



## Joint Programme 2023 Annual Progress Report

### SDG Financing Portfolio - Component 2

### Cover page

**UNCT/MCO:** Papua New Guinea

**Reporting Period:** 1 January - 31 December 2023

**JP title:** SDG Financing- Catalytic Investments

**Thematic SDG Areas:** Food systems transformation;Address GBV and access to GBV services;

**Gender Marker:** Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm)

**Engine Room Activities:** Building capacity at scale;

**Total estimated expenditures:** USD \$226,162.90

**Total estimated commitments** (including expenditures): \$226,162.90

## Executive Summary

The JP was successful in implementing the Ten (10) interventions in project sites and at the national level; a survey focusing on identifying food and protection security was conducted by the National Research Institute (NRI) in lowara (East Erwin.) The survey was conducted in collaboration with Immigration and Citizenship Authority (ICSA) and DPL.

Complementary to the survey, the JP also conducted an awareness-raising intervention focusing on food security and protection issues within the refugee and host communities in the settlement sites.

Moreover, Under the JP, a series of consultations with the local communities, including their leaders, the local provincial government authorities, other CSOs, and national government authorities, were hosted to provide a concerted approach to support the lowara community to create a resilient support system for the communities. Under the project deliverables, there were consultation made across the various level of government and the communities themselves, this was followed by trainings on food security and protection awareness and support in the lowara community.

Following the awareness and the data creation intervention, the JP further supplemented the distribution of Nonfood Items (NFI).

### Results:

The result of the project intervention was promising, with the lowara refugee communities being receptive to the food security training and finding the training and project intervention very useful and practical for their setting. The training specifically addressed those challenges due to the low soil fertility, acidity, and climatic conditions. Given the limited funding for the project, it may not be adequate to meet all the community's expectations, such as access to water and sanitation, road infrastructure, tools, and agriculture equipment for production and post-harvest processing. The training reached the current 60% of the HH, with 180 HH directly and indirectly benefiting from the training by the project. Further scaling up of the current initiative will be required to reach all 300 households. The project focused on community training as being practical for the project beneficiaries, and the training comprised 70 percent demonstration and 30 percent theory. Under the project initiatives, the project further provided mentoring support to the cohort who served as a TOT to other community leaders to increase the reach of the skill transfer in the target communities.

Complementing the training, the project further supports distributing non-food items (NFI) to the local community as part of the project intervention. more than 60% of the HH was reached in the distribution, with added NFI items scheduled to be distributed.

## Annual Progress

### Main results achieved by the joint programme in 2023:

#### Under outcome 1 and output 1.1

The survey on food and protection security was conducted by the National Research Institute (NRI) in lowara (East Erwin.) was conducted in collaboration with Immigration and Citizenship Authority (ICSA) and DPL. Over 250 Households (HH) were covered in lowara for the survey across the 16 villages in settlement sites. The survey's response rate was over 90%, with the full report to be tabled and shared once available. This survey, combined with the food security survey with the technical support of NRI, will further fill the information gap on food security and protection issues in the sites. The findings of both surveys contribute to the following project outcome areas: Outcome 1 and Output 1.2. 1.3 and outcome 2, respectively. The Findings of the survey indicated the following.

- Water insecurity: most HH walk 1-4 hours each way to collect water.
- Food insecurity - The prolonged drought has led to widespread crop failure, exacerbated by pests/diseases wiping out essential crops like Kaukau (sweet potato). All families interviewed reported harmful coping mechanisms for food, i.e., eating only 1 meal a day, relying exclusively on low-nutrition food (only eating Sago or eating crops before

they are ripe), and adults reducing consumption so children can have sufficient food.

- Vulnerable in the community suffering greatly (i.e., disabled and elderly living alone), those without the ability to produce enough food from their gardens have exacerbated food insecurity issues, many reporting going days without eating during the week, they also find it difficult to rely on family members or the wider community as they are facing similar issues
- Nearly all families had no employment or money-making ventures. Most could not sell crops as they already do not grow enough to sustain themselves, additionally the lack of a sufficient road prohibits access to markets where they can sell crops.
- There has been widespread crop failure of cuttings and seedlings from self-reliance projects (vanilla and cocoa), predominantly due to the drought.

Under outcome 2 and output 2.1

Food crop seeds were procured based on the following criteria: (i) soil analysis results conducted by NARI in February 2023, agro-ecological features, (ii) household rapid assessment of the preferred and growing crop types that indicated that most households preferred the following rice, corn, and snake bean.

A total of 100 kg of rice seeds were sourced, of which 40kg was from the NARI 16 variety obtained locally from farmers, and 60 kg of NARI 1 variety was supplied by Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) from the Middle Fly District farmers. The rice seeds were tested for viability using the germination method to have passed the test before sourcing the seeds for distribution.

The corn, pumpkin, beans, and peanut seeds were procured from Brian Bell in Port Moresby and freighted to Kiunga.

### **Main Challenges, adjustments and lessons:**

#### Constraints

- access to the project site, which is in a remote area of PNG close to the Indonesian border. The area has no direct road link, and the journey can take 24 hours from the waterfront to the refugee site.
- the timeframe to implement the project was insufficient, given the delay in the funds transfer. The funds arrived in December 2022 so the project started in February 2023.
- the project relied on the government being on board, but capacity constraints within the local government delayed the project.
- The El Nino weather system drought exacerbated access to water within the refugee settlement site

#### Adjustments

- Asked for a no-cost extension

#### Lessons

- Ask for a longer timeframe from the beginning of the project. It is difficult to implement a six-month project in Papua New Guinea. The minimum should be 18 months. The first six months can be spent negotiating with the government officials.
- One of the prominent challenges to the delivery of this project is the limited availability of transport, road conditions, and the distance from the main urban area of Kiunga to Iowara. The project site is approximately 50-80 km on a muddy, stretched, unsealed road. There were only a few vehicles that serviced the entire road distance. Transportation of project supplies has been a challenge. To ensure missions to the areas are conducted within schedule, prior arrangements were made with the local vehicle owners and lodges to agree on a date when the road condition will be suitable for the travel. Traveling during rainy days was not possible.

## Priority Cross-cutting Issues

### Cross-cutting results/issues

- Water insecurity: most HHs walk 1-4 hours each way to collect water.
- Food insecurity - The prolonged drought has led to widespread crop failure, exacerbated by pests/diseases wiping out essential crops like Kaukau (sweet potato). All families interviewed reported harmful coping mechanisms for food, i.e., eating only 1 meal a day, relying exclusively on low-nutrition food (only eating Sago or eating crops before they are ripe), and adults reducing consumption so children can have sufficient food.
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### How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The JP is Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm).

### SDG Transitions Acceleration

#### Food system transformation

- Seed distribution for vanilla and food crops such as corn, rice, pumpkin
  - Drought-resistant crops
  - Training on crop management
  - Animal husbandry (Ducklings, breeding setups)
  - Soil testing and analysis
  - Assessment of the impact of the Ukraine-Russia crisis on the agriculture food system with policy recommendations to the government. The study established that changes in food prices were mixed: prices of meat, wheat, and cooking oil declined, while prices of maize, milk, and refined sugar increased in 2022 compared to 2021. The quantity of imported sugar remained fairly the same. Still, the quantity of maize dropped significantly as the quantities of rice, wheat and meat increased to nearly match their pre-Covid pandemic levels. There was no change in the quantity of stock feed imported into PNG, while Customs data suggest some increase in fertilizer imports, although survey respondents did not believe that was the case. Since food and energy imports have relatively low shares in PNG's overall imports, the increase in world market oil and gas prices ensured that PNG received large foreign exchange inflows that enabled the country to wade through the vagaries of the war. Hence, there were no specific policy interventions needed to counter the effect of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict in PNG. The proceedings of this study are published online on the NRI website. This policy paper aims to inform the government on potential measures to undertake to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the agri-food system trade
- GBV
- Awareness of the Family Sexual Violence Unit (FSVU) services
  - Assessment of GBV services capacity/safe house

## **Annual Reporting on Results**

### **Exit strategy, scaling, sustainability and next steps**

The sustainability of this joint project is through the North Fly Agriculture Graduate Association project aimed at capacity development and gender equality in agriculture. The project involved the transfer of skills and knowledge through workshops, meetings, and training, enabling farmers to replicate new farming practices. Women's and youth groups led community training to ensure equal participation in agriculture interventions. Also, to ensure sustainability, the project adhered to FAO guidelines on Environmental and Social Management, focusing on environmental conservation, resource preservation, and indigenous people. Land preparation was conducted on used farmlands with minimal environmental impact, and local landowners and communities were equally consulted.

The project upheld the human rights-based approach (HRBA), particularly the right to food and decent work. Refugee communities of West Papua origin were supported to ensure all households had access to agricultural inputs to improve their livelihoods. No technology transfer occurred during the project, but households received agricultural inputs, skills, and knowledge through hands-on training conducted by FAO and partners.

Economic sustainability was achieved through livelihood activities that provided sustainable income for the community, such as vanilla cultivation, crop production, disease and pest control, and soil management.

The population data used to generate the sampling was provided by refugee community leaders and digitized by UNHCR. To assist the government and foster a good working relationship, UNHCR should provide a data contact in ICSA (Nick Dame) with a copy of the digitized records. This will save weeks of work and appear to have no data-sharing obligations.

Request a list of individuals in Iowara with bank accounts and other survey information. Many refugees expressed frustration with several organizations conducting interviews/surveys but not producing results. To improve the information that UNHCR has, improve data collaboration and coordination, and reduce the strain on the community, UNHCR needs to prioritize collaboration and data sharing.

UNHCR spoke to ICSA about the inter-governmental scoping mission to Suki during the mission. There have been three additional intergovernmental meetings with no progress or current plan to undertake a scoping mission. In November 2022, there were reports of 600-1000 new arrivals from West Papua near the village of Suki who expressed an intention to claim asylum. UNHCR spent several months advocating for the PNG Government to meet these arrivals and conduct reception activities. After no action by March/2023, UNHCR planned a scoping mission with other UNCT members, but it did not occur.

To address these issues, UNHCR should consider undertaking registration training in 2024, conducting RMS stage 2 for PNG in 2023, considering possible self-reliance projects for 2023, and strategizing ways to develop and improve the road leading to Kiunga.

NID issues are causing serious problems for West Papuans who have government jobs, such as teachers and health center workers, who do not have NIDs due to their lack of nationality and administrative/bureaucratic hurdles. UNHCR/FAO should send an official letter to those responsible for NID card processing/payment for Govt employees to see if there is a way to expedite or intervene in the NID application process.

### **Measuring and reporting on impact**

People benefitted through improved food security and livelihood, including training on crop management. Also, increased data would inform policy-making on GBV and address the impact of the Ukraine-Russia crisis on agriculture in PNG.

Planet benefitted through analysis of the soil, better soil management practices, and sustainable agricultural practices and land use that enabled farming without forest degradation.

#### **Overview of progress toward Financial Instrument(s)**

The project utilized 90 percent of the funding received.

#### **Completed transactions**

The Results Matrix upload contains information on the activities and corresponding expenditures.

## Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications

### Multi-stakeholder engagement

Sub-national Governments;National government;Research institutions.;

### How did the JP facilitate collaboration with diverse stakeholders

#NAME?

### Financial leverage

\$5,000.00

### Donor and Strategic events attended by JP in 2022

Kick-off meeting	JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors event
	Yes, in 2023	Yes, in 2023

### Focus on LNOB cross cutting principles

Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
Yes	No	Yes	Yes

## Beneficiaries

### Number of beneficiaries

\$2,500.00

Percentage (%) of women benefited among the total number	Percentage (%) of children & youth (0-24 years of age) benefited among the total number	Percentage (%) of older persons (age 60 and above) benefited among the total number	Percentage (%) of persons with disabilities benefited among the total number
30	30	10	0

## **Communications**

### **Voices from the field**

"I am very pleased with the UN Joint Programme support to West Papua refugees in Western Province," Taboi Yato, Governor of Western Province, Papua New Guinea.

"I acknowledge the continuous support received from the UN Joint Programme to Western Province and the refugees" Robert Kayun, Provincial Administrator, Western Province, Papua New Guinea

### **Declaration**

We hereby confirm that the information provided in this update is duly reviewed and approved by the RC and all PUNOs involved in the Joint Programme.