

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

## Cover page

**Country:** State of Palestine

**Joint Programme title:** Towards a universal and holistic social protection floor for persons with disabilities (PwD) and older persons (OP) in the State of Palestine Joint Programme

**Short title:** Social Protection Floor for PwD and OP in Palestine

**Start date** (month/year): January 2020

**End date** (month/year): December 2021

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**Budget** (Joint SDG Fund contribution): USD 2,000,000

**Overall budget** (with co-funding): USD 2,639,500

**Annual Financial Delivery Rate** (= Total JP expenditures / transferred funds x 100%): 17%

**Rate of Committed Funding** (= Total JP commitments / transferred funds x 100%): 32%

**Short description of the Joint Programme** (max 1 paragraph):

Palestinian Authority (PA)'s Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) is considering options for adopting Social Protection Floor (SPF) and adapting the national social protection (SP) system to address the specific needs of particularly vulnerable groups, notably Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and Older Persons (OP). While ongoing SP reform efforts are centered on building the infrastructure for a modern SP system with a focus on targeting and delivery mechanism, no explicit effort has been dedicated so far to enhancing the relevance, adequacy and impact of SP on the lives of - especially female - PwD and OP. The Joint Programme (JP) aims to address this gap

which can then be taken to scale by the authorities; and, in doing so accelerating poverty reduction (SDG 1), reducing inequalities (SDG 10) and increasing food security (SDG 2) amongst PwD and OP, with the intent of giving special attention to women. The programme will pilot integrated solutions for (female) PWD and OP in Hebron governorate, which is one of the most vulnerable areas in the West Bank, taking geopolitical developments into consideration. By fast tracking in a specific location, this pilot will build evidence for nation-wide scale up. While the Joint Programme was initially developed based on analysis undertaken through the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission, as well analyses undertaken by the World Bank, WFP and ILO, the JP has been modified to take the COVID-19 crisis into consideration and to reflect the PA's studies and assessments of socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19. The modified JP is in line with the PA's COVID response plan and its updated Social Development Sector Strategy 2021-2023. With the three UN agencies supporting through this JP, the MoSD will lead efforts towards effective reinforcement of rights-based SP policies and interventions for PwD and OPas a key step towards a universal and holistic SPF in the SoP.

## Executive summary

The JP, developed in an effort to support the Palestinian government's on-going social protection reform, has laid out much of the needed groundwork for a more inclusive social protection system in 2020. With the COVID-19 pandemic which has shown the importance of robust social protection system, the efforts of the JP to adopt a universal social protection floor especially for PwD and OP have been critical. The JP has adopted and reprogrammed some of its activities to align with newly updated Palestinian Social Development Sector Strategy and fast changing situations on the ground. On top of the activities planned originally, the JP has supported the MoSD to better assess the impacts of COVID-19 on the vulnerable population and their socioeconomic needs. However, this does not imply significant changes in terms of the JP Theory of Change or the approach. The JP has and will continue to contribute to the Fund's global outcome 1 on implementing integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement and on Palestine's UNDAF outcome 4 on greater access to a unified, integrated, and shock-responsive protection and social protection systems for all Palestinians, especially the most vulnerable. The JP has built evidence and improved data availability on PwD and OP to enable better understanding of their characteristics and needs to inform future policy and programme development. The JP has finalized secondary analysis of PwD based on census data and has been supporting the government in mapping existing service providers for PwD. In cooperation with the EU and the World Bank, the JP is also in the process of developing a comprehensive database for PwD which will be incorporated into a unified national social registry to be established with support of the World Bank. The JP has also made progress on developing financial, legal and policy frameworks and increasing access to social protection through costing of disability law and service packages and reviewing a multi-dimensional poverty approach to assess its sensitivity for PwD and OP. While there have been some delays in implementation due to COVID-19 crisis and pending government decisions regarding endorsement of the disability law, the JP has established enhanced coordination with the MoSD and other key partners and hopes to accelerate the implementation in 2021.

## A. Annual Progress

### A.1 The overall approach

#### *Broader context and JP changes*

While the State of Palestine had been already challenged by economic stagnation, external and internal conflicts and a drop in external support, the situation has exacerbated with COVID-19. The Palestine Authority declared a state of emergency in March 2020 when a positive COVID-19 case was first detected in Palestine and since then it has gone through multiple lockdowns. According to projections from the Palestinian Ministry of Finance, annual GDP will contract roughly 2 percent for every month that the economy is shutdown. The impact of COVID-19 has been the worst on the most vulnerable, significantly increasing their needs for social protection. However, the Palestinian Authority's already on-going fiscal crisis has challenged its efforts to address the increased needs of the people.

Against this background, the JP and its efforts to increase access to social protection and relevant services for the most vulnerable, notably the PwD and OP, are critical. The PUNOs have supported COVID Response Plans by providing direct assistance to PwD and OP who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. The PUNOs

have also been providing technical and financial support to the Palestinian government to better assess and measure the impacts of COVID-19 on the vulnerable population. While the JP quickly adapted to the fast-changing circumstances on the ground with COVID-19 crisis, it still maintains its general approach that PwD and OP will be able to access more adequate and cost-effective SP only through a more inclusive, better integrated multidimensional and holistic service delivery response and by tackling supply and demand constraints at the same time. While the JP observed some delays in implementation of some of the activities planned for 2020, it intends to accelerate the process in 2021.

More specifically towards the activities planned under the JP, there were some changes on the ground as well. The JP was developed taking two main issues into consideration. The first one was regarding disability assessment – moving away from medical disability to a more functional assessment. The second one is the approval of the disability law. The assessment is facing difficulties as there is no agreement among key stakeholders and the region does not seem to have many best practices which the JP can adopt. The disability law is still waiting to be approved. Thus, the PUNOs have agreed that there is a need to reprogramme some of the JP activities based on these two issues such as piloting the new disability assessment and developing disability bylaws. Instead of waiting for decisions to be taken by the government, the JP will focus more directly on implementing the action plan for PwD and capacity development for the concerned parties such as the disability units in the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health.

However, these changes do not imply broader changes in the JP's strategy and approach. The JP also hopes that the PUNOs and the government can continue to work on these issues (functional assessment and disability bylaws) once there is progress.

#### *Ensuring that JP remains strategic and catalytic*

The JP contributed to the UNDAF Strategic Priority 4 on Leaving No One Behind (LNOB): Social Development and Social Protection and its Outcome 4.2 that all Palestinians, especially the most vulnerable, have greater access to a unified, integrated, and shock-responsive protection and social protection systems through its ongoing effort to

- Develop a comprehensive and integrated database for PwD which will inform evidence-based policy making and programming;
- Develop a medium-term vision and financing framework for SP reform building on SPF assessment;
- Review sensitivity of current Cash Transfer Programme design from perspective of PwD and OP and develop rights-based approach for identification and selection of PwD and OP for SP programmes;
- Increase awareness of SP rights and participation in SP systems implementation amongst OP and PwD.

However, the JP also faced significant delays in implementation of some activities in 2020 due to COVID-19 and with government efforts being focused on addressing the impacts of COVID. The JP responded quickly by adding some activities to support the Palestinian government to better assess and address the impacts of COVID-19 through Socio-Economic Impact Assessment and Social Impact Analysis. The JP did not formally re-purpose its budget in 2020, but it decided to reprogramme some of the activities as elaborated above taking contextual changes into consideration.

The JP is in line with the updated Social Development Sector Strategy (SDSS) 2021-2023 which highlights the importance of a rights based approach to social protection. The PUNOs have been participating actively in the Social protection Sector Working Group (SPSWG) to ensure that the JP remains relevant and that it contributes

to and stays in line with new key strategic developments on the ground. The PUNOs have also consulted bilaterally with other key stakeholder such as the EU and the World Bank. The PUNOs confirmed that the JP is also in line with the EU's nexus strategy which highlights social assistance as one of its four key pillars.

The JP is also aligned to the UNCT COVID-19 Development System Response developed under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator's leadership in support of the Government of Palestine. Social protection is one of the five major areas of focus for the UNCT and the Response Plan highlights that the "UNCT will assist the Government of Palestine in modernizing its social protection systems and promoting the transfer of technology, including effective identification and registration of beneficiaries, etc."

## A.2 Update on priority issues

### *SDG acceleration*

The JP aimed to contribute primarily to the following seven SDG targets.

- Goal 1: End Poverty; 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- Goal 2: Zero Hunger; 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- Goal 5: Gender equality; 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Goal 8: Decent Work; 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities; 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- Goal 16: Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions; 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- Goal 17: Partnership; 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Instead of taking conventional steps, the JP aims to accelerate progress towards these SDGs by tackling the challenges on the sides of both the duty-bearers and rights holders and by supporting capacity strengthening of the both. In 2020, the JP has focused much on the supply side by generating adequate information and laying groundwork to develop policies and practices for integrated service delivery and on mainstreaming them in the design of social protection system. In 2021, the JP will continue to work on this front with stepped up efforts to strengthen the demand side through public awareness raising campaigns and workshops. Through tackling both sides at the same time, the JP hopes to support Palestine adopt more inclusive and rights-based social protection system and accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.

### *Vulnerable groups*

The JP aims to address the specific needs of the most vulnerable – mainly the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and the Older Persons (OP). The PwDs and OPs in Palestine face challenges in accessing social protection and

their situation has been exacerbated with COVID-19. Recognizing these difficulties, the JP has been trying to take a rights-based approach and put the needed system in place to enhance the understanding on the specific needs of the PwD and OP and to make the needed services more accessible to them.

The PUNOs are supporting MoSD in developing a comprehensive database for PwD and aim to pilot in the West Bank for the cases in the national Cash-Transfer Programme database which include 50,000 persons with disabilities. The PUNOs have done secondary analysis for disability based on the census data which enabled better information on the status of PwD in Palestine. The PUNOs have also been advocating for the disability law to be approved which would have an overarching impact on the persons with disabilities in general. The JP has been testing the updated Proxy Means Testing Formula (PMTF) and the multidimensional poverty index (MPI), adopted by the Palestinian government in 2020, for PwD and the OPs. The PUNOs have also been defining and costing service packages and developing relevant manuals.

In 2020, the JP spent much of its efforts assessing the needs of the PwD and OP and laying groundwork for broader policy, legal and systematic frameworks. Thus, it is a bit difficult to report on the exact number of individuals reached. However, the JP has had comprehensive impact on the target population and it intends to reach out more to the general public through active awareness raising campaign in 2021 and also directly to some of the PwDs through a pilot in Hebron.

#### *Gender marker*

The JP aimed to mainstream gender throughout all dimensions of the JP analysis, implementation and monitoring, ensuring a gender marker of 2.1. The secondary analysis of the PwD based on census data has disaggregated data on gender enabling the PUNOs and relevant stakeholders to better understand the special needs of the female PwDs. The database on PwD to be developed by the JP will have disaggregated data on gender as well. On top of having a contextual gender analysis, the JP will consult and involve organizations working directly with female PwDs and OPs to support them in strengthening their capacity. In addition to that, a direct technical support to MoSD and the relevant national committee, has been given to develop the National Social Development Sector Strategy 2021-2023, which is a gender sensitive document that has disaggregated data on gender and also has policies and interventions with gender sensitivity.

#### *Human rights*

The JP is built on the ideas of the following human rights mechanisms:

- Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD)
  - The JP was developed taking the CRPD into consideration. It realizes primarily the article 28 on “adequate standard of living and social protection” which states that the “States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of disability” and that the state parties “ensure access by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes.”
  - To realize and ensure the PwD’s equal access to social protection, the JP has a component on developing comprehensive policy and financing framework for PwD which is in line with CRPD’s article 4 on obliging the state parties to “adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention.”
- UN Secretary General’s Report on human rights of older persons and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons

- The United Nations Principles for Older Persons outline and encourage the governments to incorporate the 18 principles into their programmes which include that the “older persons should have access to social and legal services to enhance their autonomy, protection and care” and that they should be “treated fairly regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, disability or other status...”
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): While the CEDAW does not specifically mention “women and girls with disabilities” or “elderly females,” it is the principle mechanism promoting women empowerment and gender equality. Recognizing the intersecting inequalities, the female PwD and OPs face, the JP aims to incorporate gender mainstreaming into all aspects of its implementation.
- All human rights mechanisms highlight the importance of involving the target population (PwD, OP, females) in the development and implementation of relevant policy and legal frameworks and programmes and to actively consult them in decision-making progress. The JP has a component on enhancing awareness of social protection rights and participation in social protection systems implementation amongst OP and PwD through workshops for relevant parties and general public awareness raising campaigns.

### Partnerships

The JP has full support of the key government ministry – the Ministry of Social Development – which sees the JP as one of the national priorities. The JP has been supporting the MoSD in its engagement with relevant stakeholders in the area of social protection and the PUNOs have been actively engaging in the Social Protection Sector Working Group (SPSWG). It has also had multiple meetings with other key actors such as the EU and the World Bank. The JP also has full support from the UNCT, mainly the RC office, which recognizes its transformative and innovative nature given the important role social protection plays for the Palestinian society. Among the PUNOs, the agencies have formed a technical team to enable joint programming and implementation. The technical team has had regular meetings throughout 2020. In 2021, the PUNOs intend to focus more on capacity development of the relevant stakeholders and awareness raising campaigns for the public. Throughout these efforts, the JP aims to expand its partnership with relevant civil society organizations and hold consultative committee meetings including all the key stakeholders.

### Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Comments
JP launch event	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, the PUNOs had an in-person official launch event on 23 June 2020. The event was chaired by the Minister of Social Development. The Minister and the Deputy Minister of Social Development, a representative from the Resident Coordinator’s Office and Heads of the PUNOs attended the event. The Minister emphasized the importance of social protection and expressed appreciation of the JP. The PUNOs updated the Minister of the progress so far and plans for the upcoming months. The event was covered in media. ( <a href="https://www.maannews.net/news/2010917.html">https://www.maannews.net/news/2010917.html</a> ; <a href="https://www.raya.ps/news/1089001.html">https://www.raya.ps/news/1089001.html</a> ).

Annual JP development partners'/donors' event*	☒	☒	(While the annual report covers only the activities implemented until December 2020) the PUNOs, in partnership with the Palestinian government's Ministry of Social Development, Prime Minister's Office and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office organized a virtual donors meeting on 26 January 2021. The global donors of the SDG Fund such as the EU, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Germany, Spain attended along with Canada and UK who are regular donors of the PUNOs and have supported social protection work in Palestine. During the meeting, the PUNOs briefed the donors of the Joint Programme, its progress so far and its plans for 2021.
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*Funding and financing*

As mentioned above, the JP has organized a donors meeting to brief and update the current global donors of the Joint SDG Fund. The JP has also invited some of the other relevant donors such as Canada, Belgium, UK, France, Japan, etc. to the event to raise awareness of the JP and to leverage additional funding. The PUNOs had multiple meetings with key stakeholders such as the EU and the World Bank and has referred to the JP in relevant UNCT and/or Social Protection Sector Working Group (SPSWG) meetings. While it would be difficult to expect direct (cash) contributions from the government, the Palestinian Authority's MoSD has contributed its personnel/staff for the JP. There is no additional funding promised yet, but the JP will continue to work on mobilising additional funding.

*Innovation, learning and sharing*

The PUNOs regularly shared the updates, feedback and lessons learned through technical team meetings and the steering committee meetings for the JP and the consultative meetings it had with other stakeholders such as the government and the EU and the World Bank. In 2021, during which most of the communication activities are focused on, the JP aims to engage more actively on this front.

*Strategic communications*

The communication plan for the JP outlined in the programme document focused mainly on two aspects – engaging directly with the representative bodies working with the PwD and OP and awareness-raising campaigns.

It is important to note that most of the communication activities are scheduled for the second year, 2021, as the JP focused more on laying the needed groundwork in 2020. Also, with rapidly changing situation on ground, the communication group of the JP developed a short-term plan initially covering 3 months and decided to regularly update this plan to reflect the changes on the ground before coming up with a strategic communication plan. The short-term plan involved producing a factsheet and human interest stories and videos which were shared extensively with the development partners.

The JP faced some delays in promoting the communication activities due to COVID-19 and the resulting movement restrictions. For example, while the JP had planned to do multiple household visits to produce human interest stories regularly, it became difficult due to COVID. However, the JP did manage to produce a good story demonstrating the challenges the Palestinian elderly people face. (<https://www.jointsdgifund.org/article/un-partners-provide-lifeline-older-people-palestine>). The JP aims to follow up on this point and produce more stories throughout and especially towards the end of the programme to highlight the changes and differences the JP has had on these people.

The Joint Programme will also organize consultative committee meetings which will serve as a platform for national dialogue on social protection for PwD and OP and will also engage actively in awareness raising campaigns for the social protection rights and available social services for PwD and OP through multiple platforms (social media, TV, radio, newspaper, etc.)

## B. Annual Results

### *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: There were some delays in the implementation of the JP activities in 2020 and it took time for the JP to re-position itself during COVID-19 pandemic. This somewhat explains why the expenditure rate for 2020 was low. However, the JP has finalized ToRs for many of JP's key activities and have also recruited a full-time project coordinator end of 2020 and set up an enhanced coordination mechanism with the key line ministry – the Ministry of Social Development. So in Q1 and Q2 of 2021, the JP will be able to accelerate the progress.

### *Contribution to Fund's global results*

The JP has and continues to contribute to the Fund's global outcome 1. Integrated multi-sectoral policies are implemented with greater scope and scale to accelerate SDG achievement mainly through expanding social protection for PwD and OP. In 2020, the JP has been laying groundwork to enable innovative solutions to be tested on ground in Palestine such as developing a comprehensive database enabling PwD to self-register and piloting of service package and improved identification and selection model for the NCTP.

### *JP Outputs and Outcomes*

In 2020, the JP focused on laying groundwork for developing legal, policy and systematic frameworks. It has made some progress on developing a comprehensive database and also on better assessing the needs of the PwD and OP and mapping existing services to understand the gaps. The JP also witnessed some progress on reviewing the sensitivity of targeting mechanism of the current national Cash Transfer Programme. The JP witnessed some delays in capacity development and reaching out to general public in 2020 and aims to step up this effort in 2021.

These progresses are taking into account the COVID-19. As the JP witnessed some delays in 2020, the PUNOs aim to accelerate the process in 2021.

### **Output 1. Data Analysis and Evidence Generation**

The JP supported, in partnership with the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the development of a secondary analysis of census data on PwD, which gives an overview on PwD in Palestine and will help in better planning and policy development for PwD (<http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2532.pdf>). This study was supported by a PUNO agency additional funds.

The PUNOs have been supporting the MoSD in mapping the available service providers for PwD and OP. With an official request from the government, the PUNOs are complementing the mapping of social service providers done by the World Bank that covered 6 governorates and one district in the West Bank. So instead of covering only the providers for PwD and OP, the JP will cover all social service providers for the rest of governorates in the West Bank (5 Governorates) and in the entire Gaza Strip area. This mapping activity and the analytical study will help to better plan for service development for PwD and OP.

In regard to developing a comprehensive database for PwD, the PUNOs have been working closely with MoSD, PCBS and the World Bank to map the existing datasets and come to an agreement on how best to develop an integrated database. It was agreed that the database developed by the JP will be part of the national social registry system which is supported by the World Bank. Having laid out much of the groundwork in 2020, the JP aims to accelerate the process and design and test the database in 2021.

**Output 2. Policy and Legislation:** The PUNOs, with the lead of MoSD and a local research institute a first draft of the costing of the revised disability law was undertaken. A wide consultative workshop was held with participation of 25 persons representing government institutions, CSOs, private sector and international development partners. There was a delay in developing this costing study due to COVID-19 especially in data collection. The draft study is under review and the final version to be ready by March 2020. The study will give an overall picture on the expected impact on the budgets of the government, private sector, civil society and local governments, which will help to better plan for the implementation of the law. However, it is important to note that the approval of the disability law has been delayed. After consulting with relevant parties, the PUNOs decided to reprogramme some of the other activities built on the assumption that the disability law would be approved.

### **Output 3. System and Service Provision**

The PUNOs are continuing with the costing of services packages tailored for PwD and OP. Terms of reference were finalized to incorporate a combination of methodologies, including humanitarian and food security-focused approaches to identify essential needs, as well as those designed to evaluate and offer services aimed at ensuring mental health and promoting skills and personal development. A tendering process to identify and competitively evaluate suitable firms will be completed in February 2021.

There has also been some progress in reviewing the performance of a multi-dimensional approach to defining poverty, adopted by the government in January 2020. The methodology (MPI), incorporates a broader array of indicators that could make eligibility determinations for cash and in-kind assistance. The review is intended to evaluate MPI's suitability in various government programmes, as well as its ability to adequately capture needs specific to PwD and OP. The methodology of the analysis will be extended and applied to review a revised version of the Proxy-Means Test Formula (PMTF) currently used to qualify applicants for government cash assistance. An international expert has been engaged to simulate an application of the MPI and revised PMTF to target benefits and evaluate anticipated impacts of the proposed tools on reaching older persons and persons with disabilities.

While the JP has had numbers of consultative meetings with the MoSD, Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) to discuss the possibility to introduce a functional assessment module for disability in

Palestine, there have been some difficulties. The process for the introduction of the International Classification of Functioning (ICF) does not yet seem to have gained sufficient traction with the other ministries. Thus, the JP aims to review and reprogramme this activity.

**Output 4.** Due to COVID-19 and the resulting movement restrictions, the PUNOs have not been able to organize workshops and events as planned and have been facing delays in this regard. The PUNOs aim to adopt to the current situation by organizing workshops in hybrid (in-person and virtual) system and launching awareness raising campaigns online (e.g. social media platforms) in 2021.

**COVID-Response:** The PUNOs have supported the government in responding to COVID in the following two aspects: 1) developing a COVID-19 Social Impact Analysis Report and 2) supporting the PCBS COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Survey. These studies provide important evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on most vulnerable groups, including PwD and OP, and recommendations on the policy and programme level.

### *Workplan*

- JP workplan was modified
- JP workplan was not modified

The JP has added some activities to support the government's efforts to assess and adopt to the impacts of COVID-19. There were also some changes to the assumptions that the JP was built on - such as the disability law approval being delayed and the JP facing difficulties in pushing for moving towards a functional disability assessment instead of medical assessment. As the JP has already witnessed delays in implementation due to COVID-19, instead of waiting for progress in these regards, the JP has decided to modify and reprogramme some of the related activities. However, this does not have significant budget implications (not moving budget between outputs or reprogramming above the 20% limit). The updated workplan can be shared if needed.

## **C. Plan for the Next Year of implementation**

### *Next year*

In 2021, the JP intends to build on the groundwork laid out in 2020 and pick up on the delayed activities and accelerate the process.

**For Output 1,** the JP aims to make significant progress in developing a comprehensive database for the PwD. The JP hopes to finalize the mapping of existing datasets and merge them to create one coherent unified system. The JP will also pilot the database system for the West Bank CTP cases. The JP will conduct a vulnerability assessment of the OPs in Palestine based on secondary data. This can serve as a basis for better incorporating the needs of the OP and mainstreaming protection agenda for the OP in the social protection system.

**For Output 2,** on the policy framework side, the JP aims to finalize the SPF assessment and develop a medium term vision and financing framework for a SP reform based on the assessment. It will also develop an integrated programming and financing framework to enhance synergies between SP, employment/livelihoods and food security interventions, health and other social services for OP. It also aims to develop and implement a roadmap for the operationalization of a SPF for PwD and OP. The JP aims to develop a national action plan for PwD. On the legal framework side, with the approval of the disability law being delayed, the JP will

reprogramme the budget to replace developing disability byelaws to actually implementing the activities suggested in the national action plan for PwD which is to be developed.

**For Output 3**, the JP aims to design more inclusive targeting model for Palestine's non-contributory social assistance. It will finalize the on-going reviewing of the sensitivity of the targeting mechanism for OP and PwD for the national Cash Transfer Programme. Based on the findings of this assessment, the JP will design a more inclusive model for identification and selection for the SP programme and pilot the new model. The JP also aims to finalize the on-going activity of defining and costing of a service package. Once this is finalized, the PUNOs will build on this and develop manuals and guidelines on mechanisms to access services and service delivery coordination.

**For Output 4**, the JP will target the demand side and aim to strengthen the capacity of the relevant stakeholders for the target population and also to empower the PwD and OP so that they have better understanding of their own rights and be able to claim their rights and entitlements. The JP will work extensively on capacity strengthening for CSOs and representative bodies of PwD and OP to support national dialogue and promote public awareness raising campaign on SP rights, entitlements and procedures. The JP will also develop disability and old-age sensitive grievance and redress mechanism for SP.

Having laid out all the objectives for 2021, the PUNOs for Palestine JP would like to take this opportunity to officially request no-cost extension for six months until June 2022 to grant sufficient time to implement all the planned activities and to deliver the expected results.

#### *Towards the end of JP implementation*

With the assumption that the Fund grants the requested no-cost extension for 6 months till mid-2022, the JP expects to deliver all the outputs and aims to contribute to the wider social protection reform efforts being led by the MoSD. Both the JP and the efforts by the MoSD will contribute to the overall expected outcome that all Palestinians, especially the most vulnerable (with focus on PwD and OP), have greater access to a unified, integrated, and shock-responsive protection and social protection systems thanks to the establishment of a universal and holistic social protection floor. The legal, policy and systematic frameworks and action plans developed under the JP will form strong basis for action and the comprehensive databased and the assessments will serve to better inform future policy-makings and programming. The programme is scheduled to be completed by mid-2022 (with the extension).

The project completion period will tie in well to many of the key national frameworks and strategies such as the National Policy Agenda and UNDAF which are to conclude in 2022 and the Sector Strategies which conclude in 2023. The JP hopes that the findings and the results of the JP can inform the development of new national and UN strategies throughout 2022-23.

#### *Risks and mitigation measures*

The JP faces some risks in effectively implementing its activities. However, the JP will coordinate among itself and with key partners such as the MoSD and PCBS to monitor and mitigate the risks. First of all, on-going COVID-19 crisis poses a great risk to the project implementation. Palestine has already seen multiple lockdowns (West Bank is currently under lockdown and Gaza is under partial lockdown). This has limited some of the needed in-person exchanges.

Also, the rising needs due to COVID-19 has diverted attention from some of the longer-term activities with the efforts being focused on mitigating and adopting to the impacts of COVID-19 in short-term. In response, the JP has added some activities to address the impacts of COVID-19, recruited a project coordinator and set up an effective communicational channel with the key government ministries to accelerate the JP implementation process, reprogrammed some activities reflecting the situational changes on the ground. All relevant parties, including the PUNOs and the government, will continue its efforts to ensure that the JP implementation will accelerate and that its activities are in line with the real needs on the ground. The other risks mentioned in the programme document - such as the PA's financial constraints, issues over data protection risks through data sharing, fragmentation between Gaza and West Bank and lack of coordination between stakeholders - are still relevant. The JP will continue to coordinate with relevant parties to make sure that the risks are mitigated properly and that they do not seriously impede the JP implementation process. The JP will also regularly monitor and update the risks and its mitigations measures.

## 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 End Poverty; 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities; 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals; 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

#### 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 scope<sup>1</sup> in 2020?

- Yes  
 No

Explain briefly: The JP has contributed to implementing integrated multi-sector policies to adopt comprehensive social protection system mainly for two thematic areas of disability and aging. This has and will continue to contribute in accelerating progress towards mainly the SDGs 1, 10, 17 and also 2, 5, 8, 16.

1.2 Did your Joint Programme contribute to implementation of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerate SDG progress in terms of scale<sup>2</sup> in 2020? (if so, brief explanation)

- Yes  
 No

Explain briefly: the JP has contributed to implementing integrated multi-sectoral policies to adopt comprehensive social protection system for mainly for PwD and OP in West Bank with some activities also covering the Gaza Strip as well (e.g. disability law and mapping of social service providers)

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

<sup>1</sup>Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

<sup>2</sup>Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

1.3 Number of innovative solutions tested in 2020

Total number disaggregated by % successful and unsuccessful: 1 (work on database on-going)

Provide the list: database for PwD

Explain briefly: In the programme document, the JP states that it will test two innovative solutions throughout the JP implementation period – database and pilot in Hebron. Both were scheduled for 2021. However, there has been groundwork on-going with the PUNOs have extensive consultative meetings with key partners on the database development and also PUNOs engaging with the needed costing and mapping of services for the pilot.

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

Total number:

Provide the list

Explain briefly: the same as above. Work on database for PwD is still on-going. There is also the revised disability law which the JP has contributed to but it is still pending the endorsement from the Cabinet.

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: the JP has laid groundwork for enhanced evidence generation, legal and policy framework and social protection system. It has worked extensively with national authorities such as the MoSD, PCBS, MoH, PMO, etc. The JP had explicit capacity building component which it aims to implement more actively in 2021.

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 JP has significantly enhanced joint programming among the three PUNOs. The JP has also improved its partnership with key stakeholders such as the MoSD, PCBS, EU and World Bank. The JP aims to expand on its partnership and engage more with CSOs in 2021.

## 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 JP served as a platform where the participating three UN agencies and the RCO could better work together. The PUNOs hope that the JP can serve as a good example for other UN agencies.

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: no data available

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

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

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

Yes

No

Explain briefly:

### 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: All Palestinians, especially the most vulnerable, have greater access to a unified, integrated, and shock-responsive protection and social protection systems [where this Joint Programme will focus on People with Disabilities (PwD) and Older Persons (OP)] in line with vision for Social Protection Floors in oPt						
Outcome 1 indicator: : Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	TBC (of the 5.8%, 255,224 disabled in SoP – 129,590 Male and 115,634 female) where 127,262 are in the West Bank as target area (67,165 M and 60,097 F)	TBC (20%)	Data for 2020 not available yet	While data for 2020 is not yet available, it is assumed that the baseline significantly worsened with heightened needs but decreased financial/monetary ability of the government and other parties to cover the cost of social protection system. Once data for 2020 becomes available and based on extensive consultation among PUNOs and other partners, the JP will reset the target.	TBC	
Outcome 1 indicator: Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	29.2	TBC	Data for 2020 not available yet	Data for 2020 not available yet	TBC (based on data after COVID-19)	
Output 1.1						
Output 1.1 indicator: A consolidated dataset on PwD is developed	Multiple datasets exist	Data set consolidated	Work on-going.	Delayed due to back and forth consultations with	N/A	

				many stakeholders working in this regard. To be finalized in Q1 2021.		
Output 1.1 indicator: National Comprehensive database of PwD established and integrated with the NCTP and other relevant databases	No database in place	Database architecture agreed	Work on-going.	Delayed due to back and forth consultations with many stakeholders working in this regard. To be finalized in Q1 2021.	Database Built and piloted in for one governorate	
<b>Output 1.2</b>						
Output 1.2 indicator: Integrated policy, and programming framework for OP and PWD is developed	No integrated framework	Vision and financing framework for SP reforms based on SPF assessment developed	On-going	Dialogue for vision and financing framework delayed due to movement restrictions, planned for Q2 '21.	Integrated programming and financing framework for PwD and OP developed	
Output 1.2 indicator: A progressive legal framework and national action plan for OP and PWD is available	Legal/strategic framework incomplete	Disability by-laws developed	N/A	Endorsement of disability law is delayed. The planned activity of developing the by-laws to be reprogrammed	Action plan for PwD and OP developed	
<b>Output 1.3</b>						
Output 1.3 indicator: Rights-based approach for identification and selection of OP and PwD into non-contributory social protection developed and tested	Concerns with exclusion errors of current targeting model	Alternative selection and identification model designed	On-going	Review of poverty targeting designed, consultant engaged. Finalization delayed pending data request from PCBS.	Alternative selection and identification model piloted	
Output 1.3 indicator: Service package for PWD and OP scoped and costed	No service package defined	Service package for PWD and OP scoped	On-going	TORs for scoping, costing exercise finalized, tendering in Feb. '21.	Service package for PWD and OP costed	
<b>Output 1.4</b>						
Output 1.4 indicator: Capacity and awareness of citizens and non-state actors to represent and advocate for SP for PwD and OP enhanced	TBC	TBC	delayed	Workshops delayed due to movement restrictions. Alternative virtual arrangements being explored for 2021.	TBC	

## Annex 2: List of strategic documents

### *Strategic documents that were produced by the JP*

<b>Title of the document</b>	<b>Date when finalized (MM/YY)</b>	<b>Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it</b>
Characteristics of Individuals with Disabilities in Palestine: An Analytical Study Based on the Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2007, 2017	08/2020	In partnership with PCBS, the JP supported development of a secondary analysis of census data for PwD. This gives an overview of PwD in Palestine and will inform better policy making and programming for PwD. This was supported by a PUNO's external co-funding for the JP. ( <a href="http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2532.pdf">http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2532.pdf</a> )
Study of the Social Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Palestine and its Implications on Policies and Future Governmental and Non-Governmental Interventions	07/2020	In partnership with MoSD, the JP supported study on the social impacts of COVID-19. This helped the government and the international community to assess the real impacts of COVID-19 and better design their programmes to address the needs of the Palestinian people.
Socio-economic Impact Survey of COVID-19	10/2020	In partnership with PCBS, the JP supported socio-economic impact survey of COVID-19. It provided importance evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable groups such as the target population of the JP and recommendations on policy and programme level.
Impacts of COVID-19 Restrictions on the Formal Private Sector in the Occupied Palestinian Territory A Rapid Assessment	10/2020	Reprogrammed resources from the JP were used to support evidence generation for COVID-19 response efforts. This included the development of a rapid labour market assessment that utilizes the 2018 Economic Survey Series (ESS) data, and the 2019 Labour Force Survey data, applied towards quantifying different categories of Palestinian businesses and workers affected by restrictions on economic activity during the first three months of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns. It also evaluates policy options and associated costs for mitigating the impacts.

### *Strategic documents for which JP provided contribution*

<b>Title of the document</b>	<b>Date when finalized (MM/YY)</b>	<b>Brief description of the document and the role of the JP in finalizing it</b>
Updated Social Development Sector Strategy 2021-2023	08/2020	While the social development sector strategy was from 2017-2022, it was updated in 2020 to reflect the urgent needs regarding COVID-19. The strategy highlights three strategic goals – a) Preventing Multidimensional Poverty; b) Efficient local and national social protection measures that protect the poor and vulnerable groups, including eliminating all forms of marginalization, violence, exclusion, shocks, stresses and disasters in the Palestinian society and c) Strengthening the Standards of Governance, Integrity and Transparency – and the relevant SDGs (1,2,3,4,5,10,16). The JP is in line

		with the updated strategy and hopes that the results of the JP towards its completion will inform the development of the new strategy in 2023/24.
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### Annex 3: Strategic communication results

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

- Yes  
 No

Explain briefly: Due to movement restrictions linked to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the project partners formulated short-term communication plans of around three months each. The activities were selected mainly based on what is possible to produce within the specific circumstances. They also took into account to highlight the importance of the joint project during special international days, such as the International Day for Older Persons. Nevertheless, project partners are working on a more comprehensive and strategic communication strategy with an action plan with realistic and feasible objectives contingent to the evolving conditions on ground.

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: The strategic communications plans is being finalized with a budget that constitutes 5 percent of the total Joint SDG Fund contribution.

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

- Yes  
 No

Explain briefly: Some visibility outcomes have been achieved; however, not yet through JP strategic communication. Kindly see 3.1 for explanation.

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

- Yes  
 No

Explain briefly: The answer is based on the assumption that potential donors have access to the Joint SDG Fund where the JP has been highlighted well through [an overview of the JP on the Country webpage](#) and [a special blog](#).

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: 1

Explain briefly: The human interest story "[UN partners provide a lifeline for older people in Palestine](#)" was published on Insight.

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: 1

Explain briefly: A human story was prepared by JP PNUOs and published on Insight and the Joint SDG Fund website. The story also includes a movie.

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

- Yes  
 No

Total number: (Not mandatory)

Explain briefly: JP PUNOs will publish the available products, including a video and factsheet, and new products on their different social media platform.

#### Multi-Media Faucets

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)
Factsheet	June 2020	The factsheet “Towards a universal and holistic social protection floor for persons with disabilities and older persons in the State of Palestine” provides a brief about the context, needs and the joint programme and the responses it provide. The factsheet has been utilized to introduce the objectives of the joint programme to different stakeholders, including donors, UN agencies and the government. It was also circulated with an invitation to donors meeting on 23 January 2021.
Video – human story	October 2020	<u>The video</u> was included in a written human story and has been screened during meetings with different stakeholders to raise awareness about the JP.

#### Social Media Campaigns

Title of the document	Type (FB/Twitter/LinkedIn/Etc.)	Brief description and hyperlink (if it exists)

### Annex 4: Updated JP Risk Management Matrix

Risks	Risk Level: (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood: Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact: Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
Contextual risks					

COVID-19 and its impacts	20 (High)	5	4	Reprogramme and update workplan according to the situation on ground; adjust in-person activities to virtual platforms; keep JP relevant	PA/UN
Government financial constraints* (see below)	16 (High)	4	4	Reforms enabling efficiencies; donor bolstering of salaries; SDG Fund agencies will engage key donors to promote sustainability of these interventions	PA/EU/WB
Programmatic risks					
Data protection risk through data sharing between actors	6 (Medium)	2	3	Put in place data sharing protocols, through agreement between MoSD and PCBS	MoSD/PCBS
Fragmentation of approach between Gaza and West Bank**	6 (Medium)	2	3	Continued efforts at bridging of programmes	MoSD/ ILO/UNICEF/WFP
Institutional risks					
Staff limitations in Case Management (CM) system to handle caseload	6 (Medium)	3	2	Clear prioritization of CM support requirements within MoSD and CM embedded within the WB SPEP project	MoSD
Fragmented coordination between line Ministries	9 (High)	3	3	Coordination through the Local Aid Coordination Secretariat (LACS) Social Protection Working Group including the forming of ad hoc multi-stakeholder thematic groups on disability and the elderly	LACS
Fiduciary risks					
Fund misallocation	ILO/UNICEF/WFP	2	3	Donors undertake regular checks on fund use intended for beneficiaries	ILO/UNICEF/WFP