

Final Narrative Report: Joint Programmes in the Seed Funding Tracks

INTRODUCTION

Reporting period: From the start date to the end date of the joint programme (JP).

- Please be succinct and to the point, focusing on the most important accomplishments and issues that you want to bring to the attention of the Joint SDG Fund at the global level.
- Please do not exceed the word limit for each narrative question.
- Kindly ensure that the information provided is duly reviewed and approved by the RC and all PUNOs involved in the JP.
- Please contact rena.hinoshita@un.org, maria.berenguer@un.org, vittoria.gemelli@un.org, and/or maya.marquez@un.org for questions and support.

Submission deadline from RCOs to the Joint SDG Fund: No later than 2 months from the JP end date via MS Form (<https://forms.office.com/e/zYeyMiXjAv>)

PROFILE

JOINT PROGRAMME (JP) PROFILE:	
UN Country Team	Philippines
JP Title	Localize to Realize: Accelerating SDG implementation for local and vulnerable groups and communities of women, indigenous peoples and informal settler families
Funding Round (Select the applicable funding round for the JP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Transformation <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Skills <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Access and Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Food Systems Transformation <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Policy and Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG Localization
Cross-fertilized SDG Transitions (Select up to 2 main SDG Transitions that are reflected in the JP progress to date)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, Pollution <input type="checkbox"/> Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Transformation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education and Skills <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Access and Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Food Systems Transformation
Contribution to Cooperation Framework Outcomes	Outcome 1: By 2028, all people, especially those at risk of being left behind, have increased resilience to economic, climatic, disaster, and public health risk through improved, equitable, and gender-responsive access to and utilization of quality social services, social protection, healthy habitat, enhanced good governance and peace.

	Output 1.6: Institutions and systems are strengthened to provide services and address needs of communities in a more efficient, participatory, transparent and accountable manner.
Actual Start Date (i.e. fund transfer date)	17/07/2024
Duration	12 months
Actual End Date (i.e. operational closure date)	17/07/2025
Total Approved Funding from the Joint SDG Fund	USD 250,000
Planned Financial Closure Date	30/04/2026
Fund Management Modality: Administrative Agent (Pass-through Only)	Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) - Mari Matsumoto, Portfolio Manager, mari.matsumoto@undp.org - Sara Ansari, Finance Manager, sara.ansari@undp.org
JP TEAM:	
Resident Coordinator	Arnaud Peral arnaud.peral@un.org
JP's RCO focal point	Eden Grace Lumilan Partnerships and Development Finance Officer eden.lumilan@un.org
Lead PUNO focal point	Christopher E. Rollo Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat cris.rollo@un.org
Other PUNOs focal points	Ma. Rosalyn G. Mesina Country Programme Coordinator, UN Women rosalyn.mesina@unwomen.org
JP's designated communications focal point	Fritz Flores National Information Officer, UNIC/RCO fritz.flores@un.org

OVERVIEW

1. Overall self-assessment of the JP achievements.

The primary objective of the Joint SDG Fund's seed funding track is to provide countries with support and resources to incubate and pilot transformative solutions and approaches (including actions to develop and implement national roadmaps or priorities) that can subsequently lead to accelerating progress across [key SDG Transitions](#) at scale. Towards this objective, please evaluate the performance of the JP.

1.a. Rate the overall performance of the JP: Did the JP deliver its key results as planned in the ProDoc?

Unsatisfactory, Marginal Achievement: Less than 50% of expected results delivered.

- Satisfactory Achievement:** 50-75% of expected results delivered.
- Very Good, Solid Achievement:** 100% of expected results delivered; implementation completed on schedule.
- Exceptional, Outstanding Achievement:** 100% of expected results delivered ahead of schedule, with additional results or improvements delivered.

1.b. Incubation and validation of solutions/approaches/roadmaps: How much results did the JP reach in incubating innovative approaches/national roadmaps and/or piloting transformative solutions during the 12 months?

- Limited Results:** None of planned incubation activities/roadmaps or pilot solutions were rolled out.
- Moderate Results:** Planned incubation activities/roadmaps or pilots began but remain at the early stages or within the limited scope at the time of the JP closure.
- Good Results:** Planned incubation activities/roadmaps and pilot solutions are fully operational and validated.
- Excellent Results:** All planned incubation activities/roadmaps and pilot solutions are completed and validated ahead of schedule, showing promising potential or early sign of scale-up.
- Not Applicable:** The JP did not plan to incubate ideas, roadmaps or conduct pilots during this phase.

1.c. Sustainability and scalability potential: To what extent did the JP achieve in establishing pathways for future viability and scale-up of the innovations/solutions beyond the 12-month implementation?

- Marginal Achievement:** Concrete sustainability or scale-up plan was developed but not operationalized; only preliminary discussion with potential partners/funders took place.
- Moderate Achievement:** Sustainability and scale-up strategies were rolled out; potential scale-up pathways identified; active engagement with potential partners/funders underway.
- Solid Achievement:** Comprehensive sustainability and scale-up strategies achieved a broad uptake; viable pathways for expansion secured; engagement with potential partners/funders deepened and showing promising outcomes.
- Exceptional Achievement:** Robust sustainability and scale-up plans were implemented ahead of schedule; multiple viable scale-up pathways activated; strong commitments from partners/funders obtained; additional opportunities for expansion identified beyond initial plans.
- Not Applicable:** The JP has not yet reached the stage of planning for sustainability and scalability.

RESULTS OF THE JP

A. Results-Based Narrative

2. Overall results of the JP (600 words / 1.5 pages max)

Using bullet points, describe the key achievement made by the JP, especially around how it contributed to incubating and piloting new ideas and approaches (including actions to develop and implement national roadmaps/priority areas) to propel the [key SDG Transitions](#). Your response should cover how the JP made changes around 'enabling actions': 1) developing new policy and regulatory frameworks; 2) identifying new pipelines of solutions; 3) strengthened capacities of key stakeholders; 4) enhanced partnerships and financing mixes to ensure sustainability and scale, and other transformative shifts. Please include specific reference to the SDG targets identified in the ProDoc.

(600 words / 1.5 pages max; Please delete examples)

Revised (600 words):

SDG-linked policy and regulatory frameworks developed and adapted

(SDGs 4, 5, 10, 11 and 16):

- City-Level SDG Alignment: The City Mayor instructed all departments to align annual reports with the SDGs ensuring a common development framework for performance.
- Inclusive Higher Education Policy Reform: Surigao del Norte State University (SNSU) adopted an affirmative Admissions Policy for Indigenous People, improving access to higher education by IPs.
- Barangay Institutionalization: Partner barangay passed resolution establishing a permanent Sama Bajau seat in the Barangay Development Council.

Strengthened capacities of key stakeholders to more effectively address the multidimensional needs of families and communities (SDGs 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 16 and 17)

Family and community level:

- Sama Bajau and informal settler families (ISFs) developed capacities to understand the SDGs and assess their development needs using the SDG FACES Report tool. This enabled data-driven identification of baselines, gaps and priority actions.
- Families initiated community-driven solutions to address SDG gaps, resulting in improved access to housing, water, sanitation, energy, education, and livelihoods. Women played pivotal roles as active participants and as leaders.
- Social cohesion and youth leadership strengthened through deeper cooperation between Sama Bajau and ISF communities with guidance from the Sanggunian Kabataan (Youth Council). Sama Bajau youth organization was created fostering inclusive engagement, intergroup solidarity, and empowered young leaders to actively shape community development agenda.

City and barangay level:

- The City Government integrated SDG-informed interventions into key planning instruments, including the city's Comprehensive Development Plan and Annual Investment Program. Local data systems are improved by addressing long-standing gaps, particularly the lack of sex- and gender-disaggregated data.
- Barangays Lipata and Canlanipa institutionalized participatory planning, ensuring representation of marginalized groups and upholding community rights in resettlement processes. Barangay Lipata demonstrated deeper gender and development (GAD) budget appreciation, linking gender equality to SDG-aligned financing.

Other stakeholders:

CSOs and private sector groups improved capacities in inclusive programming, gender responsiveness, resource mobilization and SDG-aligned implementation.

New solutions developed based on community-identified SDG gaps (SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 14 and 17)

Four quick response mechanisms were established:

1. L2R Neighborhood Store provides immediate income for ISFs and Sama Bajau while offering affordable goods and promoting inclusive, cooperative entrepreneurship. Women play central roles in its management and operations.
2. Materials Recovery Facility, led by the Sama Bajau, promotes recycling and circular economy practices while generating green livelihoods.
3. Sustainable Aquaculture Viability Study explored fish farming as a viable livelihood for the Sama Bajau, aligning with their heritage as sea-based indigenous group.
4. Community Learning and Youth Empowerment Center, shaped by dialogues with Sama Bajau and ISFs and multisectoral partners, is a safe, inclusive space for education, training and cultural development for out-of-school youth, young mothers and adult learners. Integrated with a day care centre, it supports early childhood education and enables mothers to reclaim time to pursue income, learning and leadership opportunities.

Partnerships enhanced including resource mobilization to ensure sustainability, scale-up and transformative shifts towards inclusive policies

- Local Governments: Four local government units (Surigao City, Lipata Barangay, Canlanipa Barangay and Surigao del Norte Province), anchored

SDG localization in city systems and barangay institutions. Ongoing collaboration with the provincial government opens pathways to scale across the Caraga Region.

- National Agencies: Nine national agencies¹ aligned local initiatives with national priorities and enabled resource mobilization, policy coherence and technical support for replication and scaling.
- Academic and Private Sector: SNSU and three private sector entities² provided technical expertise, research and innovation.
- Gender-Responsive Partnerships: Linkages were strengthened through a gender lens, reinforcing rights-based approaches and GAD mainstreaming to promote gender equality.

3. Constraints, adjustments and lessons (500 words / 1 page max)

In bullet points, please explain any constraints, including risks identified in the ProDoc's Risk Matrix, that were encountered and any adjustments that were made or mitigation actions taken by the JP team to strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the JP and the coherence and coordination of UN system support.

In describing lessons learned, please be candid about both successes and failures, explaining what was learned from each experience and how these insights can inform future programming or scale-up efforts.

(500 words / 1 page max; Please delete examples)

Revised (499 words):

Constraints and Adjustments:

- Limited traction at the national level: Broader national support is needed to replicate L2R best practices across local government units (LGUs) and institutionalize SDG localization. The Regional Development Council of Region 13 (Caraga) endorsed Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), but national mechanisms to link VLRs with the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process are still absent. A national closing event increased visibility of JP results and secured commitments from stakeholders and actors at national level.
- Weak horizontal integration of the SDG framework at the local level, particularly gender equality: While SDG localization built on existing LGU mechanisms,

¹ Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development, Department of Information, Communication and Technology, Department of Social Welfare and Development, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Economic Planning and Development, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and Department of Education

² Junior Chambers International – North Surigao, Light of Hope Philippines, Tahanan ni Juan Foundation

progress was constrained by limited appreciation of GAD and the GAD focal systems among project partners. Many agencies lack deeper analysis of how programmes advance or hinder gender equality, and often only target achieving gender balance in activities. Sustained advocacy is still needed across all levels of government with the SDGs as a shared framework for coordinated, inclusive action for gender equality.

- Sama Bajau and ISF participation in local governance is not yet fully institutionalized: Although representation in development councils was secured, political cycles and leadership changes pose risks to continuity. The JP invested in building leadership and advocacy skills among community representatives, laying the groundwork for institutionalization beyond politics and personalities.
- Short implementation timeline: The one-year implementation period of the JP posed challenges in demonstrating long-term development impacts. However, early wins were documented to showcase tangible results. A follow-through focused on scaling and institutionalization is ideal.

Lessons Learned

- Hand-holding vulnerable communities is essential for meaningful engagement. Through the JP, families—especially Sama Bajau and ISFs—gained a deeper understanding of the SDGs, enabling them to gain confidence and assert their priorities and negotiate with local officials and partners. The JP provided a consistent, inclusive platform for these communities to participate in and shape development agendas.
- Intersectional dialogue deepens development relevance. Engaging communities and partners in conversations about intersectional discrimination and empowerment uncovered layered experiences often missed in conventional planning. It underscores the need for intentional focus on intersectionality and gender to ensure development efforts are truly inclusive and responsive.
- Empowerment through direct engagement with government agencies fosters greater ownership and sustainability. Through the JP, direct engagement shifted communities from passive beneficiaries to active development partners. When marginalized groups like the Sama Bajau and ISFs learn to navigate government systems, they begin to understand their rights and the mechanisms through which those rights can be claimed and sustained. Over time, this cultivates leadership from within the community, reduces dependency on external actors and improves accountability in local governance.
- Strong partnerships are foundational but must scale. The local partnerships that the JP has established to realize the SDGs must be scaled to national

platforms to address structural barriers through policy reform and institutional commitment.

- Leadership and political will drive transformation. The City Mayor's directive to align all departmental plans and reports with the SDGs shows how global goals can inform good local governance.

4. Scale up and pathways for transformative systems change (Select all that apply)

Please select all relevant pathways that the JP applied with the aim of scaling up systematic transformation:

Capacity-building & local ownership: Strengthening capacity of individuals, local institutions and communities to independently implement and sustain activities; or transferring ownership and management to local organizations for sustained impact.

Cross-sectoral collaboration & partnerships: Partnering with diverse stakeholder groups to address interconnected issues and amplify impact; engaging with private and public sector to replicate successful programme components; or institutionalize participatory governance mechanisms to ensure inclusivity and intensify effectiveness.

Policy integration & mainstreaming: Incorporating successful programme elements into national or local policies and regulations to ensure wider adoption and impact; or integrating programme components into existing systems and structures for wider reach, efficiency and sustainability.

Resource mobilization & financial sustainability: Developing innovative financing mechanisms and attracting new donors/investors to ensure financial sustainability and expansion; or influencing existing financing mechanisms or diversifying resource streams to support long-term programme viability and growth.

People-centred technology adoption & innovation: Leveraging technology and solutions to increase reach, efficiency, impact of activities; or using technology and innovation to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration and scale-up of impact.

Others. Please specify: _____

5. Measures taken with a focus on sustainability (500 words / 1 page max)

In bullet points, please elaborate how the JP has ensured the mid- to long-term sustainability and scalability of the JP results beyond its 12-month implementation period. Your response should focus on 1) measures taken to ensure financial, institutional, and community-level sustainability of the JP outcomes, 2) '[enabling actions](#)' that supported sustainability and ownership, 3) the exit strategy that facilitated the scalability and replication of the successful JP interventions.

(500 words / 1 page max; Please delete examples)

Revised (499 words):

Sustainability and ownership were enabled through:

- **Institutional integration:** The JP embedded community priorities—including those of women, youth, and marginalized groups—into formal governance instruments such as the Annual Investment Program (AIP), Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP), and Barangay Development Council, securing long-term budgetary and policy support.
- **Capacity-building:** Leadership and advocacy capacities were cultivated among Sama Bajau and ISF representatives, with a deliberate focus on empowering women and young mothers, to engage with government systems and sustain momentum.
- **Inclusive, gender-responsive planning:** Community-managed enterprises and digital training hubs fostered self-reliance, while participatory planning processes ensured that development was anchored in lived realities and gendered experiences.

Sustainability and scalability of the JP results were secured through:

- **Financial sustainability:** The inclusion of Sama Bajau and ISF needs in key LGU planning documents secured local budget allocations for housing, livelihood, and social services. Gender-responsive financing was sustained through the Barangay GAD Budget and other earmarked funds. Private sector partners supported solar energy, education, sanitation, research, and resource mobilization beyond the JP timeframe. Community-managed enterprises such as the neighborhood store, aquaculture feasibility study, and materials recovery facility were launched to evolve into self-financing mechanisms for long-term livelihood.
- **Institutional sustainability:** The permanent representation of Sama Bajau in the Barangay Development Council of Lipata institutionalized their role in decision-making. The establishment of Sama Bajau Tanods as referral focal points for peace, education, and child protection further anchored their participation in service delivery. A resolution from the Regional Development Council endorsed VLRs across CARAGA Region, creating institutional momentum for SDG localization. Collaboration with national agencies aligned local efforts with broader policy frameworks. The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) adopted the Sama Bajau resettlement site as a SMART Village ensuring long-term digital

transformation, complemented by local digital training hubs that build skills, especially among women and youth.

- **Community-level sustainability:** The Community Learning and Youth Empowerment Center was established as a multifunctional hub combining day care, tutorials, literacy classes, and livelihood training—ensuring continuous access to education. Leadership and advocacy capacities of Sama Bajau and ISF representatives were strengthened to safeguard community priorities amid political transitions. The SDG FACES Reporting tool enabled households to understand development needs, established development baselines for continuous monitoring beyond the JP period and develop advocacies based on the results. Youth engagement was secured through the formation of a Sama Bajau youth organization, supported by Barangay Lipata SK and city youth networks, promoting intergenerational leadership and gender inclusion.

Exit strategy for scalability and replication was operationalized through:

- Documentation and dissemination of best practices on SDG localization and community-driven housing, encouraging further innovations and positioning Surigao City as a model for other LGUs.
- Policy advocacy at the regional and national levels, including support for linking the SDG FACES Report and VLRs to the VNR process.
- Empowerment of Sama Bajau and ISF leaders—mainly women and youth—as peer advocates and resource persons, ensuring that lessons learned are transferred to other communities and sustained through inclusive leadership.

B. Indicator-Based Performance Update

This section is based upon the JP results framework and workplan.

6. The JP results framework (Upload Excel)

Please assess the JP performance against the indicators identified in the ProDoc's Annex 1: Integrated results framework, namely 1) JP outputs and 2) JP contribution to Joint SDG Fund global indicators.

7. Key documents produced by the JP (Upload max. 10 files if available)

Please feel free to share up to 10 key documents, including, but not limited to, policy briefs, strategy papers, guidance notes, knowledge products and training materials that the JP would like to bring to the attention of the Joint SDG Fund at the global level. File types can be Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PDF, image, video and audio, but each file size must be below 1GB.

- [SDG L2R Vision to Impact Video](#)
- [Huy-anan nan Bajau sa Surigao Video](#)
- [SDG Localization Surigao City VLR Video](#)
- [SDG FACES Progress Report Card_Sama Bajau](#)
- [SDG FACES Progress Report Card_Informal Settler Families](#)
- [SNSU Admission Policy_IP Tertiary Students](#)
- [Partnership Agreement between JCI Surigao North and Sama Bajau Magdakayo HOAI](#)
- [End of Project Evaluation Report](#)

8. Number of people directly benefited by the JP

Direct beneficiaries are individuals, groups or organizations who actively participate in JP activities and directly benefit from its interventions, such as civil servants attending workshops, small business owners receiving training, or households accessing services provided by the JP. It is important to disaggregate the primary beneficiaries by sex and age as per table below when possible.

Type of engagement	Total Number of People	Number of Women and Girls*	Number of Children (ages of 0-14) *	Number of Youth (ages 15 – 24)*
Training/workshops for targeted groups	160	96	11	32
Awareness raising campaign for broad audience	1,120 (estimate)	-	-	-
Dialogues/consultations with relevant stakeholders	234	143	67	52
Coordination meetings with key partners	151	73	0	29
Access to expanded services (through the Community Learning and Youth Empowerment Center - day care and skills training, Surigao del Norte State University Admission Policy reform, L2R Neighborhood Store, aquaculture/fish trap and MRF)	444	173	171	55
Others (Please specify): _____				

** Note that it is allowed to have overlaps in the reporting of women/girls and children/youth columns.*

9. Contributions to marginalized and vulnerable groups (250 words / 0.5 page max)

In bullet points, please provide a summary of how the JP benefited the marginalized and vulnerable groups identified in the ProDoc. Include results achieved at both institutional/policy and local/human levels. Please find the 20 standard LNOB groups in footnote 28 on page 17 of the UNSDG Output Indicator Framework's [Implementation Guide](#).

(250 words / 0.5 page max; Please delete examples)

Revised (249 words):

The JP placed the most left behind, particularly women and girls, children, youth, minorities and indigenous peoples and economically disadvantaged population groups, at the heart of development in Surigao City. Political will, policy shifts, and behavioral change converged to ensure no one is left behind.

- **At the institutional level**, the City Government, backed by the Province of Surigao del Norte, formally integrated Sama Bajau and ISF needs into its development agenda. National agencies, especially the Department of Education, prioritized access to the Alternative Learning System (ALS) for the Sama Bajau, including adolescent mothers. Surigao del Norte State University committed to reframing its curriculum and outreach to be more inclusive. Private sector partners redirected CSR efforts to support vulnerable groups.
- **At the community level**, the JP directly improved the lives of 123 Sama Bajau and 40 ISF families. Secure housing became a foundation for long-term aspirations in education, health, and livelihoods. Women and teenage mothers gained confidence and leadership skills, enabling them to represent their communities and engage with officials. Children can access early learning through the Day Care Center, breaking cycles of exclusion. Communities transitioned from passive beneficiaries to active decision-makers, participating as development partners in SDG localization and shaping their collective future.
- **At the personal level**, 40 Bajau children and 40 ISF children have their respective personalized SDG report cards which track their individual progress on their personal SDGs during the JP period and beyond, reflecting the personal impacts of SDG interventions at various levels.

10. Financial resources mobilized/leveraged

Please indicate the financial resources (in USD) mobilized or leveraged through the JP. Please clarify the source of funding/financing and the source type, such as PUNOs and Government contributions, public-private partnerships, private sector investments, and financial commitments from IFIs, DFIs and other donors.

Source of Funding/Financing	Type of Source (e.g. PUNO, PPP, DFI, donor, etc.)	Expected amount planned in the ProDoc	Actual amount mobilized as initially planned in the ProDoc	Additional amount newly mobilized beyond the ProDoc expectation
Agenda 2030 Sub-fund	UN-Habitat	\$	\$25,000	\$
Tahanan ni Juan Foundation	Private sector donation	\$	\$ 6,500	\$
EmPower Programme (staff complement, implementation support)	PUNO – UN Women	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$
UN Women National Goodwill Ambassador for the Philippines	Individual donation	\$0	\$1,500	\$

11. Cross-cutting issues and principles of leaving no one behind (LNOB)

For each question, select the relevant response. If yes, please list 1-2 examples of actions taken/results delivered, and if no, please provide a brief 1-2 sentence explanation in the table.

Question	Yes	No	Comment
The JP has adequately implemented environmental and social standards/safeguards to avoid and address adverse impacts on people and the planet.	Yes		Environmental and Social Safeguards System (ESSS) Screening Report prepared as per UN-Habitat guidelines. Relevant national government agencies, i.e., the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) have ensured that environmental and

			social standards were adequately implemented.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address human rights issues, undertaking and drawing upon relevant human rights analysis.	Yes		Gender and cultural sensitivity training on the Sama Bajau and ISF was operationalized in the JP.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address structural inequalities facing women and girls.	Yes		Integrated gender responsive interventions in the activities conducted and fostering gender equality in all aspects of the project and this includes empowering women through leadership roles and advocating for the maximization of the GAD budget for gender equality outcomes.
The JP has demonstrated positive results / effects for youth in accordance with the principles in Youth 2030.	Yes		Partner university has reviewed its admission policies for Bajau youth to facilitate access to educational opportunities in the university. The project strengthened the link of the Sama Bajau youths with the Sangguniang Kabataan (youth council within the village/barangay government) for capacity building on leadership, organizing and formalizing a youth group to represent their community.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address structural inequalities facing marginalized and vulnerable persons in any other LNOB groups. Please specify which groups: Indigenous community (Sama Bajau), informal settlers, women, youth and children	Yes		The capacity building on digital technology equipped the Sama Bajau and informal settler families with the skills needed to tack their own progress using tools such as the SDG FACES Progress Report Card. And this helps bridge the technological divide by their participation in digital process of SDG monitoring and reporting.

C. Strategic Communications and Partnership Update

12. Strategic communications

Please provide the links to written articles published by the JP, or the draft outline of a written article to be finalized in the coming weeks. Examples of human-interest stories, practical guidance on storytelling, other useful tools to produce impactful written

articles can be found in the Joint SDG Fund's [Communications Guideline for Seed Funding Tracks](#) on [UNSDG Knowledge Portal](#) (NB: PUNOs may need to request access first).

Written articles published by the JP:

- UN Philippines website
 - [United Nations Philippines accelerates SDGs at the local level in Surigao | United Nations in Philippines](#)
 - [Vulnerable communities in Surigao find new livelihood opportunities and improved housing with UN support | United Nations in Philippines](#)
 - [Surigao City Achieves Breakthroughs in SDG Localization Through UN-Implemented Joint Programme | United Nations in Philippines](#)
- UN Habitat website: [Sama Bajau Indigenous Group and Informal Settler Families in Surigao Act on Bringing the SDGs to Life — UN-Habitat Philippines](#)

Written articles adapted from JP publications/materials:

- Joint SDG Fund website features: [Real People, Real Impact: Stories of Transformative Action in the Philippines | Joint SDG Fund](#)
- UNSDG website: [Unsdg | Surigao City's communities set a path for sustainable development](#)
- UN Deputy Secretary-General Mohammed: <https://x.com/aminajmohammed/status/1963985786467921977?s=46>

Other related written articles:

- Surigao del Norte University website: [SNSU Reaffirms Commitment to SDG Localization at Final JPSC Meeting of Localize to Realize Program](#)
- [Surigao City's communities set a path for sustainable development](#)
- [Philippine Mayor Champions SDG Localization at the UN-Habitat Forum in Nairobi](#)
- [Surigao City localizes UN sustainable development goals](#)
- [After the storm: Culturally sensitive housing transforms lives in the Philippines](#)
- [Sa Huy-anan, sa Kalambuan: Culmination of the Sama Bajau Transformative Journey](#)

Draft outline of a written article of a human-interest story (500 words / 1 page max)

Word count: 485 words

From Survival to Leadership: The Women and Mothers of Lipata as SDG Champions

- Introduction: how women and mothers from the Sama Bajau and ISF communities in Surigao City transformed their lives through the JP, emphasize the intersection of displacement, gender and poverty, and the power of coordinated, SDG-based local action

- Life before the JP: describe the conditions of insecurity, mobility, disempowerment and exclusion faced by Sama Bajau and ISFs, highlight the daily struggles of women from the lack of shelter, limited access to education and absence from decision-making spaces; introduce a few personal story – e.g., Elsa, teenage mother, ISF woman
- Women step into learning: showcase how women began participating in JP capacity-building activities such as SDG orientation, community tutors’ orientation, SDG FACES reporting; include youth leadership development, especially for teenage mothers and young women; shift from invisibility to visibility – women gaining knowledge and confidence
- Women as community leaders: through the SDG FACES Report, women learned to advocate for child-focused interventions to support their children’s learning and education; women leading the L2R Neighborhood Store’s daily operations; women actively engaged in the construction of the Community Learning and Youth Empowerment Center – moving from beneficiaries to builders

“Before, our only dream was to have food. Now our biggest dream is for our children to finish school” said Marilou Catdula, a Sama Bajau mother
- Women and mothers, especially young mothers, reclaim their time and future: highlight the impact of Community Learning and Youth Empowerment Center – informed by the SDG FACES Report, the integrated day care centre and skills training offerings; emphasize on the learning opportunity it presents – some Sama Bajau women articulated that they also want to learn to read and write so they can actually write down their names and signatures in attendance sheets (symbolizes dignity and agency); early childhood education breaks the cycle, supporting intergenerational change

“We used to feel invisible. Now we are part of the community” said Didang Saborane, a Sama Bajau youth leader
- To help sustain the educational gains of the community, Surigao del Norte State University (SNSU) revised its admission policy to accommodate indigenous learners who were facing entry barriers to higher education.

“When we heard their stories, and saw the data, we realized our policies had overlooked indigenous students. That evidence moved us to change, and to commit to doing better” said Dr. Rowena Plando, SNSU President

- Closing: A movement of empowered mothers and women achieved through the JP's coordinated SDG-based action at the local level to bring about collective transformation and hope; highlight trust-building, inclusive governance and multi-stakeholder collaboration; conclude with women as agents of change –from mere beneficiaries to active development partners, emphasizing that when women are empowered, their families and communities are also empowered

“For the first time, families could see their own SDG progress. It made the goals personal, and it made accountability real” explained by Mayor Paul Yves Dumlao II

13. Strategic partnerships (Select all that apply)

What type of partnerships established during the JP made important contribution to the JP objectives?

- National Government Institutions (Please specify): DHSUD, DILG, NCIP, DEPDev, Mindanao Development Authority, DSWD, DOLE, DICT, BFAR, Department of Education
- Sub-national Government Institutions (Please specify): City Government of Surigao, Province of Surigao del Norte, Barangay Lipata, Barangay Canlanipa, Caraga Regional Development Council
- International Financial Institutions & Development Finance Institutions (Please specify): _____
- Private Sector Companies or Industry Associations (Please specify): _____
- Civil Society Organizations, Philanthropic Organizations and Foundation (Please specify): Junior Chamber International (JCI) North, Tahanan ni Juan Foundation, Light of Hope Philippines
- Academic/Research Institutions (Please specify): Surigao del Norte State University____
- Bilateral Development Partners (Please specify): AECID
- Labour Unions or Organizations (Please specify): _____
- Others (Please specify): _____

ANNEX: SDG Localization Marker Survey

ONLY for the JPs with SDG Localization's Marker 3 to respond.

- 1) Please report on the SDG Localization monitoring indicators below. If an indicator is not applicable to your joint programme kindly state NA and briefly justify in the “Means of Verification” column.

Indicator	Baseline (year)	Target (year)	Evidence or means of verification
Number and type of local and regional governments and relevant local development stakeholders actively engaged in the programme design.	0	7	Terms of Reference – Joint Programme Steering Committee (JPSC)
Number and type of local and regional governments and relevant local development stakeholders with clear roles and responsibilities within the programme.		16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference of the JPSC • Declaration of Partnerships (JCI North, Light of Hope Philippines, Tahanan ni Juan Foundation) • Approved Admission Policy (SNSU) • Certificate as IP Migrants (NCIP) • RDC Resolution (DEPDev) • Approved Project Proposals (DepEd, DSWD, DICT) • Barangay Resolutions (Canlanipa)
Number and type of persons or representative organizations involved in activities developed with the primary aim of enhancing local populations’ ownership and inclusion in sustainable development processes at the subnational level, led by local development stakeholders.	0 (% women, indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	80 (55 % women, 50% indigenous people, 11% youth, 1% persons with disabilities) (type of org)	SDG FACES Report Card
Number and type of specific events, publications, or training materials aimed primarily at building capacity for local sustainable development/SDG localization in local development stakeholders.	0 (type)	1 (workshop / SDG FACES training)	SDG FACES Report Cards Attendance records Socmed posts including partners’
Number and type/description of specific coherent policies, regulations, and/or tools developed to enhance SDG localization (Disaggregated on policies, regulations, or tools focused on cross-sectoral or cross-level policy coherence).	1 Surigao City VLR	9 (tools, plans, policies, reports)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG FACES for Sama Bajau(local dialect) • SDG FACES for ISFs (local dialect) • Annual Investment Plan, Comprehensive Development Plan

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barangay Resolution (Sama Bajau representation) • Budget for Sama Bajau Barangay Tanods • Voluntary Local Review of Surigao City • SP resolution • SNSU policy • NCIP recognition
Number and type/description of mechanisms or activities developed to improve the transparent and accountable financing of SDG localization.	0 (type / description)	4 (type / description)	SDG FACES QRMs: Learning Center, MRF, Neighborhood Store, Sustainable Aquaculture Viability Study,
Number and type of relevant initiatives/processes that the projects contribute to reach large scale, transformative impact.	0 (% women, indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	2 (an estimate of 40% women, 20% indigenous people, 20% youth, 2% persons with disabilities)	<p>Regional Development Council (RDC) Resolution (Initiative 1: Presentation of Surigao City VLR at the Special Regional Committee on SDGs of the RDC, resulting in the adoption of a Regional Resolution encouraging LGUs across Caraga to localize the SDGs</p> <p>Regional Dialogue Documentation Report (Initiative 2: Conduct of the Regional Dialogue on Accelerating Local SDG Action, catalyzing regional level collaboration and policy alignment for SDG localization.</p> <p>NCIP Recognition of migrant IP status, exception to the general policy on IP recognition</p>
Percentage of programmatic expenditures allocated explicitly to activities that directly impact local sustainable development processes and systems (e.g. food systems value chains, local health or education systems, energy and water management, local economic development, local climate action, multilevel governance) embedded in local SDG-related priorities which are expressed in local strategies.	0%	16%	Community agreement under the JP
Number and type of local financial tools/instruments developed or strengthened to support SDG implementation at local level.	#	#	
Total amount (in USD) of additional public and private sector resources mobilized for local SDG implementation at the local level.	\$0	\$58,000	Agenda 2030 – VLR: \$25,000 Tahanan ni Juan Foundation: \$6,500

			EmPower Programme – UN Women: \$25,000 UN Women National Goodwill Ambassador for the Philippines: \$1,500
Percentage of results contributing to SDG localization that have met their preplanned target/milestones.	0%	100%	End of Project Evaluation Report
Number of local and regional governments and/or local service providers integrating aspects of policy coherence for sustainable development into their monitoring and reporting processes.	0 (type of actor)	3 (local government, university)	City Government of Surigao Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte Surigao del Norte State University

2) What action areas has your JP prioritized since launch to advance the SDGs at the local level? (Select all that apply)

- Empowering local authorities and communities (e.g. capacity building, leadership development, technical support)
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement (e.g. participatory planning processes, community consultations)
- Strengthening multi-level governance (e.g. vertical coordination, central-local policy alignment)
- Localizing SDG financing (e.g. municipal finance mechanisms, local resource mobilization, local SDG budgeting)
- Enhancing local data systems (e.g. disaggregated data collection, community-based monitoring)
- Expanding social service access (e.g. last-mile delivery, integrated service provision)
- Others (please specify): _____

3) To what extent has funding from the joint programme budget be directly channelled or mobilized to local-level actors (e.g. local governments, local community organizations, local service providers) to support SDG Localization efforts in the reporting period?

- 0% i.e. no resource has been directed to local-level actors.
- 1-24% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 25-49% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 50-74% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 75-100% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.

4) Please describe how the territorial or localization approach is applied in your joint programme. Include the following key aspects into your response.

- Alignment between joint programme and local development plans and integration of results in local processes, frameworks and SDG monitoring system.

- Role of subnational-level (local and regional) governments and other key local institutions/stakeholders in the implementation of the joint programme.
- Description on how capacities and innovation of local stakeholders for integrating SDG and multi-actor collaboration are identified and reinforced.

(500 words / 1 page max)

Revised (495 words):

The JP was fully aligned with Surigao City’s CLUP and CDP. Results achieved—such as resettlement of Sama Bajau and ISFs, adoption of nature-based solutions, and inclusive livelihood initiatives—were integrated into the city’s development agenda. The City Government also committed to sustain the SDG monitoring system established through the project, which consolidates data from the community level, including SDG FACES reporting, and informing city- and province-level planning and monitoring. The JP ensured that interventions—such as nature-based solutions and inclusive livelihood initiatives—were not standalone activities but integrated into the city’s development agenda thereby securing institutional anchoring, operational support and long-term sustainability. At the regional level, the project outcomes were elevated to the Caraga Regional Development Council (RDC), which issued a resolution endorsing the adoption of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) across Caraga Region and its five constituent provinces.

A key innovation was the SDG FACES Report tool which enabled families to track their own progress and provide localized data into city planning processes. The feedback loop between communities and government strengthened responsiveness and accountability.

Subnational governments and local institutions played central roles in implementation. The Surigao City Government led housing, social protection, and livelihood components, while the Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte supported replication across municipalities. The Department of the Interior and Local Government provided policy guidance on governance integration, and the Department of Economy, Planning and Development ensured regional coherence and national alignment. Sectoral agencies such as DepEd (ALS and Day Care), NCIP (indigenous rights), DICT (SMART Village), DENR-BFAR (sea-based livelihood) and Surigao del Norte State University (SNSU) contributed technical expertise and institutional support. The Barangay Lipata Council institutionalized Sama Bajau representation in community-based planning. The Youth Council of Barangay Lipata facilitated youth engagement and leadership development by supporting the formation of a Sama Bajau youth organization, creating a platform for intergroup solidarity and youth-led advocacy. Through these structures, young women and men gained confidence to participate in governance, articulate community priorities, and lead local initiatives aligned with the SDGs. The JP also fostered inclusive multi-stakeholder collaboration, engaging civil society, faith-based groups, and private sector actors to co-own and sustain localization efforts.

Capacity-building and innovation were central to the JP's strategy. Local government staff and community leaders were trained on SDG localization, VLR development, and disaggregated data management. These efforts strengthened institutional capacity to plan, monitor, and report on SDG progress. At the community level, families used the SDG FACES tool to understand and identify development gaps and articulate priorities.

Innovative mechanisms were piloted to reinforce local ownership. These included community-managed enterprises (e.g., neighborhood store, aquaculture feasibility study, materials recovery facility), digital training hubs supported by DICT, and participatory planning processes that integrated disaster resilience and nature-based solutions. These initiatives addressed immediate needs while building long-term capacities for inclusive, climate-resilient development beyond the JP period.

By embedding SDG localization into local systems, empowering communities, especially women and youth, and fostering multi-actor collaboration, the JP demonstrated that territorial approaches can drive systemic change.

- END -