JOINT SDG FUND

Joint Programme Document:

Innovating public financial management to accelerate SDGs implementation in the Dominican Republic

Joint programme title:	Innovating public financial management to accelerate SDGs implementation in the Dominican Republic
Duration:	12 months
Anticipated start and end dates:	01/2025 to 12/2025
Short description: 250 words	The Joint Programme (JP) aims to accelerate the Dominican Republic's progress toward the SDGs by enhancing public financial management systems and resource allocation processes. Through the integration of advanced AI technologies and SDG-aligned budget classifiers, the JP will modernize the country's budgeting mechanisms, ensuring greater transparency, efficiency, and accountability in public spending. By embedding sustainability criteria, the JP will help align resource flows with national priorities. Key expected results include the strengthening of policy and budgetary instruments to address inequalities, improve fiscal sustainability, and increase social investment in marginalized groups. The JP will also enhance statistical capacities to provide reliable, disaggregated data, enabling more precise tracking of multidimensional poverty and the needs of disadvantaged populations. The JP directly contributes to SDG transitions, including digital transformation and social protection, while introducing innovative financing mechanisms, to mobilize additional resources for sustainable development. Furthermore, the JP will strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks by embedding sustainability criteria into budgetary processes, ensuring that public spending better serves marginalized and vulnerable populations. By driving engine room actions, including large-scale capacity building for national stakeholders in modern financial monitoring tools, the JP will foster cross-sectoral collaboration and ensure the adoption of advanced methodologies. The deal room approach will further enhance the country's ability to manage a diverse financing mix, attracting both public and private investments for sustainable development. Through this comprehensive strategy, the JP will address systemic gaps in resource allocation and build a solid foundation for the Dominican Republic to achieve its SDG targets by 2030.
Joint Programme team:	
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Total budget:	$1,770,692.46
Source of funds:	
UN Joint SDG Fund	*$ 249,845*
UNDP co-funding	*$ 32,847.46*
UNICEF co-funding	*$ 40,000*
Government co-funding	*$ 400,000*
International donor co-funding	*$ 48,000.00*

Other sources co-funding	*$ 1,000,000*
Legal context	The legal basis for the joint programme is the Legal Annex for the signed United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027). It refers to the cooperation or assistance agreements or other agreements that are the existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government of the Dominican Republic and each Participating UN Organization.

Joint Programme Profile

Contribution to Cooperation Framework Outcome(s) and Output(s)	**Outcome 1:** The State strengthens a comprehensive response to reducing poverty and inequalities with a multidimensional approach, focused on rights, gender equality, and territorial perspectives, ensuring no one is left behind. **Output 1.1:** Public, private, and social institutions have strengthened capacities, tools, and methodologies to improve legal, regulatory, and comprehensive policy frameworks, as well as inter-institutional and intersectoral mechanisms for gender equality and social inclusion of vulnerable groups, based on dialogue, social participation, and with a territorial approach. **Output 1.3:** National capacities are strengthened to promote an Integrated National Public and Private Framework for financing the 2030 Agenda, based on human rights and with a territorial approach, aimed at improving fiscal sustainability, investment and quality of social public spending, the development of progressive tax systems and redistributive mechanisms, the creation of inclusive, innovative, sustainable, resilient, and green financing instruments, as well as leveraging resources and linking the diaspora with national investment and local development. **Outcome 6:** The State strengthens democratic governance and citizen participation, promotes efficient and transparent public management, improves access to justice with equality, and combats corruption and organized crime across the entire territory. **Output 6.1:** National capacities are strengthened to formulate, implement, and evaluate legal, regulatory, and public policy frameworks and mechanisms that strengthen: public management, the civil service career path, and the professionalization of public service at both central and local levels, with criteria of ethics, transparency, efficiency, inclusion, and accountability; justice systems with a focus on human rights, gender, intersectionality, and territorial perspectives; as well as the fight against corruption, crime prevention, and transnational organized crime, through shared responsibility with the private sector and the use of digitization and innovation. **Output 6.4:** Statistical capacities are strengthened with a territorial approach to produce, analyze, and use quality, ethical, reliable, disaggregated, open, continuous, and gender-sensitive indicators, data, and statistics that inform decision-making at central and local levels, guide public policies and budgets, and monitor progress on the SDGs across all areas of the Cooperation Framework.
SDG Targets directly addressed by the Joint Programme	1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

	• 17.1 To strengthen the mobilization of internal resources, even though the provision of international support to developing countries, in order to improve the national capacity of collecting tax revenues and others. • 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources. • 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
Expected key results of the Joint Programme	1. The financial planning process in the DR counts with an innovative and automated SDG tagging process developed through cutting-edge artificial intelligence technology 2. Enhanced interoperability across financial and physical monitoring and planning systems through the integration of a development classifier within public financial information systems 3. Strengthened national capacities to promote an Integrated National Public and Private Framework for financing the 2030 Agenda, based on human rights and with a territorial approach, aimed at improving fiscal sustainability, investment, and the quality of social public spending, developing progressive tax systems and redistributive mechanisms, creating inclusive, innovative, sustainable, resilient, and green financing instruments, as well as leveraging resources and linking the diaspora with national investment and local development. 4. Strengthened Joint Programme Management, Monitoring, Reporting, and Communication Systems
Anticipated direct beneficiaries	30% of the DR population who are beneficiaries of current social programmes that will be strengthen with funding from alternative financing mechanisms
Anticipated financial leverage	USD 750 million can be mobilized through social and green thematic bonds
Localization marker score	2

The primary focus on SDG Transitions in the JP. *Select all that are incorporated into the JP strategy and results.*	☒ Digital Transformation ☐ Food Systems ☒ Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection ☐ Energy Access and Affordability ☒ Transforming Education ☒ Climate, Biodiversity, Pollution
Main engine room actions that the JP supports. *Select all that are incorporated into the JP strategy and results.*	☒ Shifts across policy and regulatory frameworks ☒ Capacity building at scale ☒ Deal room (financing mix) ☐ Pipeline of bankable and market-ready projects

JOINT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Situation analysis

The Dominican Republic, an upper middle-income Small Island Developing State (SIDS) and one of the most dynamic economies in Latin America and the Caribbean, faces a complex development landscape. Despite notable economic growth and progress over the past two decades, the country grapples with challenges in advancing towards the National Development Strategy (END 2030) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Dominican Republic's commitment to sustainable development is reflected in its adoption of the END 2030, which outlines a long-term vision structured around four strategic pillars. With current Government efforts, the country has made a strong progress on achieving long-term development goals, reducing extreme poverty, increasing access to public services, and improving macroeconomic stability. However, making further progress is hindered by persistent barriers in mobilizing adequate and sustainable financial resources, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on existing vulnerabilities. Disaggregated data reveal stark inequalities, with women, rural populations, and those in precarious employment facing disproportionately high levels of poverty and limited access to essential services. Gender-based disparities are notably severe in income levels, education access, and decision-making participation.

Despite these efforts, several barriers impede progress. Resource allocation and prioritization are hampered by outdated budget information systems that lack the capability to integrate SDG criteria, impacting efficient resource allocation and development monitoring. Data gaps and monitoring limitations pose significant challenges in tracking financial flows and outcomes, affecting the ability to identify financial gaps and development bottlenecks effectively. Furthermore, gender and inclusion gaps persist, with current frameworks struggling to fully integrate gender-responsive approaches and address disparities affecting children, adolescents, and those left behind. Technical and capacity constraints also present hurdles, particularly in adopting advanced methodologies like AI-based classifiers for SDG alignment.

The country has made significant progress in developing important national planning instruments such as the Multiannual Public Sector Plan, the country's National Development Strategy Law and ten-year plans for the health and education sectors, which are fundamental for guiding public policies, the formulation of the national budget and the social sectors. Although the planning instruments state among the objectives of equality, inclusion and equity the effective exercise of rights, the country does not have a systematic methodology to reflect the investment made by the state in overcoming the social challenges and rights of vulnerable population segments with robust precision. On the other hand, it is essential to determine the gaps in public investment in order to contribute to overcoming the barriers faced by these populations, which are expressed in exclusions to access and low quality of services.

In terms of public policy implementation, support is needed to adopt a thematic methodology for segmenting at-risk populations and to align budget and expenditure execution with public policy objectives associated with priority populations. These processes will contribute to improving the quality of public social spending, making it more visible and facilitating systematic monitoring in the budget and public investment system.

In 2024, the Dominican Republic embarked on implementing the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) as a key element of its comprehensive Financing for Development Strategy, anchored in the END 2030. Led by the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development (MEPYD) and the Ministry of Finance (MH), with robust support from the United Nations system, the INFF aims to align development planning with financing by enhancing resource mobilization, improving public spending efficiency, and embedding sustainable development principles into financial systems. This initiative includes modernizing public financial systems, particularly through tagging the State's General Budget to reflect SDG contributions, thus ensuring transparency, accountability, and the inclusion of marginalized groups in the country's development efforts. By fostering a gender-responsive, human rights-based approach, the INFF seeks to address systemic barriers, promote inclusive growth, and accelerate progress towards the SDGs, realizing the vision set forth in the END 2030.

Programme Strategy and theory of change

The Joint Programme (JP) aims to transform public financial management in the Dominican Republic by aligning budgetary instruments and policies with the country's national development priorities, Cooperation Framework outcomes, and 2030 Agenda. The programme is designed to meet immediate development needs while laying the groundwork for sustained progress towards the SDGs. By focusing on critical areas such as poverty reduction, fiscal sustainability, and inclusive social investment, the JP will significantly contribute to achieving long-term national goals.

Strategic Alignment with CF Outcomes and National Priorities:

1. **Enhanced Policy and Budgetary Instruments**: The JP will strengthen public policies, strategies, and budgets aimed at reducing poverty and promoting equal opportunities. These instruments will be comprehensive, intersectoral, and grounded in evidence, integrating **human rights**, **gender equality**, and **territorial approaches**. By embedding equity, efficiency, and transparency criteria, the programme will ensure that public resources are allocated to address the needs of the most disadvantaged and socially excluded groups and territories.

2. **Strengthened Statistical Capacities**: The JP will enhance the country's **statistical capacities** with a territorial focus, generating quality, disaggregated data for multidimensional poverty measurement and inequality identification that helps to assess the correlation between sectoral public spending and HDI dimensions. This will enable informed decision-making and targeted public policies, ensuring that resources are directed where they are most needed.

Contribution to SDG Acceleration:

- The JP will directly contribute to **SDG acceleration** through **digital transformation**, capacity-building, and the integration of innovative financing instruments. By facilitating the issuance of **thematic bonds** and improving investor confidence, the JP will generate the knowledge platform and the evidence that will help mobilize additional resources under favorable conditions for development projects, particularly those targeting marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Theory of Change

The Theory of Change (ToC) for the JP is built on the premise that integrating SDG-aligned budgetary practices into the Dominican Republic's public financial systems will accelerate progress toward national priorities and the 2030 Agenda from a focus on social and economic inclusion of vulnerable populations, gender equality and promotion of instruments for the green transition to achieve sustainability of development goals. By automating the alignment of financial resources with the SDGs, the JP seeks to transform how public spending is tracked, allocated, and mobilized.

Key Components:

1. **Current Situation**:

   o **Fragmented planning and budgeting processes** hinder efficient resource allocation, especially for cross-cutting issues like gender equality, social protection, and environmental sustainability.

   o A reliance on **manual budget tagging** limits the accuracy and efficiency of public spending alignment with SDGs, which leads to inefficiencies and missed opportunities for advancing development goals.

o Pressure to demonstrate the budgetary and investment contribution of programs and projects to the country's National Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda and demands to improve the quality of public spending and increase effectiveness and impact due to budgetary limitations and stress of high debt burden after COVID 19.

o The intervention identifies as actors of change on what the project will influence: i.-Those responsible for the institutional processes of classification, allocation of expenditure and application of monitoring, ii.-The technical teams for evaluating the quality of the processes and evaluators and iii.-The final decision makers who exercise a strategic role in supporting the management of resources.

2. **Strategic Interventions**:

o **Digital Transformation**: The JP will introduce AI-driven tools to automate budget tagging, aligning public expenditures with SDG targets and improving transparency and accountability. This transformation will ensure a more efficient and accurate reflection of the country's sustainable development commitments.

o The development of a **SDG classifier** will enable real-time tracking of resources, allowing for better monitoring of resource flows and identifying funding gaps that hinder progress toward national priorities.

o A financing strategy leveraged to the country's National Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda is a platform to identify linkages as binding axes, especially important in cases where a program or project contributes to the goals of several SDGs at the same time, facilitating intersectoral synergies. Indeed, the exercise of aligning expenditure execution with the SDG targets facilitates the formulation of "integrated policy baskets" as accelerating responses to the redistributive and inclusive effects of vulnerable populations. It allows for an optimal distribution of investment and spending through a more precise, robust and cost-effective measure to tackle head-on social, economic and environmental problems that persist despite high economic growth.

o The intervention strategy to identify public investment in gender-responsive programs will be based on the budget classifier developed by the General Budget Directorate (DIGEPRES). The implementation will pay special attention to ensure that the markers of the gender continuum (sensitive, responsive and transformative) are duly identified in the planning process, as well as in the budgeting and monitoring of the execution of public programs, mainly those that are especially focused on leaving no one behind.

As part of the project, under the leadership of the MEPyD and with the support of the United Nations System (UNS), a coordination and joint work mechanism will be established between government institutions with direct competencies to contribute to the 2030 Agenda.

This mechanism consists of two interrelated working groups to develop the strategic and technical work necessary to ensure continuity and sustainability of the project.

- A Specialized Technical Committee will be established; it will have the role of coordinating the processes involved in the project: development of the algorithms, design and pilot test during a trial or incubation period that will involve a close link with the entities that will complement the implementation. This group is made up of technicians from the Ministry of Economy, UNDESA, UNICEF, UNDP and representatives of the Ministry of Finance and the General Budget Directorate (DIGEPRES).

- An Implementation Support Committee will be created, which will be made up of representatives of the 4 sub commissions that monitor the 2030 Agenda in the country, distributed in the strategic areas (People, Prosperity, Institutionality and Planet Roundtables) who, due to their experience, will provide support in the stages of aligning the execution of spending to the SDG targets and will play a role of validation and quality assurance of the processes with an oversight role to prevent the reproduction of gender bias and exclusion of vulnerable populations. The SDG sub commissions are the mechanism for implementation and acceleration of the Sustainable Development Agenda in the country and include representatives of the governing entities or public policy executing entities and include funding and data management agencies at the government level and external to the government, 3 representatives of the business sector.

- In a cross-cutting manner, the country's Interagency Gender Group will contribute with training and sensitization on rights, capacities to detect gender biases, revision of the classification manuals to optimize the tools. Specific support will be provided by the UNDP Regional Gender Team to ensure final quality of the instruments.This work will be complemented with the exploration of the demands of vulnerable populations to connect with a better budget allocation through the Single Registry of Territorial Demands. This instrument will allow the recognition of rights through the voice of the same people as basic information to formulate measures to redistribute spending and reduce gender disparities.

3. **Expected Outcomes**:

   o **Efficient Resource Allocation**: Public financial systems will allocate resources more effectively to SDG-aligned priorities, reducing inequality and improving social protection for vulnerable groups. This can be translated into an increase in the quality of public spending, with special focus to programs aimed at boys, girls, adolescents, programs aimed at gender equity (gender-sensitive, responsive or transformative), as well as other vulnerable groups.

   o Generate an agenda for the generation of knowledge with specialized Brief's type analysis that deepens the analysis of the inequalities faced by selected groups and proposals for measures as alternatives for improved distribution of investment and public spending. Three brief's will be developed: (1) Budgetary measures to optimize investment and public spending for gender equality (2) Detection of budget lines that reproduce gender biases and (3) Identification of investment opportunities and public spending to improve investment in children and adolescents.

   o **Enhanced Capacity for Resource Mobilization**: The JP will strengthen the country's ability to mobilize resources from both public and private sectors, ensuring a balanced financing mix for SDG implementation. With the generation of knowledge, advocacy actions will be carried out to expand the contribution of the private sector, generating evidence to support projects for the social and economic inclusion of vulnerable groups. Specifically, the contribution to the agenda of eliminating gender inequalities, promoting the inclusion of adolescent girls in technology and STEM careers is highlighted. This initiative will be linked to the elaboration of the Private Sector Investment Map for the SDGs that is being developed within the framework of the INFF, which is currently under development in the country.

   o The government established a systemic evaluation protocol of management results of prioritized programs and projects and their impact on the National Development Strategy and 2030 Agenda by the adoption of sustainable instruments and operational mechanisms supported by AI.

Assumptions:

- There will be sustained political commitment to implement public financial reforms.

- Technical and institutional capacities exist to integrate AI-driven tools into financial systems.

- Existing financial and planning systems can be integrated with new tools.

- The opportunity to learn and integrate into the budget formulation protocols through AI will allow for more efficiency in the operational work of the technical teams and more time for analysis and formulation of innovative recommendations to improve the management and quality of public spending.

- The country already has experience implementing automated tools for planning and budgeting, which is why a new AI tool that provides quick information for decision-making has high potential for sustainability.

- The country has policy and programmatic frameworks, as well as the government's commitment, to leave no one behind, particularly vulnerable groups such as children, adolescents in unions or early pregnancies, and women victims of violence. This allows for the reflection in reports with disaggregated data, showing how public policies and programs are budgeted to ensure no one is left behind.

Risks:

- Being a pioneering global innovation, the development of the tool may face unexpected challenges.

- Existing information systems may present interoperability challenges, limiting the full integration of the classifier.

- The perception of technical teams that the introduction of an automated platform that facilitates the analysis, evaluation and budget formulation will affect their employment status and permanence.

Risk of reproducing gender biases and limiting the opportunities of vulnerable populations by using an AI tool in the classification and alignment of budget lines and inadvertently contributing to underinvestment in capacities to meet their challenges.

Complementarity with Development Partners and Added Value of UN Collaboration

This Joint Programme (JP) enhances and complements the ongoing efforts of development partners in the Dominican Republic by addressing a critical gap in financial monitoring and resource allocation for sustainable development. While the country has already begun tagging the State's General Budget to align with the SDGs, JP introduces innovative technologies, including AI and an SDG classifier, to modernize and streamline budgetary processes. This will significantly improve the accuracy and efficiency of public financial management, ensuring that resources are better aligned with national priorities and the 2030 Agenda.

UNICEF supports the government in the periodic measurement of public investment in children, a process that is currently underway for the measurement for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. In 2023, UNICEF supported the government in measuring public investment in children for the year 2021.

Likewise, UNICEF also has initiatives to measure public investment in girls and adolescents in the 20 municipalities prioritized for the policy of prevention and attention to early unions and adolescent pregnancy.

UNDP has developed in 2018 an analytical document of the country's main financing flows, exploring opportunities to contribute with decision makers to better redirect investments and public spending to development issues. An exercise was developed that identifies for the education sector the budget lines aligned with the SDGs and proposes a methodology that facilitates the redirection of spending and investment in specific programs and projects to improve the cost-effectiveness of programmatic activities

in this sector's budget. The project aims to resize the various analyses and techniques applied to expand the scope to the entire national budget, which implies investment of a wide range in terms of time.

Currently, several UN programmes and agencies make development-focused budget analysis. Besides, multilateral institutions such as the IMF, the WB and the IDB make budget analysis with a development perspective. However, the necessary work to build each one of those reports is very demanding. For instance, publishing UNICEF's report on child-related expenditure takes almost a year of work, and most of the time is spent on analyzing the budget instead of making more strategic recommendations. The development of an automated AI tool will substantially ease the process of budget analysis with development perspective, encouraging more development partners and even the public institutions to make more recurring reports and analysis.

Added Value of UN Collaboration:

The UN's collective technical expertise brings unique added value to this JP by facilitating a comprehensive, integrated approach to sustainable development financing. Building on the **Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)**, the JP addresses key areas such as **resource mapping** and **monitoring mechanisms**, specifically targeting Building Blocks 1 and 3 of the INFF. Additionally, the UN's involvement ensures cross-sectoral coordination, improving coherence among stakeholders and aligning efforts with national and global goals. The UN will also guarantee the systematic inclusion of **gender equality**, **human rights**, and **social equity** principles in public financial management systems, driving transformative, inclusive change.

Expected Outputs and Contribution to SDG Acceleration

The JP will generate several outputs critical for advancing the SDGs in the Dominican Republic:

1. **AI-powered SDG budget tagging**: This output will automate the categorization of public expenditures, ensuring accurate and timely alignment with SDG targets and reducing administrative overhead. This instrument will help identify the state's investment to overcome structural challenges with special focus in vulnerable groups such as children, women, people with disabilities and others. The tool will be useful to identify financing gaps to achieve specific goals of the country's development agenda and the 2030 Agenda.

2. **Development classifier integration**: A robust financial tracking tool will enable real-time monitoring of resources, helping identify gaps in funding for vulnerable groups and promoting more efficient resource allocation. This expense classification instrument will include the integration of the gender equality approach and measures to avoid reproducing gender biases, exclusions and discrimination. Likewise, an analysis of integration of the human rights approach and inclusion of vulnerable people will be carried out.

3. **Capacity building at scale**: Training programs will equip public officials and stakeholders with the skills needed to implement new financial monitoring systems, enhancing the sustainability of reforms.

These outputs will directly contribute to **SDG acceleration**, particularly in **gender equality (SDG 5)**, **reduced inequalities (SDG 10)**, and **climate action (SDG 13)** by ensuring resources are directed to the most critical areas.

(4) Impact on Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups

The JP will actively promote **equity and inclusion** by ensuring that public financial management systems are designed to benefit **marginalized and vulnerable groups**, including women, children, adolescents and the elderly. By embedding **gender-sensitive** and **age-sensitive** budgeting practices, the JP will ensure that resources are allocated

where they are most needed and where they can have the greatest socioeconomic impact to accelerate the achievements of the National Development Strategy and 2030 Agenda. The SDG classifier will allow for **continuous tracking** of expenditure directed toward these groups, ensuring resource gaps are identified and addressed in a timely manner. For governments, it is very difficult to make decisions regarding expenditures towards vulnerable population without a clear perspective of current flows. Some countries have implemented budget classifiers with limited effect on actual policy making. Two relevant challenges have been identified: (i) high workload implementing the classifiers, and (ii) subjectivity of the classifiers because of its decentralized nature. The implied workload of centralizing the task of classifying the budget with a development language makes it impossible for budgetary units to centralize the process. Moreover, it is unfeasible to implement a multidimensional budget classifier because of this same challenge. The AI tool will solve this problem.

On the other hand, there are raising concerns about possible biases of AI tools towards vulnerable populations or gender equality. It is important to mention that Large-language models (LLM) are very powerful algorithms that use probability principles to understand and build texts. In other words, an LLM is nothing else than a probabilistic algorithm that matches words, according to probabilities calculated with machine learning. This means that an AI tool can be biased if and only if the AI training source is biased. In public LLMs (such as ChatGPT, Gemini, DeepSeek), this situation is easy to happen because they get trained using almost the entire World Wide Web (WWW), which reflects historical and cultural biases.

The training process for this project is completely different. The AI tool will use an existing algorithm (probabilistic model) but will not be trained using open websites. The AI tool algorithm will be trained only with current budget tagging exercises already done by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Planning, with technical support for development partners, including UN agencies and institutions (particularly UNDP and UNDESA). This exclusive machine learning process ensures that no bias is injected into the AI tool and the final outcome has all the characteristics of already manual budget tagging exercises in the Dominican Republic.

The country's Interagency Gender Group will contribute with training and sensitization on rights, capacities to detect gender biases, revision of the classification manuals to optimize the tools. Specific support will be provided by the UNDP Regional Gender Team to ensure final quality of the instruments and will contribute with training for the detection of gender biases and their resolution, identifying good international practices of public expenditure labeling and public policy options as an alternative to compensate for differences and provide homogeneous benefits and opportunities for all people.

Additionally, **participatory budgeting workshops** and consultations with vulnerable groups will ensure that these populations are meaningfully engaged in the budgetary process, providing direct input into resource allocation decisions "to leave no one behind".

At this point, it is important to mention that MEPyD used the 2024 SDG budget tagging to provide relevant inputs for the issuance of the first green bond in the Dominican Republic. The 2024 SDG budget tagging facilitated the process of identifying eligible expenses to be funded by the green bond. This input took more than three (3) months to be finalized because of the required manual work while tagging the 2024 national budget. With a computational tool that helps accelerating the process, the Government of the Dominican Republic will have more access to relevant information in order to mobilize additional resources through alternative financing mechanisms.

(5) Contribution to UN Human Rights Mechanisms

The JP will directly contribute to several **UN human rights mechanisms**, including:

- **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**: By addressing recommendations related to gender equality and financial inclusivity.

- **Committee on the Rights of the Child**: Ensuring that child protection and welfare priorities are reflected in budget allocations.

- **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**: Promoting gender-sensitive budgeting practices that reduce disparities in resource allocation.

- **Special Procedures on poverty and human rights**: The JP's focus on resource allocation for marginalized communities will directly contribute to addressing poverty from a human rights perspective.

- **Treaty bodies' recommendations on inclusive development**: The JP's integration of cross-cutting approaches in financial systems supports the implementation of inclusive development recommendations.

List of marginalized and vulnerable groups[1]	Dedicated Output
Women and girls	Output 1.5
Children	Output 1.5
Youth	Output 1.5
Persons with disabilities	Output 1.5
Older persons	Output 1.5
Internally displaced persons	Output 1.5

Sustainability and Exit Strategy

The JP lays the groundwork for financial sustainability by focusing on innovative financing mechanisms that will attract long-term investments in sustainable development. By implementing an SDG public expenditure classifier and streamlining the identification of eligible expenditures for thematic bonds, the JP will enhance the government's ability to issue these bonds and mobilize resources under favorable conditions. Furthermore, the JP will support the Dominican Government in developing and institutionalizing these financing mechanisms, ensuring that they become integral components of the national budgetary process. Over time, these efforts will reduce the reliance on external funding, as the government and local stakeholders will be better positioned to generate and allocate resources efficiently. The role of PUNOs and donors will evolve towards providing technical support and advisory services to enhance the effectiveness of these mechanisms.

To achieve lasting institutional change, the JP will work closely with key government institutions, particularly DIGEPRES and DIGES, to integrate the SDG classifier into the country's public financial information systems. This integration will ensure that the methodology and tools developed during the JP are institutionalized, enabling continuous monitoring and evaluation of public expenditures towards the SDGs. The JP will also focus on capacity-building initiatives for government officials and other relevant stakeholders, ensuring that the knowledge and skills required to maintain and enhance these systems are retained within the institutions. PUNOs will play a crucial role

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[1] The other marginalized and vulnerable groups include, amongst other, minorities (incl. Ethnic, religious, linguistic...), people of African Descent, persons deprived of their liberty, peasants and rural workers, human rights defenders (incl. NGOs, journalists, union leaders, whistleblowers...), migrants, stateless persons, LGBTIQ+ persons (sexual orientation and gender identity), persons living with (HIV/AIDS, leprosy...), persons with albinism, victims or relatives of victims of enforced disappearances, victims of (slavery, torture, trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse...). List as per the standard 20 LNOB groups according to the Implementation Guide for the Output Indicator Framework for measuring the United Nations contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals: https://1102656428-files.gitbook.io/~/files/v0/b/gitbook-x-prod.appspot.com/o/spaces%2F-MbDdHe_y0zwBb9YTe4W%2Fuploads%2F4114YgYQuQo7qKb5ycyL%2FG%20-%20221031-%20Implementation%20Guide.pdf?alt=media&token=e54c735a-c0a6-4984-8025-2f8b777d1d89.

in providing ongoing technical assistance, while government institutions will assume full ownership of the tools and processes, ensuring their sustainability.

This is a process that involves a platform to open opportunities for scaling and sustainability of the management and evaluation instruments of the quality of public spending that facilitate the implementation of an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient financing strategy. Likewise, it is the basis for generating information and data to evaluate compliance with the country's development goals and indicators, facilitating the application of prediction models and strategic scenarios for decision making and monitoring social, economic, and environmental investment optimally. The JP will bring capacities for developing a set of sectoral policy documents to implement a better mix of policy responses that can be more cost-effective and generate better recovery effects.

While implementing INFFs, not only in the Dominican Republic but in many other countries in the world, the need for implementing budget tagging methodologies has become evident. Knowing how the public expenditure is aligned with development needs is key for making informed policy decisions. However, as previously mentioned in this document, implementing a budget tag is not trivial, especially if the Government wants to make a multidimensional analysis. Identifying financing flows towards the 169 SDG targets is the ideal scenario for having a clear picture of development financing. However, Ministries of Finance and budgetary units do not have the necessary personnel to accomplish this task every year. This is where computational models take place. Considering the experience of INFFs programmes tagging budgets in different countries, the tagging process becomes very repetitive once some fiscal years are already tagged. In repetitive tasks is where computational tools excel. In this way, the scalability of this project is not only contained to the central government of the Dominican Republic. Later on, the tool might become useful to analyze sectoral and municipal public budgets. Moreover, the step taken by the Dominican Republic might facilitate the development of similar tools for dozens of additional countries implementing INFFs, wanting to mobilize resources through innovative financing mechanisms. With the experience gained from this project, the Dominican Republic might become an important actor for south-south cooperation on this regard. This is especially relevant ahead of the Fourth International Conference for Sustainable Development, whose Draft Zero stresses the use of AI technologies and other ICTs for resource mobilization. The Dominican Republic wants to be a step ahead in this commitment.

In terms of sustainability, the DR Government and PUNOs have already researched the fixed costs of maintaining a tool such as the proposed in this project. Once the code is developed, which is actually the most difficult task, the developers deliver a protocol to keep the tool updated with advancements in LLMs and with additional manual budget tags. The machine learning process never ends, but it is a simple task for any computer engineer to do so. Moreover, the code can be run on a standalone computer or a connected server. The connectivity of the tool is up to the DR Government and their available resources, and out of the scope of this project. However, the level of connectivity decided by the Government does not hinder the scope of this project. In a perfectly feasible scenario, the AI tool might be managed by the budgetary unit at MoF and once the budget is processed, they could share the results with all relevant public institutions. The AI tool is only used for tagging the national budget. Once the process is finished, there are several mechanisms and platforms already in place to share public financial information.

Roles and Responsibilities
- **Government**: Lead the integration of the SDG classifier into national financial systems, oversee the issuance of thematic bonds, and ensure institutionalization of the JP's tools and methodologies.
- **PUNOs**: Provide technical support, capacity-building, and advisory services to enhance the effectiveness of financing mechanisms and institutional integration.

Steering and management arrangements

The Joint Programme (JP) is governed by a robust and integrated structure that ensures coordinated decision-making, transparent oversight, and alignment with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs). The governance framework leverages existing UN and government mechanisms to minimize transaction costs, avoid duplicative structures, and promote sustainable, high-impact results.

At the heart of the JP's governance is the Steering Committee (SC), co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) and a senior representative of the Dominican Government. This dual leadership ensures that both UN system mandates and national development priorities are integrated into the strategic direction of the JP. The SC's role is to provide high-level guidance, approve work plans, and monitor progress against the JP's objectives. Comprising representatives from all Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs), key government ministries, donors, and relevant stakeholders such as civil society and the private sector, the SC meets at least once a year to review performance and address any challenges that arise. Additional meetings can be convened to ensure flexibility in response to emerging needs.

The engagement of CSOs and Academia is quite important for this particular project. First, although advancements in Artificial Intelligence are occurring on a daily basis, its output needs to be rechecked, especially during the first stages of implementation. Technical experts from relevant development sectors will be engaged during the process. In addition, the scope of the project does not stop only with the development of the AI tool. The project also contemplates discussing what to do with the output of the tool in order to mobilize additional resources for development. For doing so, CSOs will be engaged in order to discuss the current landscape of public expenditure in development areas and identify which areas should be prioritized for greater funding, not only considering the AI tool but also the perception of these organizations. The output of the tool will be taken as additional evidence, in conjunction with other monitoring tools, to make decisions in alliance with relevant stakeholders, including CSOs. The Joint Programme Team (JP Team) operates under the strategic guidance of the SC and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the JP. Led by a designated PUNO, the team includes programme staff from all PUNOs and non-UN partners, ensuring a cross-sectoral approach to implementation. The JP Team meets regularly to track progress, make necessary adjustments, and ensure activities remain aligned with the overall results framework and budget. This continuous monitoring and learning process allows the team to adapt quickly to any external changes, ensuring that the JP remains relevant and effective.

The RC and Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) play a key role in ensuring integrated implementation across the UN system, promoting coherence in decision-making and reporting. By avoiding the establishment of parallel structures, the JP governance relies on existing UNCT and government coordination mechanisms, which reduces transaction costs and enhances synergy across related initiatives. This approach also strengthens the alignment between the JP's outcomes and broader country priorities, as well as SDG targets.

Overall, this governance and management model leverages existing resources and mechanisms, ensuring efficient coordination and effective use of funds. The combination of high-level oversight from the SC and operational leadership from the JP Team ensures that the JP is well-positioned to deliver on its objectives, while maintaining flexibility and responsiveness to the evolving development landscape.

Monitoring, accountability, financial management, and public disclosure
Standard text – do not change

Reporting on the Joint SDG Fund will be focused on concrete results and grounded in evidence. The RCO focal point and lead PUNO is responsible for coordinating and drafting a concise annual report (using the Fund Secretariat template/guidance), which is submitted to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat through the RC by January 31st of the following year. Additionally, a final narrative report must be prepared and submitted to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat through the RC no later than two (2) months after the operational closure of the Joint Programme activities.

The JP Steering Committee, co-chaired by the RC, is mandated to oversee and monitor the implementation of the joint programme, with the involvement of Joint SDG Fund Secretariat to which it must submit data

and information upon requested. Additionally, the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat may request additional insights, such as policy papers, value-for-money analysis, case studies, infographics, or blogs/articles, as needed.

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

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

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

The JP will be using a pass-through fund management modality where UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will act as the Administrative Agent. The programmatic UN entity of the Facility shall assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent of the Joint SDG Fund (Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office). Such funds will be administered by each UN Agency, Fund, and Project in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures. The entity shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.

A minimum of 5% of the JP budget is allocated for monitoring, reporting, evaluation, audit and communications. Indirect costs of the Participating Organizations recovered through project support costs will be 7%, with exception of WFP and UNHCR which should be 6,5%. All other costs incurred by each PUNO in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Fund will be recovered as direct costs. Procedures on financial transfers, extensions, financial and operational closure, and related administrative issues are stipulated in the Operational Guidance of the Joint SDG Fund. PUNOs and partners must comply with Joint SDG Fund brand guidelines, which includes information on donor visibility requirements.

Annex 1: Integrated results framework and workplan

JP Outputs

Output 1.1.: The financial planning process in the DR counts with an innovative and automated SDG tagging process developed through cutting-edge artificial intelligence technology			
Output indicator 1: Number of ministries with completed data assessments, with special focus in vulnerable groups such as children, women, people with disabilities and others.	Baseline: 0	Target: 8	Means of verification: Findings of the evaluation of gender bias in the budget lines of the institutions. Implementation reports, M&E reports, Press releases
Number of budget programmes successfully tagged using the AI model.	Baseline: 0	Target: 110	Means of verification: Implementation reports, M&E reports, Press releases
Number of personnel trained on AI-based budget tagging and monitoring with gender and inclusion of vulnerable groups approach.	Baseline: 0	Target: 50	Means of verification: Implementation reports, M&E reports, Training participation list, Press releases
Number of knowledge products developed and published (reports, policy briefs). Three brief's will be developed: (1) Budgetary measures to optimize investment and public spending for gender equality (2) Detection of budget lines that reproduce gender biases and (3) Identification of investment opportunities and public spending to improve investment in children and adolescents.	Baseline: 0	Target: 3	Means of verification: Thematic report on contribution to country's selected development topics (gender, childhood, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons). 1 Policy Brief will be elaborated that will systematize the experience and findings in the development and application of the artificial intelligence model, highlighting the learnings and lessons learned. A Working Paper will be developed that will analyze the contribution of public spending in overcoming the prioritized national socioeconomic and environmental problems focusing on

			Childhood, adolescents, and vulnerable population as prioritized groups in the National Development Strategy and the 2030 Agenda.
Output 1.2: Enhanced interoperability across financial and physical monitoring and planning systems through the integration of a development classifier within public financial information systems			
Output indicator 1: Number of planning and financing monitoring systems assessed.	Baseline: 0	Target: 2	Means of verification: Public spending alignment matrix by SDG goals (air table in excel). Gender specialists from the country's Interagency Gender Group will participate in the review of labeling and systems assessments to ensure the quality of the gender approach in the IA's work.
Output indicator 2: Percentage of budget programmes tagged using development metrics with special focus in vulnerable groups such as children, women, people with disabilities and others.	Baseline: 0	Target: 60%	Means of verification: Public spending alignment matrix by SDG goals (airtable in excel).
Output indicator 3: Number of training sessions conducted on the new system. The training will deepen the use of the tool, optimize its use and eliminate the risk of reproducing gender biases and exclusion of at-risk populations. The gender equality mainstreaming issues will be included with the participation of gender specialists from the country's Interagency Gender Group with the support of the UNDP Regional Gender Team. Training will be included for the	Baseline: 0	Target: 5	Means of verification: Implementation reports, M&E reports.

communications teams of the institutions and agencies involved to identify the reproduction of gender patterns and exclusion of vulnerable populations in networks and media advertising.			
Output 1.3.: Strengthened national capacities to promote an Integrated National Public and Private Framework for financing the 2030 Agenda, based on human rights and with a territorial approach, aimed at improving fiscal sustainability, investment, and the quality of social public spending, developing progressive tax systems and redistributive mechanisms, creating inclusive, innovative, sustainable, resilient, and green financing instruments, as well as leveraging resources and linking the diaspora with national investment and local development.			
Output indicator 1: Number of initiatives implemented with UN support to strengthen investment and the quality of social public spending in line with international human rights commitments and standards, including through gender-responsive budgets and/or targeting vulnerable groups, such as children, women, people with disabilities and others (constructed).	Baseline: 0	Target: 1	Means of verification: Policy notes on budgetary contribution to the SDGs of the vulnerable population of life cycle, childhood, youth and elderly.
Output indicator 2: percentage of budget programs with specific gender analysis and resolution or mitigation options to improve budget targeting of gender responsive programs.	Baseline: 0	Target: 40%	Means of verification: (1) Findings of the evaluation of gender bias in the budget lines of the institutions. (2) Consulting report to have a technical note for the evaluation of gender inequalities in public spending.
Output 1.4: Strengthened Joint Programme Management, Monitoring, Reporting, and Communication Systems			
Output indicator 1: Frequency of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reports generated and shared with stakeholders.	Baseline: 0	Target: Quarterly	Means of verification: M&E reports, distribution lists
Output indicator 2: Number of reports	Baseline: 0	Target: 2	Means of verification: Monitoring

disaggregated by gender, age, and vulnerability criteria (LNOB) to ensure inclusivity.			reports, data disaggregation tables
Number of communication materials produced and disseminated (e.g., newsletters, multimedia, reports) that includes three (3) briefs that deepening gender approach and targeting vulnerable groups, such as children, women, people with disabilities and others.	Baseline: 0	Target: 6	Means of verification: Communication logs, copies of materials produced.

Annex 1.2 JP contribution to Joint SDG Fund global indicators

Engine room 1. Shifting policy/regulatory frameworks			
Number of new or enhanced the integrated policy solutions and regulatory changes formulated to accelerate SDGs with Joint SDG Fund support.	Baseline: 0	Target: 2	MOV: Implementation reports, M&E reports, List of published documents, Policy briefs produced and distributed
Number of targeted countries where the integrated policy solutions and regulatory changes are implemented to promote equal access to and use of services, goods and resources by women and girls with Joint SDG Fund support.	Baseline: 0	Target: 1	MOV: Gender and children and adolescents-disaggregated data from policy implementation reports.
Number of individuals benefiting from the integrated policy solutions and regulatory changes implemented with Joint SDG Fund support, disaggregated by population segments (e.g. sex, age, persons with disabilities, etc.) with a focus on Leaving No One Behind.	Baseline: 0	Target: 30% of the DR population who are beneficiaries of current social programmes (67% of women head of household) that will be strengthen	MOV: National social and economic surveys, disaggregated government data.

		with funding from alternative financing mechanisms	
Engine room 2. Capacity building at scale			
Number of governmental (both at central and sub-central levels) and non-governmental organizations with enhanced capacity to design, implement and finance integrated policies, regulations and innovative solutions for SDG acceleration, with Joint SDG Fund support.	Baseline: 0	Target: 2	MOV: Capacity building reports, training attendance records, feedback surveys.
Number of tools, procedures and mechanisms (e.g. SOPs, training module, incentive structures) developed or implemented, focused on building capacities for SDG acceleration with Joint SDG Fund support (disaggregated by central and local actors).	Baseline: 0	Target: 5	MOV: Developed tools, training materials, government procedure documentation.
Number of experts identified and deployed to support RCs/UNCTs on SDG acceleration with Joint SDG Fund support.	Baseline: 0	Target: 2	MOV: ToR and Consultant contracts
Engine room 3. Developing market-ready pipeline of actions.			
Number of integrated multi-sectoral financing solutions or instruments created and launched with Joint SDG Fund support, disaggregated by theme/type.	Baseline: 0	Target: 5	MOV: Financing instrument documentation, launch announcements.
Number of actions, projects, businesses or organizations identified for inclusion in market-ready pipeline with Joint SDG Fund support.	Baseline:	Target:	MOV:
Ratio of actions, projects, businesses or organizations securing funding and receiving investments, in relations to those identified with Joint SDG Fund support.	Baseline:	Target:	MOV:
Engine room 4. Devising a financing mix (deal room)			
Amount in US$ of financing leveraged for integrated multi-sectoral solutions, with support from the Joint SDG Fund (disaggregation by type of investors – e.g. Gov, private, PPP, DFIs/IFIs).	Baseline: 0	Target: USD 750 million can be mobilized through social thematic bonds. leverage US$250.0	MOV: Financing agreements, investor reports.

					million in the first year, US$300.0 million in the second year, and US$200.0 million in the third year.	
Ratio of financing leveraged for integrated multi-sectoral solutions against the committed funds provided by the Joint SDG Fund.				Baseline:	Target:	MOV:
Number of investors providing direct financing to integrated multi-sectoral solutions developed, with support from the Joint SDG Fund (disaggregation by type of investors – e.g. Gov, private, PPP, DFIs/IFIs).				Baseline: 0	Target: 1 - BID	MOV: Investor documentation, agreements, MoUs.

Annex 1.3 Joint Programme Workplan

Output	Geographic focus	Start	End	PUNO	SDG Target	Human Rights Marker	Gender Marker	QCPR function	Available Budget (US$)
Output 1.1	National	1/1/2025	31/12/2025	UNICEF	17.1, 17.19	2	3	3.7 Partnerships / SDGs Financing	110,000.00
Output 1.2	National	1/1/2025	31/12/2025	UNDP	17.1, 17.18	2	3	3.7 Partnerships / SDGs Financing	130,000.00
Output 1.3	National	1/1/2025	31/12/2025	UNDP	17.1, 17.3	2	2	3.7 Partnerships / SDGs Financing	40,000.00

Output 1.4	National	1/1/2025	31/12/2025	UNICEF	17.16, 17.18	2	2	3.7 Partnerships / SDGs Financing	9,845.00

Annex 2: Risk Matrix

Risks	Categories	Risk Level: (Likelihood x Impact, as per instructions)	Likelihood: Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible – 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare – 1	Impact: Essential – 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor – 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigation measures	Risk owner
The Artificial Intelligence Tool is not delivered on time.	2.5. Delivery	6	2	3	PUNOS, with support from MEPyD, will be in constant communication with the developers to maintain delivery times	UNDP UNICEF
The AI delivered cannot be harnessed by the General Directorate for Public Budget (DIGEPRES).	7.3. Capacities of the partners	5	1	5	Since the design stage, developers should ensure that the AI tool is user friendly and will not require significant physical or human capital investments	UNDP UNICEF
The AI delivered cannot be integrated into the FMIS	7.3. Capacities of the partners	9	3	3	Output 2 is designed to be flexible and adapt to the needs and requirements of DIGEPRES and its FMIS. However, the project will consider a contingency plan to harness the AI tool results and integrate them into planning and financing monitoring	UNDP UNICEF

The use of an IA tool risks limiting project impact and diminishing opportunities to obtain aligned resources to redirect spending and investments to address gender inequities and biases.	1.2 Gender	9	3	3	The risk of reproducing gender biases and exclusion of vulnerable groups is reduced through trainings that will be conducted with the support of the country's Interagency Gender Group, the country gender team in the country office and with follow-up from the UNDP Regional Gender Team.	UNDP UNICEF

Likelihood	Occurrence	Frequency
Very Likely	The event **is expected** to occur in most circumstances	Twice a month or more frequently
Likely	The event **will** probably occur in most circumstances	Once every two months or more frequently
Possibly	The event **might** occur at some time	Once a year or more frequently
Unlikely	The event **could** occur at some time	Once every three years or more frequently
Rare	The event **may** occur in exceptional circumstances	Once every seven years or more frequently

Consequence	Result
Extreme	An event leading to **massive** or **irreparable** damage or disruption
Major	An event leading to **critical** damage or disruption
Moderate	An event leading to **serious** damage or disruption
Minor	An event leading to **some** degree of damage or disruption
Insignificant	An event leading to **limited** damage or disruption

Level of risk	Result
Very High	Immediate action required by executive management. Mitigation activities/treatment options are mandatory to reduce likelihood and/or consequence. Risk cannot be accepted unless this occurs.
High	Immediate action required by senior/ executive management. Mitigation activities/treatment options are mandatory to reduce likelihood and/or consequence. Monitoring strategy to be implemented by Risk Owner.
Medium	Senior Management attention required. Mitigation activities/ treatment options are undertaken to reduce likelihood and/or consequence. Monitoring strategy to be implemented by Risk Owner.
Low	Management attention required. Specified ownership of risk. Mitigation activities/treatment options are recommended to reduce likelihood and/or consequence. Implementation of monitoring strategy by risk owner is recommended.

Likelihood	Consequences				
	Insignificant (1)	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	Major (4)	Extreme (5)
Very likely (5)	Medium (5)	High (10)	High (15)	Very High (20)	Very High (25)
Likely (4)	Medium (4)	Medium (8)	High (12)	High (16)	Very High (20)
Possible (3)	Low (3)	Medium (6)	High (9)	High (12)	High (15
Unlikely (2)	Low (2)	Low (4)	Medium (6)	Medium (8)	High (10)
Rare (1)	Low (1)	Low (3)	Medium (3)	Medium (4)	High (5)

Risk Categories (for reference)

1. Social and Environmental	2. Financial	3. Operational	4. Organizational	5. Political	2. Regulatory	7. Strategic	8. Safety and Security
1.1. Human rights 1.2. Gender 1.3. Biodiversity and use of natural resources 1.4. Climate change and disaster 1.5. Community health and safety 1.6. Labour conditions/standards 1.7. Cultural heritage 1.8. Rights of Indigenous Peoples 1.9. Displacement and resettlement 1.10. Pollution and resource efficiency 1.11. Stakeholder engagement 1.12. Sexual exploitation and abuse	2.1. Cost recovery 2.2. Value for money 2.3. Corruption and fraud 2.4. Fluctuation in credit rate, market, currency 2.5. Delivery	3.1. Alignment with national priorities 3.2. Responsiveness to lessons learned and evaluations 3.3. Leadership & management 3.4. Flexibility and opportunity management 3.5. Synergy potential (linking with other initiatives as relevant) 3.6. Reporting and communication 3.7. Partnership 3.8. Capacity development of national partners 3.9. Engagement of national partners in decision-making 3.10. Transition and exit strategy	4.1. Governance 4.2. Monitoring 4.3. Independence and quality of evaluation 4.4. Knowledge management 4.5. Grievances 4.6. Due diligence of private sector partners 4.7. Human Resources 4.8. Budget availability and cash flow 4.9. Internal control 4.10. Procurement 4.11. Innovating, piloting, experimenting,	5.1. Government commitment 5.2. Political will 5.3. Political instability 5.4. Change/ turnover in government	6.1. Changes in the regulatory framework within the country of operation 6.2. Changes in the international regulatory framework affecting the whole organization 6.3. Deviation from UN internal rules and regulations	7.1. Theory of change 7.2. Alignment with UN Strategic priorities 7.3. Capacities of the partners 7.4. Roles and responsibilities among partners 7.5. Code of conduct and ethics 7.6. Public opinion and media 7.7. Synergy with UN / Delivery as One	8.1. Armed Conflict 8.2. Terrorism 8.3. Crime 8.4. Civil Unrest 8.5. Natural Hazards 8.6. Manmade Hazards

Annex 3: Localization, Gender Equality and Human Rights markers

SDG Localisation Marker

Please see refer to the detailed guidance on applying the marker here: https://www.jointsdgfund.org/publication/sdg-localization-marker

Dimensions	Criteria or eligibility	Responses	Explanation	Means of verification
Programme Design	• Does the programme or initiative explicitly include results and/or expected outcomes directly related to advancing SDG localization?	Yes/No	The programme does not currently include results or expected outcomes that directly focus on advancing SDG localization. While the initiative may contribute to national or sectoral SDG goals, it lacks specific strategies or outcomes tailored to localizing the SDGs at subnational or community levels.	
	• Is at least 70% or more of the programmatic budget allocated specifically to activities that enhance advocacy, actions or monitoring related to SDG localization?	Yes/No	Once the AI tagging process is completed, it will be possible to identify resources at the level of municipal disaggregation. This will enable the design of policies focused on specific territories, directly supporting SDG localization through more targeted resource allocation. The AI tool	AI tool reports showing disaggregated resource allocations by municipalities.

		developed for budget tagging will facilitate this by ensuring that resources are aligned with territorial needs and priorities.	
• Were local and regional governments actively engaged and consulted during the programme design phase?	Yes/No	Local and regional governments were not directly engaged or consulted during the initial design phase of the programme. However, the programme intends to engage these stakeholders during the implementation phase, especially through the AI tagging system, which will identify local resource allocations and inform territorial policies. This future engagement will ensure that local and regional priorities are considered in SDG localization efforts.	
• Were local service providers and/or other local actors and stakeholders actively engaged and consulted during the programme design phase?	Yes/No	Local service providers and other local actors were not engaged during the initial programme design phase. The focus was primarily	

			on national-level financial systems and AI implementation for budget tagging.	
Advocacy	• Has the programme or initiative planned to develop new knowledge material, research, publication or relevant resources related to SDG localization, specifically building on local experience?	<mark>Yes</mark>/No	Once the AI-based budget tagging process is completed, it will provide insights into resource allocation at the municipal level. This disaggregation will enable the development of targeted policies for local territories.	Reports and knowledge products developed from AI-generated budget tagging data.
	• Has the programme or initiative planned to develop specific events, campaigns, communications or capacity-building activities on SDG localization, especially targeted at local or regional governments, local service providers, or other local actors and stakeholders?	Yes/<mark>No</mark>	The programme currently does not include specific plans for events, campaigns, or capacity-building activities directly focused on SDG localization for local or regional governments or stakeholders. The main focus is on the national level, with the potential for future localization efforts as the AI tagging system evolves.	
Actions	• Does the joint programme or initiative incorporate mechanisms, spaces or activities designed to bolster coherent policies, regulations, plans, programmes, and service-delivery approaches or models by local and	<mark>Yes</mark>/No	The joint programme integrates advanced tools, such as AI for	AI-based budget tagging system reports

			budget tagging, which will allow for disaggregated data analysis at the municipal level. This enables local and regional governments to design and implement more targeted and coherent policies that align with SDG priorities, ensuring the inclusion of those left behind. As a result, it fosters a "leave no one behind" approach through better resource allocation and monitoring mechanisms.	
regional governments and/or local service providers, facilitating their meaningful contributions to the SDGs and addressing the principles of leaving no one behind?				
• Does the joint programme or initiative have an inclusive and participatory multi-stakeholder approach, involving civil society, academia, citizens, the private sector and/or others to jointly implement transformative initiatives toward localizing the SDGs? This could include, for example, mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the SDGs at the local level.	<mark>Yes</mark>/No		The joint programme will adopt a multi-stakeholder approach by engaging various actors, including the private sector, civil society, and academia, to support the localization of SDGs. The programme will promote collaboration by leveraging expertise in innovative financial	Multi-stakeholder engagement reports

			tools such as AI-based budget tagging, facilitating knowledge-sharing and resource mobilization. This participatory model ensures diverse perspectives in policy formulation and implementation, fostering inclusiveness and more sustainable outcomes at the local level.	
	• Does the joint programme or initiative include a multi-level governance approach to address the SDG challenges through collaboration between different levels of government, as well as with international organizations, and local communities? This approach recognizes that effective action requires coordinated efforts at various scales, from local and regional to national and global.	Yes/<mark>No</mark>	The joint programme or initiative does not currently include a multi-level governance approach. However, it acknowledges the importance of coordination and collaboration among different stakeholders at various levels. While the focus is not explicitly on a multi-level governance framework, the programme seeks to ensure effective action through targeted partnerships and alignment with broader strategic	

			frameworks at the national and global levels.	
	• Does the joint programme or initiative feature mechanisms or activities aimed at improving the transparent and accountable financing of SDG localization? This may include the development of decentralized financing policies, the creation of market-ready pipeline of local actions, expansion of local fiscal space, resource mobilization by local or regional governments, participatory budgeting approaches, etc.	<mark>Yes</mark>/No	The Joint Programme (JP) focuses on enhancing the transparency and accountability of financing for SDG localization by strengthening Building Block 3 of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF).	Output 1.5, which involves the development and implementation of financial flow monitoring reports. These reports are designed to improve the tracking of financial resources, ensuring they are effectively aligned with SDG targets.
Accountability & Sustainability	• Does the joint programme or initiatives include dedicated results, supported by a robust accountability framework, to systematically collect and report on contributions to SDG localization, both at the outcome and output levels?	<mark>Yes</mark>/No	The Joint Programme (JP) focuses on enhancing the transparency and accountability of financing for SDG localization by strengthening Building Block 1 of the Integrated	Output 1.5, which involves the development and implementation of financial flow monitoring reports. These reports are designed to

			National Financing Framework (INFF).	improve the tracking of financial resources, ensuring they are effectively aligned with SDG targets.
	• Does the joint programme or initiative include a dedicated plan to ensure the sustainability, leveraging of financial resources and replication/expansion of the SDG actions in additional localities, developed in collaboration with local and regional governments, local service providers and other local actors and stakeholders?	<mark>Yes</mark>/No	he Joint Programme (JP) includes a comprehensive plan to ensure the sustainability, leveraging of financial resources, and replication/expansion of SDG actions. Establishing mechanisms for long-term maintenance and support of the programme's activities, ensuring that improvements in public financial management and SDG localization continue beyond the programme's duration.	
Criteria for Scoring • Marker 3: Between 9 and 12 criteria marked as Yes. • Marker 2: Between 4 and 8 criteria marked as Yes. • Marker 1: Between 1 and 3 criteria marked as Yes. • Marker 0: None of the criteria marked as Yes.		Total # of Yes 7		

Gender Equality Marker

Please copy the output as per in the workplan and add the Gender Equality marker score and justify the scoring. Please refer to the UNSDG guidance here: https://help.uninfo.org/un-info/results-framework/results-framework-structure/suboutput-level/guidance-on-applying-tags-and-markers/guidance-on-applying-the-gender-equality-human-rights-and-sustaining-peace-markers

Joint Programme Outputs	GEM Score	Justification
The financial planning process in the DR counts with an innovative and automated SDG tagging process developed through cutting-edge artificial intelligence technology	2	The implementation of an AI-driven SDG tagging process significantly contributes to gender equality by enhancing the identification and analysis of gender-specific expenditures. This technology allows for the systematic and automated tagging of budgetary allocations related to gender, which facilitates a more detailed examination of how financial resources are being distributed with respect to gender priorities.
Enhanced interoperability across financial and physical monitoring and planning systems through the integration of a development classifier within public financial information systems	1	The integration of a development classifier into public financial information systems enhances interoperability across financial and physical monitoring and planning systems, which is crucial for advancing gender equality. By improving the alignment and integration of financial and physical monitoring systems, the development classifier enables more accurate tracking of investments in gender-focused policies and programs. This ensures that public funds are effectively allocated to initiatives aimed at closing gender gaps. Enhanced interoperability allows for better analysis and monitoring of gender-specific outcomes and impacts. This provides policymakers with the data needed to make informed decisions on where to direct additional investments to address gender disparities.
Strengthened national capacities to promote an Integrated National Public and Private Framework for financing the 2030 Agenda, based on human rights and with a territorial approach, aimed at improving fiscal sustainability, investment, and the quality of social public spending, developing progressive tax systems and redistributive mechanisms, creating inclusive, innovative, sustainable,	2	The output of strengthening national capacities to promote an Integrated National Public and Private Framework for financing the 2030 Agenda directly supports gender equality. The framework is grounded in human rights principles, ensuring that gender equality is a core consideration in financial planning and public spending. This approach guarantees that investments are made in a way that promotes gender equity and addresses systemic disparities. The creation of inclusive, innovative, and green financing instruments ensures that investments are directed towards sustainable and gender-sensitive initiatives.

resilient, and green financing instruments, as well as leveraging resources and linking the diaspora with national investment and local development.		
Strengthened Joint Programme Management, Monitoring, Reporting, and Communication Systems	2	By improving monitoring and reporting systems, the programme ensures that gender-specific data is collected, analyzed, and reported accurately. This includes tracking gender-related indicators and assessing the impact of interventions on different gender groups, thereby highlighting progress and gaps in achieving gender equality. Overall, the enhancement of these systems ensures that gender equality is embedded in the programme' s management and operational processes, leading to more effective tracking, reporting, and communication of gender-related outcomes and ensuring accountability in addressing gender disparities.

Human Rights Marker

Please copy the output as per in the workplan and add the Human Rights marker score and justify the scoring. Please refer to the UNSDG guidance here: https://help.uninfo.org/un-info/results-framework/results-framework-structure/suboutput-level/guidance-on-applying-tags-and-markers/guidance-on-applying-the-gender-equality-human-rights-and-sustaining-peace-markers

Joint Programme Outputs	HRM Score	Justification
The financial planning process in the DR counts with an innovative and automated SDG tagging process developed through cutting-edge artificial intelligence technology	2	The output significantly contributes to the realization of human rights by employing an innovative AI tagging process to better align financial resources with SDG targets, including those related to human rights. This process enhances tracking, monitoring, and accountability, provided it includes human rights-focused indicators and involves relevant stakeholders in its development.
Enhanced interoperability across financial and physical monitoring and planning systems through the integration of a development classifier within public financial information systems	2	The output makes a significant contribution to the realization of human rights by improving the integration and visibility of financial data through the development classifier. This can enhance the monitoring, evaluation, and accountability of resources allocated to human rights initiatives. However, the impact on human rights will be more pronounced if the classifier includes specific human rights considerations and indicators.

Strengthened national capacities to promote an Integrated National Public and Private Framework for financing the 2030 Agenda, based on human rights and with a territorial approach, aimed at improving fiscal sustainability, investment, and the quality of social public spending, developing progressive tax systems and redistributive mechanisms, creating inclusive, innovative, sustainable, resilient, and green financing instruments, as well as leveraging resources and linking the diaspora with national investment and local development.	2	The JP makes a substantial contribution to the realization of human rights by integrating human rights principles into its framework, involving key stakeholders, and having systems in place for monitoring, evaluation, and accountability. It addresses at least three of the six Human Rights Marker elements, demonstrating a significant impact on human rights conditions.
Strengthened Joint Programme Management, Monitoring, Reporting, and Communication Systems	2	The output significantly contributes to the realization of human rights by strengthening systems that enhance monitoring, reporting, and communication, which can integrate human rights principles and improve accountability and transparency. It addresses several Human Rights Marker elements, including improved monitoring and evaluation and enhanced accountability, but may not fully address all elements such as direct human rights analysis or comprehensive stakeholder participation without additional details.

Annex 4: Budget per UNDSG Categories

	Budget per UNDG Categories					
	UNDP		**UNICEF**		**TOTAL**	
UNSDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	**Joint SDG Fund (USD)**	**PUNO Contribution (USD)**
1. Staff and other personnel	15,000.00		10,000.00		25,000.00	
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	9,000.00		12,000.00		21,000.00	
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	0		0		0	
4. Contractual services	102,000.00		85,500.00		187,500.00	
5.Travel	0	32,847.46	0	40,000.00	0	72,847.46
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	0		0		0	
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	0		0		0	
Total Direct Costs	**126,000.00**		**107,500.00**		**233,500.00**	
8. Indirect Support Costs (7% of total direct costs – except for WFP and UNHCR which should apply 6.5% of total direct costs)	*8,820.00*		*7,525.00*		*16,345.00*	
TOTAL Costs	**134,820.00**	**32,847.46**	**115,025.00**	**40,000.00**	**249,845.00**	**72,847.46**

Declaration of commitment and signatures of Joint Programme

By signing this Joint Programme document, all signatories commit to work together in a spirit of partnership to achieve the results identified in the results framework, work plan and budget.

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