

Joint SDG Fund
PORTOFLIO ON INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LNOB
Joint Programme 2020 Annual Progress Report

Cover page

Country: COSTA RICA

Joint Programme title: Strengthening of the National Social Protection Strategy Puente al Desarrollo to break the cycle of poverty at the local level with a gender and environmental perspective

Short title: Women: motor for poverty reduction

Start date (month/year): 01.02.2020

End date (month/year): 30.01.2022

RC (name): Allegra Baiocchi

Government Joint Programme Focal Point (name and ministry/agency): Francisco Javier Delgado Jiménez, Viceminister of IMAS/Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion

Representative of Lead PUNO (name and agency): Randall Brenes, UNDP

List of PUNOs: UNDP, FAO, ILO, UN WOMEN

RCO Main JP Focal Point (name): Victoria Cruz **E-mail:** victoria.cruz@un.org

Lead Agency Main JP Focal Point (name): Randall Brenes **E-mail:** randall.brenes@undp.org

Contact person for Joint Communications (name): Danilo Mora **E-mail:** danilo.mora@un.org

Budget (Joint SDG Fund contribution): \$2,000,000.00

Overall budget (with co-funding): \$2,691,100.00

Annual Financial Delivery Rate (= Total JP expenditures \$519,341.00 / transferred funds \$1,055,230.00 x 100%): **49%**

Rate of Committed Funding (= Total JP commitments \$305,263.00 / transferred funds \$1,055,230.00 x 100%): **29%**

Short description of the Joint Programme: The Joint Program (JP) in Costa Rica seeks to strengthen national and local implementation of the government’s main social protection strategy to combat poverty “Estrategia Puente al Desarrollo (EPD)”. The JP is implemented by UNDP, ILO, FAO and UN Women, together with the Ministry of Human Development/National Social Development Institute (IMAS) as leading national counterpart. The JP’s first objective aims to strengthen the capacities and coordination of the social protection system entities, with emphasis on the welfare, agro and labor components of the Strategy. Its second objective is to increase income generating opportunities to women in three selected cantons (Puntarenas, Limon and Buenos Aires) as a consequence of participatory, innovative, gender-sensitive and environmentally friendly local initiatives. One of the key assets of the JP in Costa Rica is that it enhances synergies and coordination between the national economic, social and environmental policies.

Executive summary

During its first year of implementation, the JP worked closely with relevant institutions and actors to strengthen the social protection system, accelerate SDG’s and promote the economic autonomy of women in conditions of poverty. Focus was placed on institutional strengthening and the development of tools and mechanisms to integrate intersectional gender and environmental sustainability perspectives into the EPD’s programs and services. Intra and interinstitutional and inter-agency coordination and consensus-building took place to implement the different JP’s activities, thus ensuring coherence, maximizing synergies and the use of resources, and reinforcing a One UN approach and inter-agency collaboration. The JP also served as a catalyst for the mobilization of resources and new initiatives to strengthen the social protection system. Particularly, additional funding was secured to enhance the National Information System and Unique Registry of Beneficiaries (SINIRUBE)¹, thus reinforcing the JP’s contributions to advance strategic policy and coordinated interventions.

In response to COVID-19, the JP rapidly adjusted its workplan and repurposed part of its funding to mitigate the pandemic’s effects on women, who have been disproportionately affected by poverty, unemployment, violence, discrimination and unpaid domestic and care work. Strengthening of SINIRUBE was also key to lessen the impact of COVID-19 on poverty, as it contributed to reach out to female-led households registered within the system to provide them with complementary cash transfers. At the request of the Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion, the adaptation of the Buy from Women (BfW) platform into an e-commerce marketplace was expedited as a means to respond to the situation of women entrepreneurs who faced increased poverty due to the loss of market access and lack of working capital. The development of COVID-19 Response Protocols and Guides to guarantee the health and safety at work of IMAS public officials, and other institutions working in the agricultural and rural sectors, was also supported. Leveraging UNCT efforts, the JP worked, in close coordination with the Vice Ministry of the Presidency, RCO and UNESCO to support post COVID economic reactivation plans in indigenous territories. Additional resources were also allocated to support the design of a microfinance fund and a warranty fund (fondo de avales) for rural and indigenous women, as well as to increase the original resources for grants (seed capital).

At the local level, seed funding was provided to 5 women-led socio-productive initiatives in Puntarenas. Further, the JP established strategic partnerships and coordinated with relevant initiatives in the territories, such as the “Mesa Caribe”, an intersectoral dialogue platform for development that is led by the Second Vice President of Costa Rica. Contact with similar platforms (“Mesa Buenos Aires”) in the other cantons was also promoted. Despite the complex socioeconomic and political environment, and competing priorities during 2020, the JP continues to have strong political and institutional support and made significant progress towards the achievement of its outputs and outcomes. The scope of activities and expected objectives did not suffer changes in this first year, reaffirming the relevance of the proposal, which has proven now timelier than ever.

¹ The OAS recently recognized SINIRUBE as the winner of the “Innovation in Smart Government” category of the 2020 Inter-American Awards on Innovation in Effective Public Management.

A. Annual Progress

A.1 The overall approach

Broader context and JP changes

The first year of implementation was faced with the unexpected impacts of the pandemic which called for rapid adaptation of the program to respond to the new context and the growing needs of the JP's target population: women in conditions of poverty. From the programmatic side, this implied switching to virtual format (meetings, events), as well as prioritizing the implementation of the Outcome 1 activities, aimed at institutional strengthening and coordination, and the development of tools to build the capacities of institutions.

The socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 outbreak have placed a strain on Costa Rica's economy, labor market and welfare system, deepening inequality and affecting women in specific and dramatic ways (greater unemployment, underemployment, greater demand of care and unpaid domestic work, increased violence against women). This situation continues to pose a significant challenge but, at the same time, an opportunity for the JP's integrated strategy and outputs. Women's access to a constant and formal income, as an employee or entrepreneur, is fundamental for their economic autonomy and empowerment. Recognizing this key aspect from an intersectional gender and intercultural analysis has allowed the JP to better address the specific needs of women during this time of crisis. The e-commerce platform, improved institutional capacities, and seed capital supported by the JP have been highlighted by Costa Rica's government and partner institutions as an effective response in this complex scenario.

This "new reality" must be also considered when supporting women's employability and entrepreneurship; hence, the JP will promote digital marketing tools and tutorials on how to grow their business and improve their skills and capacities during 2021. In addition, work is in progress to design a microfinance fund and a warranty fund to provide women with enhanced options and access to resources. The JP will also facilitate inter-sectional dialogues to encourage a just distribution of care and domestic work between women and men, but also, amongst families and the State. Without changes in gender roles that allow for a recognition of women's participation in the care economy and for a new distribution of roles and responsibilities, the recovery period will continue to perpetuate existing inequalities, thus, limiting women's empowerment and economic autonomy.

The growing difficulties women and their families are facing in the COVID-19 context, along with the country's delicate fiscal situation, reforms linked to public employment, and increased insecurity, have given way to social tensions, impacting the program's interventions, especially at the local level. During Q3 of 2020, protests and roadblocks against the government particularly affected the cantons of Limon, Buenos Aires and Puntarenas, which, together with a spike in coronavirus cases during that period, resulted in fieldwork delays. The most tangible challenges to implementation remain related to restrictions for in-person work in the territories; this specifically impacted the development of laboratories and direct work with beneficiaries, especially with indigenous communities. The establishment of JP operational support teams in each of the territories with ample knowledge of main actors and dynamics, including indigenous staff, is expected to move forward activities in the selected cantons during 2021.

The upcoming 2022 national elections and political uncertainty continues to pose a risk of slow institutional response and performance during the second year. To mitigate this situation, the JP will prioritize key institutional arrangements during the first semester of 2021. The ToC of the program was reviewed during the 6-month progress report; the six assumptions remain in place. Given the current context, assumption 3, referring to the extension of the contribution of care services, is being reoriented to an analysis and technical discussion on what it would imply to extend care policies in Costa Rica and what would be the impact of not doing so. No substantial changes in the scope, strategy, activities, results or budget of the JP took place during 2020; the same situation is expected during the next year of implementation. Regarding UNDG categories, travel-related expenses originally budgeted were reduced and consequently reprogrammed to implement other priority actions.

Ensuring that JP remains strategic and catalytic

The JP remains strategic, relevant and catalytic. In the COVID-19 context, the social vulnerability has increased and the institutional capacities to address it are limited. The JP's objectives and outputs, both at the national and territorial level, are more relevant than ever. The JP's integrated strategy and activities have also served as a framework to identify priority actions with an intersectional gender analysis, reaffirming its potential to enhance interagency cooperation. The JP responds to UNDAF priorities related to "strengthening the capacities of public institutions, private organizations and civil society in order to accelerate compliance with the SDGs for sustainable development with equality." Further, in line with UNDAF 2018-2022 efforts, the JP promotes multisectoral collaboration among national partners and UN agencies to deliver on the commitments of the 2030 Agenda. To this effect, RCO representatives maintain regular communication with the JP coordinator and PUNOs, facilitating synergies with broader UNCT collaboration efforts. The key role that the JP plays under UN Framework Pillar#2 (Protecting People: social protection and basic services) for the socio-economic response (SERP) to COVID-19 has been highlighted by the RCO. The JP's actions were also contemplated in a joint UNCT response to support IMAS during the pandemic. This close coordination and alignment of priorities and strategies is expected to continue in 2021.

The JP also managed to adapt and effectively respond to COVID-19, reviewing its workplan and re-purposing the following funds:

- \$15,000 were reassigned to contribute to a UNCT-led effort, implemented by UNESCO and FAO in coordination with the RCO and the Vice Ministry of the Presidency, to support economic reactivation in indigenous territories. Specifically, the JP's actions focused on developing 1) an evaluation about the social, economic and cultural impacts of COVID-19, systematizing short, medium and long-term community-based proposals in the southern indigenous territories, including Buenos Aires; and 2) a national economic and social post-COVID reactivation plan in indigenous territories based on the community-developed proposals. These efforts were led by indigenous consultants (a Bribri lawyer and a Borucan female geographer and educator) and concluded in mid-December 2020. The implementation of the plans, which entail addressing structural challenges and disadvantages of indigenous populations, will be steered by national authorities during the coming year. Effective coordination also took place with PAHO/WHO consultants on the ground, thus strengthening synergies between UNCT broader collaborations.
- \$42,000 were reassigned to increase resources for the design and implementation of funds to support women's socio-productive initiatives. Concretely, the design a microfinance fund and a warranty fund for rural and indigenous women is underway; although originally expected to conclude in December, work will extend until Feb 2021 due to the travel restrictions experienced during Q3 and Q4. Additionally, the JP's initial resources for seed capital were increased by \$20,000 and used to finance the first (5) sustainable productive initiatives selected in Puntarenas.

A.2 Update on priority issues

SDG acceleration

- The JP is coherent with the national aspiration of building a sustainable, inclusive, productive and competitive development model (ToC, National Development and Public Investment Plan 2019-2022, UNDAF 2018-2022), and to promote strategies to reduce gender gaps or inequalities. Specifically, the JP's actions seek to accelerate progress towards SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8 and 10.
- The first outcome refers to the adoption of institutional arrangements to close gaps in the social protection floor and promote women's economic empowerment. To date, the JP has completed an in-depth analysis of the EPD strategy and priority programs and services, with specific recommendations to strengthen the social protection system and reduce gender barriers. The generation of tools to build the capacities of relevant institutions to include a gender and environmental perspective in their work is underway; training on the tools will take place in 2021.
- The second outcome is to increase income-generating opportunities to women in three selected cantons. BfW seeks to promote the economic autonomy of target women by providing them access to an e-commerce platform for the sale of their products, directly to consumers. The Government has recognized BfW as a means to respond to the situation of women entrepreneurs in the context of COVID-19. The financing of socio-productive initiatives and the design of microfinancing models for rural and indigenous women is aimed at tackling the main barriers women face to access credits.

Vulnerable groups

During 2020, the JP directly supported women through the following activities:

- Financing of 5 socio-productive initiatives in Puntarenas, expected to benefit 60 rural women. In addition to seed capital, women will receive technical advice to increase their productivity and to adopt environmentally sustainable and innovative practices and business models.
- Virtual consultations with 52 women entrepreneurs, including afro descendant, indigenous and rural women, to define a women-center design for the BfW e-commerce platform. This women-centered design was integrated in the business requirements to develop BfW.
- In conjunction with FIDEIMAS, a pilot group of approximately 100 women has been selected to sell through BfW. FIDEIMAS has begun training these women.
- Interagency coordination and leveraging so that 17 women entrepreneurs and businesswomen in conditions of poverty and economic vulnerability participated in a cycle of trainings organized by the Win-Win Programme in Chile, implemented by UN Women and ILO.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, training to a group of 9 women in conditions of poverty (former shrimp peelers now transitioning to horticultural production) in Puntarenas on gender equality issues, assertive communication and transformative leaderships.

Further, in-person consultations with 322 women in the 3 cantons, including afro descendant, indigenous and rural women, took place during Q4 to assess the main barriers faced to access social protection programs and services. This information will be contemplated as part of the technical recommendations that will be provided to EPD institutions to improve inter-sectoral coordination and case-management, thus improving the efficiency of existing processes and directly impacting women. Also, the IMAS Family Plan Guide, composed of a set of goals that women beneficiaries of social protection programs agree to follow in a period of 2 years is being revised to include an intersectional gender perspective, aiming to modify goals that reproduce patriarchal social norms that promote inequality amongst women and their families. The Family Plan is crucial as it's the main tool used to refer and coordinate relevant social protection services and programs for a family unit.

Gender marker

This is a GEN3 project with an explicit focus on gender; hence, all actions and resources are directly aimed at accelerating gender equality, women's economic empowerment and preventing/ending discrimination. Specific examples of gender mainstreaming into the 2020 implementation include:

- Technical support for the development of IMAS's Gender Equality Policy, using UNDP's regional system "Indica Igualdad", leveraging the expertise and tools of UNDP's Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Training to strengthen a women's association in charge of the Casa Malla Project (horticultural green house) in Barranca, Puntarenas.
- Training for consultants hired by the JP on how to integrate the environmental and intersectional gender perspective.
- Regularly conducting an intersectional gender analysis to generate recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness and access to social programs; this focus is also integrated in the different Technical Notes and strategic documents elaborated by the JP.
- Collecting and generating information about women living in poverty in the priority cantons, to be taken into account for decision-making in the execution of the program.
- Facilitating consultations with women beneficiaries of the social protection programs and public officials to identify the main barriers in access to and efficacy of social programs; also, to define the business requirements for the BfW platform's women-centered development.

Human rights

The JP was designed with a human rights-based approach, recognizing that in order to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda, Costa Rica needs to continue advancing gender equality and women's socioeconomic inclusion. During the first year, human rights were mainstreamed by:

- Strengthening the principles of inclusion, respect for human rights and promotion of gender equality in all actions and communication materials.
- Identifying and/or addressing the gender gaps in social protection programs and services to strengthen the EPD, with a focus on human rights.

- Focusing interventions on women living in conditions of poverty from an intersectional gender analysis that contemplates the intercultural and geographic characteristics of the target population, with a firm commitment to leave no one behind.
- Developing technical notes on the importance of guaranteeing social protection for women, thus promoting the establishment of social protection policies and floors as tools for reducing poverty and inequality.
- Proposing an inter-sectional dialogue on social co-responsibility of care work for the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- Promoting the economic autonomy of women, innovation and the sustainable use of natural resources, benefitting communities and biodiversity.
- Ensuring the participation of strategic institutional partners in a regional online course on social protection, gender and care responsibilities.
- Recognizing the particular rights and worldview of indigenous peoples.
- Ensuring the participation of target populations in the design and implementation of solutions.

Partnerships

Main examples of inter-agency collaboration and partnerships include:

- Coordination with UNDP projects (GEF Small Grants Programme/SGP), BIOFIN, Paisajes Productivos) to building on their experience and strategic partnerships. Technical support by SGP experts was also mobilized to select the socio-productive initiatives in Puntarenas.
- Leveraging training activities of the Win-Win Programme, implemented by UN Women and ILO with UE funding. Specifically, women beneficiaries and FIDEIMAS staff were invited to participate in a cycle of trainings focused on creating capacities for digital marketing and e-commerce.
- Participation of strategic JP institutional partners (IMAS, INAMU, FIDEIMAS, CCSS, MTSS) and JP personnel in Costa Rica (UNDP, UN Women, ILO) in a regional online course on social protection, gender and care responsibilities led by UNDP, ILO and UN Women.
- Comprehensive support to SINIRUBE; this collaboration has had a catalytic effect and promoted additional funding from other UN agencies (UNDP/\$150,000 and UNCHR/\$50,000) to enhance SINIRUBE’s technical capacities.
- Re-purposing of JP funds to contribute to a UNCT-led effort to support economic reactivation in indigenous territories. Effective coordination also took place with PAHO/WHO consultants working on the ground, thus strengthening synergies between UNCT broader collaborations.
- Coordination, within UNDP, for a specialist in statistics to support the JP’s M&E strategy, thus maximizing resources and experience.
- Integration of JP activities in UN’s socio-economic response (SERP) to COVID-19 in Costa Rica.
- Collaborative relation with EUROSocial in the framework of the National Employment System (SNE) in Costa Rica.
- Preliminary dialogue with the telecom service provider TIGO and NGO “Ideas en Accion” to train women entrepreneurs and businesswomen in conditions of poverty on digital literacy and other key topics (possible mobilization of private sector resources).
- Through an invitation by the RCO, involvement of the JP in a multi-sectoral initiative (AgrODS 2021) to make visible the contribution of a wide range of programs and initiatives in the agricultural and rural sector to the SDG acceleration and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Comments
JP launch event	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Held (virtually) on June 11, followed by the first meeting of the Steering Committee; both events were jointly led by the Minister of Human Development and the UN RC. Costa Rica’s Vice President and Ambassadors from three donor countries participated with remarks in the event, which was joined by over 50 institutional representatives.
Annual JP development partners’/donors’ event*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The partners’/donors’ event was held together with the launch event and included the participation of Ambassadors from Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland.

Funding and financing

- The IMAS and JP have selected FIDEIMAS (Trust Fund of the National Social Development Institute/IMAS) to administrate, host, and give sustainability to the BfW e-commerce platform. FIDEIMAS has funding from the Development Banking System, including the National Bank of Costa Rica (second largest bank in Central America). FIDEIMAS offers capacity building programs and is committed to lead BfW in the country, as well as to collaborate with other social programs of IMAS and the National Institute of Women (INAMU) for its success. During 2020, FIDEIMAS assigned over \$30,000 as government counterpart funds to select and strengthen the capacities of the pilot group of 100 women that will sell through BfW. As a result, 133 of the 139 women entrepreneurs selected for the pilot group (advanced and intermediate levels)² of the BfW platform completed a training cycle to strengthen their business management capabilities. The JP is planning further trainings in 2021 on key topics.
- Other in-kind contributions in 2021 will include: a) training for the JP team and key institutional partners on LABOR, a regional tool/methodology developed by ILO to establish social innovation laboratories; and b) an ILO-UNDP costing tool on transfers and extended care services.
- Also, potential investors/partners for the microfinance fund will be explored.

Innovation, learning and sharing

- A consultancy to systematize the JP's strategic collaborations is in place. Its deliverables include a) infosheets to convey the JP's main results and innovative practices, and b) lessons learnt and recommendations, for internal interagency use. The lessons learned are expected to also serve as relevant input for future initiatives. Infosheets will be disseminated through institutional, PUNOs and SDG Fund social media/websites.
- Regular communication has been maintained with institutions, both at the central and local level, to review progress and adopt corrective measures. The JP's governance mechanisms (Steering and Technical Committee) are working as intended.
- Interinstitutional coordination among EPD officials in the three cantons has been promoted to validate processes (e.g, selection of seed capital initiatives), ToRs, tools and training materials, as well as to encourage discussions around EPD coordination and challenges.
- Active participation of target women in providing regular feedback for JP's activities, thus ensuring a women-centered approach
- Peer to peer learning in the selected cantons will be encouraged. In Puntarenas, peer sharing between women supported through labs and/or seed capital and UNDP's SGP beneficiaries will be promoted to exchange knowledge and experience on topics of common interest.
- Drafting of "checklists" to share knowledge and practical tips on how to integrate gender and environmental perspectives.
- At the global level, the JP in Costa Rica led the first peer-advisory session on platforms organized by the SDG Fund. The JP also participated in a discussion with NYU students to explore opportunities to strategically connect BfW to other platforms to increase its scope beyond Costa Rica, as well as to attract investors and/or a broader market of consumers. While concluding that BfW is not ready yet for such connections, there are interesting possibilities to consider in the medium and long term.

Strategic communications

- Successful JP launch and positioning with key stakeholders (public authorities and Ambassadors from three SDG Fund donor countries).
- JP's on-line presence and visibility through RCO, PUNO and institutional websites and social media channels, targeting general audiences.
- Video and audio productions, including a general overview of JP and storytelling content.
- Human-interest story focusing on IMAS and the role of social co-managers in accompanying women and families in conditions of poverty.
- Documentation (video and photo) of JP activities for future publications.

² Advanced level businesswomen will be prioritized for the first pilot experience.

B. Annual Results

Given the pandemic and sanitary restrictions, 2020 was primarily focused on responding to the crisis, advancing the institutional strengthening activities, establishing strategic partnerships, and adopting the necessary arrangements to implement the JP activities. A participatory planning for the first-year implementation, involving PUNOs, RCO and main institutional partners, took place. Intersectional gender analysis and a women-centered approach was applied in all JP interventions. The JP team also participated in learning/sharing opportunities organized by the SDG Fund and led the first peer-advisory session on platforms. Significant progress to achieve the expected annual results can be summarized as follows:

Outcome 1

- Mapping of institutional workflows, identification of bottlenecks and analysis on gender barriers that limit women’s access and efficacy of social programs and services, including consultations with public officials and 322 women in the 3 cantons.
- Consultations with PUNOs and public officials of the main EPD institutions to design a comprehensive training program (8 modules) to address key topics (2030 Agenda, inter-institutional coordination, intersectional gender perspective, social protection, and environmental sustainability and good practices). The training will comprise a ToT and is expected to take place during the first semester 2021.
- Integrated analysis of institutional barriers for the development of IMAS’s Gender Equality Policy, using UNDP’s regional tool “Indica Igualdad”.
- Enhancement of SINIRUBE’s operational capabilities and infrastructure: reference modules have been integrated, technological infrastructure improved and institutional data mining capacities strengthened. Additional capacity building on data visualization and analysis of social protection programs has been arranged for 2021. To this effect, a comprehensive training will be conducted during the first semester of 2021 by the Central American Institute of Public Administration (ICAP) for managerial and technical level officials of key EPD institutions. In line with the LNOB principle, efforts are underway to promote a gender analysis of the information available in SINIRUBE; the JP’s assistance to develop a specific module on gender within SINIRUBE will be analyzed based on consultations with relevant institutions during 2021.
- The JP’s comprehensive support to SINIRUBE has had a catalytic effect and promoted additional funding from other UN agencies in 2020. Specifically, UNDP mobilized approximately \$150,000 to finance an additional server and out-tasking services to enhance SINIRUBE’s technical capacities. UNHCR also built on this effort contributing an additional \$50,000.
- As an innovative practice, a laboratory was put into place within SINIRUBE to identify what would be the best fitted technological solution to encourage interaction of beneficiaries and users with the system, thus improving its efficiency. This lab has involved the participation of SINIRUBE and other key institutions (CCSS, IMAS); a survey will also be applied to over 400 direct beneficiaries of social programs in 2021.
- Improvement of the Puente Agro information module and mobile app to facilitate the data collection of rural households generating agricultural productivity. The interconnection between the Puente Agro module and SINIRUBE will take place in 2021.
- Conceptualization and preliminary consultations (Vice Minister of Human Development, IMAS technical advisors, ILO and UNDP’s regional gender specialists) to develop an inter-sectional dialogue on social co-responsibility of care work for the elderly and persons with disabilities. To employ an innovative approach, the dialogue will include an analysis of the costs for implementing extended care policies (and the impact of not having such systems in place); it will also facilitate costing tools for this purpose.
- Promotion of employability and entrepreneurship of EPD’s population in the framework of the National Employment System (SNE). This is being done through the development, from an intersectional gender perspective, of the SNE Procedures Manual and a toolbox to guide the user population. A collaborative relation with EUROSociAL, which is currently systematizing the SNE macro procedures, has also been established in order to build synergies and maximize resources and impact.
- Participation of 20 officials from IMAS, FIDEIMAS, MAG and INDER in the first of three webinars on how to incorporate the gender perspective to promote women entrepreneurship projects. The first session took place in Dec 2020.
- Coordination with relevant EPD institutions to implement a specialized training on gender, intersectionality and interculturality. This specialized training will build on the JP’s comprehensive training (8 modules) but will be adapted to the specific context of the agricultural sector.

- In response to COVID-19, 1) the IMAS protocol and guide for a safe and healthy return to work was developed and officially launched in Nov 2020, following the established procedural guidelines; 2) a protocol and similar guide for the agro-sector (Puente Agro), involving various institutions, was also completed in 2020. Taking into the consideration the specific needs of rural families and indigenous communities, in-person trainings and materials to disseminate the guide 's content will be implemented during the first months of 2021.

Outcome 2

- Establishment of local liaisons to ensure their active participation in the a) design and implementation of innovation labs and b) identification of target women to be potentially supported through seed capital and/or the BfW platform. Counterparts were introduced to the concept of innovation labs; a preliminary identification of key issues to address through the labs in Limon and Puntarenas was also advanced.
- Mapping of main institutional and social actors, and nature-based initiatives, in Puntarenas and Limon, as the result of extensive consultations; identification of strategic partnerships and beneficiaries. In Buenos Aires, a preliminary mapping of actors was developed as part of the consultancies working on the economic reactivation plans in indigenous territories.
- Development of the BfW e-commerce platform. Business requirements were based on the input provided by 52 women from the three cantons and over 30 public servants to guarantee a women-centered design. The platform and app are currently being designed. Integration with the National Bank of Costa Rica (to facilitate the means of payment via credit/debit card), the National Postal Service (to provide the means of distribution), and the Ministry of Finance (to facilitate the electronic invoice) is expected to be completed in Jan 2021. A total of 900 women were invited to participate in BfW; 225 women presented their requests to join the platform, submitting a description of their businesses and products. These were evaluated by FIDEIMAS and classified in three categories: Advanced, Intermediate, and Beginner. A pilot group of approximately 100 women has been selected. FIDEIMAS has begun training these women (133 of the 139 women entrepreneurs selected for the pilot group completed this first training cycle to strengthen their business management capabilities), and in 2021, virtual tutorials on how to use BfW, as well as how to address clients' needs, avoid on-line fraud, use social media, amongst others, will be conducted. These tutorials will be integrated into the platform and serve as a mandatory induction process for all women sellers. In addition, a digital marketing strategy will be developed and implemented to help position BfW as a reliable and attractive site for e-commerce. Definition of legal, financial and operational aspects of the platform and a strategy to guarantee its sustainability are also underway.
- Mapping of programs that provide access to credit and working capital, identifying the main barriers women encounter to access credit is in progress. This effort will be completed in 2021.
- A pilot call for proposals to promote sustainable productive initiatives in Puntarenas was launched in Q4. A total of 168 valid forms were received. 11 entities at the local level, including IMAS and INAMU, contributed to disseminate the information among the target population. After a technical analysis that considered, among others, the market potential and replicability of the initiatives and their contribution to the economic autonomy of women, a short list of 22 was drawn, out of which 5 initiatives, expected to benefit 60 rural women, were finally selected³. In addition, the women-led groups will receive technical advice to increase their productivity and to adopt environmentally sustainable and innovative practices and business models.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - a) an evaluation about the social, economic and cultural impacts of COVID-19 in the southern indigenous territories, including Buenos Aires, and a national economic and social post-COVID reactivation plan were developed, in collaboration with the Vice Ministry of the Presidency, the RCO and UNESCO. The implementation of the plans is expected to begin in 2021 and will be led by national authorities.

³ The selected socio-productive initiatives are: 1) MUDECOOP RL, 2) Asociación de Mujeres Mariposas del Golfo, 3) a consortium of oyster groups from the Gulf of Nicoya, Puntarenas, 4) CoopeBrujas del Mar R.L., and 5) Club 4S Women Entrepreneurs and Producers of Organic Vegetables / MEPHO.

- b) The design of a microfinance fund and a warranty fund (fondo de avales) for rural and indigenous women is in progress. This process contemplates the assessment of different microfinancing models and the main barriers that women face to access this type of credits, as well as identifying potential partners to implement this type of funds in the future.
- c) The original resources for seed capital were increased by \$20,000 to contribute to women’s sustainable productive initiatives.

Overall progress

- On track (expected annual results achieved)
- Satisfactory (majority of expected annual results achieved)
- Not-satisfactory (majority of expected annual results not yet achieved)

Please, explain briefly: The implementation of activities at the local level was delayed due to COVID-19 and demonstrations against government measures (tax increases, fiscal reform, etc.) during Q3 and Q4. The prioritization of COVID-19 response actions also implied certain delays in the start of consultancies related to the development of tools and the capacity-building program. Consequently, certain annual targets were modified, as informed in the Q3 progress report. The overall number of performance indicators and targets, however, remains unchanged. Regarding the final delivery rate, the JP committed 78% (expenditures + commitments) of the first transfer and implemented most of the programmed activities during 2020. The execution of the JP’s annual work plan is on track without major delays.

Contribution to Fund’s global results

Since its formulation stage, the JP has benefited from a well-coordinated and collaborative work between PUNOs, RCO and the different institutions and actors involved. The program has a strong political support and has been able to promote a coherent delivery, avoiding the dispersion of efforts and preventing duplication. Strategically, the program activities aim at strengthening synergies and coordination between the national economic, social and environmental policies, thus contributing to the SDG’s global objective to promote integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement. At the local level, the JP is supporting women and their households to increase their income-generating opportunities as a direct consequence of participatory, innovative, gender-sensitive and environmentally friendly initiatives (e.g. innovation labs, seed capital, BfW platform, design of financial models for rural and indigenous women). The JP anticipates that some of these local initiatives will result in successful models that may be scaled up and/or contribute to attract additional SDG investments and engage a wide range of actors, including the private sector.

JP Outputs and Outcomes

Regarding the achievement of outputs:

- The mapping of institutional workflows, identification of bottlenecks and analysis on gender barriers that limit women’s access to EPD’s programs has provided valuable information, that will be used to elaborate technical recommendations for improved coordination and efficacy of the social programs and services (Output 1.1.). Further, the development of a comprehensive training program and tools to incorporate an intersectional gender and environmental perspective are in progress; the training of selected officials will take place in 2021 (Output 1.2.). The JP is also supporting the adoption of procedures to promote employability and entrepreneurship of women in conditions of poverty, building the capacity of institutions to integrate an intersectional gender and environmental perspective in their work (Output 1.3.).
- The conceptualization and identification of strategic partnerships to implement the innovation laboratories in Limon and Puntarenas advanced significantly during Q4; both laboratories are expected to initiate in Q1 of 2021. While challenges remain to work in the indigenous communities of Buenos Aires, the presence of JP hired indigenous staff is expected to move forward the laboratory and other activities in this canton during 2021. The generation of institutional capacity-building initiatives and tools for women, such as the assessment and tracking of family plans for beneficiaries, initiated during Q4 and will continue next year, when a significant number of women are expected to benefit from improved plans

and tools (Output 2.1). The financing of 5 socio-productive initiatives in Puntarena, as well as the design of a microfinance fund and a warranty fund for rural and indigenous women that is currently underway, are intended to create increased access to gender-sensitive and environmentally-friendly financial mechanisms for women to sustain their livelihoods (Output 2.2.).

Regarding the achievement of expected contributions to outcomes:

- By applying an intersectional gender analysis to better understand women’s particular needs, as well as providing technical and policy recommendations to improve the effectiveness of social programs, the JP has reaffirmed the importance of advancing gender equality and also raised awareness on the existing inequalities and challenges that must be overcome, thus contributing to the achievement of Outcome 1.
- The development of training programs and tools for public officials on how to integrate an intersectional gender and environmental sustainability perspective in their work is aimed at tackling the main barriers related to access, as well as to improve the efficacy of social programs and the public institutions’ response to promote women’s economic autonomy (Outcome 1).
- The financing of 5 socio-productive initiatives in Puntarenas and the development of the BfW e-commerce platform are two examples of advances made in 2020 to achieve Outcome 2.

Workplan

- JP workplan was modified
- JP workplan was not modified

Explain briefly: In May 2020, the workplan was jointly updated by the JP team and the Vice Minister of Human Development to re-purpose resources in light of COVID-19. Minor updates, not affecting the outcome/output level, were made to best reflect the current scenario; a few activities were also added to respond to the pandemic. The workplan was again updated in October; certain annual targets were modified to accurately describe when the results were expected to be met. This was duly informed during the Q3 report. The overall number of performance indicators and targets remains unaltered. The original ToC and assumptions also remain valid. No changes exceeding 25% of the total JP budget took place during 2020. The risk management matrix was updated in Jul 2020 and submitted alongside the 6-month progress report.

C. Plan for the Next Year of implementation

Next year

The 2021 workplan will focus on 1) consolidating ongoing activities and adopting institutional arrangements to achieve the expected JP outcomes; and 2) solidifying a strong commitment towards the continuity of the JP’s results, installed capacities and generated tools. There will be a notable increase in the implementation of activities/resources under Outcome 2. The development of innovation laboratories in the three cantons will be prioritized. The BfW pilot rollout, definition of the platform’s operational aspects and the establishment of conditions to guarantee its sustainability will be completed. Monitoring and sustainability of initiatives that were awarded seed funding will also take place during 2021. Further, M&E and learning-sharing efforts, including the systematization and dissemination of the JP’s key results and innovations, will be implemented next year. In sum, the workplan will essentially represent a continuation of the actions initiated in 2020, with a stronger implementation on the ground. The workplan has been reviewed to adjust the description/scope of sub-activities; some sub-activities were consolidated under one given their close relationship. No substantial modifications to the workplan or JP outcomes and outputs are anticipated during 2021 to respond to changes in context or national priorities.

Under **Outcome 1**, a knowledge-sharing and communications strategy will be implemented to best disseminate and discuss, with both managerial and technical level officials, on how to incorporate recommendations to improve the efficacy of institutional flows and processes. Other activities will include: 1) completion of IMAS’s Gender Equality Policy and Plan of Action; 2) technical assistance and consultations regarding the potential development of a specific module on gender within SINIRUBE; 3) continued support to SINIRUBE, including follow-up to the innovation initiated in 2020; 4) interconnection

of the Puente Agro information module with SINIRUBE; 5) completion of the SNE Procedures Manual and toolbox to guide the user population; 6) generation of tools and capacities for public officials providing services in the framework of the EPD's agro, welfare and labor components; 7) proposal for an improved Family Plan that integrates an intersectional gender perspective; and 8) implementation of a technical dialogue on the costs for implementing extended care policies in Costa Rica, and facilitation of costing tools. This dialogue will be implemented following the launch of Costa Rica's National Policy for Care and Support. It will also address the importance of decent work standards in the care sector and economy.

Under **Outcome 2**, the launch, implementation and marketing of BfW will be prioritized. Follow-up and additional training will also be provided to the women entrepreneurs and national institutions to build their skills and capacities. At the local level, innovation laboratories will be established and seed funding and technical support to selected socio-productive initiatives will be provided. The JP will also engage with institutional and key partners to support the replication of good practices at the community level. The design of a microfinance fund and a warranty fund for rural and indigenous women will be completed during 2021, as well as the mapping of programs that provide access to credit and working capital to women. In the specific case of seed funding, the JP will work closely with all grantees to help build their capacities and linking them with other peers (peer-to-peer learning/sharing). Women will also be supported with specific training to help them improve their management, production and administrative skills.

Towards the end of JP implementation

The final JP results are aimed towards:

- Facilitating improved inter-institutional and multi-level coordination mechanisms to strengthen the national and local implementation of the national EPD strategy to combat poverty. To do so, the JP activities will promote the adoption of people-centered institutional arrangements and tools that are environmentally friendly and include an intersectional gender perspective;
- Promoting the economic autonomy of women in conditions of poverty and economic vulnerability through the implementation of participatory, innovative, local initiatives and access to financial instruments that are gender-sensitive and strengthen environmental sustainability.

The JP will strengthen the institutions and target women's technical and organizational capacities through training, tools, knowledge sharing, and technical assistance. The systematization of key collaborations and lessons learned will also contribute to analyzing the JP's impacts and taking corrective measures to ensure the project achieves the desired results. In alignment with national strategies and SDG global priorities, the JP results and impacts are expected to contribute, by the end of the project's implementation, to the SDGs acceleration and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Risks and mitigation measures

The main risks for 2021 include:

- Delays in implementation due to COVID-19 restrictions and effects. Should the country's COVID-19 toll deteriorate, work on the ground would be negatively impacted. To mitigate this risk, the JP has hired local staff (including employment of indigenous staff) in the three cantons, who will maintain close communication with local partners and the target population. Remote solutions to counter sanitary and social distancing restrictions will also be implemented.
- Limited institutional response to growing demands caused by the socio-economic effects of the pandemic, which have placed a strain on Costa Rica's economy, labor market and welfare system, thus deepening inequality, and affecting women in specific and dramatic ways. To counter this situation, the JP will continue to promote multi-stakeholder dialogue, responses and social cohesion. Further, the roll out of activities such as the e-commerce platform and the seed funding for socio-productive initiatives serve as an effective response in the current context.
- The upcoming 2022 national elections and political uncertainty pose a risk of slow institutional response and performance during the second year; to counteract this situation, the JP will prioritize key institutional arrangements to take place within the first semester of 2021.
- Growing civil unrest and roadblocks as the result of a weakened economic and social fabric. The JP will mitigate this risk through its local staff, who in theory would be able to move forward initiatives without being restricted from traveling within their designated territories.

Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Results

1. JP contribution to global programmatic results (annual)

Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

List up to 3 main SDG targets that your Joint Programme primarily focused on in 2020

SDG:1

SDG:5

SDG:8

Global Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

1.1 Did your Joint Programme contribute to implementation of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scope⁴ in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: The program's implementation is on track with the 2020 targets listed in the JP document. Through the Outcome 1 institutional strengthening activities that were advanced during this first year, the JP has laid the foundation to contribute to the SDG's global programmatic objectives (in terms of scope) by the end of the second year. Specifically, the strengthening of the EPD from an environmental and intersectional gender perspective will provide public officials with the necessary tools and skills to provide improved services to women in conditions of poverty and to stop reproducing traditional discriminatory gender norms. The inclusion of an intersectional gender perspective in the social protection programs will support women to break from the cycle of poverty, thus contributing to address inequalities and to put the *leave no one behind* agenda into action.

1.2 Did your Joint Programme contribute to implementation of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scale⁵ in 2020? (if so, brief explanation)

Yes

No

Explain briefly: As per targets defined in the JP document, it is not anticipated that the local solutions implemented by the program could be scaled and adopted in one or more countries, but instead within the country in other cantons. Nevertheless, the experience developed to transform BfW into an e-commerce platform, which is a different model from that used in other countries up until now, has the potential of being replicated in other Latin American countries. Also, SINIRUBE has been recognized by OAS at the regional level for its innovative approach and significant progress in integrating all registries from social programs into a common database, enabling better targeting, increased coverage of eligible beneficiaries, and reduction of overlaps/duplications of transfers, among other improvements. The successful experience of SINIRUBE may be used as a reference for peer countries, contributing to knowledge sharing and capitalization of good practices.

Global Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

1.3 Number of innovative solutions tested in 2020

⁴Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

⁵Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

Total number disaggregated by % successful and unsuccessful: 0 tested in 2020, 3 to be tested in 2021

Provide the list N/A

- Explain briefly: The program's implementation is on track with the 2020 targets listed in the JP document: mapping of main institutional and social actors, women groups and value-chains in the cantons took place. During 2021, the JP anticipates testing three innovative, participatory, gender-sensitive and environmentally friendly local solutions to increase the income-generating opportunities for women and their households in the selected cantons (Limon, Puntarenas, Buenos Aires).

1.4 Number of integrated policy solutions implemented with the national partners in lead in 2020

Total number: 0

Provide the list N/A

- Explain briefly: The program's implementation is on track with the 2020 targets listed in the JP document. The development of a comprehensive training program and tools to incorporate an intersectional gender and environmental perspective are in progress. The JP is also supporting the adoption of procedures to promote employability and entrepreneurship of women in conditions of poverty. The JP's involvement in this strategic collaboration will warrant a women-centered approach and play a key role in connecting social protection programs with the labor market policies. During 2021, the JP anticipates that improved inter-institutional and multi-level coordination mechanisms, training and tools will be in place to apply an intersectional gender perspective and promote environmentally sustainable practices in the implementation of social protection programs and services.

1.5 Did your Joint Programme contribute to strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators in 2020?

Yes

No

- Explain briefly: During 2020, mapping of institutional workflows, identification of bottlenecks and analysis on gender barriers that limit women's access and efficacy of social programs and services took place. Also, studies and evaluations on services provided, and main tools used for collecting information on women in poverty and for defining personal development plans that include economic transfers, education and training, were assessed. The absence of a strong intersectional gender analysis currently limits the public institutions' response to promote women's economic autonomy. During 2021, the JP will strengthen inter-institutional coordination and capacities and provide tailored tools for public officials to better respond to women's particular needs.

1.6 Did your Joint Programme develop a functioning partnership framework for integrated policy solutions to accelerate progress on SDGs in 2020?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: The governance mechanisms of the project work as intended. The National Steering Committee first met in June, agreeing to hold biannual sessions. Due to busy end of year institutional work schedules, the second meeting (originally planned for Nov 2020) was rescheduled for mid-Jan 2021. The National Technical Committee, chaired by the Vice Minister of Human Development, took place in Nov and agreed to meet, every two months, during 2021 (next meeting scheduled in Jan 2021). In addition, the interagency group met during 2020 on a weekly basis to closely monitor the progress of activities. Multiple meetings have also been held with technical counterparts in different institutions. During 2020, the Minister of Human Development invited the JP Coordinator to provide progress updates during three meetings of the EPD's leading institutions; these sessions are held on a monthly basis with the participation of both managerial and technical-level officials.

2. Selected global performance indicators (annual)

2.1. Did your Joint Programme contribute to the improvement of overall UNCT coherence in 2020?

- Yes, considerably contributed
- Yes, contributed
- No

Explain briefly: The RCO and JP interagency team maintain regular communication, thus facilitating synergies with broader UNCT efforts. The JP's activities contributed to the UN Framework Pillar#2 (Protecting People: social protection and basic services) for the socio-economic response (SERP) to COVID-19. The JP's cooperation was also included in the collective response provided by the UNCT to support to IMAS in the COVID-19 context. This close coordination and alignment of priorities is expected to continue during 2021, improving UNCT coherence, synergies and effective use of resources.

2.2. Did your Joint Programme contribute to reduced transaction costs for participating UN agencies in their interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other Joint Programmes?

- Yes,
- No
- N/A (if there are no other joint programmes in the country)

Explain briefly: The JP implementation has reinforced the ONE UN model and interagency collaboration, facilitating engagement and synergies with different initiatives and stakeholders. Regional experts and tools developed by PUNOs were incorporated in the implementation of specific activities, maximizing the use of resources and expertise.

2.3. Was your Joint Programme aligned with the UNCT Results Groups in 2020?

- Yes
- No

Explain briefly: The JP implementation is aligned and directly contributes to UNDAF Results Groups, specifically Results Group 2 and 3 addressing strategic priorities 2) Strengthened institutional capacities for innovation, efficiency and effectiveness in public administration to accelerate achievement of the SDGs in the frame of national priorities for sustainable development with equality and 3) Strengthened capacities of the population for participation and the enforceability of rights to accelerate achievement of the SDGs for sustainable development with equality. JP results are included in the [second UNDAF results report \(2020\)](#).

2.4. Did your Joint Programme secure additional funding resources in 2020?

- Yes
- No

Explain briefly: During 2020, FIDEIMAS, one of the key partners of the JP project, assigned over \$30,000 as government counterpart funds to select and strengthen the capacities of the pilot group of 100 women that will sell through the BfW platform. FIDEIMAS has committed to administrate, host, and give sustainability to the platform, budgeting resources for this purpose during 2021 for personnel and in 2022 also for hosting and maintenance of the platform. The JP has also received in-kind contributions, benefitting from PUNO's expertise and regional tools and methodologies.

3. Results as per JP Results Framework (annual)

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2020 target	2020 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected 2021 target	Expected final target (if different from 2021)
Outcome 1: National institutions responsible for the EPD adopt people-centered, gender- and environmentally sensitive institutional arrangements to close gaps in the social protection floor and promote women's economic empowerment.						
Indicator 1.1. Number of institutional barriers eliminated to ensure women's economic empowerment.	0	1 (access to social services)	1	N/A	3 (Access to land, social protection, Access to financial sector)	3
Indicator 1.2. Number of procedures adopted by the EPD components to strengthen coordination and close gaps in the social protection floor at the local level.	0	3 (IMAS at local level/3 cantons)	3	Procedures completed or in progress; formal adoption to be concluded in 2021	6 (Agriculture and Labour components)	6
Output 1.1. Improved inter-institutional and multi-level coordination mechanisms to implement the EPD components with gender and environmental sustainability perspectives.						
Indicator 1.1.1. Percentage of targeted public servants that demonstrate improved inter-institutional coordination capacities in case management (disaggregated by sex)	0%	30%	0%	Analysis of institutional flows completed and development of training program in progress; yet, training of selected officials will take place in 2021.	70%	70%
Indicator 1.1.2. Number of information system modules integrated in EPD with gender perspective and environmental considerations to track progress on the family action plans.	0	2	1	1 reference module integrated within SINIRUBE; the interconnection of Puente Agro module will take place in 2021	1	2
Output 1.2. Generated tools and capacities in the institutions responsible for the EPD's components, to incorporate intersectional gender and environmental-sustainability perspectives.						
Indicator 1.2.1. Number of tools adopted with intersectional gender perspective and environmental sustainability perspective.	0	2 designed (one for gender and one for environmental sustainability)	2	N/A	2 implemented	4
Indicator 1.2.2. Percentage of public servants trained integrating the intersectional gender and environmental sustainability tools in the beneficiaries' case management (disaggregated by sex)	0%	30%	0%	Tools completed or in progress; training to take place in 2021	70%	70%
Output 1.3. Established an institutional model to improve EPD institutional capacities to promote employability and entrepreneurship to facilitate the just transition to the formal economy, including intersectional gender and environmental-sustainability perspectives.						
Indicator 1.3.1. Number of procedures adapted to target EPD beneficiaries that include	0	2	2	N/A	4 (Additional 1 for Agriculture and 1	4

intersectional gender and environmental sustainability perspectives.		(1 for Agro and 1 for Labor components)			for Labour components)	
Indicator 1.3.2. Road map designed, based on local intersectional gender and environmental sustainability perspectives.	0	1 (designed in year 1)	1	N/A	1 (implementation promoted in 2021)	1
Outcome 2: Women and their households in the selected cantons increase their income-generating opportunities as a direct consequence of the participatory, innovative, gender-sensitive and environmentally-friendly local initiatives promoted by the EPD.						
Indicator 2.1. Number of value chains for women's economic empowerment opportunities environmentally sustainable, identified and improved.	0	3	3	N/A	3	3
Indicator 2.2. Number of additional cantons replicating the models.	0	0	0	N/A	2	2
Output 2.1. Output 2.1 Women in poverty in the selected cantons have increased access to tailor-made services from local, innovative, gender-sensitive and environmentally friendly laboratories.						
Indicator 2.1.1. Number of local innovative laboratories for promoting women's economic empowerment with environmental sustainability perspective developed through local participatory process.	0	3	0	Mapping of actors and value chains identified; development of laboratories will take place in 2021.	3	3
Indicator 2.1.2. Number of women with integral family plan, with at joint action from at least two EPD components (Agriculture, Labour and Welfare components).	0	125	0	Family plan is currently being reviewed; improved plan will be implemented in 2021	225	225
Indicator 2.1.3. Percentage of women targeted that report increased capacities for employability or entrepreneurship.	0%	50%	95%	133 of the 139 women entrepreneurs selected for the pilot group (advanced and intermediate levels) of the BfW e-commerce platform completed a training cycle to strengthen their business management capabilities.	80% (economic empowerment, violence prevention, finance, business, access to markets, value chain)	80%
Output 2.2. Productive initiatives led by women in the selected cantons have increased access to gender-sensitive and environmentally-friendly financial instruments to sustain their livelihoods.						
Indicator 2.2.1 Number of gender-sensitive and environmentally-friendly financial mechanisms designed or adapted and compiled.	0	1 (Design of Project Microgrants)	1	N/A	2 (design of mechanism to articulate financial mechanisms)	2
Indicator 2.2.2. Number of productive initiatives led by women with increased access to financing.	0	9 (identified/in implementation)	5	Due to restrictions working in territories, a call for proposals was implemented only in Puntarenas.	9 (implemented)	9

Annex 2: List of strategic documents

Strategic documents that were produced by the JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
Buy from Women-Costa Rica: an e-commerce platform for women entrepreneurs and business owners in conditions of poverty and economic vulnerability	December 2020	White Paper to serve as basis for the first peer-advisory session on platform learning (organized by SDG Secretariat and led by JP Costa Rica) Learning Note of the peer-session
Guía para la implementación del Protocolo de prevención y mitigación de la COVID-19 en los lugares de trabajo del Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social de Costa Rica	November 2020	Protocol and guide for a safe and healthy return to work during and post COVID 19 for IMAS.
Protocolo para la implementación de directrices y lineamientos sanitarios para COVID-19 en la Estrategia Puente Agro. Sector Agroalimentario. Guía para la implementación del protocolo de prevención y mitigación de COVID-19 en la Estrategia Puente Agro	November 2020	Protocol and guide for a safe and healthy return to work during and post COVID 19 for the agro-sector (Puente Agro).
Technical note to promote common understanding and provide guidance on how to integrate an intersectional gender perspective during the JP´s implementation.	October 2020	Technical note to promote common understanding and guidance on how to integrate an intersectional gender perspective during the JP´s implementation.
Consultoría para realizar consultas para brindar orientaciones para la incorporación de la perspectiva de género, en el marco del programa conjunto para el fortalecimiento de la Estrategia Puente al Desarrollo	September 2020	Methodological instruments for conducting consultations with women to understand their main challenges to reach economic autonomy, as well as their interests and particular needs to sell at an e-commerce platform, from an intersectional gender perspective. These methodological instruments will allow other countries to determine a women-centered design for a marketplace/ecommerce site.
Conversatorios técnicos: Protección social con perspectiva de género e interseccional: fortalecimiento de las políticas de corresponsabilidad de cuidados en Costa Rica	September 2020	Concept note for an inter-sectional dialogue on social co-responsibility of care work for the elderly and persons with disabilities.
¿Qué entendemos por Laboratorios de Innovación?	August 2020	Brief presentation on social innovation labs (power point presentation).

Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it
Pobreza, COVID-19 y su impacto diferenciado en las mujeres	October 2020	Expert insights on the impact of COVID-19 on women and poverty by Costa Rica's RC, UNDP RR and UN Women's Regional Director
Después del coronavirus, más protección social	June 2020	Opinion piece by Vice-Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion
Balance de nuestro pacto social	May 2020	Opinion piece by Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion

Annex 3: Strategic communication results

3.1. Have you created a strategic communication plan for the Joint Programme?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: The plan focuses on strategic actions to successfully disseminate the goals and results of the JCP, highlighting its women-centered, human rights, social protection and sustainable development approach. It contemplates the generation of key messages and content, and use of effective tactics and communication channels, to inform and engage key stakeholders. The planned communication products include human-interest stories, infosheets, videos, podcasts, flyers, among others. Messages conveying personal, collective and institutional commitment to accelerating the SDS and leaving no one behind, as well as the innovative and transformational impact sought by the JP will be prioritized.

3.2. What percentage of the annual budget towards communications was utilized from the total budget? (Note that the entire JP comms budget must be min 5% of the total JP budget)

Explain briefly: 20% of the total JP budget for communications was used during 2020. The JP's budget has a total of \$100,000 (5% of the total budget) dedicated to monitoring, reporting, communication plan, and the learning and sharing plan. In 2020, \$15,000 were used for communications and \$10,000 for M&E related efforts. In 2021, an additional \$60,000 will be invested towards communications and \$15,000 for M&E.

3.3. Have visibility outcomes increased due to the provided funding for JP strategic communications?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: The funding has allowed to hire a community manager and communications specialist to support the JP in creating attractive content. These communication tools are intended to transmit to key audiences strategic information on the JP's progress, impact and overall results. Visibility of the JP results is expected to increase during the second year through the publication of more human-interest stories.

3.4. Does the Country Profile Page on the Joint SDG Fund website contribute to your JP outreach?

Yes

No

Explain briefly: The different communication materials that were produced during the first year were timely shared for publication on the Joint SDG Fund website which has proven to be an ideal platform to promote our JP, reaching out to a wider and international audience. The contents published on this website, as well as on UN Costa Rica’s (RCO) main homepage, are then replicated and/or distributed to other media platforms as necessary.

3.5. How many articles (interviews, human interest stories, press releases, expert insights, etc) about your JP were published by an external media outlet (Non-UN published)?

Total number: 2

Explain briefly: Two articles were published in 2020 by external media outlets. Given the fact that most activities will be more mature next year, and that work in the territories and direct engagement with women will be prioritized in 2021, the JP anticipates an increase in the number of publications for the next year.

<https://www.elmundo.cr/costa-rica/gobierno-y-onu-anuncian-programa-para-apoyar-a-mujeres-en-condicion-de-pobreza/>
<https://delfino.cr/2020/10/pobreza-covid-19-y-su-impacto-diferenciado-en-las-mujeres>

3.6. How many articles (interviews, human interest stories, press releases, expert insights, etc) about the Joint Programme were published by the UNCT and JP PUNOs?

Total number: 4

Explain briefly: Press releases: 1) official launch of the JP, 2) call for proposals for grant funding to women socio-productive initiatives in Puntarenas; 3) human-interest story on IMAS and social co-managers; and 4) SDG podcast on women’s economic empowerment with the participation of Costa Rica’s RC, Allegra Baiocchi, who made explicit reference to the JP in Costa Rica and the seed capital/grants provided to women-led initiatives.

3.7. Have you received an increase of social media followers?

Yes

No

Total number: (Not mandatory)

Explain briefly: The human-history story published by the JP received over 500 likes on the IMAS FB page. Likewise, JP-related publications have had a good response in the social media outlets where they’ve been replicated. A communications specialist joined the JP in Q4 and will be registering social media following or other metrics (specific for JP content) in the coming year, as well as promoting social media campaigns.

Multi-Media Faucets

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
Government and UN announce program to support women living in poverty in the cantons of Limon, Buenos Aires and Puntarenas	June 2020	Press release - official launch of the JP https://www.cr.undp.org/content/costarica/es/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/gobierno-y-onu-anuncian-programa-para-apoyar-a-mujeres-en-condic.html

Strengthening of the National Social Protection Strategy Puente al Desarrollo	June 2020	JP introductory video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Q5rJPI73X4&feature=emb_logo
Leaving no one behind	June 2020	JP infosheet (infographic) https://jointsdgfund.org/article/leaving-no-one-behind
Women of Puntarenas will have financing and productive initiatives	October 2020	Press release on the call for proposals for grant funding to women socio-productive initiatives in Puntarenas https://www.imas.go.cr/es/comunicado/mujeres-de-puntarenas-contaran-con-financiamiento-para-iniciativas-productivas Also, call for proposals documents and information posted on: https://www.cr.undp.org/content/costarica/es/home/presscenter/articles/2020/lanzan-convocatoria-de-fondos-no-rembolsables-para-financiar-ini.html (UNDP) https://bionegocios.cr/financiamiento/convocatoria-del-programa-conjunto-fortalecimiento-de-la-estrategia-puente-al (Biobusiness platform / Biodiversity Fund Initiative (BIOFIN) Costa Rica) https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=1954252044858261&story_fbid=2915654428718013 (INCOPECA) https://www.facebook.com/FundacionMujercr/posts/2572535389713309 (NGO working on promotion of gender equality and women's rights)

Social Media Campaigns

Title of the document	Type (FB/Twitter/LinkedIn/Etc.)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
A Joint Program for Equality	August 2020	Human-interest story on IMAS and the role of social co-managers in accompanying women and families in conditions of poverty https://costarica.un.org/es/87324-un-programa-conjunto-para-la-igualdad#:~:text=Este%20programa%20conjunto%20es%20la,para%20las%20mujeres%20del%20pa%C3%ADs. https://lac.unwomen.org/es/noticias-y-eventos/articulos/2020/08/un-programa-conjunto-para-la-igualdad-costa-rica https://www.ilo.org/sanjose/sala-de-prensa/WCMS_754886/lang--es/index.htm

Poverty, COVID-19 and its differentiated impact on women	October 2020	Expert insights on the impact of COVID-19 on women and poverty by Costa Rica's RC, UNDP RR, UN Women's Regional Director https://delfino.cr/2020/10/pobreza-covid-19-y-su-impacto-diferenciado-en-las-mujeres
Women's economic empowerment	December 2020	SDG podcast on women's economic empowerment with the participation of Costa Rica's RCO, Allegra Baiocchi. Explicit reference is made about the JP in Costa Rica and the seed capital/grants given to women-led initiatives https://www.jointsdgfund.org/index.php/podcast/womens-economic-empowerment

Annex 4: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix

Risks	Risk Level: (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood:	Impact:	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
		Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1		
Contextual risks					
The country's fiscal situation has the potential to limit expansion of the EPD. However, financing for most EDP programs comes from FODESAF, financed mainly from a 5% tax on salaries directed.	16	4	4	The proposal for dialogue with key social actors seeks to strengthen the principle of co-responsibility for development and the need to build an integrated financing framework for sustainable development.	Ministry of Finance and IMAS/Ministry of Human Development
Government-led reforms in public employment can generate social tensions that affect state services and social peace.	9	3	3	The dissemination of information, multi-stakeholder dialogue and the construction of agreements with different actors allows the creation of commitments and conditions for the JCP's development at local level.	IMAS/Ministry of Human Development (EPD leader), Ministry of Labour and Social Security (EPD Labour component leader); Ministry of Agriculture (EPD Agro component leader); JP
The 2022 national elections may slow the institutional response and performance in the second-year implementation	9	3	3	2021 is a pre-electoral year. To counteract any potential delays, the JP will facilitate conditions so that key institutional agreements or	IMAS/Ministry of Human Development (EPD leader), Ministry of Labour and Social Security (EPD Labour

				participation mainly take place within Q3, Q4 and the first semester of 2021.	component leader); Ministry of Agriculture (EPD Agro component leader); JP
The 2020 municipal elections may generate: 1) tensions between the central government and local governments, affecting the minimum necessary levels of coordination; 2) an impasse in the commitment and involvement of the new local governments with the implementation of the interventions; and 3) the existence of new political balances that could position themselves at the local level and demand less recognition of rights for the most excluded groups.	16	4	4	Strengthening the involvement of other actors at the local level seeks to reduce the impact on the implementation of actions.	IMAS/Ministry of Human Development (EPD leader), Ministry of Labour and Social Security (EPD Labour component leader); Ministry of Agriculture (EPD Agro component leader); JP
The increase in poverty, inequality and insecurity at the local level weakens the social fabric, erects barriers to associativity and generates distrust of government programs.	16	4	4	The multi-stakeholder dialogue mechanisms proposed can identify local challenges and articulate responses from the institutions in charge. The JCP also seeks to catalyze actions to strengthen social cohesion.	IMAS/Ministry of Human Development (EPD leader), Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Public Security (EPD Prevention component leaders); JP
Vulnerability due to the global epidemics / outbreak of diseases would have a significant socio-economic impact, affecting public finances and the redefinition of priorities, and increasing poverty and inequality, affecting women in dramatic ways.	25	5	5	In the COVID-19 context, social vulnerability and inequality has increased and the institutional capacities and resources to address it are limited. The JP´s integrated strategy, outcomes and outputs can however serve as framework to support priority actions to respond to the crisis, thus reaffirming its potential to enhance interagency	IMAS/Ministry of Human Development (EPD leader), JP

				collaboration and effectiveness. The JP works with an intersectional gender perspective that permits to enhance solutions for women's particular needs and increased challenges amidst the Covid-19 crisis.	
Vulnerability due to the occurrence of disasters caused by extreme natural phenomena combined with low response capacity and resilience, would affect progress, and can have a significant impact on public finances and the redefinition of priorities.	12	3	4	Adequate planning of activities, taking advantage of the close relationship of UN agencies with the National Emergency Commission and other responsible actors, could expand the capacity to foresee and deal with these externalities in a timely manner.	IMAS/Ministry of Human Development (EPD leader), Ministry of Housing (EPD Community component leader); National Emergency Commission; JP
Programmatic risks					
Challenges for implementing a new interagency coordination approach alongside with a novel combination of JCP thematic areas of work	6	2	3	Strong support from RCO and establishment of a JCP interagency committee to monitor project alignment with 2030 Agenda principles (integrality, multidimensionality, LNOB) and UN reform implementation process.	RCO, PUNOs
Breach of contracts by individuals and companies in the face of the national emergency caused by COVID-19	16	4	4	Constant communication must be maintained with local partners and target population. Identification and implementation of remote solutions to counter sanitary and social distancing restrictions. Clear mechanisms to timely solve and act against any contract disruption.	PUNOs

Delays due to adverse health conditions caused by COVID-19 affecting JP staff	9	3	3	The JP team will continue working remotely until clearance is given to return to offices; necessary sanitary precautions will be observed at all times. Staff have also been reminded of their obligations with respect to reporting COVID-19 cases or alert their corresponding units in case of symptoms or positive PCR; the same applies in case of COVID-19 illness in dependents/household members.	RCO, PUNOs
Delays in the development of field activities due to COVID-19 mobility restrictions	16	4	4	Constant communication must be maintained with local partners and target population. Identification and implementation of remote solutions to counter sanitary and social distancing restrictions. Clear mechanisms to solve and timely act against any contract disruption.	RCO, PUNOs
Institutional risks					
Weakness in inter-institutional and intersectoral coordination at the central and local levels jeopardizes articulation and synergies to accelerate compliance with the SDGs and the program 's actions.	12	3	4	The aim is to reduce this risk by strengthening the principle that people are at the center in the design of all actions, strengthening their capacities and promoting articulation through spaces of co-creation and dialogue with communities.	IMAS/Ministry of Human Development (EPD leader) and other EPD component leaders, RCO, JP
The limited recognition and capacities of NGOs, social movements and community-based	9	3	3	The capacity building proposed through participatory and	JP and EPD institutions

<p>organizations to generate spaces for articulation with their peers and with it, limited influence on national and local dialogue spaces.</p>				<p>collaborative work, as well as the recognized added value of the UN System to act as "convener," will reduce this risk and strengthen the capacities of organizations for collaborative work.</p>	
<p>The lack of access to care services by women limit their possibility of participating in project activities.</p>	12	3	4	<p>The JCP will therefore facilitate the articulation of women beneficiaries with the provision of State services in this regard.</p>	<p>JP, IMAS/Ministry of Human Development (EPD leader), and other care service providers.</p>
<p>Fiduciary risks</p>					
<p>Nonobservance of MoA clauses and/or deadlines by individuals and/or women-led groups receiving seed capital to implement socio-productive initiatives</p>	16	4	4	<p>Constant technical support and communication must be maintained with local partners and beneficiary groups. Identification and implementation of remote solutions to counter any sanitary and social distancing restrictions, or other unforeseen situation, affecting the development of the socio-productive initiative. Clear mechanisms to timely solve and act to overcome obstacles.</p>	<p>PUNOs</p>