



Joint Programme 2023 Annual Progress Report

Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in Small Island Developing States

Cover page

UNCT/MCO: Haiti

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2023

JP title: Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in Small Island Developing States

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

Gender Marker: Gender-transformative (for example, the JP explicitly aimed to address the structural and root causes of gender inequality, such as by combining social protection with community dialogues and economic empowerment activities that aim to shift gender social norms and power relations)

Engine Room Activities: Building capacity at scale;

Total estimated expenditures: USD \$298,139.93

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): \$437,929.79

Executive Summary

1. Enhancing Agricultural Capacities through Farmer Field School Approach

The joint program has played a crucial role in enhancing the capacities of 25 beneficiaries, including one woman, through the Farmer Field School approach. The goal was to facilitate the identification of constraints related to the production and transformation of agricultural products, providing sustainable solutions based on local knowledge.

Community consultations were organized to determine the needs for units and equipment for the processing and preservation of food products within the community. This process led to the acquisition of these facilities, thereby improving agricultural practices.

In promoting the breadfruit sector, the program collaborated with more than eight businesses and cooperatives led by women and youth in the Grand-Anse region. These entities now have business plans aimed at fostering their growth through interventions by the International Labor Organization (ILO).

2. Promotion on Breadfruit Potential

A panel of experts from the fields of nutrition, applied research, industry, and economics presented the potential of breadfruit as a major crop in Haiti. This initiative aims to strengthen food security and contribute to economic development.

A promotional day was organized to highlight opportunities related to integrating breadfruit into various recipes, including school meals, while identifying challenges to overcome to enhance the incomes of small rural producers.

3. Strengthening the Legal Framework for Agricultural Entrepreneurship

Regarding the legal framework, the joint program produced a preliminary report presenting an inventory of the main laws and regulations related to business creation in the agricultural sector. This step aims to ensure a solid legal basis for entrepreneurial activities in the agricultural field.

4. Strengthening Social Protection through Collaborative Initiatives

Furthermore, the program has significantly contributed to strengthening the support functions of the National Policy for Social Protection and Promotion (PNPPS). This was demonstrated by reinforcing departmental social protection sector tables in the Nippes and South regions.

4.1 Collaboration with CNGIS for Data Production

The signing of a contract with CNGIS, under the auspices of the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation (MPCE), paved the way for constructive exchanges with various stakeholders involved in data production. This active collaboration aims to enhance coordination mechanisms, ensuring better integration of actors involved in the field of social protection.

Annual Progress

Overall progress against 3 key results in 2023:

The joint program has brought about significant changes, implementing various initiatives to enhance local capacities, promote sustainable agricultural development, and improve social protection.

First and foremost, the project established an agroforestry Farmer Field School. Twenty-five internal facilitators, representing peasant organizations and Communal Agricultural Offices, were trained in this innovative approach.

The process of acquiring agricultural tools, seeds, and fruits of forest trees was initiated to facilitate the reforestation of 25 hectares with agroforestry trees, and nurseries are currently being set up. Additionally, two Farmer Field Schools dedicated to breadfruit drying were established, with a participatory assessment of processing equipment needs in the commune of Anse d'Hainault. Two selected organizations identified during this participatory diagnosis directly benefit from this intervention.

In the realm of rural finance and inclusion, the program recruited a specialist in rural finance and a partner to assist households in establishing Village Savings and Credit Associations (AVEC). This training aims to strengthen the financial skills of rural households and promote their economic inclusion.

Legislatively, a preliminary version of the strengthened regulatory framework has been developed and is available for decision-makers. Consultations and interviews with stakeholders have contributed to guiding national and regional policies.

The joint program has also empowered eight cooperatives and businesses led by women and youth through

training for the development of business plans. These institutions will receive equipment at the end of the process, thereby strengthening their productive capacity. Furthermore, a needs assessment for training was conducted in the project intervention areas, involving the Departmental Directorate of Agriculture of Grande Anse and the Communal Agricultural Offices.

The promotion of breadfruit has been a major focus of the project, with the realization of a promotional event featuring conferences with nutrition and academic specialists, as well as demonstrations of innovative recipes. This event created opportunities for the integration and growth of breadfruit production and marketing, establishing agreements in principle and strategic partnerships among industry players.

The joint program has also facilitated the establishment of departmental social protection sector tables in the South and Nippes departments. Training sessions on social protection for local actors are scheduled for february, aiming to equip them with the necessary tools to contribute to the development of territorial social protection plans. Concurrently, discussions are ongoing with a communication company to develop a communication/sensitization plan focused on social protection and PNPPS, with a sensitization campaign planned under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

Discussions with CNIGS and MPCE have led to the signing of a contract for mapping actors involved in data production. This initiative will enable MPCE to engage in dialogue with stakeholders and reach a consensus for the implementation of a database, as well as the production of maps from various data sources. These actions demonstrate tangible changes to policies and practices, contributing to a more inclusive and sustainable development in Haiti.

Main Challenges, adjustments and lessons:

The joint program team had to overcome various obstacles, including political instability, inclement weather, and operational issues. Political instability occasionally disrupted the continuity of initiatives, necessitating swift adjustments in planning. Adverse weather conditions exacerbated logistical and operational challenges, while slow implementation of activities was attributed to the need for substantial involvement from various sectors and constraints related to insecurity in the country.

Furthermore, security issues significantly impacted the supply of essential goods, particularly fuel, leading to increased prices of goods and services and limited availability in markets. Confronted with these diverse challenges, the project leveraged the expertise of local organizations and, at times, turned to international markets, despite delays resulting from this approach. Additionally, a shortage of human resources was noted due to significant migration.

In these challenging contexts, the Resident Coordinator (RC) played a crucial role in facilitating coordination among UN agencies, ensuring an integrated response to the encountered challenges. Mitigation measures, identified in the risk plan, also involved strengthening coordination mechanisms. Despite the difficulties, the joint program successfully adapted to changing circumstances, highlighting the importance of resilience and adaptability in achieving goals despite constraints.

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

Gender Marker and activities undertook for gender equality

The JP is Gender-transformative (for example, the JP explicitly aimed to address the structural and root causes of gender inequality, such as by combining social protection with community dialogues and economic empowerment activities that aim to shift gender social norms and power relations). Policy dialogues, advocacy (e.g. direct inputs

to national policies, strategies, laws, including women's and girls' rights groups in coordination mechanisms); Capacity development (e.g. training of social workers, local governments, local communities);

SDG Transitions Acceleration

The joint program's multifaceted initiatives reflect a comprehensive commitment to achieving sustainable development goals, promoting equity, and enhancing agricultural practices and social protection systems.

- The joint program significantly contributes to economic stimulation and enhances employment opportunities in the agricultural sector, aligning with SDG 8.
- A crucial strategy involves establishing sectoral tables to address inequalities, particularly in social protection sectors like health, education, and employment, in accordance with SDG 10. Sectoral tables serve as platforms for collaborative policy and program design, promoting holistic social, economic, and political integration. The inclusive nature of sectoral tables perfectly aligns with the objectives of SDG 10, working towards an egalitarian society.
- The program actively supports the realization of SDG 1.3 by accelerating the development of adaptive social protection systems tailored to the national context. The integrated approach of sectoral tables optimizes resources and addresses specific country needs, contributing to the achievement of SDGs.
- Implementation of the Farmer Field School approach, along with tree planting and financial education, corresponds to SDG 2, specifically target 2.4. This initiative aims to ensure the sustainability of food production systems and resilient agricultural practices, contributing to ecosystem preservation, climate change adaptation, and improved land and soil quality.

Annual Reporting on Results

Exit strategy, scaling, sustainability and next steps

In 2024, the joint program has outlined a series of key steps aimed at enhancing its impact and ensuring the sustainability of its actions. A primary focus is placed on building the capacity of managers in Communal Agricultural Offices through the adoption of the Farmer Field School approach. This strategy aims to ensure the project's sustainability and garner government support for intervention approaches. Concurrently, close collaboration with local civil society organizations and grassroots development structures, such as cooperatives, is deemed crucial to ensure the longevity and community ownership of the initiatives.

As part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen the productive capacity of agricultural enterprises, the program plans to establish commercial links, with a specific emphasis on value chains such as breadfruit and cocoa. Special attention will be given to female and youth entrepreneurship, underscoring the significance of empowering women and young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector.

The dialogue on the developed regulatory framework will be intensified with various ministries and key social partners, aiming to ensure a consistent and harmonious implementation of program actions. Simultaneously, efforts will be deployed to enhance the capacities of local authorities on social protection issues, contributing to a more integrated and inclusive approach.

A campaign for awareness and communication will be launched to enhance the visibility and promotion of the National Program for Social Protection and Promotion (PNPPS) and social protection in general. This will contribute to increasing public understanding and support for these important initiatives.

Regarding data management, the crucial step of finalizing the mapping of stakeholders involved in data production will be undertaken. This will enable the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation (MPCE) to engage in constructive dialogue and reach a consensus for implementing database interoperability, thereby promoting more efficient information utilization.

To ensure the medium and long-term viability of the joint program, the team places emphasis on project sustainability. This involves consolidating existing partnerships and promoting an integrated approach to social

protection in Haiti. Prioritizing the enhancement of local capacities and fostering ownership by local actors remains crucial to ensuring a successful transition and the sustainability of the undertaken initiatives.

Measuring and reporting on impact

N/A

Overview of progress toward Financial Instrument(s)

Completed transactions

Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications

Multi-stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder groups you closely partner with, as part of your JP approach

National Government;

Brief description of the nature of engagement. Outline the main outcomes and achievements resulting from the partnerships.

United Nations agencies and national partners, particularly MAST and MPCE, have established working habits through collaborations stemming from previous partnerships in other projects. These pre-existing relationships have been beneficial for the joint program, fostering engagement from personnel in these ministries and resulting in their active involvement in implementing activities. Additionally, a partnership has been established with the National Center for Geo-spatial Information (CNIGS) to support the development of actor mapping in data production, as well as the creation of maps.

How did the JP facilitate collaboration with diverse stakeholders

Financial leverage

Financial resources leveraged

N/A

Donor and Strategic events attended by JP in 2022

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors event
No, but planned in late 2024	Yes, in 2023

Explanation if you have not held any key meeting/events for the above question.

N/A

JP contribution to SDG Financing

Drafted a bill, strategy, and/or approved a law increasing the fiscal space for the policy in focus	Produced financing, costing, diagnostic and feasibility analyses as a basis to invest or increase spending on the SDGs	Improved efficiency (cost savings) in the management of programmes/schemes	Improved effectiveness (value for money; i.e. social impact of \$1 spent) of spending	Drafted policies/regulatory frameworks or developed tools to incentivize private sector investment on the SDGs	Structured new financial instruments (public, private or blended) to leverage additional funding
No	No	No	No	No	No

Briefly explain how and in which area your JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing

Focus on LNOB cross cutting principles

Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Provide any other comments or descriptions on how your JP contributed to cross-cutting issues and principles.

The Joint Programme has promoted cross-cutting issues and principles through departmental tables for social protection, which play a central role in advancing these issues within development initiatives. These platforms allow for and will enable in-depth analysis of program impacts on men and women at the departmental level, thereby promoting the inclusion of youth by facilitating their active participation in decision-making processes related to social protection and implementing initiatives tailored to their specific needs.

Additionally, the Joint Programme has supported women and young female entrepreneurs in promising agricultural value chains by assisting them in developing business plans to foster their growth. This capacity-building for women-led agricultural enterprises and cooperatives aims to mitigate the deep-seated inequalities persisting in the agricultural sector despite the significant contribution of women.

Beneficiaries

Number of beneficiaries

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
60	20	0	11

Please briefly explain how people benefited from the joint programme

The program has significantly benefited the population. Directly, the 25 participants, including one woman, enhanced their agricultural skills through the Farmer Field School approach. At the global level, the provided training indirectly benefited 308 individuals who are members of established agricultural field schools. They acquired new knowledge and skills to identify challenges in agricultural production and transformation, leading to sustainable solutions based on local knowledge.

Initiatives aimed at promoting the breadfruit sector directly benefited over eight businesses and cooperatives led by women and youth in the Grand'Anse region. These entities developed business plans to foster their growth, facilitated by interventions from the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Regarding the establishment of sectoral tables for social protection in the Nippes and South regions, they indirectly benefited a wide range of stakeholders involved in social protection, thereby contributing to overall improvements in this field and the well-being of populations.

Did your JP support the localization of SDGs by moving SDG actions to the local level and enhancing abilities of local and regional governments to promote the SDGs?

Enhanced capacities of staff in the local and regional governments; Established or enhanced institutional arrangements to ensure adequate multi-level governance.;

Provide information of how your JP supported localization of the SDGs as outlined above:

The joint program has supported the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in several ways. Firstly, within the framework of establishing departmental sectoral tables for social protection, initiatives have been deployed to enhance the consideration of local needs. A mapping of needs has been developed in collaboration with local authorities, civil society organizations, and communities, ensuring an inclusive consideration of local perspectives in identifying development priorities. Additionally, capacity-building programs have been implemented at the local level to empower local governments and community actors to better understand and address social protection issues and the SDGs.

In the same spirit, within the scope of this joint program, a workshop and consultations were conducted with local stakeholders to strengthen legal frameworks regarding the establishment of agricultural enterprises, facilitating access to decent and adequately remunerated work, as advocated by SDG 8. This process has already resulted in a preliminary version of the strengthened legal framework, including an inventory of key laws or regulations.

Communications

Voices from the field

"The two Joint Programs are part of the Haitian Government's efforts to 'improve the socio-economic well-being of the entire population, especially the most vulnerable layers, through the development and implementation of social protection and promotion programs,' stated Mr. Odney Pierre Ricot, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor."

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.