

**Joint SDG Fund**  
 Model for the Joint Program  
 Final evidence-based narrative report  
**SDG FINANCING PORTFOLIO - COMPONENT 1**

**Cover Page**

**Date of report:** 30 / 06 / 2023

<i><b>Program title and country</b></i>
Country: Mali Joint Program (JP) title: FINANCING HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN MALI MPTF Office Project Reference Number <sup>1</sup> : FC1 2020 MLI

<i><b>Program Duration</b></i>
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<sup>1</sup> The Office MPTF project reference number is the same as the notification message reference number. It is also referred to as the "Project ID" on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#) Project Information Sheet page.

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

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with the approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/steering committee.

<sup>4</sup> If there has been an extension, the revised and approved end date should be indicated here. If no extensions have been approved, the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational close date, i.e. when all activities for which a participating organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. Under the MOU, organizations must notify the MPTF office when a program is completing its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

<sup>5</sup> The financial closure requires the return of unspent balances and the presentation of the [certified final financial statements and report](#).

**Program budget (in US dollars)**

Total budget (according to the program document, without co-financing):

Agency/Other contributions/Co-financing (if applicable):

Joint contribution to the SDG6 Fund and breakdown of funding per year by recipient organization:

Agency/others	Joint contribution from the SDG Fund	Co-financing	Total
UNICEF	\$ 492,200	\$ 599,200	\$ <b>1,091,400</b>
UNDP	\$ 470,800	\$ 609,900	\$ <b>1,080,700</b>
<b>Total</b>	\$ 963,000	\$ 1,209,100	\$ <b>2,172,100</b>

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<sup>6</sup> The joint contribution to the SDG Fund is the amount transferred to participating UN organizations - see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

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## Abbreviations

ANC	Atenatal care
AP	Acceleration Plan
CREDD	Strategic Framework for economic growth and sustainable development
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CT-CSLP	Cellule Technique du Cadre Strategique de lutte contre la pauvreté
DFA	Development Finance Assessment
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
EMOP	Enquete Modulaire et Permanente Aupres des Menages
EU	European Union (EU)
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
JP	Joint Program
MoF	Ministry of Finance
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
OBI	Open Budget Index
OBS	Open Budget Survey
PER	Public Expenditure Review
PFM	Public Financial Management
PUNOS	UN Participating Agencies
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WFP	World food Programme

## Summary

The Government of Mali, with the support of the United Nations system, benefited from the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Fund to reinforce its ambition to establish an enabled environment for sustainable human capital financing. The program supported a series of high-impact interventions to help address four financial bottlenecks to human capital development: (i) limited fiscal transparency; (ii) low efficiency/effectiveness of public spending; (iii) inequitable spending; and (iv) insufficient financing.

The joint programme was approved in July 2020 against a backdrop of socio-political turmoil that eventually led to a coup d'état in August 2020. In this new context, the priorities of the new transitional government changed considerably. They aimed to provide a comprehensive and coherent response to the problems that had been at the root of the social movements. These included national security and defense and the corporate demands of certain groups of workers, such as those in the education and training sector.

One of the major results of the joint programme in this respect has been to place at the center of the political dialogue the human capital development, which could have suffered from programmatic shifts in the Government's priorities given the large scale of investment in security and defense sectors. To this end, the joint programme has used the national priorities reflected in the strategic framework for economic recovery and sustainable development, which has devoted one of its strategic axes to the development of human capital, as an entry point for dialogue. The transmission of the impact of the coup d'état was also framed in two main areas, namely: (i) Macroeconomic impact including the real sector, public finance, the external sector and the monetary/financial sector; (ii) Social impact, covering health, education, social protection, social cohesion and households etc.

The joint programme has also placed particular emphasis on analytical work such as the analysis of budgets for human capital sectors. The aim is to draw solid conclusions about the government's budgetary priorities from an analysis of trends in budget allocations to these sectors, as well as in actual spending.

Despite the difficult political and institutional setting, the program was instrumental in fostering the momentum to operationalize a multi-stakeholder partnership for SDG financing through the process of developing a National Integrated Financing Framework (NIFF) for sustainable development. The JP contributed to strengthen development effectiveness through the establishment of integrated aid information management system and the production of medium-term external resources framework. The institutionalization and promotion of the culture of program budgeting was advanced with the training of 31 trainers, south-south cooperation for experience and knowledge sharing and production and dissemination of SDG budgeting manual.

## Background

The Government of Mali, with the support of the United Nations system, benefited from the SDG Fund to reinforce its ambition to establish an enabled environment for sustainable human capital financing. The JP was grounded on the premise that the most effective way to improve the allocation and use of public resources is through budget systems that are transparent, open to public engagement and scrutiny, and driven by evidence-based public finance management diagnostics with robust oversight institutions and mechanisms. The program therefore supported a series of high-impact interventions to help address four financial bottlenecks to human capital development: (i) limited fiscal transparency; (ii) low efficiency/effectiveness of public spending; (iii) inequitable spending; and (iv) insufficient financing. These interventions were articulated around four complementary pillars to improve the transparency, value for money, equity, and adequacy of investments in human capital development, as follows: (1) Transparency and accountability: (i) develop and disseminate user friendly and gender sensitive analysis of the State Budget in human capital development sectors; (ii) partner with the International Budget Partnership to improve Mali's budget transparency practices; and (iii) support the Government to record all aid on budget. 2- Efficiency, effectiveness, and equity: (i) Carry out Public Expenditure Reviews (PER) of Human Capital Development sectors (health, education and social protection). 3- Adequate funding: (i): Conduct a Development Finance Assessment (DFA) for development sectors. 4- Policies and capacity: (i) Secondment of economists to the Ministry of Finance; (ii) PFM training programmes.

From a programmatic perspective, the Joint programme is directly aligned with at least two (2) axes of the UNSDCF 2020-2024 approved in April 2020:

(i) Inclusive, Resilient Growth and Environmental Sustainability: with 2 outcomes: Outcome 1: By 2024, the Malian population, particularly the most vulnerable, participates in the economy and benefits from the fruits of strong, inclusive and resilient growth that creates decent jobs. Outcome 2: By 2024, people live under the rule of law, an environment of peace and accountability with strong public institutions, media and civil society exercising their roles and responsibilities for effective and inclusive governance.

(ii) Basic social services and social protection: Outcome 3: By 2024, vulnerable populations, including women, children, adolescents and youth, have more equitable access to quality basic social services, based on their age- and gender-specific needs, including in humanitarian situations. Outcome 4: By 2024, vulnerable people have improved access to social protection services, including in humanitarian settings.

In practice the rapid assessments of the impact of the coup d'Etat conducted by UNDP (macroeconomic component) and UNICEF (Social component) were instrumental to advocate for keeping the human development sectors which are the key target of the Joint programme to the agenda of the government priority during the political transition period of 18 months. This focus will still continue to insure the connection to the SDG agenda.

While the program was officially launched in August 2021, political and Institutional constraints arose from the outset of the coup d'état of August 18, 2020, resulting in a period of great instability with sanctions from sub-regional organisations such as ECOWAS, UEMOA, and the African Union until the installation of a transition government in October 2020, which was also overthrown by another coup d'état in May 2021. This situation led to delays due mainly to the change of Heads of central directorates of certain ministries with which

progress had already been made in the dialog on the operationalisation of the joint program. In addition, as the political transition threatened trust between development partners and political authorities, the necessary political clearance process for certain activities such as Public Financial Management (PFM) training programmes and the approval of public expenditure review reports for dissemination was slowed down and delay expected results.

The budget execution was somewhat disrupted by the economic and financial sanctions imposed by ECOWAS and UEMOA and the crisis in Ukraine. Despite the government's response measures aimed at finding alternatives for goods transactions with other countries bordering Mali such as Guinea and Mauritania, the economic situation has not developed as expected, given the low capacity of the two countries' ports, compared to Dakar and Abidjan, which are traditionally used by Mali. As a result, a temporary drop in customs and even tax revenues were observed during the sanctions period. In addition, the crisis in Ukraine has led to a surge in commodity prices, notably food and fuel (overall inflation was above 5 per cent). Economic growth forecast has been revised downwards. In sum, this situation has contributed to negatively affecting tax revenues which has led to amendments of budgetary law to reflect the budgetary deficit given the impact of the economic crisis. The economic projections were thus fraught with uncertainty. The main risks being the indirect impact of the international context, the political instability, the evolution of the security situation and the pandemic of the COVID-19.

These bottlenecks were addressed through the adoption of an Acceleration Plan (AP) covering the period August to December 2021, backed by new governance arrangements. It should be stressed that the said AP was supported by the establishment of a strategic steering committee and technical committees dedicated to specific activities. The PUNOs technical maintained continuous working engagement and technical assistance to government partners for the implementation of the AP.

The Joint Program (JP) also was extended first till the end of December 2022 and a second extension ended in April 2023.



## Results of the Joint Program

### 1. Overview of strategic end results

#### 1.1. Overall assessment

Despite the complex political and institutional setting, the UN system through the PUNOs were able to secure enough political buy-in and build strong partnerships with various technical directorates endowed with institutional structural functions on development planning and financing to create conditions for adequate, transparent, effective, equitable and efficient sustainable development and SDG financing. A system for monitoring budget allocations participatory budgeting for human capital improvement was kicked-off. Options and reforms for maximising public, private, external, and internal resources with adequate governance system are now put forward with the DFA and an integrated aid coordination platform established.

- Above expectations (fully achieved the expected results of the FP and made further progress)
- Meets expectations (Delivers on JP deliverables)
- Satisfactory (most of the expected results of the FP were achieved, but with some limitations/adjustments)
- Unsatisfactory (most of the expected results of the FP were not achieved due to unforeseen risks or challenges)

#### 1.2 Key results achieved

The Program fostered the momentum to operationalise a multi-stakeholder partnership for SDG financing through the process of developing a National INFF for sustainable development. Major milestones achieved were the Development Financing Assessment and multi-stakeholder financing dialogues held to build a consensus on the roadmap for the establishment of the INFF. In parallel to setting up of INFF, the JP has contributed to deploying a system for productive exploitation of remittances with the establishment of a diaspora desk within the national investment promotion agency with the view to attract, guide and channel resources transferred by Malians living abroad towards productive investments including human capital.

The JP has contributed to strengthening aid comprehensiveness, transparency and accountability through the establishment of an integrated aid information management system (Système Intégré de Gestion de l'Aide Public). This platform is a tool for an integrated state budget and constitutes an entry point for strengthening aid coordination in Mali as it generates a holistic view on donor interventions and thus guides on possible synergies between aid providers. The JP has also improved development effectiveness by strengthening aid predictability through the preparation of medium-term resource frameworks which provide a medium-term view on potential external resources.

The JP contributed to raise awareness about budget transparency mainly the Open Budget Survey (OBS). In this regard the results and recommendations of the OBS were widely disseminated. The services involved in budget transparency and civil society organisations were familiarised with the methodology and tools of the OBS. The results and recommendations were critically examined and discussed with the participation of Benin and DRC

focal point for OBS. The experience sharing led to the adoption of a workplan to address the recommendations in timely fashion with high quality supporting documents.

Thanks to the JP, budget briefs were produced for 5 sectors directly or indirectly linked with human capital: Health, Nutrition, Water hygiene and sanitation, education, and social protection. The added value of the approach used by the JP was the appropriation of the process by the national counterpart so that the practice became a routine even after the JP. In this regard, national specialised teams were set up and data collection, analysis and reporting were conducted under the leadership of the government. The recommendations have a better chance to be implemented as the government was on the driving seat of the process (acceptability). The process to arrive to the recommendations has been mastered by the government and this has contributed to the credibility

The JP has contributed to consolidating the culture of program budgeting with the establishment of a core group of 31 trainers in SDG budgeting, the sharing of experiences through South-South cooperation and the production and dissemination of manuals on budgeting for the SDGs. The JP further contributed to standardize the programme budgeting approach by using the five (5) stages recommended by the WAEMU: (i) Synthesis of global and sectoral strategy documents (Strategic Brief); (ii) Drawing up the programme structure and defining programmes; (iii) Developing the logical framework; (iv) Programme budgeting and (v) Drawing up the programme budget.

### 1.3. Results achieved on the building blocks of the Integrated National Financing Framework/SDGs

<b>Implementation Steps</b>	<b>Planned (0%)</b>	<b>Emerging (1-49% progress)</b>	<b>Progress (50-99% progress)</b>	<b>Completed (100% progress)</b>	<b>Previously Completed</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>1. Launch phase</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>2. Assessment and diagnosis</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3. Funding strategy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>4. Monitoring and review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5. Governance and coordination</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Development Finance Assessment (DFA) was carried out and resulted in a roadmap that was extensively discussed during multi-stakeholder financing dialogues. The roadmap is being finalized based on a consensus reached on the reforms to be put forward for establishing an integrated sustainable development financing. This roadmap provides comprehensive policies and actions for increasing domestic resource mobilization, improving programme-based budgeting and public expenditure effectiveness, scaling up climate financing, credible debt management, revamping development cooperation framework and improving public-private partnerships. The proposed roadmap also includes reforms for boosting private sector investments, improving access to credits for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) for green economy development, developing business plans for green economy sectors, mobilization of innovative private investments in support of the green economy, integration of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) into planning and programming for sustainable development, diaspora financing, strengthen public-private dialogue mechanisms. Regarding the monitoring and evaluation system for sustainable development, the roadmap includes actions to refine and complete the mapping of financing flows for sustainable development, strengthen control and transparency

systems on funding flows, systematic tracking of development results and SDGs. On the governance building block, proposed reforms are to harmonize the national development plan and SDG governance frameworks, establishment of a mechanism to enhance the ownership of the integrated framework by the Government, integration of NGOs in financing and planning approaches for sustainable development. There are also cross-cutting measures related to the SDG costing, fighting corruption and data system.

The DFA was conducted through a comprehensive diagnostic of Mali's financing architecture and development policies, including the SDGs. While acknowledging the information gaps, the DFA provides an overview of development financing trends while accounting for the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and the impact of the Russo-Ukrainian war as well as the energy crisis. The DFA indicates that in volume, all financing flows increased over the period. Private flows were higher than public flows and have grown faster than public and international flows. Domestic flows grew faster in volume than international flows. In percentage of GDP national flows have increased relatively while other flows were relatively stagnant. These developments highlighted efforts to mobilize domestic resources both through an improvement in public revenue and from domestic financial market. Bank financing as well as bonds on the WAEMU market have played a preponderant role, compared to international private flows which were relatively stable. There is also a potential for untapped domestic revenue with a quasi-stabilization of the tax to GDP ratio despite the increase in revenue volume. The DFA recommends a sustainable development financing strategy focused on increasing available financing through (i) accelerated reforms in domestic resource mobilization; (ii) implementing a prudent debt strategy (seeking access to concessional loans and monitoring internal debt developments); and (iii) maximizing the alignment and contributions of private investment with Mali's sustainable development priorities and SDGs.

The main components of the funding strategy were identified by the DFA. The strategy will be developed the 2nd half of 2023.

The main components of the monitoring and evaluation framework were identified by the DFA. The monitoring and evaluation framework will be defined in the 2nd half of 2023.

The governance and coordination framework will be determined in the 2nd half of 2023.

## 1.4. Contribution to accelerating the SDGs



According to the World Bank (2021), the extreme poverty rate, which was 47.2% between 2011 and 2015 due to the security crisis, has fallen to 42.3% in 2019 thanks to exceptional agricultural production since 2014. The health, security, social, and political crises of 2020 led to a 5% increase in poverty. The densely populated rural areas of the south account for 90% of the country's poverty. The incidence of poverty remains high despite the slight decrease observed, with 41.9% in 2020 compared to 42.3% in 2019. It is also marked by strong disparities between rural and urban areas, as well as between regions.

As a result of policy dialogue, the JP has initiated around poverty measurement, data on poverty will be updated through various household's surveys including consumption and revenues. In addition, partnership with academia will contribute to routinise the poverty measurement. A budget brief was also conducted on social protection.



Malnutrition remains a public health concern in Mali as it has been for more than a decade in most sub-Saharan African countries. It constitutes a heavy burden that compromises the economic and social development of the individual, the family, the community and the state. The SMART surveys conducted in the country between 2016 and 2021 suggest that despite a slight downward trend, the various forms of malnutrition are still prevalent. The prevalence of acute malnutrition is still around 10%. However, the prevalence of severe acute malnutrition remains above or equal to the emergency threshold of 2% according to the WHO classification. According to the last SMART survey conducted in 2021, the national prevalence of global acute malnutrition is 10.0% and that of severe acute malnutrition 1.8%. (SMART, 2021).

The JP supported the production of a specific budget brief of nutrition sector to raise the government attention on the need to preserve budget for this sector given its potential impact of human capital through the future economic productivity of the population.



Overall, there has been very little progress in the area of health and well-being indicators in recent years. Despite a slight decrease in infant mortality from 56 to 54 per 1,000 live births between 2012 and 2018, under five mortality increased significantly over the same period from 95 to 101 per 1,000 (DHS, 2018). The immunisation indicators remain globally stagnant, mainly due to the difficulty of ensuring the continuity of health services in certain regions where insecurity is very high. According to the routine statistics, coverage in terms of use of maternal and child health services remains low, which may indicate that maternal mortality ratio could deteriorate further. Indeed, ANC 4 coverage is only 24% in 2020 compared to 27% in 2019. The rate of births attended by skilled personnel is only 39% in 2020 compared to 42% in 2019.

The JP supported the production of a budget brief to serve the advocacy efforts in health sector aiming at meeting the international commitment of 15 per cent allocation of state budget to health sector.



The completion rate for Basic I (fundamental 1) has declined between 2017 (48%) and 2020 (43.0%). During the same period, the completion rate for Basic II (fundamental 2) was 35.4% and 34.5%. The completion rate for boys (37.1%) is higher than girls (32.6%). School wastage, dropping out, early marriage, rural exodus and insecurity are among the explanatory reasons of the decline. The percentage of repeaters increased from 14.5% (2017) to 18.2% (2020) (Review of the CREDD, 2020). The Education sector policy document has set a goal to reduce the repeating rate to 5% by 2030 for the first six years of basic education.

The JP supported the production of a budget brief to serve the advocacy efforts in education sector in a context of school closure due to insecurity.



The law 052 of December 2015 instituting gender promotion has had a significant impact on the percentage of positions held by women in Mali. However, it should be noted that these bodies are not functional in the regions (regional gender committees). In 2021 the women participation in the Conseil national de transition (the equivalent of Parliament for the transition period) is 27.3% of seats. 25% of elected seats were held by women in deliberative bodies of local government. The rate of out of school children Primary and Lower Secondary education is 48% for women and 41% for men (UNWOMEN Country fact sheet, 2022). The proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic chores and care work is 20.4% for women compared to 2.5% for men. 53.7% of women aged 20-24 years were married or in a union before age 18 while 16% were married before age 15. (UNWOMEN Country fact sheet, 2022)



The indicators of WASH sector show a slight improvement over the period 2018 and 2020, particularly the rate of access to drinking water at the national, urban and semi-urban and rural levels. According to Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP,2020), 83% of the Malian population used drinking water from an improved source (72% in rural areas and 96% in urban areas). 4% of the Malian population made a round trip of more than 30 minutes to fetch drinking water from an improved water source. Overall, 12% of the population used water from an unprotected source (in rural areas, this rate is 22%). As for the sanitation indicators they have evolved timidly from 2018 to 2020, with the rate of access to sanitation remaining stationary between 2019 and 2020. 20% of the Malian population benefited from a safely managed sanitation service. This rate is 28% in rural areas and 10% in urban areas. 25% of the population used improved facilities that are not shared with other households. In rural areas this rate was 9% and in urban areas 46%. 17% used improved facilities that are shared between 2 or more households. In rural areas, this rate was 7% and 30% in urban areas. 5% of population are still practicing open free defecation.

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17% of the population had handwashing facilities with soap and water. This rate increased from 9% in rural areas to 27% in urban areas. 57% had handwashing facilities without soap and water at home. This rate is 61% in rural areas and 42% in urban areas.

The JP supported the production of a budget brief to serve the advocacy efforts in WASH sector.



The incidence of poverty, i.e., the proportion of Malian households in which annual per capita expenditure does not reach the minimum threshold of 269,485 CFA francs to meet their needs, is estimated at 42.1% in 2018 (INSTAT, 2020). Poverty remains an essentially rural phenomenon. The proportion of households living below the poverty line is 50.5%, compared to 18.2% in urban areas. The male-headed households (4.7%) are slightly more exposed to extreme poverty than female-headed households (3.4%). Mali has a highly unequal expenditure structure, with the 5th quintile accounting for 41.9% of total household consumption. The dispersion ratio of the deciles shows that the richest 10% (10th decile) consume on average 7 times what the 10% of individuals consume. The Gini index is estimated at 0.33 in 2018. From a subjective point of view, almost 48.9% of very rich households believe they are less rich and 46.1% of these households believe they are poor. (EMOP, 2021)

### 1.5. Contribution to SDG funding flows

The funding strategy is expected to be implemented in the second half of 2023. Meanwhile the JP has pushed the government to tap into innovative financing options as an opportunity to be sized to mobilized additional resources to address budgetary gaps in the financing of local development plan. The different options were explored, and recommendations called for a need to consider the legal framework and the country context as they could cumulatively play a critical role.

The DFA includes a component on the diagnosis of renewable energy financing, focusing on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In addition, the financing strategy is planned to be implemented in the 2nd half of 2023.

### 1.6. Achievements in contributing to the reform of the United Nations development system

The JP provided an opportunity to enhance collaborations beyond the SDG Fund financing. For instance, UNICEF and UNDP reinforced collaborations on various activities. Through the DFA, the JP provided a platform for extensive dialogues on development financing for development within the United Nations system but also with other development partners. Two discussions were held during UN country team meeting and two meetings were held the donor's coordination group in Mali.

South-South cooperation developed through the JP implementation was also a great deal of cost reduction as it helps identify experts from various country offices as alternative to the recruitment of external experts. The JP reduced the costs of organizing a training session by mobilizing two UNICEF experts to lead a child-sensitive budgeting theme. This intervention avoided the need for external providers to the United Nations system, which required a fee.

#### 1.7. Results achieved on cross-cutting issues

The JP contributes to shed light on the progress made and challenges to be addressed towards gender transformative public policies. The DFA included several recommendations addressing gender inequalities, such as (i) gender-based analysis in the climate sector; (ii) strategic directions to address gender-based inequalities and vulnerabilities while maximizing the contribution of men and women; (iii) in each sector, objectives and indicators of results and impact on gender equality in the areas of mitigation and adaptation.

#### 1.8. COVID-19 recovery results

The DFA highlighted the impact of COVID on development financing. It took advantage of various support provided by the UN system to inform and adequate and effective mitigation plan. The UN's support resulted in three studies that informed the DFA: a study on the macroeconomic effects of COVID-19, a study on the social effects of the pandemic and a study on the effect on private sector.

The JP was directly aligned with three (3) out of the five (5) pillars of the UN's global framework for the urgent socio-economic response (SERP) to COVID-19:

- ✓ Protecting health services and systems.
- ✓ Social protection and basic services and
- ✓ macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration

The evaluation of the SERP called for a stronger partnership framework and the need to leverage resources to address the short-term socio-economic impact of the covid-19 while connecting this response to the system.

#### 1.9. Strategic partnerships

The Program helped strengthen partnerships with key government entities involved in the planning, programming, budgeting, and monitoring and evaluation chain. The preparation of the DFA provided the opportunity to enhance partnerships with the main private sector union. It also provided opportunities to initiate technical dialogues with key development partners including European Union (EU), World Bank, IMF which have critical roles in public finance management and reforms.

Along with traditional partnership with UN sister agencies through joint programme between "UNICEF and WFP" on resilience and social protection; "UNICEF and UNDP" on human capital and "UNICEF, FAO and WFP" on resilience, partnership with the International Financial Institutions was explored. This has led to the conclusion of important structuring partnerships with world Bank involving funds channeled via UNICEF and the leveraging of resources to invest more on social protection and more broadly on human capital sector.

### 1.10. Individual funding mobilized

Source of funding	Yes	No	Type of co-financing/co-financing	Organization Name	Amount (USD)	Comments
Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>co-financing from government</i>		\$26,000,000	<i>UNICEF mobilized this contribution under an agreement with the Government of Mali funded by the World Bank. This grant will support the implementation of Income generating activities for Youth and Women and public work</i>
Donors/IFIs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Derivatives industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
PUNES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		UNDP	US\$ 50,000	<i>UNDP will provide funds to support the development of the INFF as the JP ends</i>
Other partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		UNICEF	\$55,000,000	<i>UNICEF mobilized additional resources with Sweden, Canada and German cooperation to support Resilience with a focus on social protection as a key component of Human Capital sector in Mali.</i>

## 2. Results by PC Result and output

### 2.1. Performance of the IMF's overall performance

One of the most important goal of the JP was to improve the allocation and use of public resources. To this ends the JP works on key levers among which (i) The transparency of budget systems (ii) The openness of the budget to the public engagement and scrutiny and (iii) the generation of evidence through public finance management diagnostics and budgets analysis.

Overall this overarching goals has been delayed due to the political and institutional crisis since the adoption of the JP. The changes in government priorities along with trend of sanction from the international community was not in favour of the policy debate that could lead to reach the goal.



## 2.2. Outcome Joint Program Results

### **Transparency and accountability:**

The implementation of the joint programme on human capital contributed to produce budget briefs in the areas of health, education, nutrition, social protection and water, hygiene, and sanitation. The findings revealed that current budget allocations in these sectors are far from the objectives of some of the international commitments made by the country. This trend confirms that of previous years. A plan to implement the recommendations of these budget briefs will provide the government with factual elements on which to base its decisions with a view to allocating sufficient resources to the social sectors, as well as to achieving the objectives of effectiveness and efficiency of social spending.

Mali was part of the regional partnership concluded between International Budget Partnership and 32 african country in budget transparency practices. Thanks to this partnership the Open budget survey was conducted and the results for Mali were disseminated with an action plan to adress the bottlenecks.

The JP contributed to the development and prototyping of an integrated aid information management system and the production of medium-term external resources framework. The training of users, south-south cooperation for experience and knowledge sharing and advocacy around this IMS is a major step toward the institutionalization

### **Efficiency, effectiveness and equity**

In the interest of optimizing resources and coordinating actions to avoid duplication of effort, the JP has benefited from the World Bank's public expenditure review in two major sectors (health and Education). The results of these reviews make it possible to measure progress since the last PER in 2008-2009 and the recommendations serve to guide the government in improving spending in the sectors under review.

The PER of social protection section was not conducted on time given the longer discussions with the government around the opportunity of the activity. As a matter of fact, even the PER of education and Health already conducted and reports made available are still waiting the go ahead to be disseminated. Despite this delay and considering the corporate engagement, the PUNOs have decided to pursue the discussions with the government to reach to an agreement to launch the PER no later than October 2023 outside the JP timeline.

### **Adequate funding:**

Originally the JP plans to conduct a costing of national plans for Human Capital Development sectors, and a fiscal space analysis of the Human Capital Development sectors. The INFF approach has been preferred to have a broader picture of funding and financing ecosystem. In this regard, the Program fostered the momentum to operationalize a multi-stakeholder partnership for SDG financing through the process of developing a National INFF for sustainable development. Major milestones achieved were the DFA and multi-stakeholder financing dialogues held to build a consensus on the roadmap for the establishment of the INFF. In parallel to setting up of INFF, the JP has contributed to deploying a system for productive exploitation of remittances with the establishment of a diaspora desk within the national investment promotion agency with the view to attract,

guide and channel resources transferred by Malians living abroad towards productive investments including human capital.

### **Policies and capacity:**

The JP contributed the build capacity of key players in the PFM system around specific thematic among others: (i) The state budget, the budget reform; (ii) Programme and performance budgeting from SDG perspective

## 2.3. Results achieved by Joint Program output

### *Output 1.1 Citizens have access to quality information on the state of financing for Human Capital Development*

The JP took advantage of existing initiatives with civil society organization such “Groupe de Suivi Budgetaire” to reinforce the need to make available the citizen budget in the due course. A direct partnership is under discussion with GSB to enlarge the scope of work to additional areas such as (i) In-depth analysis of budgetary efficiency and effectiveness in social sectors; (ii) Analysis of chart of accounts to routinise budget analysis; (iii) Advocacy note to feed into the budgetary dialogue prior to the preparation of the initial law; (iv) Training of civil society and parliamentarians.

### *Output 1.2 indicator Budget transparency practices have improved*

The JP supported the Ministry of Finance to identify and implement concrete actions to improve country's score for budget transparency in the sense of the OBS. In this regards a national team was put in place to analyses the recommendations and propose and action plan with a capacity analysis of services involved in the implementation. A national workshop with the participation of Benin and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) focal points for OBS was organized to share experience and best practices. Overall, the between 2019 and 2021 the score of Mali for budget transparency went from 39/100 to 8/100; 4/100 to 7/100 for participation and 43/100 to 30/100 for budget oversight. Given the very nature of data collected retroactively the ongoing action will shows results in OBS 2023.

### *Output 1.3 External assistance is recorded on-budget*

A financial information Management Sytem has been developped and is being used to collect financial data and record development assistance flow.

### *Output 2.1 Value for money diagnostics of current investments in human capital in Mali is available*

Despite the aailability of the 2 reports on Public expenditures review for education and health sectors conducted by the world Bank, the JP does not succeed in dissminating the results due to the lack of official authorisation to use the results. Having this background, discussions to implement the PER for social protection sector were delayed.

### *Output 2.2 Plans to improve the efficiency effectiveness and equity of domestic and public spending for Human Capital are implemented*

Not achieved due to the delay in implementing the PER.

### *Output 3.1: Resource requirements to finance Human Capital Development national objectives are identified*

DFA and INFF ongoing and results will be used to assess the funding and financing capacities of SDGs in Mali from multi-stakeholders' perspective.

*Output 3.2: Financing options (including innovative financing) for human capital sectors are identified*

The funding strategy is expected to be implemented in the 2nd half of 2023. Meanwhile the JP has pushed the government to tap into innovative financing options as an opportunity to be sized to mobilized additional resources to address budgetary gaps in the financing of local development plan. The different options were explored, and recommendations called for a need to consider the legal framework and the country context as they could cumulatively play a critical role.

*Output 4.1 - There is increased capacity in the MoF to carry out essential PFM reforms*

Given the refocus to stay consistent with the evolving context the 3 experts to be outposted within the Ministry of Finance was no more considered a priority by the MoF.

*Output 4.2 - There is enhanced capacity among stakeholders in PFM*

Training of government official were conducted on PFM and performance budgeting. The JP is working to institutionalise this training to meet the critical demand in human capital sectors.

### 3. Challenges and changes

#### 3.1. Challenges faced by JP

Mali is going through a complex political and institutional setting due to unforeseen political events that compound with the previous exiting security challenges. Abrupt political and institutional changes seriously affected the smooth implementation of the project as new decisional instances created wait-and-see attitude and affect administrative cohesion with changes in the technical execution teams. Between April and July 2022, following the suspension of World Bank's disbursements including budget support and project disbursements, the policy level dialogue with the national counterpart was somewhat hampered by explicit shifts in priorities made by the government officials towards activities directly contributing to the replenishment of the treasury to meet the costs of the state's spending. The main objective of the government was to avoid some additional turmoil on the social front.

In addition, UNDP Country office faced operational issues due to a migration from its former management system (ATLAS) to a new one (Quantum). This operational transition generated a learning curve that had to be accommodated as transactions were frozen.

#### 3.2. Changes to JP (if applicable)

Some adjustments had to be made to consider the contextual evolution and the difficulties related to the implementation of certain activities. Activities related to strengthening the PFM control system were reshaped and oriented towards strengthening the SDG aligned program-based budgeting system. Likewise, it was not possible to set up the economic technical assistance team as initially planned. South-South cooperation was mobilized as well as a reinforcement of the technical assistance from within the United Nations system. This was the case for various trainings including trainings on innovative financing, which was largely conducted by UNDP and UNICEF experts. The team of national consultants was strengthened to ensure better management

of the diagnosis of public financing for development. Finally, the diaspora component of development financing was stimulated with the establishment of a special desk to facilitate the productive orientation of remittances.

#### 4. Sustainability and country ownership

##### 4.1. Ease of use and national ownership

The JP adopts an institutional approach to work with strategic Government institutions that structure development action. This approach makes it possible to preserve achievements in a context of political instability and weak governance as the core functions of these entities will survive political instability.

The implementation of the JP was led by the main governmental entity (CT/CSLP) in charge of national development planning. This entity ensured a participatory process for implementing all activities which facilitate ownership by the line governmental entities which were assigned the activities.

A strategic steering committee for the JP was set up under the leadership of the government, as well as specialized technical committees on the themes relevant to the implementation of the joint programme. These committees have played a crucial role in achieving the results obtained to date. The steering committee has organized all the high-level meetings to create a consensus at national level between the various players at decision-making level. It has also provided strategic guidance. The specialized technical committees have played the role of implementation at the more operational level. They helped to ensure that the work plan adheres to the JP and that the various analytical work are conducted with greatest quality extent possible.

#### 5. Communications

##### 5.1 Communication products

##### 5.2 Tests

Event Type	Yes	No	Number of events	Brief description and highlights
JP Launch Event (Required)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	01	On 28 January 2021, the Prime Minister of the Government of Mali <u>officially launched the JP</u>
Annual Donor Event* (mandatory)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Partner event ** *(optional)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	02	JP via INFF was presented at the meetings of the UNCT and the ECOSTAT Dialog Group.

#### 6. Lessons learned and best practices

##### 6.1. Key lessons learned, good practices and recommendations on SDG financing

It would be advisable to consider varied contexts in approving grants. The system based on directives common to all contexts might be reviewed to also offer some flexibility to take account of contextual developments. In the case of Mali, the JP would have required additional time to reinforce results insofar as the complex political context which arose after the approval of the JP induced considerable delays.

It may be useful to consider supplementary resources for consolidating the results of a JP. In the case of Mali, several results could be consolidated or scaled up with additional resources.

Thanks to the JP and other advocacy efforts, there is a growing consensus among national actors that the social protection system can play an important role not only in development context but also in responding to chronic crisis. Yet to fulfill this function, it must be prepared to anticipate the shock and able to adjust the content of the programme it is supposed to deliver so that the additional needs and populations can be covered in a timely fashion. In addition, social protection system should build on the resilience of the individuals, the communities, and the systems to withstand for future shocks. This required significant efforts of coordination at all levels along with a consensus building with government on key component of the national social protection system.

The investment in public financial management system is key to put human capital on the agenda of resources allocations. Contrary to the common sense, increasing resources allocation to social sectors and other sectors is not enough if the questions around the effectiveness, the efficiencies and economies are not embedded in the dialogue. The PUNOS have also worked together with other partners to ensure that despite the context, budgets for routine programming are not disrupted and ensure that contingency budget allocations exist either at the central or local level to support to maintain and scale up of the capacity for the provision of social services

6.2. Main lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on joint programming

## Annex 1: Consolidated Results Framework

### 1. Contribution of the Joint Program to the overall programmatic results (full duration of the program)

Overall SDG Joint Fund Result 2: Additional funding mobilized to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs (Full Table below)

Indicators	Baseline 2019	Target (end of JP)	Result (end of JP)	Notes
2.1: US\$ & Funding ratio for integrated multisectoral leveraged solutions, broken down into public and private sector funds				

Overall SDG Joint Fund Output 4: Implementation of integrated financing strategies to accelerate progress on the SDGs (Complete the table below and provide details requested)

Indicators	Baseline 2019	Objectives (end of JP)	Results (end of JP)	Notes
4.1: #of tested integrated financing strategies/instruments				
4.2: #of integrated funding strategies that have been implemented with responsible partners				
4.3: # functional partnership frameworks for integrated financing strategies to accelerate progress on the SDGs				

### 2. Selection of global operational efficiency indicators (full program duration)

2.1. Has your joint program contributed to improving the overall coherence of the UNCT?

- Yes, significant contribution  
 Yes, contributed  
 No

Briefly explain:

2.2. Has your joint program contributed to avoiding duplication for participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities?

- Yes  
 No  
 N/A (if there are no other joint programs in the country)

Briefly explain:

### 3. Results according to the JP results framework

JP Results Framework (Outputs and outcomes)

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Original target (according to ProDoc)	Revised target (if applicable)	Outcome (end of JP)	Reasons for deviation from initial target (if applicable)
<b>Outcome 1 Enhanced transparency and accountability of funding and allocation for Human Capital Development</b>					
Indicator 1.1 Parliamentary capacity to review human capital development sector with gender lens budget proposals is strengthened	No	Yes	Yes	No	Parliament was frozen along the coup of August 2020. The transition council which is acting as the parliament has political agenda associated with the institutional reforms and electoral process including referendum, local elections and presidential
Indicator 1.2 Budget analysis with gender lens capacity is strengthened within the Ministry of Finance and social sector ministries	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Technical teams were set up on budget analysis on key thematic of human capital sectors
<b>Output 1.1 Citizens have access to quality information on the state of financing for Human Capital Development</b>					
Indicator 1.1.1: New gender sensitive channels are established for non-government stakeholders to contribute meaningfully to budget processes	0	2	0	0	Since the coup of 2020, budget formulation is exceptional given the circumstance. As a result, the participation felt to 7/100 according to the OBI
Indicator 1.1.2:	0	2	0	1	The JP explored existing mechanism to advocate for

<b>Result / Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Original target (according to ProDoc)</b>	<b>Revised target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Outcome (end of JP)</b>	<b>Reasons for deviation from initial target (if applicable)</b>
Production and distribution of citizen budget specific including gender analysis to Human Capital					citizen budget while deepen the partnership to enlarge the scope of the work with civil society organization
<b>Output 1.2 indicator Budget transparency practices have improved</b>					
Indicator 1.2.1: Open Budget Index (Mali)	OBS 2019: 38/100 (transparency) 4/100 (participation) 43/100 (Budget oversight)	n/a	OBS 2021: 70/100 (transparency) 50/100 (participation) 70/100 (Budget oversight)	OBS 2021: 8/100 (transparency) 7/100 (participation) 30/100 (Budget oversight)	The actions taken has not yet been translated into results given the very nature of retro-active data collection of the OBS. The changes will be visible in 2023
<b>Output 1.3 External assistance is recorded on-budget</b>					
Indicator 1.3.1: Donor support for all social sectors is recorded on budget	No	60%	60%	Not yet systematized	The financial information system is still nascent
Indicator 1.3.2: UN Donor support for all social sectors is recorded on budget	0	60%	60%	Not yet systematized	The financial information system is still nascent
<b>Outcome 2: Improved efficiency, effectiveness and equity of resources allocated to human capital development sectors</b>					
Indicator 2.1 Budget allocations to education, health, and social protection are maintained or increased in real terms (i.e. after adjusting for inflation)	25%	27%	27%	<b>Budget Allocations</b>  <b>Education sector:</b>	Despite the competing priorities the overall target for the 3 key human capital sectors is almost met



Result / Indicators	Baseline	Original target (according to ProDoc)	Revised target (if applicable)	Outcome (end of JP)	Reasons for deviation from initial target (if applicable)
				2022:16.80% 2023:18.70% <b>Health sector:</b> 2022:5.77% 2023:5.65% <b>Social protection:</b> 2022:2.71% 2023:3.05%	
<b>Output 2.1 Value for money diagnostics of current investments in human capital in Mali is available</b>					
Indicator 2.1.1: Progress towards global spending benchmarks for social sectors are recorded	No	Yes	Yes	Partially	
Indicator 2.1.2 The variance between planned and actual expenditure in social sectors is reduced to 10% or less	No	Yes	NO	<b>Budget Execution</b>  <b>Education sector:</b> 2021:102.08% <b>Health sector:</b> 2021:84.11% <b>Social protection:</b>	

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Original target (according to ProDoc)	Revised target (if applicable)	Outcome (end of JP)	Reasons for deviation from initial target (if applicable)
				2021:80.41%	
<b>Output 2.2 Plans to improve the efficiency effectiveness and equity of domestic and public spending for Human Capital are implemented</b>					
Indicator 2.2.1: Social sector budgets increasingly prioritize evidence-based interventions with gender lens	No	Yes	No	Dissemination of PER (education, health) is still pending to approval of the government while the PER for social protection is still under discussion	
<b>Outcome 3: Greater and sustainable funding for human capital development sectors</b>					
Indicator 3.1: Resources mobilization strategies with gender lens for the three sectors are available to address human development capital funding gaps	No (2019)	No	No	DFA/INFF ongoing with a focus on SDG's financing	
<b>Output 3.1: Resource requirements to finance Human Capital Development national objectives are identified</b>					
Indicator 3.1.1: Funding gaps in line with health sector's policy results related relevant commitment in the CREDD is correctly estimated	No (2019)	No	No	DFA/INFF ongoing with a focus on SDG's financing	
Indicator 3.1.2: Funding gaps in line with Education sector's policy results	No (2019)	No	No	DFA/INFF ongoing with a focus on SDG's financing	

<b>Result / Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Original target (according to ProDoc)</b>	<b>Revised target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Outcome (end of JP)</b>	<b>Reasons for deviation from initial target (if applicable)</b>
related relevant commitment in the CREDD is correctly estimated					
Indicator 3.1.3: Funding gaps in line with Social protection sector's policy results related relevant commitment in the CREDD is correctly estimated	No (2019)	No	Yes	DFA/INFF ongoing with a focus on SDG's financing	
<b>Output 3.2: Financing options (including innovative financing) for human capital sectors are identified</b>					
Indicator 3.2.1: Fiscal space for Health's sector financing is assessed and known	No (2019)	No	No	DFA/INFF ongoing with a focus on SDG's financing	
Indicator 3.2.2: Fiscal space for Education's sector financing is assessed and known	No (2019)	No	No	DFA/INFF ongoing with a focus on SDG's financing	
Indicator 3.2.3: Fiscal space for Social protection's sector financing is assessed and known	No (2019)	Yes	No	DFA/INFF ongoing with a focus on SDG's financing	
<b>Outcome 4: Strengthened policies and capacity for investing in Human Capital Development</b>					
Indicator 4.1 The main MoF structures have capacity to conduct PFM reforms and stakeholders have good knowledge in PFM process	No	Yes	No	Training of government official were conducted on PFM and performanace budgeting. The JP is working to institutionnalise this training to meet the critical demand in human capital sectors.	

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Original target (according to ProDoc)	Revised target (if applicable)	Outcome (end of JP)	Reasons for deviation from initial target (if applicable)
<b>Output 4.1 - There is increased capacity in the MoF to carry out essential PFM reforms</b>					
Indicator 4.1.1: 3 economists are recruited to strengthen MoF capacity to conduct PFM reforms	0	3	3	0	Given the refocus to stay consistent with the evolving context the 3 experts to be outposted within the Ministry of Finance was no more considered a priority by the MoF.
<b>Output 4.2 - There us enhanced capacity among stakeholders in PFM</b>					
Indicator 4.2.1: Number of stakeholders which capacity built in PFM with gender lens	0	Government staffs: 3  Parliamentarian groups 4 (Health, Education, Social Protection, Finance)  Civil Society Organizations 2	Government staffs: 0  Parliamentarian groups 0 (Health, Education, Social Protection, Finance)  Civil Society Organizations 0	4 sessions of 25 participants each were held on PFM and performance and programme budgeting  Additional 31 staff were trained on costing and SDG budgeting	

## Annex 2: List of strategic documents

### 1. Strategic documents produced by the FP

<b>Document Title</b>	<b>Date (month; year) once finalized</b>	<b>Type of document (policy/strategy, evaluation, orientation, training material, methodology, etc.)</b>	<b>Brief description of the document and the role of the FP in its finalization</b>
<a href="#"><u>Report on Training of Trainers in SDG Budgeting</u></a>	May 2023	Training Report	The report is a summary of the 10-day train-the-trainer workshop that strengthened the capacity of 31 government officials in results-based budgeting.
<a href="#"><u>Development Finance Assessment Report</u></a>	March 2023	Study Report	This report is an analytical contribution to support the implementation of priority reforms and the achievement of a real strategy for financing the SDGs in Mali.
<a href="#"><u>Medium-Term External Resource Frameworks Report (CRMT 2019 to 2025)</u></a>	December 2022	Study Reports	These CRMTs take stock of financial disbursements from external resources and provide a perspective based on medium-term disbursement forecasts.
Budget brief - Education	April 2022	Study Reports	This analysis focuses on public spending on human capital development sectors and includes a detailed analysis of the volume, distribution and quality of spending on the sectors.
Budget brief - Health	April 2022	Study Reports	
Budget brief - Nutrition	April 2022	Study Reports	
Budget brief - WASH	April 2022	Study Reports	
Budget brief - Social protection	April 2022	Study Reports	

### 2. Strategic documents to which the FP has directly contributed

<b>Document Title</b>	<b>Date (month; year) once finalized</b>	<b>Type of document (policy/strategy, evaluation, orientation, training material, methodology, etc.)</b>	<b>Brief description of the document and the role of the FP in its finalization</b>

### Annex 3. Communication equipment

1. Story of human interest
2. Communication Products

<b>Document Title</b>	<b>Date once finalized (MM/YY)</b>	<b>Brief description and hyperlink (if available)</b>
<u><a href="#">Digital Communication Notes for SDG Budgeting Training in Mali</a></u>	6/2023	This note informs other partners of the usefulness of SDG budgeting to raise awareness of the government's efforts to strengthen SDG budgets and the general public on SDG budgeting tools and ways to better align the budget with planning for achieving the SDGs.

#### Appendix 4: Stakeholder Comments

*If applicable, I include a list of all stakeholders interviewed during the preparation of the final report and summarize their comments.*

No	Entity Name	Representative Name	Title	Contact Information	Role in the program	Summary of Comments