

Joint SDG Fund
PORTOFLIO ON INTEGRATED POLICY AND LNOB

Joint Programme 2021 Annual Progress Report

Cover page

Country: MCO for Barbados and the OECS

Joint Programme title: Enhancing Resilience and Acceleration of the SDGs in the Eastern Caribbean: Universal adaptive social protection modeled at the community, national and sub regional levels

Short title: Universal adaptive social protection in the Eastern Caribbean

Start date (day/month/year): **January 15, 2020**

End date (day/month/year): **May 31, 2022**

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Budget (Joint SDG Fund contribution): **USD 3,000,000**

Overall budget (with co-funding): **USD 4,804,402**

Total estimated expenditure (in USD, for the whole JP by 31 Dec 2021): **2,011,981**

Total estimated commitments (in USD, for the whole JP by 31 Dec 2021): **485,450**

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

This Joint Programme contributes to the development of an adaptive and progressively universal social protection system in Barbados and Saint Lucia and provides further social protection support through the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to its Member States. It supports legislative and policy development for integrated social protection delivery, based on evidence, programme design and service implementation with a focus on gender-responsiveness and preparedness/response to shocks. The Joint Programme takes an innovative approach to modelling and piloting at community, national and sub-regional levels, which will complement national plans and leverage resources from international financial institutions.

Executive summary

Over the past two years the Joint Programme (JP) has contributed to making progress on the targeted SDG's and thus far achieved 84% of its main results. At the same time, the JP remains flexible enough to respond to the changing needs and priorities of partner governments as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to negatively impact vulnerable groups. The support to countries' COVID-19 response complemented the JP's overall Theory of Change by increasing access to social protection and enabling countries to prepare for and respond to shocks. With capacity building being a priority for governments, the JP's approach to learning and sharing was adapted to also emphasise this dimension, at both the regional and national levels.

One of the key achievements of the JP is fostering closer links with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and regional organisations including the World Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), which provide opportunities to leverage the work of other partners and more coherently implement social protection initiatives. In addition to supporting the expansion of social programmes jointly with the World Bank, the JP is collaborating with the Bank's Human Capital Resilience Project on the review of Saint Lucia's Social Protection Strategy and Social Protection Bill and the development of an Operations Manual for the Public Assistance Programme. The CDB's Social Resilience Project will build on the gains of the JP to include for example, digitization of payment systems for PAP beneficiaries with the possibility of scaling up to other OECS countries.

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause delays, with some results only being realised in the first quarter of 2022, much progress has been made. The financial disbursement rate at the end of 2021 was 83%. As the JP moves into its final phase of implementation attention is being given to achieving its main transformative (below) and programmatic (Annex I) results.

Result 1: *Contribute to the development of an adaptive, gender-responsive and universal social protection system in Saint Lucia and Barbados through integrated policy development, programme design and service implementation that is closely linked to disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. This focuses on policy/legislative review and programme (re)design in Saint Lucia, social protection system assessment and recommendations in Barbados and an OECS Social Protection Strategy at the regional level.*

Estimated rate of completion as of 31 Dec 2021: **85%**

Result 2: *Support efficiency gains and financial sustainability; develop SOPs/protocols and strengthen the use of social and disaster-related data through modelling innovative approaches and programmes at the community, national and sub-regional level to complement national plans.*

Estimated rate of completion as of 31 Dec 2021: **75%**

Result 3: *Utilize research, intersectional analysis, monitoring and evaluation to support the evidence-based development of an adaptive system towards progressive universal coverage of social protection, while facilitating replication and expansion to other Eastern Caribbean countries.*

Estimated rate of completion as of 31 Dec 2021: **90%**

I. Overall progress and priority, cross-cutting issues

I.1 Context and the overall approach

Ensuring an adaptive and strategic JP

- As a result of the social and economic impact of COVID-19, a main social protection priority for Barbados and Saint Lucia has been and continues to be the support to vulnerable persons to mitigate this shock. In supporting countries' response, the JP reallocated approximately 18% of its budget to assist Barbados and Saint Lucia in their COVID-19 response measures. At the wider OECS level, since the planned OECS Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategy included a shock responsive lens at the regional level, this component was not adjusted. Using the Theory of Change which underpins the JP, the work plan was adjusted to close data gaps and support analysis to facilitate disbursement of cash, vouchers, and in-kind support through national programmes. Activities were amended, and funds repurposed to support the expansion of social assistance to additional vulnerable households and those in existing programmes.

- The interventions to support the COVID-19 response are linked to the overall objectives of the JP by strengthening linkages that increase access to social protection and prepare systems to respond to shocks in the future. The evidence generated by the socio-economic assessments of the impacts of COVID-19, including on women and children, provide valuable guidance to policymakers in increasing the adaptability and coverage of social protection systems. Detailed analysis has also been conducted on vulnerability, financing mechanisms and the performance of social protection systems. These initiatives provide evidence and practice to contribute to the goal of reducing structural inequality, reducing poverty and building resilience in the target countries.
- Knowledge sharing is an essential component of the JP to showcase good practices, lessons learned, and exchange experiences. Government partners are very focused on capacity building to position staff to use tools to be more efficient and effective, and better respond to the needs of beneficiaries. The JP has adapted its approach to learning and sharing to also emphasise capacity building at the national and regional levels while capitalising on regional mechanisms to promote exchange and knowledge sharing.

Link with UNDAF/ UNSD Cooperation Framework

- The JP was developed in accordance with the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework for the Eastern Caribbean (2017-2021) which established four (4) priority areas for the development of the sub-region: (1) An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean; (2) A Safe, Cohesive, and Just Caribbean; (3) A Healthy Caribbean; (4) A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean. Thus far, the JP has achieved results in supporting an inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean by enhancing social protection programmes and supporting increased access to social protection systems through:
 - increase in social assistance support to vulnerable persons, including targeted assistance to women and children, through temporary interventions, pilots, and facilitating longer-term expansion;
 - strengthening of governments' capacities and resources to make evidence-based policy and operational decisions to improve the social protection system and make it more adaptive in the face of shocks;
 - support to ensure that policies, responses, and mitigation strategies fosters better planning to reduce equity gaps and multi-dimensional poverty;
 - the provision of evidence-based data to inform decision-making and make social services more inclusive and foster linkages with labour market needs and opportunities;
 - the strengthening of the operational capacity of social protection systems through the use of digital solutions and focus on national human resource development.
- The JP has also contributed to a more sustainable and resilient Caribbean by supporting governments through analysis on disaster risk management capacity and strengthening linkages between disaster risk management and social protection.

COVID-19 impact

- For **Saint Lucia**, the JP supported the government's response to COVID-19 by providing financial and technical assistance to expand social assistance programmes:
 - Support to 794 new households (2938 individuals) under the flagship Public Assistance Programme (PAP) for four months, which triggered a permanent expansion with the support of the World Bank;
 - Expansion of the Child Disability Grant and support to children in foster care (312 with disabilities, 184 in foster care);
 - Increase in food vouchers for 79 households with persons living with HIV/AIDS (1224 males and 159 females);
 - Twenty-five women headed households (including 96 children) were provided with cash top-ups to access childcare and meet basic needs, and skills training to support them in accessing the labour market.
- For both **Barbados and Saint Lucia**, the JP generated evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable persons, including on women and children specifically, and supported decision-making by policy makers through the Microsimulation model on monetary and child poverty in Saint Lucia, study on the impact of

COVID-19 on women frontline and essential workers in Saint Lucia, and socio-economic assessments of the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups in Barbados and Saint Lucia.

- Additionally, the **Barbados** government has approved an Agreement to support migrants, women at risk of trafficking, single partners and other vulnerable households who were unable to access COVID-19 programmes, which will include support on data analysis and management.

I.2 Update on priority cross-cutting issues

UN Development System reform - UN coherence at the country level

- The JP has contributed to the operationalization of the UN Reform at the country level, with collaboration among UN agencies and the office of the Resident Coordinator working jointly, and in partnership with several agencies in-country, towards attainment of the common JP objectives. In addition to fostering coherence, this has also helped to attain a fundamental objective of the UN reform, which is to provide support to countries to accelerate progress on the attainment of the SDG's.
- Additionally, working with regional organizations such as the OECS and CDEMA (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency), there is opportunity to test models in more than one country for future replication throughout the region, while also consolidating the One UN partnership with regional institutions.
- Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator (RC), the Multi-Country Steering Committee brings together Ministers and Heads of Agencies to not only provide strategic guidance on the JP but to also consider how it can be a catalyst for broader social protection reform and strengthening within countries and across the wider Eastern Caribbean.

Going beyond "business as usual" to produce catalytic results at scale

Since COVID-19 has necessitated an adjustment in the traditional approach to interactions with partners, the governance arrangements under the JP have proved useful in facilitating engagement with partners:

- The JP is facilitating, leveraging, and accelerating access to resources from IFIs and donors. The CODI assessment in Barbados is being used to draft a Social Protection Policy and Strategy, which will enable access to a 3.5 million euro grant from the EC. The temporary expansion of the PAP in Saint Lucia enabled the government to reach a disbursement-based indicator under a USD 20 million World Bank funded project, to help mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and strengthen the social protection system including the permanent expansion of the PAP by an additional 1,000 households (a 38% expansion).
- The Country Coordinating Committees (CCCs) have gone beyond JP governance tools to promote wider coordination among government agencies and departments with a social protection lens, as well as other development partners working in-country. This provides opportunities for increased collaboration with other donor partners, identifying synergies and avoiding duplication. Examples include the World Bank funded review of Saint Lucia's Social Protection Policy informing the JP-supported review of Saint Lucia's Social Protection Bill; the World Bank Funded PAP Operations Manual to include a Chapter on Referrals and Linkages elaborated through the JP.
- The regular interaction among PUNOs and with governments and other donor partners facilitates complementary activities outside of the JP. For example, ILO and CDB are working together on a framework for unemployment insurance in Saint Lucia, and the World Bank and UNICEF have started discussions on furthering the work done on the Microsimulation Model for Saint Lucia under the JP.
- The results of the JP, both in terms of strengthening and integrating social protection delivery in the OECS, as well its role in increasing collaboration among countries and other development partners, have been used in developing other JPs for the region.

SDG acceleration

The JP accelerated achievement of the three identified SDG targets based on its impact on reduced structural inequalities for poverty reduction and resilience building, responding to SDG targets 1.3, 5.1, 5.4 and 13.1 respectively. The increased adaptability of social protection to shocks was achieved through:

SDG 1.3 –

- The JP has accelerated a permanent expansion of the PAP in Saint Lucia by 1000 households representing a 38% increase in coverage of this flagship social assistance programme by supporting the government of Saint Lucia to meet indicators linked to disbursement;
- A 50% temporary increase in cash transfers to children with disabilities and children in foster care), and a 100% one-year increase in food vouchers to persons living with HIV/AIDS in Saint Lucia;
- Cash transfers to migrants, women at risk of trafficking, single parents and other vulnerable individuals impacted by COVID-19 in Barbados (to be delivered in Q1 2022);
- Recommendations to assess the gender-responsiveness, comprehensiveness, and shock-responsiveness of the social protection system in both Barbados and Saint Lucia.
- Piloting of shock-responsive social protection measures in Saint Lucia, including new vulnerability/targeting tools and payment delivery mechanisms.

SDG target 13.1 –

- Integration of social protection and disaster risk management and other adaptive social protection initiatives in Saint Lucia through a shock responsive social protection roadmap and pilot study on identifying, targeting, and delivering social assistance to vulnerable persons; an assessment of Barbados' disaster risk management infrastructure linked to the CODI assessment of the overall social protection system.

SDG targets 5.1 and 5.4.

- Productivity enhancement training for poor single mothers in Saint Lucia to increase their employment prospects;
- Strengthened the evidence-base to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work in Barbados and Saint Lucia;
- Strengthening regional statistical offices capacity in measuring SDG 5.4.1. through knowledge sharing from a pilot on measuring this indicator in the labour force survey (completed) and the census (ongoing).

Policy integration and systems change

- The work on the CODI assessment and the DRM module in Barbados supports country dialogue on how to strengthen the social protection system and promotes coordination and exchange between several government departments and civil society including those related to health, education, and disaster management.
- Consultations on universal access to day care in Saint Lucia to inform social protection and legislation brought together persons from various sectors including government officials in the social protection system, women's groups and gender advocates, civil society organisations, labour unions and the private sector.
- The JP is currently providing support to the OECS Commission to develop the OECS Social Protection and Social Inclusion Strategy, via a consultative and participatory process. This Strategy provides a guiding framework for OECS Member States who are in the process of or planning to develop, revise or implement their Social Protection policies including Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Saint Lucia and Anguilla.

Contribution to improvement of the situation of vulnerable groups

In Saint Lucia:

- The JP provided cash transfers for 4 months to 794 new households (2938 individuals) that qualify for public assistance;

- All children registered under the Child Disability Grant and children in foster care (496) received a 50% increase in cash disbursements for a 3-month period;
- 79 persons living with HIV/AIDS received a 100% increase in food vouchers for one year (1383 persons when household members are included);
- 25 single mothers (with a combined total of 96 children) registered under the PAP received cash top-ups and productivity enhancement training to assist them in getting qualified and accessing the labour market;
- 205 households (654 individuals) affected by Hurricane Elsa received cash-based assistance.

Estimated number of individuals that were reached through JP efforts in 2020-2021:

Total number: 5592

Percentage of women and girls: 40%

Mainstreaming Gender equality and women empowerment

The JP addresses gender equality in three ways. Firstly, it seeks to accelerate SDG 5 as an outcome, secondly as a cross-cutting issue throughout the JP, and thirdly, through interventions specific to marginalised women that cannot be addressed through gender-mainstreaming. The JP focused on addressing gender disparities that exist in both the impact of the pandemic and its response, and to provide policymakers with a series of recommendations that would support greater access for women, improve governments capacity to target households in poverty, and ensure female headed households are aware of, and enrolled in national social protection programmes, thus addressing the gender gap in coverage of social protection. COVID-19 response efforts through the JP also considered the specific impacts, constraints and opportunities faced by women.

- **Indicator 1:** The evidence-base to recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the gender analysis of the 2016 Barbados Survey of Living Conditions revealed the need for a fairer distribution of unpaid care work and reduction in the gendered impact this has on women's and men's risk of poverty. The Study on the impact of COVID-19 on Saint Lucian women frontline and essential workers confirmed that the care needs of these workers have not been effectively addressed in the national response to the pandemic. A pilot with women beneficiaries of the PAP in Saint Lucia was initiated to link several services including childcare services to support women and provide them with access to employment. The collection of multi-dimensional, sex and age-disaggregated data for the purpose of analysis vulnerability and improving beneficiary targeting for Saint Lucia's larger social protection programme was also increased. At the regional level the pilots on the labour force survey and census will provide guidance on measuring SDG 5.4.1.
- **Indicator 2:** The CODI assessment in Barbados included representatives of both gender-focussed government departments and civil society organisations. Of note is that 30 out of 34 participants in the E-Training programme on Social Protection Policy and Quantitative Techniques in Barbados were women. Further, the JP and the Bureau of Gender Relations of Barbados collaborated to sensitize relevant staff about the importance of gender-specific policies in social protection programming.

Estimated % of overall disbursed funds spent on Gender equality and Women empowerment by the end of 2021: 30%

Human rights

- The Joint Programme ensured that ongoing and planned social protection initiatives in Saint Lucia addressed the rights of marginalised groups, and respond to the recommendations relating to inclusive data collection, poverty reduction and social protection specifically:
 - An Economic Recovery Plan by the Government, devised to stimulate the economy through the protection of livelihoods, focused on the social wellbeing of the population and sought to expand the Public Assistance Programme by 1000 households (from 2600 to 3600), with 794 households directly assisted under the JP;
 - The country's Public Assistance Programme (Cash Transfer Programme) is also being reformed with support from the World Bank and the JP;

- The provision of an increase in the value of cash transfers to beneficiaries with specific vulnerabilities, such as children in foster care, children with disabilities and persons living with HIV/AIDS; and
- The provision of child care services and skills training to poor single mothers to increase their ability to find employment.
- In Barbados, the CODI assessment will provide recommendations to build a social protection system that is rights-based, universal, adequate, sustainable and shock-responsive.
- The OECS Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategy has included social protection principles derived from Human Rights Conventions and International Labour Standards.

Partnerships

- Forging closer links with the IFIs also working on social protection initiatives in the countries. PUNOs have regular interaction with these IFIs to leverage and more coherently implement social protection initiatives.
- The JP’s support for the expansion of the PAP in Saint Lucia assisted the transition to a permanent expansion supported by World Bank financing. The PAP expansion was implemented through a multi-partner effort including funding from India-UN Development Partnerships Fund, the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) totaling approximately USD 500,000.
- Supporting UNCT priorities by addressing, through a joint mechanism, the multidimensional challenges facing Small Island Developing States (including the multiple dimensions of poverty, exacerbated by shocks, such as hurricanes, but also COVID-19, with implications for e.g., employment/food security, health, education, and gender dynamics), which require tailored and combined expertise from various UN agencies.

Mobilizing additional funding and/or financing

- UN Women has received a favourable response from Global Affairs Canada for a 4-year JP together with UNFPA that will address women’s economic empowerment, including reducing unpaid care work, promoting gender-responsive social protection and sexual and reproductive health and rights. The social protection component of this anticipated initiative builds on the work done in this JP.
- UNDP is presently finalising project development for the CariSECURE 2.0 project in the eastern and southern Caribbean with a focus on youth crime and trafficking in persons. Developing this project pulls from data generated from the JP with a focus on vulnerabilities of youth, making the linkage with crime and violence as a key impediment of societal development.
- Coordination with the World Bank and the Human Capital Resilience Project in Saint Lucia to advance complementarities measures in the two projects.
- The Caribbean Development Bank has designed its social protection project in Saint Lucia considering the achievements of the JP to build synergies and avoid duplication.
- The analysis on disaster risk financing is laying groundwork for options related to macro-insurance, among others, which WFP will continue to build on with government partners following the end of the JP.

Strategic meetings

Type of event	Yes	No	Description/Comments
Annual JP development partners’/donors’ event*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other strategic events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OECS Conference on Social Protection

Innovation, learning and sharing

In keeping with the strategy of the JP’s Learning and Sharing Plan - to generate insightful evidence through the consolidation of data and information on vulnerability beyond poverty in the region - and in strengthening learning and knowledge sharing where there are identified gaps, the following key activities have been undertaken:

1. Development of knowledge products with a view to documenting key lessons learned from the project and/or examples from SIDS within and outside of the Caribbean:
 - Videos to: highlight the impact of cash transfers in assisting beneficiaries to mitigate the effects of COVID-19, explain the concept of social protection to the public, to highlight the lessons learned from responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and what it means for universal social protection;

- Video documentary highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on women frontline and essential workers;
 - User interface manual for the interactive microsimulation model on monetary and non-monetary poverty;
 - Quarterly newsletters highlight innovations and training/learning opportunities provided under the Joint Programme;
 - Webinars on experiences and lessons learnt from the COVID-19 response and how it informs broader social protection reform.
2. Knowledge sessions around: 1) vulnerability to shocks; 2) models of adaptive social protection for the region; 3) data and information sharing across sectors; (4) rights basis and implications for accessibility of social protection; ((5) improved data collection and analysis in relation to natural shocks, in particular:
- The OECS Regional Conference on Social Protection provided the opportunity for regional stakeholders at all levels to engage and share knowledge and experiences on various areas related to social protection including shock-responsiveness, financing (disaster risk financing and public financing for children), labour market interventions and gender-responsiveness;
 - An inter-UN discussion on the current debate on universal basic income and its implications for the Caribbean;
 - Training on improved collection of data related to disasters and climate change to inform social protection vulnerability analyses;
 - Webinar on unemployment insurance to reinforce capacity and knowledge across the Caribbean;
 - Facilitating the inclusion of government partners in regional webinars on shock-responsive social protection to share their experiences and lessons;
 - E-Training program on Social Protection Policy and Quantitative Techniques for Barbados, which included virtual training sessions over an 8-month period.
3. The establishment of a knowledge portal linked to the OECS Secretariat has not moved forward. In recent discussions, the OECS Commission advised that it is currently streamlining its many portals and electronic databases for a more integrated system and has therefore proposed that the portal be established on another agency's website. The current proposal is to establish the portal on the SDG Fund page or the MCO Barbados website. Further discussions are pending.

II. 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:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause delays in achieving results by the planned dates. Despite undertaking mitigating measures including conducting consultations, surveys, and trainings online where possible, collaborating with donor partners to implement related activities simultaneously, and providing technical and administrative support at the national level to advance implementation, some results will only be realized in the first quarter of 2022 (see below for details). National counterparts were immersed in priorities related to COVID-19 are therefore less responsive than usual. An election process was held in Saint Lucia that forced a pause the implementation of activities for a couple of months.

Contribution to Fund's global results

- ⇒ *Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale*

The Joint Programme (JP) contributes to Outcome 1 in both scope and scale through a combination of outputs and outcomes to inform policy and systems in support of adaptive and universal social protection:

- budget and fiscal space analyses and advocacy to ensure sustained domestic funding for social protection (including linked to disaster risk financing) together with support to governments to update policy and legal frameworks that are gender-responsive (ongoing);
 - the modeling of adaptive social protection programmes (pilot on shock-responsiveness and PAP pilot on women) at the community level to generate evidence to support scalability and multiplication;
 - establishing synergies with initiatives and investments from IFIs - the World Bank's Human Capital Resilience Project and the CDB's Social Resilience Project in Saint Lucia, the European Commission's support to Barbados on social protection, and the OECS' policy on social protection in its member countries;
 - supporting governments to respond to shocks (COVID-19, Hurricane Elsa) through social protection by temporarily increasing coverage and benefits;
 - strengthening linkages between social protection and disaster risk management for a more adaptive system.
- ⇒ *Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented*
- Pilot on shock responsive social protection which tested the identification, targeting and delivery of social assistance to vulnerable persons affected by Hurricane Elsa using a vulnerability index developed by the JP – SDG 1 and 13.
 - CODI assessment, Disaster Risk Management module and roadmap on shock responsive social protection to provide recommendations to strengthen the overall social protection system and links with disaster risk management. Outcomes are being used to rationalise and restructure the social protection system, and strengthen linkages with sectors including health, education and disaster management – SDGs 1 and 13.
 - Gender-responsive and child-sensitive recommendations to guide more targeted assistance to vulnerable groups - SDGs 1 and 5.
 - Data collection tools and good practices to generate evidence for better policy making aimed at poverty reduction and reducing gender discrimination – SDGs 1 and 5.
 - Capacity strengthening at the national level to better implement social protection programmes: SDG 1.

JP Outputs and Outcomes

⇒ **Achievement of expected JP outputs**

Output 1.1 - Institutional capacities strengthened for integrated service delivery through the development of evidence-based, gender-responsive social and disaster risk management policy and legislation

- Number of social protection or disaster risk management policies drafted including adaptive or shock-responsive social protection: 2
- Number of reports produced analyzing vulnerability (including disaggregation of data by sex): 3

Output 1.2: Innovative financial strategies introduced to ensure fiscal sustainability and expanded coverage – Planned for 2021 as per original WP

- Number of social protection fiscal analyses/expenditure reviews: 0 (expected in Q1 2022)
- Number of forward-looking financing strategies developed: 0 (expected in Q1 2022)

Output 1.3: Implementation of national social protection programmes strengthened with improved management and operational tools

- Number of tools, protocols and manuals on adaptive systems developed: 1
- Number of government staff trained (disaggregated by sex): 84 (67 females; 17 males)

Output 1.4: Targeted communities' benefit from piloted social protection programmes designed to strengthen their ability to anticipate, absorb and recover from climate-related shocks and stresses

- Number of households targeted receiving cash transfers through expanded national social protection programmes in Saint Lucia: 1567
- Number of changes made as a result of pilot to social protection or DRM data management systems, delivery mechanisms, targeting, coordination or financing systems: 2

Output 1.5 Regional capacities are strengthened for adaptive social protection by engaging stakeholders for legal and policy coherence and south-south cooperation

- Number of South-South Cooperation knowledge-exchange and learning events: 5

- Number of regional frameworks, strategies and plans revised to include adaptive social protection considerations: 1

⇒ **Achievement of expected JP outcomes**

Through the above stated outputs, the JP has made considerable progress towards its intended outcome: Poor and vulnerable people have predictable access to universal adaptive social protection.

- The number of households which benefitted from adaptive social protection programmes has increased by approximately 5600 individuals.
- While many of recommendations from the JP have not yet been adopted into policy, the ongoing review of Saint Lucia Social Protection Policy and Bill and drafting of Barbados' Social Protection Policy relies heavily on the output of the JP. Additionally, partners are using the JP outputs to engage with other IFIs to leverage additional resources for social protection.

⇒ **Monitoring and data collection:**

- The monitoring of implementation is done through the Country Coordinating Committees (CCCs). This has worked well. As a team the PUNOs and implementing partners can determine where challenges lie and jointly take action to alleviate them.
- The arrangement for data collection can be improved. Partners have expressed concerns about the many requests for data in an uncoordinated manner which places added pressure on limited human resources. PUNOs need to collaborate more among themselves to determine what data is required for each activity to limit the number of requests to implementing partners.

Lessons learned and sustainability of results

- The timeline of JP needs to be in line with its ambition. While important contributions can be made to accelerate progress, two years is extremely tight to achieve transformative impacts, particularly given the speed at which governments and regional institutions move.
- Effective coordination and regular interactions among the PUNOs, with government/regional partners and with donors have contributed significantly to advancing smooth implementation despite the challenges posed by COVID-19.
- Notwithstanding, coordination can still be strengthened to ensure supporting/complementary activities are implemented in a more structured manner; streamline requests to national partners for similar data and information; break the silos in implementation and avoid duplication of effort (which can occur when several agencies working on similar topics despite efforts to be complementary and not duplicative).
- Differences in financial and procurement procedures and processes among the different agencies need to be recognised to better facilitate inter-agency cooperation and to avoid varying/onerous requirements on national partners.
- In determining the schedule of implementation, due consideration of partners' human resources capacity should be given as this affects their ability to give timely feedback. At the same time there remains a dearth in social protection data in the countries which impact the level of analysis that can be done.
- Sustainability of results is promoted by building on/scaling up initiatives undertaken by national partners, in collaboration with other development partners such as the World Bank and the CDB as well as building capacity at the national and regional levels.

III. Plan for the final phase of implementation

Towards the end of JP implementation

- Consultations with the government of Saint Lucia, analysis and piloting of the vulnerability index are complete and the final product will be delivered to the government in February.
- The draft shock-responsive financing strategies for Barbados and Saint Lucia are expected to be ready in February.
- The gender-responsive financing options for Saint Lucia and Barbados are in draft and will be completed in February.

- Information on the livelihoods analysis for Saint Lucia has been collected and is now being analysed to complement the vulnerability index.
- The shock-responsive pilot in Saint Lucia is complete with only a few more persons needing to receive their cash disbursements. The Ministry of Equity is in the process of contacting those persons to verify their banking details. A survey is now underway with a sample of the participants in the pilot.
- The SOPs on how to prepare and respond to shocks are in their final stages. A key challenge is that many procedures related to responding to shocks are not yet standardized and doing so will be an on-going process.
- An agreement has been signed with the Government of Barbados to provide cash disbursements to displaced migrants and other vulnerable persons, including women at risk of trafficking. However, general elections were held on 19th January which has caused some delay.
- To complete the review of Saint Lucia's Social Protection Bill the JP is collaborating with the World Bank to streamline the work with both the Policy and Bill. The draft policy was submitted on 6th January.
- Work on linkages and referrals to input into the Operations manual for Saint Lucia's PAP will be undertaken by the consultants already working on the graduation strategy for Saint Lucia to capitalize on synergies and work already in progress. The World Bank's consultant for the overall operations manual will come on board in January.
- The data for the Social Protection Sector brief for Saint Lucia is in draft. The brief will be ready by the end of February.
- The report on the pilot initiative with the 25 single mother beneficiaries of St. Lucia's PAP is complete. Recommendations for policy, programme and institutional reforms to reduce unpaid care work and integrate gender equality into the programme is now being prepared.
- The study on fiscal costs of universal child benefits for parents living in households which children ages 0 to 5 is already underway and will be completed by Q1 2022.
- The report on the study "Making a Case for Investment in Universal Childcare in Barbados" is underway and will be completed by Q1 2022.
- The CODI is ready, and the DRM Module has been incorporated. The final draft will be ready in January. One challenge with the CODI and DRM module is the lack of available data on the different social assistance programmes and in some instances only publicly available information has been used, which limited the scope of the analysis.
- The Actuarial Review of the National Insurance Corporation (NIC) of Saint Lucia was delayed due to personnel changes at the NIC. The schedule for completion in February.
- Analysis of Labour Market Dynamics for Barbados is complete and undergoing final editing.
- Training on Social Security for CARICOM countries is planned for February. The training will use a blended approach (face-to-face and online).
- The assessments of gender responsive sustainable financing options for adaptive social protection for Barbados and Saint Lucia are in draft and have been circulated for comments.
- The final draft of the OECS Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategy has been submitted by the consultants. The OECS Commission and lead agencies are collaborating to finalise the strategy.
- The pilot on using the census to measure SDG 5.4.1 has been delayed because of a high increase in COVID infections in the pilot country (Grenada). This activity is not expected to be completed before April. However, the pilot on the Labour Force Survey is already complete and results shared with stakeholders. The results provide regional statistical offices with best practices in measuring SDG 5.4.1.

Risks and mitigation measures

Health risks brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic remain at an elevated level. This has resulted in unpredictable delays in implementation. Equally, the associated economic deterioration continues to pose a significant risk to the gains expected from the adaptive social protection outcomes of the JP. COVID-19 developments continued to be monitored and planned activities are adjusted, as necessary. To mitigate these risks, PUNOs and implementing partners hold regular meetings to discuss challenges and strategize actions. While the chances of another hurricane prior to the end of the JP remains small, the region is still at risk from other disasters. PUNOs continue to advocate for budgeting for the social sector and greater efficiency in national budget management while at the same time supporting the resource mobilisation efforts led by the RC.

Annex 1: Consolidated Annual Results

1. JP contribution to global Fund’s programmatic results

Global Impact: Progress towards SDGs

Select up to 3 SDG *indicators* that your Joint Programme primarily contributed to (in relation to SDG targets listed in your JP ProDoc)

- SDG:1.3
- SDG:13.1
- SDG:5

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

Outcome indicators	Expected 2021 target	2021 result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
1.1: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope ¹	3	2	Other results expected in Q1 2022	3
<i>List the policies:</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CODI Assessment and DRM module for Barbados • Expansion of Saint Lucia’s Public Assistance Programme to include new households 				
1.2: Number of integrated multi-sectoral policies that accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale ²	3	3		3
<i>List the policies:</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECS Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategy • Recommendation from pilot on shock responsive social protection • Recommendations from pilot on Labour Force Survey to measure SDG 5.4.1 				

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

Output indicators	Expected 2021 target	2021 result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
3.1 Number of innovative solutions that were tested (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)	2	2	In progress (results not yet available)	2
3.2: Number of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	5	3	Other results expected in Q1 2022	5

Did your Joint Programme contribute to strengthening of national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators in 2020-2021?

- Yes
- No

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

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

- Explain briefly: **SDG 1.3** - Provided temporary additional benefits for more adequate support to vulnerable groups in need, 496 vulnerable children; 79 persons living HIV/AIDS in Saint Lucia; 25 single mothers (with 96 children in total); and 794 new households benefitting from public assistance.
- **SDG target 13.1** - Vulnerability analyses, targeting the integration of social protection and disaster risk management and other adaptive social protection initiatives including the response to COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters.
- **SDG targets 5.1 and 5.4.** - 25 vulnerable women have received productivity enhancement training to increase their employment prospects; and training on gender equality and women’s rights; Strengthened the evidence-base to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through

SDG target 13.1 –

- Integration of social protection and disaster risk management and other adaptive social protection initiatives in Saint Lucia through a shock-responsive social protection roadmap and a pilot study on identifying, targeting and delivering assistance to vulnerable persons; an assessment of Barbados’ disaster risk management infrastructure linked to the overall assessment of the social protection system.

SDG targets 5.1 and 5.4.

- Productivity enhancement training for 25 single mothers in Saint Lucia (beneficiaries under the Public Assistance Programme) to increase their employment prospects;
- Strengthened the evidence-base to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through retrospective study on past and ongoing investments in day care in Barbados and consultations on universal access to day care in Saint Lucia to inform the review of the Social Protection Bill.
- At the regional level, a pilot on the labour force survey has been completed and a pilot on a census-based approach to measuring 5.4.1 in ongoing. The results will provide regional statistical offices with best practices in measuring SDG 5.4.1.

2. Results as per JP Programmatic Results Framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	Expected 2021 target	2021 Result	Reasons for variance from planned target (if any)	Expected final target
Outcome 1: Outcome 1: Poor and vulnerable people have predictable access to universal adaptive social protection.					
Number of households benefiting from adaptive social protection programmes (disaggregated by female/male-led household)	0	1804	1598 (2990 males; 2008 females + 592 children not disaggregated by sex)	There was an error in reporting 2020 results and 2021 target which should have been 740 and 1000 households respectively. While the PAP expansion for Saint Lucia initially targeted 1000 households, available funds could only cover 794.	1598
Social protection adaptivity and universality score (composite indicator, including gender)	0	3.25	3.2	This indicator focuses on St Lucia. Progress has been made on targeting, information management and payments in	3.2

				St Lucia, increasing the score to close to the target value. However more systemic changes will require more time.	
Number of recommendations from Joint Programme adopted in policies and programmes	0	3	2	Delay in implementation because of COVID-19 restrictions and change in government in Saint Lucia.	3
Output 1.1: Institutional capacities strengthened for integrated service delivery through the development of evidence based, gender responsive social and disaster risk management policy and legislation					
Number of social protection or DRM policies drafted including adaptive or shock-responsive social protection	0	1	2	OECS Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategy; Saint Lucia SP policy (supported by WB but as a result of momentum created by the JP) includes SRSP	2
Number of reports produced analyzing vulnerability (including disaggregation of data by sex)	0	7	3	Four are underway and will be completed in Q1 2022	7
Output 1.2: Innovative financial strategies introduced to ensure fiscal sustainability and expanded coverage.					
Number of social protection fiscal analyses/expenditure reviews	0	3	0	Underway and will be completed in Q1 2022	3
Number of forward-looking financing strategies developed	0	2	0	Analysis and interviews began in 2021 and the strategies options strategy papers will be produced in Q1.	2
Output 1.3: Implementation of national social protection programmes strengthened with improved management and operational tools					
Number of tools, protocols and manuals on adaptive systems developed	0	3	1	Underway and will be completed in Q1 2022	3
Number of government staff trained (disaggregated by sex)	0	84	84 (66 females; 17 males)	Additional training planned for Q1	TBD
Output 1.4: Targeted communities' benefit from piloted social protection programmes designed to strengthen their ability to anticipate, absorb and recover from climate-related shocks and stresses					
Number of households targeted receiving cash transfers through adapted social protection programmes in Saint Lucia (disaggregated by female/male-led household)	0	1804	1598 (2990 males; 2008 females + 592 children not disaggregated by sex)	There was an error in reporting 2020 results which should have been 740 and 1000 households respectively. While the PAP expansion for Saint Lucia initially targeted 1000 households, available funds could only cover 794.	1598
Number of changes made because of pilot to social protection or DRM data management	0	2	2	While not permanent changes, the trialing of new payment mechanisms and the vulnerability index in Saint Lucia have	2

systems, delivery mechanisms, targeting, coordination or financing systems				both generating interest from the govt in adopting new approaches in the future.	
Output 1.5: Regional capacities strengthened by adaptive social protection through engaging stakeholders for policy and legal coherence and south-south cooperation					
Number of South- South Cooperation, knowledge-exchange and learning events	0	5	7	Demand for capacity strengthening by government partners	7
Number of regional frameworks, strategies and plans revised to include adaptive social protection considerations	0	1	1	OECS Social Inclusion and Social Protection Strategy	1

Annex 2: Strategic documents

2.1. Contribution to social protection strategies, policies and legal frameworks

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on extending social protection coverage (Yes/No)	Focus on improved comprehensiveness of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on enhancing adequacy of social protection benefits (Yes/No)	Focus on improving governance, administration and/or implementation of social protection system (Yes/No)	Focus on cross-sectoral integration with healthcare, childcare, education, employment, food security, etc. (Yes/No)	If published, provide the hyperlink
Shock-Responsive Social Protection Report and Roadmap	Feb. 20	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Estimating the Impact of COVID-19 on Monetary and Multidimensional Poverty in Saint Lucia using a Microsimulation Model – and User Guide	Oct. 20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Link
Gender analysis of the Barbados Survey of Living Conditions 2016-17	Dec. 20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

"Voices of Saint Lucian Women: A Study of the Impact of COVID-19 on Frontline Workers, Small Entrepreneurs, Pre-School Teachers and Hospitality Workers"	Mar. 21	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	
A Gender Responsive and Multi-Dimensional Socio-Economic and Climate-Based Vulnerability Analysis of the Saint Lucia Survey of Living Conditions and Household Budgets 2016	Jun. 21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Link
Gender-responsive assessment of Barbados' social protection response to COVID-19	Mar. 21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Study on Migration, Displacement and Shock-Responsive Social Protection in the Eastern Caribbean	Nov. 21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Link
Gender-responsive Assessment of Saint Lucia's COVID 19 Social Protection Response	Mar. 21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
OECS Social Inclusion and Social Protection Policy	Dec. 21	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

2.2. Focus on vulnerable populations

Strategic documents developed or adapted by JP

Title of the document	Date when finalized (MM/YY)	Focus on gender equality and women empowerment (Yes/No)	Focus on children (Yes/No)	Focus on youth (Yes/No)	Focus on older persons (Yes/No)	Focus on other group/s (List the group/s)	Focus on PwDs (Yes/No)	Included disaggregated data by disability - and whenever possible by age, gender and/or type of disability (Yes/No)
Estimating the Impact of COVID-19 on Monetary and Multidimensional Poverty in Saint Lucia using a Microsimulation Model – and User Guide	Oct. 20	No	Yes	Yes	No		No	No
Gender analysis of the Barbados Survey of Living Conditions 2016-17	Dec. 20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		No	No
“Voices of Saint Lucian Women: A Study of the Impact of COVID-19 on Frontline Workers, Small Entrepreneurs, Pre-School Teachers and Hospitality Workers”	Mar. 21	Yes	No	No	No	Frontline and essential workers	No	No

Annex 3: 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 (e.g. social, environmental, security and safety risks)					
Natural Disasters (Hurricanes, Earthquake, Volcanic Eruptions) – Eruption of La Soufriere volcano in Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	High	5	5	Provide technical additional support to the recovery efforts led by the RC. Continue to advocate for budgeting for the social sector and greater efficiency in national budget management in the context of respective countries’ macro-economic priorities.	RC & PUNOs
Climate change impacts and social management plans	Medium	4	2	The UN as an impartial body will need to lead advocacy efforts to facilitate timely information dissemination on the benefits	Programme Coordinator

				of a universal SPS to provide long-term solutions to address the impact of climate change and support development of social management plans.	
Possible future outbreaks of Covid-19 pandemic in the Eastern Caribbean	High	5	5	Track COVID19 developments in the Eastern Caribbean and adjust planned activities as necessary.	PUNOs
Programmatic/Operational risks					
Gender and/or age discriminatory roles and practices	Low	1	2	UN Women and other UN agencies will provide timely technical support to advise on gender and discriminatory practices that may be in violation of the HR principles and reiterate the use of the HR mechanisms to advocate for systematic and impactful change for those most left behind.	UN Women (and other PUNOs)
Implementation and results monitoring	Medium	4	4	One-on-one meetings with PUNOs, Programme Leads and Chair of CCC to discuss pending follow-ups.	PUNOs, JP Coordinator
Programme implementation: partnership management/value for money	Low	2	1	Partners will follow internal procedures for partnership management and procurement. Working and coordinating closely with governments and relevant partners beyond organized consultations and alignment with national and regional strategies and priorities, as well as by supporting ongoing budget analysis and fiscal space to ensure efficient allocation and use of available resources.	All PUNOs
Institutional risks					
Governance & Accountability	Medium	3	2	Approved governance structure outlining modalities for MCSC and CCC. Convening of the MSCS and CCC to ensure effective, multi-sectoral coordination, including joint monitoring and reporting on planned results and complementary activities, and building on the UNCT mechanism to address	PUNO HoAs, Resident Coordinator

				bottlenecks and barriers to implementation in the broader partner context.	
Fraud, misuse of resources	Low	1	2	For cash transfers to implementing partners, the UN will adopt the UN HAC procedures or follow their agency's standard procedures to ensure financial risk management is practiced and deliver timely results of the Joint Programme.	PUNO HoAs
Fiduciary risks					
Availability and allocation of resources (financial & non-financial)	Medium	2	3	The UN will mitigate this risk through ongoing budget analysis and fiscal space studies to ensure efficient allocation and use of available resources. In addition, the UN will advocate with other development partners to influence investment of development finance in areas which advance inclusive social protection, based on the LNOB principle.	UNICEF, ILO, UN Women

Annex 4: Results questionnaire

- Complete portfolio questionnaire online at: <https://forms.office.com/r/H4eZKyx9H>