. 2
 - iii. 1
- 1.4 CI, Niue & Tokelau
 - i. Social Protection floors reviewed
- 2.1 Samoa
 - i. 0
- 2.2 Samoa, Cook Island, Niue, Tokelau
 - i. 3 males, 25 females

- 2.3 0
- 3.1 Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau
- 4.1 Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau
- 4.2 Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau

⇒ **Achievement of expected JP outcomes**

1: Universal, inclusive & equitable Social Protection systems Leave No One Behind

Outcome 1 looks at strengthening social protection floors that will contribute to poverty and vulnerability reduction across the four PICTs. Activities achieved include stock take and reviews of existing social protection systems in the four PICTs, and identification of gaps and areas for improvements in social protection systems, through the lens of inclusiveness, equity, financial sustainability, gender sensitivity, and prioritized recommendations to governments. Other activities include establishment of stakeholder engagement and coordination mechanisms in each country, analysis of fiscal space for social protection, implementation of a social protection pilot program for persons with disabilities (PWD), and capacity development training for strengthening existing social protection programmes.

2: Social Protection floors are efficiently and effectively administered (financial management, institutional framework and capacity, evidence-based planning drawing on robust information management systems)

Outcome 2 aimed at strengthening digital data and information management systems in all four PICTs, for the purpose of improving the integrity, equity, and responsiveness of the social protection systems, including inclusive distribution of resources, as well as increasing efficiency and effectiveness of delivery set up in the four PICTs. Activities achieved include the engagement with governments and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) to conduct the training on the multidimensional poverty index and its development at the national level. The training was a prerequisite for Samoa to develop its first ever MPI.

In addition, the support on the work on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) for Samoa and Niue to support better administration of social protection.

3: Financial inclusion in Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau enables low transaction cost transfers of Social Protection benefits

Outcome 3 looked at improving payment systems for all benefits through banks and mobile banking. The Activities include the review of accessibility of SP payments by PWD in all 4 PICTs to support mainstreaming of disability inclusion; a gaps analysis of existing mobile banking systems; designing and testing of a universal mobile banking system; and reducing costs of remittances transfers (Samoa only).

4: Increased resilience as disability, gender, youth and climate related contingencies are being mainstreamed

Outcome 4 focuses on improving labor market integration of jobseekers including persons living with disabilities, school dropouts, women and youth more generally. Also, as natural hazards and other climate change-related risks impact the poor more significantly, recognizing the solidarity nature of the Social Protection systems, specific benefits will be designed to help individuals and households recover from disasters. The status of the activities in this are as follows:

Monitoring and data collection

Monitoring and data collection has been a challenge. Monitoring activities from afar is not easy. The work from home system for all Tas has meant we rely on zoom meetings and reports received as evidence of work done. It also meant longer waiting time for results to be received. Work added an extra load as groundwork was all done in country while the TA tried to negotiate and navigate through technology to collect data not readily available online. Data collection was also a challenge when interviews and zoom meetings were

arranged. Time zones were the biggest issue as meeting and catch-ups sometimes were at odd hours of the day.

III. JP finalization and evaluation system

Final JP evaluation and lessons learned

The date when the evaluation was launched (month/year): January 2023

The date when the evaluation report was approved (month/year): February/March 2023

- ***Establishing stakeholder support, understanding and ownership from the outset***

Any initiative is deemed to fail if the necessary initial steps are not given proper due consideration. When the inception of the implementation of Program commenced in July 2020, the key concern that was first raised by stakeholders (most of them are from key government agencies working in the space of social protection) was the lack of consultation with them on the development process of the Program. The Program was designed without proper consultations with key stakeholders in government and the private and civil society sectors for their inputs. As such, there was an initial level of hesitation from key government agencies to participate and be involved in the program implementation. As such, the initial discussions show the difficulty for stakeholders to have a coherent perception and shared understanding of the Program in terms of its purpose, intentions, and activities and how these fit and align with the existing and planned work of the different stakeholder organisations.

The Program was developed in-house with limited inputs from key national and local organisations especially those with direct roles and responsibilities in developing, managing, and delivering services and programs across different components/aspects of the national social protection systems. The Program was largely seen as an imposition on the respective governments and countries. Given this limitation, the first six (6) months of the inception phase of the Program implementation was spent on building the required engagement and support of the different stakeholder organisations through one-on-one dialogues/meetings with key individual agencies, and through workshops and group meetings of the Technical Committees. Maintaining the interests of the Technical Committee members and developing their sense of ownership of the Program were fundamental aspects for ensuring improved effectiveness and efficiency of the Program implementation.

- ***Consideration of a realistic and flexible program design and implementation modality***

The design of the SP-JP was overambitious with an unrealistic expectation that all activities outlined in the endorsed Program Document will be completed within the original designed period of 1.5 years. Most of these activities which concern the design, implementation, and institutionalization of reforms in the social protection areas take time, and that a minimum of five (5) years is needed for these types of institutional reforms to be designed, accepted by government and other key stakeholders and implementers, and to be implemented and institutionalised effectively. For instance, support was earmarked under the Program towards the development and implementation of a Management Information System (MIS) for social protection and that an MIS was expected to be completed for all four PICTs. However, Samoa does not have a national focal agency for social protection whose role is to coordinate, monitor and evaluate social protection measures including driving the required policy directions and regulatory functions. As well, there is no explicit social welfare function and there is no policy direction for social protection which should direct the development of a national MIS in Samoa. A national policy for social protection was developed with support under the Program, but it has taken more than a year for the policy to be considered and endorsed by government. The political support for the Program is critical for its effective and efficient implementation but this was lacking from the outset.

One of the key challenges with the Program is its rigid design – that any major change in its design (25% and above in the original design and activities) has to be submitted to the funder (SDG secretariat) for approval. The movement of funds between outcome areas was not allowed. A number of emerging issues and changes in the environment affected the context in which the Program was implemented, and which required a review and change in the program design to respond appropriately. These issues and changes included:

- The delays in the government’s endorsement of the social protection policy continued to impact on the delays and non-implementation of activities in Samoa. The policy is needed to give the overall strategic development for various programs, measures, schemes, and activities to proceed - providing the leadership endorsement and support for the development and strengthening of the overall social protection system in Samoa, now and going forward.
- The Covid-19 pandemic continued to impact travel and readiness of key implementing agencies across the four PICTs. Travel and work restrictions as well as national lockdowns contributed to the hold-up or slow progress with implementation. The pandemic hampered the delivery of activities with the inability of technical assistances to be in-country to work with key counterparts. This resulted in the identification of local counterparts who were already working full-time but took on additional responsibilities to ensure activities were carried out, although not as timely as anticipated due to competing priorities. Program staff and technical assistances had to collaborate with counterparts remotely in the design, management, and implementation of activities. This was a challenge in terms of the effectiveness of program delivery and results - in ensuring that the support provided is tailored and customised to the specific development needs of the counterparts and the activities that are being implemented.
- While the no cost extensions helped effective and efficient delivery of many planned activities, it still posed significant challenges where major reprogramming of activities was required in the face of major challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic. As the scope of the extension was less than one year, building the interests of the stakeholders and key implementing partners and designing new activities within the limited scope of time frame remained a challenge.
- The political stalemate following the 2021 General Elections in Samoa caused delays in engaging with key stakeholders in government and finding the right timing for government’s endorsement of activities. This was the first time Samoa had a change in government (from the Human Rights Protection Party – HRPP) for over 40 years. There was a need to give the new (Faatuatua ile Atua Samoa ua Tasi – FAST) government time to settle in before engaging further on key initiatives under the Program. The national policy for social protection is one of such initiatives which still await consideration and endorsement by the new government.

- ***Readiness of the implementing agencies and government to provide leadership support***

The novelty of adapting and developing social protection in contexts such as the four PICTs, meant that sufficient time is to be allowed for social protection concepts to be widely discussed and accepted by counterparts including thinking about the contextualisation of such concepts, as well building and developing the systems for social protection. This includes the development and strengthening of the whole mechanisation processes of the different dimensions/components of social protection (active labour market, social insurance and social assistances or welfares) in national systems and processes. The readiness of key implementing agencies especially those in government is a major issue affecting the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of the Program. Several activities were delayed, with some not yet implemented in full modality as key implementing agencies were not yet ready to take on board and absorb key social protection initiatives adopted and advanced under the Program. Examples including the social protection policies, management information systems, health insurances, social security, child responsive social protection, social welfares, capacity and institutional building, fiscal space improvements, and others. Adopting, developing, strengthening, and advancing national social protection is a public policy reform agenda that is to be driven by government with the support of non-government stakeholders and development partners. As such, the agenda has to be readily accepted and taken on board at the political and administrative level of the government.

- ***Need to consider delays in the procurement processes and their impact on implementation***

Individual agency (PUNO) procurement processes caused delays in implementation of activities. On average, it takes 4-5 months for a procurement process to be completed before a technical assistant, consultant or staff is on board. Each PUNO has its own procurement requirements (which are parts of the agency) to be fulfilled and to be followed through which caused several delays in getting the required personnel on board and on time to perform certain technical activities and tasks under the Program. Around 90% of program activities are performed through short-term consultancy modalities and hence the delays in the recruitment of short-term consultancy is a real issue and challenge for the efficiency and effectiveness of the Program delivery and implementation.

- ***Program coordination is essential for synergies, alignment and value for money***

The four outcome areas of the Program are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. Their contributions toward the progressive achievement of the overall objectives and goals of the Program thus requires alignment of activity and implementation modalities across the different components and activities of the Program. As such, effective coordination of implementation including PUNO workplans, activities and approaches to ensure synergies, value for money and alignment of initiatives is important. However, this has been a key challenge when activity implementation is dispersed amongst the four PUNOs with each PUNO having its own institutional systems, policies, procedures, processes, and dynamics which are used for, and thus shaped, the processes of implementation. There have been notable overlaps⁷ and difficulties with reporting on the overall outcome areas when each PUNO has prerogative and preferences over its own workplans, funding, processes and working arrangements with different stakeholders. The intention of a One Program under the One UN system remains a challenge for a joint program delivery and implementation.

The independent end-of-program evaluation once completed which will provide further recommendations and lessons learnt to inform the design and implementation of future programs or interventions aimed at development and strengthening social protection systems in the Pacific Island countries and territories.

AFTER THE JP: FOLLOW-UP AND POSSIBILITIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF THE IMPACT AND FURTHER SCALING

The following are suggested follow-ups and possibilities to facilitate and encourage the sustainability of the efforts and initiatives progressed under the SP-JP.

- ***Future programs for social protection***

The SP-JP is the first Program of its kind for the Pacific Islands region. While this is not to say that the Pacific Island countries do not have formal social protection, the Program is the first of its kind in terms of its overall purpose geared towards assisting the Pacific island countries and territories with the development and strengthening of universal, evidence-based, viable, sustainable, and nationally owned social protection systems. The Program was intended to be implemented for only one and half (1½) years but was extend for another year given the delays and reasons identified under section 2.1 above. As mentioned, the reforms agenda anticipated under the Program in the areas of social protection take years to develop and to be accepted and institutionalised in national systems and processes. As such, the 2½ years is not sufficient to implement and sustain these types of reform processes especially within the contexts and existing mechanisms of national systems, and to see some real impacts on the ground. As such, it is important to maintain the momentum for the development of these national social protection reforms through ongoing or future programs. The UNCT has an obligation to continue its support for the sustainability of social protection development agendas in the Pacific as part of contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and outcomes of the UNDP Pacific Strategy 2018-2022. Another follow-up program or phase of the SP-JP is recommended to continue the positive progress made under this first phase of the SP-JP.

- ***Continuous support for the uptake of the different components of social protection***

The four PICTs have different national systems and capacities for the adoption, implementation and absorption of the activities and changes instigated under the Program. As such, efforts were made to tailor the initiatives and activities to the contexts of the different PICTs.⁸ Each country is at a different level of development and have different priority needs which means different components and aspects of social protection require different levels of development across the four PICTs. For instance, the Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau have good social welfare systems but improving citizen coverage of cash transfers remains a challenge for their remote outer islands. Samoa is an independent state but does not yet have a formal welfare system - it is still relied on the mechanisms of the informal system to fill this gap in its social protection system.

⁷ Examples include social protection trainings delivered by UNDP and then by UNICEF. The training by UNICEF was not part of the original design and workplan. Also, fiscal space analysis for social protection and a proposed social assistance for persons with disabilities under covered under the national social protection review and policy developed under the UNDP. However, the same fiscal space analysis and cash transfer for persons with disability were carried out and proposed by the UNESCO.

⁸ For instance, Samoa does not have a formal social welfare system in place, compared to Niue, Tokelau, and Cook Islands. As territories these smaller countries have formal social welfare systems in alignment with the New Zealand social welfare system.

It follows that it makes sense for the sustainability of the initiatives/activities progressed and implemented under the SP-JP that support for the uptake of the different components of social protection across the four PICTs is continue in order to facilitate their sustainability. Some initiatives (e.g., social protection policy development and implementation, MIS, mobile applications, social welfares, and active labour market programs) are only at the initial stage of development and implementation and it will a pity to see the discontinuation of these initiatives when there is a lack of ongoing support with the SP-JP concluding in December 2022. Sustaining the different initiatives instigated and implemented under the SP-JP thus requires continuous support for the uptake and continuation of those initiatives to ensure that their actual uptake is completed and institutionalised in the relevant agencies. The support can be provided under other ongoing or new programs/projects of the different PUNOs or the UN systems.

- **Targeted programs for different components of social protection**

Another option to consider in further programs or support initiatives is to have targeted programs for different components of social protection such as for the active labour market schemes, social assistances, and social insurance. This is important given that countries are at different stages of social protection development and are addressing their national priority development needs in social protection - across the different aspects/components of the social protection systems. The types of support that is required depend on whether it is to strengthen existing social protection measures or to put into place new measures. Notable with the implementation of the SP-JP are the following gaps with the different components of social protection which need to be targeted in further development programs:

- Lack of consolidated efforts for the development and strengthening of active labour market programs across the PICTs. Samoa has a huge youth unemployment issue, and this focus is needed.
- Continuous support to develop and finalise national social protection policies and to implement these policies through a phase approach.
- Putting into place the operational systems for social protection in needed areas (e.g., MIS, social welfares, health insurance, social security, child-sensitive social protection measures and others) and ensure support is provided to sustain these systems.
- Building shock-responsive and disaster resilience social protection with ongoing priority to build recovery from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Developing resilience of people through social protection including their financial inclusivity as well as their contribution and accessibility to social protection measures.

- **Capacity building in social protection**

Social protection (in the formal systems) remains a novel area of development and concept for many Pacific Island countries. There is still a high level of resistance and negative perception amongst Pacific Island countries that social protection is an imported concept and a policy transfer from the developed countries that have sufficient resources to implement universal social protection measures especially in the cases of social assistances and cash transfers. As such, its applicability to the contexts of small Pacific Island developing countries remain questionable. The idea that social protection is a system aimed at building resilience against life cycle vulnerabilities and contingencies is not yet developed and operationalised through the mindsets and operational systems of key local organisations as agents of change. As such, capacity building of local people (especially those working in the space of social protection) is an inevitable part of developing and strengthening formal social protection measures in the PICTs. Ongoing training is needed. Targeted technical support is required in the take up and operationalisation of certain social protection measures in key ministries/agencies in government. Further capacity building remains important to the sustainability and continuity of social protection programs and initiatives.

Annex 1: Consolidated Final Results

1. JP CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL FUND'S PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS

- Provide data for the Joint SDG Fund global results (as per targets defined in the JP document).

Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

Select up to 3 SDG *indicators* that your Joint Programme primarily contributed to (in relation to SDG targets listed in your JP ProDoc)

SDG 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate SP systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

SDG 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

SDG 4.2: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education.

SDG 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and SP policies.

SDG 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities.

SDG 10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and SP policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

SDG 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

SDG 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

SDG 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.

Global Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

Outcome indicators	Expected final target	Final result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)
1.1: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope ⁹	4	4	-
<i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samoa Social Protection Policy • Tokelau Social Protection Policy 			

⁹Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

1.2: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale ¹⁰			
<i>List the policies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of Improvement for Cook Islands • Samoa Social Protection Policy • Tokelau National Social Protection Policy • Samoa National Employment Policy 			

Global Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Output indicators	Expected final target	Final result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)
3.1 Number of innovative solutions that were tested (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)		10	
3.2: Number of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead		10	

Did your Joint Programme contribute to strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: through MPI Training (March 2021); social protection training (October/November 2022); Technical Committee meetings

2. RESULTS AS PER JP PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK

- Present final JP results in the following template as per JP's Programmatic Results Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2020 target	2020 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected 2021 target.	Expected final target (if different from 2021)
Outcome level:						
Outcome 1 - Universal, inclusive and equitable Social Protection Systems Leave No one Behind. [UNPS Outcomes 2, 3 and 5; SDG Targets 1.3, 2.1, 4.2, 5.4, 8.5, 10.4, 13.1, 17.1].		1% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 (assessed toward the end of programme)		4	4

¹⁰Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

Outcome 2 - Social Protection floors are efficiently and effectively administered (financial management, institutional framework and capacity, evidence based planning drawing on robust information management systems). [UNPS Outcome 5; SDG Targets 1.3 and 17.1].		5% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 (assessed toward the end of programme)		4	4
Outcome 3 - Financial inclusion in Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau enables low transaction cost transfers of Social Protection benefits. [UNPS Outcomes 3 and 5; SDG Targets 1.3, 5.4, 8.5, 10.4, 13.1 and 17.1].		5% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 (assessed toward the end of programme)		4	4
Outcome 4 - Increased resilience as disability, gender, youth and climate related contingencies are being mainstreamed. [UNPS outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; SDG Targets 1.3, 2.1, 4.2, 5.4, 8.5, 10.4, 13.1, and 17.1].		5% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 (assessed toward the end of programme)			
Output level:						
Output 1.1						
Number of individuals consulted in the design of the Social Protection floor disaggregated by sex.		1000 (2020) 5000 (2021)	515 (2020)	Only 6 months of 2020		500 (2021)
Number of civil society organizations participating in the design and testing of the SP floor components.		10 (2020) 20 (2021)	10 (2020)	Only 6 months of 2020		10 (2021)
Poverty and vulnerability mapping using data innovation has been completed to inform social protection floor budgeting.		50% (2020) 100% (2021)	20% (2020)	Only 6 months of 2020		20% (2021)
Output 1.2						

Number of Government and Parliament members trained in planning and budgeting, including Gender-based budgeting for the operationalization of the SP floor disaggregated by sex.		100 (2021) 200 (2022)	Target for this indicator is for 2021			
Number of partnerships including public-private partnerships established for the operationalization of the SP floor.		2 (2020) 4 (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.		4 (2021)	4 (2021)
Number of social workers trained disaggregated by sex.		50 (2020) 100 (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.		0	0
Output 1.3						
Number of school age children benefiting from school feeding (disaggregated by sex).		500 (2020) 1000 (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			
Number of certified civil society organizations providing social services# to people in need.		10 (2020) 20 (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.		2 (2021)	2 (2021)
Number of PICTS that design Pilot Projects to draft frameworks or policies for the social protection of PWD		0.5 Samoa 1 Cook Islands	Target for this indicator is for 2021		0.5 Samoa 1 Cook Islands	
Output 1.4						
Reduction in fiscal deficit of pension funds.		10% (2020) 20% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			
Increase in number of persons living with disabilities who have access to benefits disaggregated by sex and disability.		10% (2020) 30% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			
Increase in number of entitled individuals who gain access to		10% (2020) 30% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			

other non-contributive schemes disaggregated by sex.						
Output 2.1						
Number of village registration points established for the implementation of the SP floor.		100 (2020) 200 (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			
Output 2.2						
Number of public servants trained to assess eligibility and address claims for redress who received certification, disaggregated by sex.		100 (2020) 200 (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.		29 (2022) 3 male 25 females	
Output 2.3						
Proportion of unfunded SP benefits.		40% (2020) 10% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			
Output 3.1						
Proportion of non-public employees' beneficiary of SP with a bank account disaggregated by sex.		30% (2020) 50% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			
Number of people with disabilities who have access to mobile banking disaggregated by sex.		100 (2020) 300 (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			
Number of payment systems reviewed for accessibility			Target for this indicator is for 2021			
Output 4.1						
Proportion of job seekers registered in the job mediation system (disaggregated by sex, disability and age group).		10% (2020) 30% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			

Percentage of job seeking women enrolled in job mediation and vocational training services.		10% (2020) 30% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			
Output 4.2						
Proportion of SP budget allocated for climate related contingencies.		10% (2020) 20% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			
Activity level:						
DRG established in all 4 PICTs.		100% (2020)	75% (2020) (3 out of 4)	3	3	4
Output 4.1						
Proportion of job seekers registered in the job mediation system (disaggregated by sex, disability and age group).		10% (2020) 30% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			
Percentage of job seeking women enrolled in job mediation and vocational training services.		10% (2020) 30% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			
Output 4.2						
Proportion of SP budget allocated for climate related contingencies.		10% (2020) 20% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021 or beyond.			
Activity level:						
DRG established in all 4 PICTs.		100% (2020)	75% (2020) (3 out of 4)		4	4
SP indicators for social inclusion/protection established.		100% (2021)	50% (2020)			
SP systems for early childhood development established with costing included.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.			
Technical Committee established in each of the 4 PICT. TC meetings on a regular basis.		100% (2020)	100% (2020)		4	4

SP Review Report.		100% (2020)	70% (2020)		4	4
Business case with Cabinet Submission prepared and submitted to Government.		100% (2021)	70% (2020)		4	2
Proposed SP System documented.		100% (2021)	70% (2020)			
Report on child sensitive system		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.			
Gender-sensitive SPF incorporated		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		1	1
Implementation Plan revised based on experts' inputs.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.			
Consultations completed		100% (2021)	60% (2020)		100%	
Awareness programs completed		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100%	
SP taskforce established		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		4	4
On-going Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) with the Seasonal workers completed.		100% (2021)	50% (2020)		100% (2021)	
National capacity trainings for constituents and labour inspections on cases of sexual harassment - and on mediating completed.		100% (2021)	60% (2020)			
Follow-up survey on Rapid Assessment Survey Samoa completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100% (2021)	100% (2021)

SP package established and piloted.		100% (2021)				
Capacity development trainings completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100% (2022)	100% (2021)
Review Reports completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100% (2021)	100% (2021)
SPFs reviewed incorporating expert inputs.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100% (4)	100% (4)
consultations meetings completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100% (2021)	100% (2021)
Review reports endorsed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.			
Draft legislation completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.			
Review reports endorsed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100% (2022)	
Stakeholder coordination mechanisms in each country established.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100% (2022)	
Capacity building of PWD conducted.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100% (2022)	

Agreement on OSH data and information sharing established. Integrating OSH registries completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.			
MPI established		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		1	1
Mobile platform for beneficiaries established and tested.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		2	3

Expert review of data systems completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.			
Integrated SP information systems established.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.			
OSH Registries System (MCIL) upgraded.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100%	
Citizens' reporting mechanism and data analysis tool using mobile phone technology developed and piloted.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		1	3
Training completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100% (MPI Training)	
Training completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100% (Social Protection)	
Review report completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.			

Gap analysis report completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		100%	
Universal mobile banking system for SP payment design completed and tested.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.			
Report on cost of remittance transfers including through the use of fintech completed.		100% (2021)	30% (2020)		100% (2022)	
SP impact on social cohesion report completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.			
Report on the role of informal systems for social inclusion and protection completed.		100% (2021)	30% (2020)			
Report on policy guide on enhancing the contribution of trade to poverty alleviation and social inclusion completed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		1	1
Job seekers registries modified and strengthened.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		1	1
Review of existing SNEP Report & new SNEP completed.		100% (2021)	50% (2020)		1	1
2 Internship programmes with SCCI completed.		100% (2021)	50% (2020)		2	2
Partnership with SBH		100% (2021)	60% (2020)		1	1
Policies to protect workers and vulnerable groups developed.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		1	1
Awareness raising programs implemented.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.		2	2

Reports on work undertaken for horizontal and vertical scalability and readiness for use in humanitarian response.		100% (2021)	Target for this indicator is for 2021.			
Policy guide on enhancing synergies between disaster resilience and investment in SP completed.		100% (2021)	50% (2020)			

Annex 2: Strategic documents

- Complete the tables below by focusing on documents that are of particular strategic importance for the JP results – primarily **legal acts, strategies, policy documents, methodological guidance (e.g. SOPs) and reports on comprehensive analysis.**

2.1. CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL PROTECTION STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
SP-JP Multi-year consolidated work plan July 2020 – Dec 2021	August 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
JSC Terms of Reference	July 2020						
TC Terms of Reference (4 PICTs)	July 2020						
TOR – National Consultant (Samoa) on reducing costs of remittance transfers	July 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
TOR - National Consultant (Samoa) on informal social protection	July 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Samoa TC workshop on SP-JP discussion guide	July 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Samoa Disability Reference Group TOR	July 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
6-month update on SP-JP	July 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	

Concept note – Development of a National MPI for Samoa	August 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
TOR – MPI Training and Development of a MPI for Samoa	August 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Samoa	August 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Cook Islands	August 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Niue	August 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Tokelau	August 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Draft SP-JP Communication Strategy	September 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
TOR – Review and Development of SP in Samoa	September 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
TOR – Stock take and review of SP in the Cook Islands	September 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Policy brief - Designing disaster-responsive social protection for increasing resilience: Issues to consider	September 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
TOR – National Consultant (Samoa) on disaster-responsive social protection	September 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Samoa Pilot Project LIC (Limited International Competition)	September 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
TOR - Stock take and review of SP in Niue	October 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Stock take and review of SP in Tokelau	October 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Niue DRG TOR	October 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Joint Programme Quarterly Check - Portfolio on Integrated SP & LNOB	October 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Samoa	Nov 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Cook Islands Pilot Project Concept Note	Nov 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Niue Pilot Project Concept Note	Nov 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Revised SP-JP M&E Framework	December 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	

Report - Review and Assessment of Social Protection Systems in Samoa	January 2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Report - Proposed SP System for Samoa	January 2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Report – Stock take and review of SP systems in the Cook Islands	January 2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Regional Fiscal Space Inception Report	January 2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Samoa	January 2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Cook Islands	January 2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Social Protection Policy	August 2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
National Social Protection Policy for Samoa	2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Samoa National Employment Policy 2021/2025	2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Social Protection Indicators Matrix (SPIM)for Samoa	2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Final Report on Fiscal Space Analysis for Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities in Niue, Tokelau, Cook Islands and Samoa	2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Options Papers for Niue, Tokelau, Cooks Islands and Samoa on Research on Fiscal Space for Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities.	2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Development of a Proposed Disability Social Security Package for “Strengthening Resilience of Pacific Islands States Through Universal Social Protection” Planning Report	2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Final validation Report on C190	2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Study and analysis on the Role of the Informal and	2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	

traditional systems in social protection in Samoa							
Study and analysis on the contribution to social protection of remittances including the costs of remittance transfers.	2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Report on the "Legal Review of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work" in Samoa	2021	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Niue	January 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
ToR – Tokelau Database Developer	September 2022	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
ToR – End of Programme Evaluation (Firm)	September 2022	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
ToR – End of Programme Evaluation (International Consultant)	November 2022	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
ToR – End of Programme Evaluation (National Consultants)	November 2022	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Joint Programme 6 monthly - Portfolio on Integrated SP & LNOB	August 2022	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Cook Islands	January 2022	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Niue	January 2022	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Cook Islands	March 2022	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Niue	March 2022	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Samoa	March 2022	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
SP-JP Progress Report for Tokelau	March 2022	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Exit and Sustainability Strategy	December 2022	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing)

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	<i>If published, provide the hyperlink</i>
Socio-economic impact assessment of COVID-19 in Samoa Report	Nov 2020	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Gender Responsive Social Protection System		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Informal Costing of the Social Protection System in Samoa		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
MPI Report for Samoa		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Social Protection Training Report		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
MPI Training Report		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

2.2. FOCUS ON VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution (but did not produce or lead in producing)

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)

Annex 3: Results questionnaire

- Complete online using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/DfvPvaGfsg>.

Annex 4: Final report on JP evaluation

- *YET TO COMPLETE*
- *Provide separately.*