



# Joint Programme 2021 Annual Progress Report

## SDG Financing Portfolio - Component 1

### Cover page

**UNCT/MCO:** Haiti

**Reporting Period:** 1 January - 31 December 2021

**JP title:** Haiti in Crisis: A National Consultation on Reform Priorities and Financing Options for Accelerated SDG Achievement

**PUNOs:** UNDP, UNCTAD

**Government partner:** Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation

**Target SDGs:** SDG 17

**Gender Marker:** 2

**Approved budget:** USD 900,000

**Co-funding:** USD 300,000

**Total Disbursement by 2021:** USD 450,000

**Total estimated expenditures:** USD NA (est. Delivery rate: NA%)

**Total estimated commitments** (including expenditures): USD 81,622.08 (est. Committed rate: 18.1%)

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### Executive Summary

- (1) The JP has put the INFF firmly in the agenda of the government ministries in charge of development planning and financing. As a result, the INFF has become part of the national SDG roadmap adopted by the government in September 2021. In addition, at the end of 2021, the INFF was the sole planning exercise progressing effectively and gaining increasingly traction within the public administration.
- (2) In the absence of democratic process, the first “public pulse” survey realized in August 2021 offered a glimpse on the priorities and preoccupations of the general population on a variety of topics, which will feed the INFF strategy.
- (3) The JP enabled government actors involved in development planning and financing (Ministry of Planning, Finance, Trade and Social Affairs) to mobilize around several topics central to the financing and development strategy of the country based on Addis Ababa agenda through an inter-ministerial committee. These topics are : (i) the potential and binding constraints of the fisheries sector and the aquaculture subsector in (full report is available here [link](#)) ; (ii) potential of the national economy and exports for national revenue generation; (iii) innovative financing sources, and (iv) Productive Capacities Gap Assessment (PCGA) on Haiti .

## Annual Progress

### Overall JP self-assessment of 2021 progress:

Not-satisfactory (majority of expected results not yet achieved; over 3 months delay in implementation)

**Comments on self-assessment:** In December 2021, the workplan of the JP was extended and modified in order to take into account the SDG Roadmap approved by the government and to reschedule several programme activities which had known severe delays due to the multiple crisis that distressed Haiti throughout 2021. In fact, during the last quarter of 2021, the JP operations have gained momentum and are mostly aligned with the new plans approved by the Steering Committee and validated by the Board of the Joint SDG Fund. A supervisory committee for the population survey (COSUS) was set up with the participation of academic, civil society and private sector actors. This multi-stakeholder structure helps to mobilize non state actors around the SDGs and the INFF.

### Overall progress and key developments to date (3 key JP milestones)

The main interim results achieved by the end of 2021: - With the JP gaining in traction and visibility, the INFF was officially adopted by the government in September 2021 and included in its SDG Roadmap. The decision was a welcome result of a long process aimed at redefining the national strategy, which started as early as 2018 and had never been officially endorsed. The SDG Roadmap details the role and the action plan for the INFF/CINF in the national consultation process leading to the approval of a new National Development Strategy. - The first survey 'Public Pulse' centered on the achievement of the SDGs and the national social, political and economic priorities was achieved in September. Over 1800 interviews were realized by phone over a period of three weeks by a team set-up by the State University of Haiti. In the absence of functioning democratic institutions, the outcome of the survey provides valuable input for the definition of the SDG and INFF agendas. The interviewees expressed their concerns over the security and political situation in the country, their frustration with the functioning of the democracy, the inefficiency of the public administration, the endemic corruption and the inability of the national economy to respond to the basic needs of the population. Nonetheless, the survey confirmed the attachment of the population to a functioning democratic process. In order to ensure the endorsement by relevant stakeholders, the joint programme set-up a special Supervisory Committee, whose members represent government, civil society, universities and media, to steer and validate the surveys. The Committee met in December, reviewed the first survey report and agreed on specific communication actions. - A report on the country's achievements and priorities in SDGs is almost complete and will be presented in a workshop in February. The study will contribute to the government reflection on the SDG strategy and will provide inputs for the UN-led completion of the CCA. First drafts of three other studies notably (i) on the potential of the national economy and export trade to generate tax revenue, (ii) on the productive capacities gap assessment and (iii) on innovative sources of funding, are also expected. The JP also launched studies on the impact of the rural economy, private investment, remittances and public finance and ODA on the country's development agenda which will contribute to assess the diagnostic of the financial landscape and the achievements for the SDGs. - The JP prepared a comparative global synthesis report and a national study focusing on the potential and binding constraints of the fisheries sector and aquaculture subsector in Haiti. The report was published and is proposed to be presented in March 2022 in conjunction with a consultation on the agriculture sector. These reports form a major output under Result area 2 of the joint workplan on Review of SDG strategy and action plans. As a follow-up, a pilot capacity building training is being prepared to stimulate the fisheries sector and aquaculture subsector, and to collect evidence of advances achieved through the pilot, focusing on the increased capacity of the sectors to generate profits and tax revenues. - Study on the potential of the national economy and export trade to generate resources for national revenue collection was launched in 2021, with an annotated study outline submitted for inputs and comments at the end of 2021. Final draft expected by end of March 2022. - A study on the potential of harnessing innovative financing sources for the achievement of the SDGs in Haiti was launched. A first draft has been submitted for comments. The final version of the study is expected for March 2022 for subsequent presentation to Haitian stakeholders for their consideration and feedback. - A study assessing the level of productive capacities in Haiti has been launched, and is underway. Final draft is expected end March 2022.

**Changes made to JP:** In September, the government approved its SDG Roadmap aimed at assessing the country's priority SDGs and revising the National Development Strategy (PSDH). The roadmap explicitly incorporates the

INFF. Beyond being a major endorsement of the INFF, the approval of the SDG Roadmap represents also a new framework for its implementation: the Haitian SDG Roadmap essentially takes over some of the planned outputs of the INFF, which originally aimed at (re)defining both, the national financing and the SDG development strategies. With this evidence, the JP Steering Committee approved the following changes to the JP timeline and planned output: a) the results framework of the JP increases its focus on the financing for development assessment and strategy, while according itself a lesser role in the definition of Haiti’s SDG strategy; b) an extended timeline, which added one year for the completion of the JP to reflect the country’s difficult circumstances and, crucially, adhere to the planning of the SDG Roadmap of which the INFF has become a component. Thus, in a first stage, the INFF will issue a blueprint document on the financing landscape and strategy (including required reforms) to mobilise resources for upcoming the national development agenda and formulate recommendations on the SDG priorities arising from the stakeholders consultations. Furthermore, the Steering Committee acknowledged the decision by UNDP to grant further financing to the JP in the amount of US\$ 265,500.00.

**Main Challenges:** Haiti is experiencing turbulent times which have affected the initial implementation of the JP: (i) successive political crises, with frequent government reshuffles, peaked in July with the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse; (ii) mounting gang violence terrorising the population with kidnappings and murders and stepped-up its act with a month-long blockade of fuel distribution, bringing the country almost to a halt; (iii) in August, an earthquake imposed a new urgent agenda on the government and development partners to address the immediate needs of the population and plan for the reconstruction of the affected areas.

To overcome adversities and minimise their impact on the JP, the team initiated in July weekly virtual meetings with delegates from the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Finance and, on various occasions, the Central Bank. The meetings have been instrumental to ensure continued and sustained engagement by the government and increase delivery for the JP. Between October and December 2021, the JP has made considerable progress in all its activities. In December 2021, acknowledging the challenging political, security and public health conditions and the recently approved SDG Roadmap, the JP Steering Committee decided for an extension of the joint programme to align it closely to the yet to be enacted roadmap.

## Updates on SDG financing framework

	Assessment Diagnostics	Financing Strategy	Monitoring Review	Governance Coordination
Inception phase	Emerging (1-49%)	Emerging (1-49%)	Planned (0%)	Emerging (1-49%)
Completed (100%)				

## Descriptions on progress by INFF building blocks

**Inception Phase:** The government has officially adopted an INFF roadmap in the context of the SDG Roadmap approved in September 2021. The roadmap calls for an integrated approach to the country’s development agenda involving several steps: i) formalizing the institutional framework for the elaboration of the revised strategy; ii) ensuring stakeholders’ awareness and appropriation through communication and advocacy; iii) mobilizing and aligning means of implementation, in particular through the INFF, to achieving the goals and targets set by the new development strategy; iv) strengthen government planning, budgeting and monitoring processes; v) strengthen the national statistical system and set-up an observatory on the SDGs.

**Assessment & Diagnostics:** The JP launched five of studies on the achievements and priorities regarding the financing and development strategy during the last quarter of 2021. UNCTAD finalized a study on the potential and binding constraints of the fisheries sector and aquaculture subsector, and published a summary report. Three additional studies were launched in 2021, including studies on the (i) potential of the national economy and exports for national revenue generation; (ii) innovative financing sources, and (iii) Productive Capacities Gap Assessment (PCGA).

**Financing Strategy:** The drafting of the financing strategy is scheduled for the second quarter of 2022.

**Monitoring & Review:** N/A

**Governance & Coordination:** The INFF Interministerial Committee is a working group formed by representatives from key Ministries, with the inclusion of other stakeholders as observers or invitees. The Committee guides and contributes to both the design and the validation of the strategic document that will be drafted within the framework of the INFF/CINF. The Committee was set up in September 2022 and held two sessions during the last quarter of 2021. Eventually, it will constitute the government coordination body supervising the work of the INFF secretariat to be created within the Ministry of Planning.

## Priority Cross-cutting Issues

### How did the JP adapt to the COVID-19 context

With the support from the World Bank, the government drafted and adopted a COVID-related three-year economic recovery plan for Haiti in Q4/2020. However, due to the current political and security circumstances of the country very little progress has been made in the implementation of the plan. The JP recognizes the need for a different approach to establishing a financing and development strategy, which will look to long-term development objectives and ensure a real national appropriation of the ensuing strategy.

### How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

Gender is taken into account in the various studies and census that have been and are being conducted. However, there is not yet a strategy for integrating gender equality and women's empowerment into the implementation of the JP. It is planned to address this issue during the first quarter.

*Estimated % of overall disbursed funds spend on gender: 0%*

### Alignment with cross-cutting UN issues (e.g. human rights, decent work, inclusion, LNOB)

The JP participated in the discussions on the priorities and financing of the national strategic plan for social protection, which emphasizes inclusion and leaving no-one behind. Furthermore, issues on human rights, decent work and other cross-cutting issues were specifically addressed in the first public survey carried out in 2021.

### How did the JP work to build ownership and buy-in of key stakeholders

National ownership and stakeholders' participations are at the center of the JP approach in defining a financing and development strategy for Haiti. The JP team conducted regular consultations with the lead ministry, the Ministry of Planning, as well as the Ministry of Finance throughout the operational process: an operational group was formed in July 2021 comprising the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Finance, which planned and validated the results of the JP activities. This way the national counterpart was given a strong say in all major aspects of the JP implementation. Other key Ministries, in charge of Agriculture and Industry, were actively involved during the consultations on the INFF/CINF planning, in particular within the context of the Interministerial Committee for the INFF which was officially formed in September 2021. One major, albeit indirect, outcome of the JP 2021 was the merging of the INFF with the SDG Roadmap, approved by the government. During Q1/22 the JP team will ensure the participation and contribution from other stakeholders, including civil society organizations, the private and the financial sector, as well as development partners.

## **Annual Reporting on Results**

### **Results achieved in promoting the priority thematic SDG agendas**

The Government of Haiti validated an SDG roadmap in September 2021 with a prioritization of 11 of the 17 SDGs. The roadmap's action plan incorporates the CINF as a global financing strategy for the acceleration of the MDGs in Haiti. However, at this stage of the program there is still no specific contribution for the acceleration of the priority SDGs.

### **JP contributions to the Joint SDG Fund's global results (especially around Outcome 2 & Output 4)**

The targets reported for the first version of the JP were not to be attained in 2021 and have been postponed to 2022.

### **Progress against JP-specific outcomes**

The government adopted a SDG roadmap, including the INFF/CINF: an indirect outcome of the momentum gained by the JP, which helped to convince the government to put the roadmap for the development and financing strategy on its own agenda. The INFF/CINF and the SDG Roadmap are now synchronized.

On Outcome 3, institutionalizing a national capacity, the JP started to put the basis for a build-up of a national institutional framework through the following achievements: - The Ministry of Planning, acting as lead agency on behalf of the government, created an internal INFF/CINF Task Force, which furthered understanding of the INFF/CINF objectives and enhanced coordination between the main departments and the unit the INFF roadmap.

### **Progress against JP-specific outputs**

On Output 4.1, the JP carried out the first citizen survey as the starting point in a sustained consultation process to ensure the finally-designed financing strategy is based on a large national consensus and commitment. Furthermore, the Interministerial Committee agreed to launch a consultation process with civil society organizations, the private sector, development partners and other stakeholders to contribute towards the definition of development, financing and reform priorities for the country.

### **JP contributions to strengthening UN coherence, partnerships and reducing duplications of efforts**

The JP has progressively established an excellent working relationship with the Resident Coordinator Office to support outreach efforts to UN agencies. The JP took also part in the consultations on the financing of the national social protection strategy, including in a seminar attended by several key ministries, comprising the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank.

## **Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications**

### **How did the JP facilitate collaboration with diverse stakeholders in the SDG financing space**

In the context of the study on the country's achievements with respect to the MGOs and the SDGs, the JP conducted a series of interviews and focus groups to raise inputs from civil society organizations and the private sector about the priorities for Haiti's development and financing strategy along with the essential reforms to be carried out by future governments.

The periodic citizen survey of the main concerns, suggestions and expectations of Haitians across the country on major issues related to national development and SDG strategy is part of a sustained consultation process carried out throughout the implementation of the project. A supervisory committee, formed in 2021 which validates the results of the survey, brings together government, civil organizations, universities and the media.

**Did the JP secured additional financing (co-funding/co-financing) from the following stakeholders:**

Government	Donors & IFIs	Private Sector	PUNOs	Other Partners
No	No	No	Yes	No

**Comments on additional financing secured:** In the context of the study on the country’s achievements with respect to the MGOs and the SDGs, the JP conducted a series of interviews and focus groups to raise inputs from civil society organizations and the private sector about the priorities for Haiti’s development and financing strategy along with the essential reforms to be carried out by future governments.

The periodic citizen survey of the main concerns, suggestions and expectations of Haitians across the country on major issues related to national development and SDG strategy is part of a sustained consultation process carried out throughout the implementation of the project. A supervisory committee, formed in 2021 which validates the results of the survey, brings together government, civil organizations, universities and the media.

**JP organized events in 2021**

JP Launch Event	Annual Donor Event	Partners Event
Yes in 2021	No	Organized in 2020

*Number of strategic documents produced by the JP: 0*

*Number of strategic documents contributed by the JP: 2*

*Number of communication materials produced: 1*

**2022 Plans & Way Forward**

**JP priority activities & expected results for 2022**

During the first quarter the JP will finalize and eight studies taking stock of the development and financing performance over the past twenty years and providing recommendations on the development priorities for the country, the crucial reforms and mobilization of national and international finance. The ensuing reports will be presented within the context of a consultative process jointly lead by the Ministry of Planning and specific line ministries with the involvement of civil society organizations, private sector, development partners and other stakeholders. A draft report on the financing strategy will be elaborated during the second quarter, validated by the Interministerial Committee, and presented at national stakeholders’ conference. The JP will also help design the institutional supervision and coordination mechanisms for the CINF/INFF in conjunction with the SDG Roadmap.

### **3 major transformative results that will be achieved by the end of the JP**

- The INFF will be the first financial planning process in Haiti to claim real national ownership, as it involves not only government agencies and development partners, but actively seeks, through consultations and surveys, the contribution from civil society organisations, the private sector and the general population. The consensus around the financing and development strategy should provide a solid actionable basis for the new government emerging from the general elections to be held in autumn 2022.
- The government will plan and enact crucial reforms needed to ensure the mobilisation of financial resources and achieve the SDG targets approved by the SDG Roadmap.
- A re-evaluation of financing planning by the Haitian government, development partners, the private sector to improve efficiency, transparency and efficacy and to align financing with the SDG targets approved by the government.

### **Estimated rate of completion for each result as of 31 Dec 2021**

Result.1	Result.2	Result.3
Planned (0%)	Planned (0%)	Planned (0%)