

Annual Progress Report 2025: Joint Programmes in the Seed Funding Tracks

INTRODUCTION

Reporting period: From the start date of the joint programme (JP) until 31 December 2025.

- 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 at rena.hinoshita@un.org and Maria Berenguer at maria.berenguer@un.org for questions and support.

Submission deadline from RCOs to the Joint SDG Fund: 31 January 2026 via MS Form (<https://forms.office.com/e/hdmxC1Ppbd>)

PROFILE

JOINT PROGRAMME (JP) PROFILE:	
UN Country Team	The Gambia
JP Title	Empowering Communities for Resilient Food Systems in Foni
Funding Round (Select the applicable funding round for the JP)	☐ Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection ☒ Digital Transformation ☐ Education and Skills ☐ Energy Access and Affordability ☒ Food Systems Transformation ☐ Integrated Policy and Capacity Building ☒ SDG Localization
Cross-fertilized SDG Transitions (Select up to 2 main SDG Transitions that are reflected in the JP progress to date)	☐ Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, Pollution ☐ Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection ☐ Digital Transformation ☐ Education and Skills ☒ Energy Access and Affordability ☒ Food Systems Transformation
JP TEAM:	
Resident Coordinator	Karl-Frederick Paul karl-frederick.paul@un.gorg
JP's RCO focal point	Name: Yahya Jammeh Title : Development Coordination Officer -Data and Reporting Officer Email: Yahya.jammeh@un.org
Lead PUNO focal point	Malick Ndiaye WFP Country Representative and Country Director a.i malick.ndiaye@wfp.org

Other PUNOs focal points	Yusupha Keita ITC Country Representative yusupha.keita@intracen.org
JP's designated communications focal point	Name: Bubacarr Trawally Title/Organisation: ITC Communication Officer Email: btrawally@intracen.org

OVERVIEW

1. Overall self-assessment of the JP progress as of 31 December 2025.

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 development 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 implementation of the JP: Is the JP advancing as planned against its workplan in the ProDoc to deliver its key results?

☐ **Limited Progress:** Less than 50% of expected progress achieved; or implementation delayed by more than 2 months.

☐ **Moderate Progress:** 50-75% of expected progress achieved; or implementation delayed by 1 to 2 months.

☐ **On-Track Progress:** 100% of expected progress achieved; implementation completed on schedule.

☒ **Exceptional Progress:** 100% of expected progress achieved ahead of schedule, with additional results or improvements delivered.

1.b. Incubation and validation of solutions/approaches/roadmaps: How much progress has the JP made in incubating innovative approaches/national roadmaps and/or piloting transformative solutions during the seed funding phase?

☐ **Limited Progress:** No formal incubation activities/roadmaps or pilot solutions have been launched yet.

☐ **Moderate Progress:** Initial incubation activities/roadmaps or pilots have begun but are in early stages.

☒ **On-Track Progress:** All planned incubation activities, roadmaps and pilots are fully operational and progressing as scheduled; data collection and validation processes are ongoing as planned.

☐ **Exceptional Progress:** All planned incubation activities/roadmaps and pilots are completed ahead of schedule; early results show promising outcomes.

☐ **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 has the JP progressed in establishing pathways for future viability and scale-up of the innovations/solutions proposed under the seed funding phase?

- ☐ **Limited Progress:** No concrete sustainability or scale-up strategies have been developed yet; or preliminary discussions with potential partners/funders have not begun
- ☐ **Moderate Progress:** Initial sustainability plans are being developed; some potential scale-up pathways identified; preliminary stakeholder engagement or market assessment underway.
- ☒ **On-Track Progress:** Comprehensive sustainability and scale-up strategies are in place; clear pathways for expansion identified; active engagement with potential partners/funders ongoing.
- ☐ **Exceptional Progress:** Robust sustainability plans finalized ahead of schedule; multiple viable scale-up pathways secured; 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 TO DATE

A. Results-Based Narrative

2. Overall progress on JP (600 words / 1.5 pages max)

Using bullet points, describe how the key progress of the JP, especially around how it is contributing to incubating and piloting new ideas and approaches (including actions to development and implement national roadmaps/priority areas) to propel the [key SDG Transitions](#). Your response should cover how the JP is making changes around: 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)

Overall Progress on the Joint Programme (JP)

- **Changes in policy, planning and local systems (SDGs 2.1, 16, 17, 5):**

The JP piloted the Human Security approach within Brikama Area Council's planning and budgeting processes to strengthen more integrated, inclusive and people-centred local development planning. The approach supported local authorities to address interconnected challenges related to food security, livelihoods, nutrition and social protection through coordinated planning rather than isolated interventions.

Councillors, senior council officials and 21 members of area councils and village development committees were trained using practical Human Security tools to strengthen their capacity to apply the approach in local decision-making. The JP also facilitated a multi-stakeholder technical dialogue involving 34 participants from

Brikama Area Council, the West Coast Region Technical Advisory Committee, GALGA, WFP, ITC and Human Security experts. The dialogue strengthened collaboration between local governance and technical actors and supported the translation of Human Security principles into local planning processes.

A key outcome of this process was the exploration of integrating a home-grown school feeding programme into council plans and budgets, creating a link between local governance, nutrition, education, livelihoods and social protection. Councillors from Foni who participated in the initial training committed to working with the Council to establish a dedicated budget line for the programme. This provides an entry point for institutional ownership and demonstrates how local planning and financing mechanisms can support the sustainability of integrated food system solutions.

- **New pipelines of solutions for food systems and markets (SDGs 2, 12, 13, 5, 8):**

The JP supported climate-resilient and market-oriented solutions to strengthen local food systems by improving production capacity, access to market information and community awareness on sustainable food practices.

The programme developed a climate-smart agriculture booklet and audiovisual materials and used them to train over 200 women farmers across six horticultural gardens in Foni. The training strengthened farmers' capacity to apply climate-adaptive practices and improve resilience to climate-related challenges. The JP also provided climate-smart agricultural inputs that benefited over 315 farmers and supported them to use the Jokkalante digital marketing platform to access price information and connect with buyers (Output 2.2).

The JP supported coordinated capacity-building and sensitization initiatives targeting Food Management Committees at community level. It trained over 500 committee members on nutrition, sustainable farming practices, and responsible consumption using tailored training modules, community dialogues, and audiovisual materials. The training enhanced knowledge on diversified diets, climate-resilient agriculture, and reduction of food waste, strengthening community-level decision-making and behavior change. A sensitization campaign and storytelling initiative captured experiences of community leaders and committee members promoting improved nutrition and sustainable consumption practices. This increased awareness and uptake of locally-driven solutions. The JP further facilitated the dissemination of practical tools and guidance to support community outreach activities, contributing to improved household nutrition, sustainable resource use, and strengthened resilience of local food systems. (Output 3.1).

- **Strengthened capacities of key stakeholders (SDGs 2, 5, 12):**

The JP strengthened capacities of councils, VDC members, producers and cooperatives in planning, budgeting, business management and market engagement. Training took place in local languages. This improved inclusion, especially for women

producers. Councils improved their ability to link development plans to budgets and track implementation. Producers strengthened production planning, record-keeping and cost management. The JP also enhanced the knowledge and capacity of local stakeholders, including farmers, council representatives, mother clubs, school heads, food management committees, and regional personnel from the education, agriculture, and food safety sectors, through an exchange learning visit on WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) model in the Central River Region.

- **Enhanced digital systems for school-level food management and accountability (SDGs 2, 12, 9, 4, 17):**

The JP supported the digitalization of school feeding systems through capacity-building and adoption of innovative monitoring tools. It introduced and trained 50 schools to adopt the SchoolConnect digital platform for food tracking and supply chain monitoring at the school level. The training strengthened the capacity of school administrators and food management teams to record, track, and manage food stocks, deliveries, and utilisation in real time. This improved transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the school feeding programme. A sensitization and peer learning approach documented experiences of early adopters, promoting knowledge-sharing and uptake across schools. The initiative enhanced data-driven decision-making and reduced inefficiencies in food supply chains. The JP further supported the provision of technical guidance and follow-up support to ensure sustained use of the platform, contributing to improved programme performance and strengthened linkages between schools and suppliers. (Output 2.2).

Enhanced partnerships and sustainability pathways (SDG 17): The JP strengthened collaboration between ITC, WFP, Brikama Area Council, the West Coast Region Technical Advisory Committee, GALGA, technical advisory structures and producer organisations. These partnerships improved coordination across governance, production and market systems. They reinforced local ownership. They also strengthened linkages to structured markets, including school feeding value chains. This supports sustainability and scale.

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 might be applied in the future.

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

- The JP encountered a number of operational and systemic constraints that required adaptive implementation. At the local governance level, limited

technical capacity and competing priorities within councils initially slowed the integration of Human Security approaches into planning and budgeting processes. This was addressed through iterative training, simplified tools, and sustained technical accompaniment, which helped reinforce understanding and ownership over time. At community level, varying literacy levels among Food Management Committees and producers posed challenges for training delivery and uptake of new practices. The JP adjusted by using local languages, visual materials, and practical demonstrations to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness.

- Digital adoption, particularly for the SchoolConnect platform, faced constraints related to connectivity, limited ICT skills, and hesitancy to transition from manual systems. The JP responded by providing hands-on training, continuous technical support, and promoting peer learning among schools to build confidence and sustain usage. Similarly, while digital market platforms such as Jokkalante created new opportunities, limited access to smartphones and internet services in some areas slowed uptake, highlighting the need for complementary offline support mechanisms.
- A key lesson learned is the importance of embedding interventions within existing local systems and structures to ensure sustainability and scalability. Multi-stakeholder engagement proved critical for aligning priorities across governance, production, and market actors, but also required continuous coordination and clear role definition. The experience demonstrated that behaviour change, whether in nutrition, sustainable practices, or digital adoption requires sustained sensitization, community engagement, and visible local champions.
- Another important lesson is that starting with small, practical entry points such as piloting home-grown school feeding within council budgets or introducing digital tools in a limited number of schools facilitates learning, builds trust, and creates pathways for gradual institutionalization and scale-up. Finally, integrating gender-responsive and inclusive approaches, including the use of local languages and targeted support for women and youth, significantly enhances participation, ownership, and the overall impact of interventions.
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4. Scale up and pathways for transformative systems change (Select all that apply)

Please select all relevant pathways that the JP is applying with the aim of scaling up and developing the JP to ensure scale and 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. Plans for 2026 with a focus on sustainability (500 words / 1 page max)

In bullet points, please provide the JP plan for 2026 including measures taken to ensure the JP's successful implementation. Please also describe any '[enabling actions](#)' undertaken to ensure the mid- to long-term sustainability and scalability of the JP results.

- In 2026, the JP will consolidate gains and prioritise sustainability through institutionalization, scale-up, and strengthened local ownership. Building on the Human Security pilot, the JP will support Brikama Area Council to formally integrate home-grown school feeding into planning and budgeting processes, including the establishment of dedicated budget lines. This will anchor programme continuity within government systems and strengthen linkages between education, nutrition, and local economic development.
- Digital sustainability will be prioritised through the consolidation and scale-up of the SchoolConnect platform, including integration into national systems where feasible. The JP will strengthen local technical capacity, promote government ownership, and explore partnerships to address connectivity and maintenance challenges.
- Finally, the JP will deepen partnerships with national and local stakeholders, including councils, technical advisory structures, and development partners, to mobilise resources and align interventions with national priorities. A strong focus will be placed on capacity transfer, policy alignment, and embedding systems within existing institutions to ensure long-term sustainability and scalability.
- The JP will maintain regular coaching for grain and horticulture producers to strengthen the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. This includes field-level guidance, follow-up visits, and practical demonstrations to ensure

farmers retain knowledge and apply improved techniques effectively in their production systems.

- Existing videos and communication materials will continue to be used to showcase women and young farmers contributing to food security. These tools will reinforce learning, inspire adoption of best practices and raise public awareness of sustainable agriculture.
- The JP will further distribute and use the developed booklet and related training materials among farmer groups and extension actors. This ensures continuous knowledge transfer, peer learning and wider uptake of sustainable farming practices across communities.

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 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.

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 (0-14)*	Number of youth (ages 15-24)*
Training/workshops for targeted groups	826	602		56

Awareness raising campaign for broad audience	75,500			
Dialogues/consultations with relevant stakeholders	34	13		
Coordination meetings with key partners	15	5		
Access to expanded services	315	311		
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 is benefiting the marginalized and vulnerable groups identified in the ProDoc. Include results achieved to date 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)

- **Women smallholder farmers:** Trained over 200 women in climate-smart agriculture and provided inputs, strengthening their productivity, incomes, and resilience while improving inclusion in local food systems.
- **Rural and low-literacy communities:** Delivered training in local languages and practical formats to over 500 Food Management Committee members, enhancing participation and enabling vulnerable households to adopt better nutrition and sustainable consumption practices.

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 public-private partnerships, private sector investments, Government contributions, and financial commitments from IFIs, DFIs and other donors.

Source of Funding/Financing	Type of Source (e.g. 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
		\$	\$	\$

		\$	\$	\$
		\$	\$	\$

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.	✓		Environmental and social risk screening was conducted prior to implementation, ensuring that activities were designed to avoid harm to communities and natural resources, with mitigation measures integrated into project plans. Community engagement and awareness sessions were carried out, promoting inclusive participation and ensuring that beneficiaries particularly vulnerable groups were informed and able to provide feedback, contributing to socially responsible and environmentally sensitive outcomes.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address human rights issues, undertaking and drawing upon relevant human rights analysis.	✓		The integration of human rights principles such as inclusion, participation, and non-discrimination into programme design, ensuring that activities specifically target vulnerable and marginalized groups and promote equitable access to benefits. The use of stakeholder consultations and community feedback mechanisms to identify human rights concerns and inform adjustments to

			implementation, thereby strengthening accountability and responsiveness to the needs and priorities of beneficiaries.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address structural inequalities facing women and girls.	✓		Targeted inclusion of women and girls in programme activities, such as training, capacity-building, and livelihood support, to enhance their economic empowerment and decision-making capacity. ☑ Mainstreaming gender considerations across implementation by promoting women's participation in community and school structures and ensuring that programme benefits are equitably accessible, thereby addressing barriers related to discrimination and unequal opportunities.
The JP has demonstrated positive results / effects for youth in accordance with the principles in Youth 2030.	✓		Provision of targeted skills development and capacity-building opportunities, equipping young people with practical competencies to enhance their employability, entrepreneurship, and active participation in local development processes. Promotion of youth engagement and leadership by involving young people in community decision-making platforms and programme implementation, thereby strengthening their voice, agency, and contribution to sustainable development outcomes.

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: _____	✓		Targeted support to smallholder farmers and rural communities, who often face limited access to resources, markets, and services. The JP has strengthened their capacities and improved access to livelihood opportunities. Deliberate inclusion of persons with limited economic means and socially excluded groups, including women-headed households and underserved communities, through equitable access to programme interventions, capacity-building, and community engagement processes
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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).

List of links to written articles of human-interest stories:

- [WFP, ITC joint project seeks to transform local food systems in Fonis - The Point](#)
- [PSC members assess impact of food system projects in Foni - The Point](#)

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

13. Strategic partnerships (Select all that apply)

What type of partnerships has the JP established or is in the process of establishing?

☒ National Government Institutions (Please specify): Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security; National Nutrition Agency_____

- ☒ Sub-national Government Institutions (Please specify): Brikama Area Council

- ☐ International Financial Institutions & Development Finance Institutions (Please specify): _____
- ☐ Private Sector Companies or Industry Associations (Please specify):
_____ Women's Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ Civil Society Organizations, Philanthropic Organizations and Foundation (Please specify): _____
- ☐ Academic/Research Institutions (Please specify): _____
- ☐ Bilateral Development Partners (Please specify): _____
- ☐ 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.

The localization marker is 12 as per the project document, see below:

Localization marker score	12
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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.	# (type)	# (type)	NA
Number and type of local and regional governments and relevant local development stakeholders with clear roles and responsibilities within the programme.	# (type)	# (type)	NA
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.	# (% women, indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	# (% women, indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	NA
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.	# (type)	# (type)	NA
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).	# (type / description)	# (type / description)	NA
Number and type/description of mechanisms or activities developed to improve the transparent and accountable financing of SDG localization.	# (type / description)	# (type / description)	NA
Number and type of relevant initiatives/processes that the projects contribute to reach large scale, transformative impact.	# (% women, indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	# (% women indigenous people, youth, persons with disabilities) (type of org)	NA
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	%	%	NA

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.			
Number and type of local financial tools/instruments developed or strengthened to support SDG implementation at local level.	#	#	NA
Total amount (in USD) of additional public and private sector resources mobilized for local SDG implementation at the local level.	\$	\$	NA
Percentage of results contributing to SDG localization that have met their preplanned target/milestones.	%	%	NA
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.	# (type of actor)	# (type of actor)	NA

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) 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)

The Joint Programme applies a strong territorial and localization approach by working directly through local government systems and coordinating with existing development structures.

The programme is closely linked to Brikama Area Council planning and budgeting processes. It has piloted the Human Security approach within council systems to support more inclusive and people-centred planning. Key results, such as improved coordination on food systems and proposals for home-grown school feeding, are being integrated into local plans and budgets. Councillors from Foni have also committed to creating a dedicated budget line for school feeding, showing early ownership and sustainability. The JP contributes to SDG-based planning by linking food systems, nutrition, livelihoods and climate resilience into local development processes.

Subnational governments and local institutions play a central role in implementation. Brikama Area Council, the West Coast Region Technical Advisory Committee, VDCs, and other local actors are actively involved in planning, training, and coordination. Partners such as GALGA and producer organisations support delivery and ensure strong local ownership.

The JP also strengthens the capacities of local stakeholders through training in planning, budgeting, climate-smart agriculture, digital tools and market access. Tools like SchoolConnect and Jokkalante support innovation, better data use and improved market linkages. Women, youth and community actors are actively engaged, strengthening collaboration and local solutions for sustainable development.

– END –