JOINT SDG FUND

SETTING THE FOUNDATIONS

2019 Progress Report

ARNE HOEL / WORLD BANK

JOINT SDG FUND

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CURT CARNEMARK / WORLD BANK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"To put it simply, the traditional approaches to development are not going to bring the SDGs to life. We need to put in place a truly new paradigm shift, both in terms of ambition, scale and speed to match the 2030 Agenda...That means national ownership, a focus on results, inclusive partnerships and mutual accountability and transparency."
– UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development brings disparities to the fore. Policy and social dynamics that spur rising inequalities and pervasive exclusion can and must change. Systemic drivers of exclusion, which can be social, cultural, economic, political and legal, should be examined and addressed.

Over the last few months, however, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented the world with its greatest challenge since the creation of the United Nations, threatening millions of lives and causing massive socio-economic disruption. Many of the key performance indicators in the Fund's overall results framework reflect the state of play of the wider UN development system reform at work in 2018-2019. This progress report reflects how the Joint SDG Fund began setting the foundations for both immediate and longer-term acceleration of the SDGs at country level in 2019. Foundations that will be more critical than ever for the immediate and long-term challenge to support countries to recover better from COVID-19.

This report follows the outline of the Joint Fund's overall results framework, placing an analysis of programmatic results expected in 2022 first, followed by the various operational indicators that measure resource mobilization efforts, the Joint Fund's alignment with core UN programming standards across human rights, gender and inclusion, among others. Given the mis-alignment of some indicators and the progress made on some of the reform-related indicators that go beyond the Joint Fund - and are more appropriately reviewed in the broader context of implementation of The Funding Compact - the Fund Secretariat will review and propose an amended version of the results framework for stakeholder review in 2020.

IMPACT

PROGRESS TOWARDS SDGS ON TRACK

Looking Ahead: SDG Acceleration Through Integrated Policy and SDG Financing

The Joint SDG Fund exists to provide integrated policy advice and programmatic support to accelerate SDG implementation. At its core, sustainable development is about advancing development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The 2030 Agenda seeks to promote development that achieves balance across the economic, social and environmental dimensions. In addition, each of the SDGs are deeply interconnected and interdependent. Achieving the Goals therefore demands integrated policies that effectively manage trade-offs and synergies among important priorities.

The investment strategy for the Joint SDG Fund portfolio is rooted in driving transformation by unlocking systemic policy shifts. By focusing on the identification and activation of "leverage points," policy or institutional changes can produce a catalytic "chain-reaction" across sectors and stakeholder groups. The joint programmes funded through the Joint SDG Fund aim to stimulate systemic change that can yield greater impact across SDGs with the focus clearly on Leaving No One Behind.

JOHN HOGG / WORLD BANK

OUTCOME I

INTEGRATED MULTI-SECTORAL POLICIES TO ACCELERATE SDG ACHIEVEMENT IMPLEMENTED WITH GREATER SCOPE AND SCALE

Leaving No One Behind Through More Effective Social Protection

"Leave No One Behind" is the central, transformative premise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It represents the unequivocal commitment of all UN Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind and undermine the potential of individuals and of humanity as a whole. It is a global call to empower people; to give them a voice and to ensure inclusiveness and equality.

Through the design, development and finalisation of its first joint programme portfolio, 2019 provided the Joint SDG Fund with a historical and strategic opportunity for catalytic SDG acceleration by enabling 35 transformative national social protection joint programmes addressing health care, education, social welfare services, childcare, employment, social cohesion and pensions. Analysis shows over one hundred integrated policy solutions are being tested through multi-sectoral approaches that recognize the multiplicity of factors that cause vulnerability and poverty while working across sectors and institutional silos. This integration reflects the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development manifested through complex inter-linkages among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

This report provides an overview of initial success achieved in strategic planning and joint programming efforts brought about by positive engagement with Governments and solid collaboration across the UN development system. These efforts highlight the solid substantive foundations being put in place for the design, financing and implementation of more dynamic national social protection systems that will accelerate progress across multiple SDGs in 35 countries impacting millions of children, women and men.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

[1] https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

ECUADOR

For example, in Mauritania, through collaboration among the WFP, ILO, UNICEF and 13 national and local authorities, an integrated social protection system is being devised so as to protect 280,000 people in one of the country's most vulnerable regions. Lessons learned from this regional pilot will inform the creation of a comprehensive social protection system providing coverage to an additional 300,000 more vulnerable people.

In Ecuador, programming to support access to formal employment, that includes adequate childcare and parental leave, will reach an estimated 70% of the country's youth population. This multi-sectoral pilot involves collaboration with sixteen government entities across eight sectors in partnership with ILO, UN Women and UNDP, and will provide access to decent work for an estimated 1.4 million youth.

PALESTINE

Georgia's multi-sectoral approach to providing social protection to persons with disabilities involves collaboration among UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, WHO, OHCHR and the Government to reform the way disability determinations are made - and thereby end the invisibility of persons with disabilities. Ensuring disaggregated data collection will allow for better, and more accurate, monitoring which in turn will enable more inclusive legislation to be developed that will both transform the health and social protection systems and ensure equal rights for all people with disabilities.

Palestine's current social protection system reaches only 40% of the extremely poor. By focusing on individualized needs assessments, the Ministry of Social Development, UNICEF, ILO, and the WFP are analysing multi-sectoral data to pilot a programme specifically targeting persons with disabilities and older persons with the view of adopting laws and policies that foster a multi-sectoral national social protection framework.

MADAGASCAR

Madagascar has four different social protection programmes and the fragmented nature of this system often fails those who need it most. With support from UNICEF, WFP, ILO, UNFPA and the Government, a tailored social protection package is being developed to both address the needs of people with disabilities across different sectoral boundaries and the multi-sectoral challenges faced by those experiencing poverty and gender based violence. It will create more accessible social protection packages and integrate existing health protection and other cash transfers. Scaling up to the national level will triple the number of beneficiaries of the nation's social safety net by 2023.

CAMBODIA

Cambodia's joint programme aims to increase social protection coverage and expand protection for people who are just above the poverty level and at real risk of falling back into poverty. The programme will rely on UNICEF, ILO, and WHO collaboration with Government ministries across sectors to increase the capacity of Cambodia's social protection framework, including now providing coverage to 200,000 pregnant women and young children and an additional 1.5 million pensions for the elderly.

One of the most critical areas being supported by joint programmes financed through the Joint SDG Fund is increasing the coverage for social protection thereby ensuring both universal social protection and addressing specific needs of the most vulnerable population groups.

For example, Vietnam has identified a number of critical gaps in its social protection coverage, including for the elderly, persons living with disabilities and children. By integrating different programmes into more holistic and inclusive social protection coverage, it will be able to expand access to an additional 20 million children and 2 million persons with disabilities. Additionally, social protection coverage will be expanded to 45% of the workforce, 100% of women giving birth, and 60% of older persons.

VIETNAM

Thailand's joint programme supported by the Joint SDG Fund addresses the coverage of social protection for children and workers by increasing the scale of its Child Support Grant programme and testing more effective methods of providing coverage to all workers, including migrants. It expects expansion of its Child Support grant programme to an additional two million children.

The joint programme in Brazil improves the implementation of its Happy Child Programme, which brings emotional and social development to children through home visits. Coverage is expected to more than triple from the current 600,000 children to two million, with particular focus on indigenous and rural children.

BRAZIL

Argentina's joint programme is prioritizing providing childcare and other social protection services for children, especially children with disabilities and indigenous children. By strengthening capacity and increasing enrollment in early childcare and education programmes, the programme aims to reduce inequality among approximately 5.2 million children.

DOMINIC CHAVEZ / WORLD BANK

Entry points for systemic change differ across joint programmes as they reflect country priorities and contexts. For instance, where the humanitarian-development nexus is the entry point, the integrated approach to shock-responsive social protection will establish a cross-sectoral approach to disaster management, climate change and social protection that is financially and institutionally sustainable.

MCO Samoa's joint programme utilizes data, finance, coordination, partnerships and outreach to create a strong, adaptive social protection network that supports Samoa, the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. By working with UN agencies, Governments, the private sector and other partners, the region will create a strong, resilient, and well financed social protection programme resulting in all 250,000 households in the region having access to direct or indirect social protection support, especially in the face of climate shocks.

The joint programme in Barbados and Saint Lucia involves developing innovative, data driven adaptive strategies while also creating a regional adaptive social protection framework to ensure that these programmes are supported and can be implemented. By 2022, women, children, the elderly, and other persons at higher risk of climate-related shocks will have access to social protection allowing them to be more resilient to continued climate shocks.

In Indonesia, the focus is on the country's ability to support vulnerable people during natural disasters. By 2021, the programme will develop, test and put frameworks for gender sensitive adaptive social protection, reducing the risks faced by vulnerable people. Tanzania is facilitatating the design, financing, and delivery of rights-based social protection preventing and responding to poverty in the long run.

A total of 30% of the countries will better integrate healthcare into the social protection policy mix. In Gabon, increasing the number of those registered at birth within "hard to reach" populations will guarantee them access to health and education, which, over the longer term, will increase their chances to survive, thrive and enjoy their broader rights. Interventions will also target legal reform, enhanced outreach and awareness-building, accelerated, sustained birth registration and longer-term accompaniment in order to ensure no one is left out of the social protection system and that future populations can benefit from basic social services without impediments.

While medical care is provided through a universal tax financed scheme, only 40% of herders in Mongolia have health insurance. The joint programme demonstrates that poverty and climate change vulnerability of Mongolia's left-behind population, herders and their children, can be effectively addressed. The programme seeks to support national authorities and provincial governments in closing the social protection gaps, with a particular emphasis on reducing vulnerabilities to poverty and extreme climate change. Founded on a rights-based approach, the programme combines investment in systems development with a practical intervention directly focused on eradicating poverty and protecting herders and their family members from falling into the poverty trap.

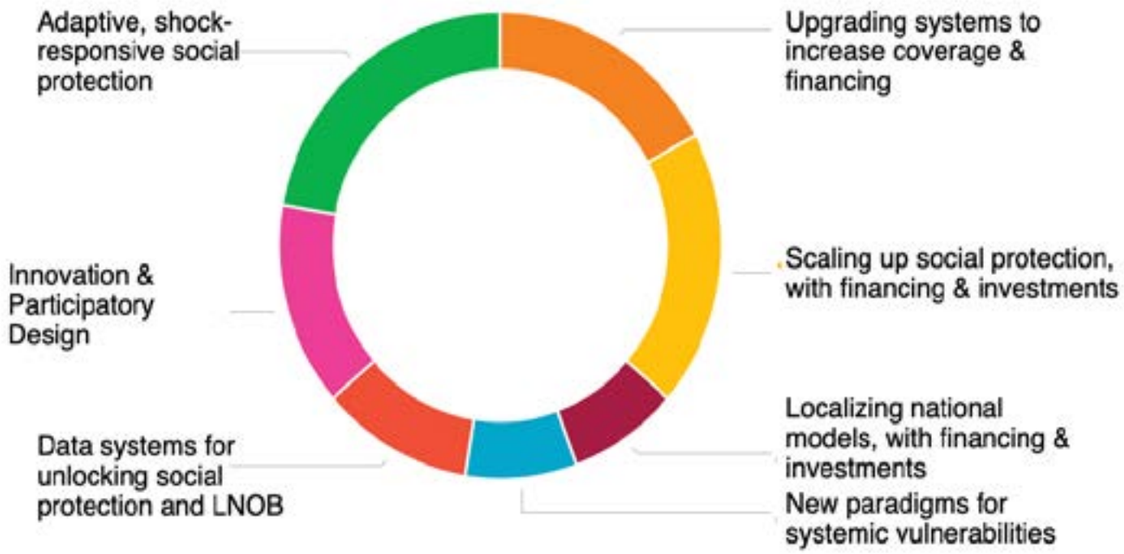
The entry points for transformative change also include localizing national policy, designing new business models and advancing data systems.

The figure on the next page highlights the SDG focus across the 35 joint programmes, underlining the interconnectedness and interdependence of the goals within social protection. For example, Albania's joint programme focuses on the most vulnerable groups including Roma people, persons with disabilities, women and other traditionally marginalized groups. Exemplifying an approach that addresses multiple SDGs, its expansion of universal social protection to the local level contributes to SDG target 1.3 on social protection coverage and SDG targets 10.2 and 10.4 on reducing inequalities through social, economic and political inclusion and new fiscal and wage policies. The programme also addresses health and well-being (SDG targets 3.8 and 3.9) through universal health coverage, healthcare financing, and quality and affordable healthcare services. Another result is the acceleration of progress on gender equality by addressing unpaid care and domestic work and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (SDG targets 5.4 and 5.6).

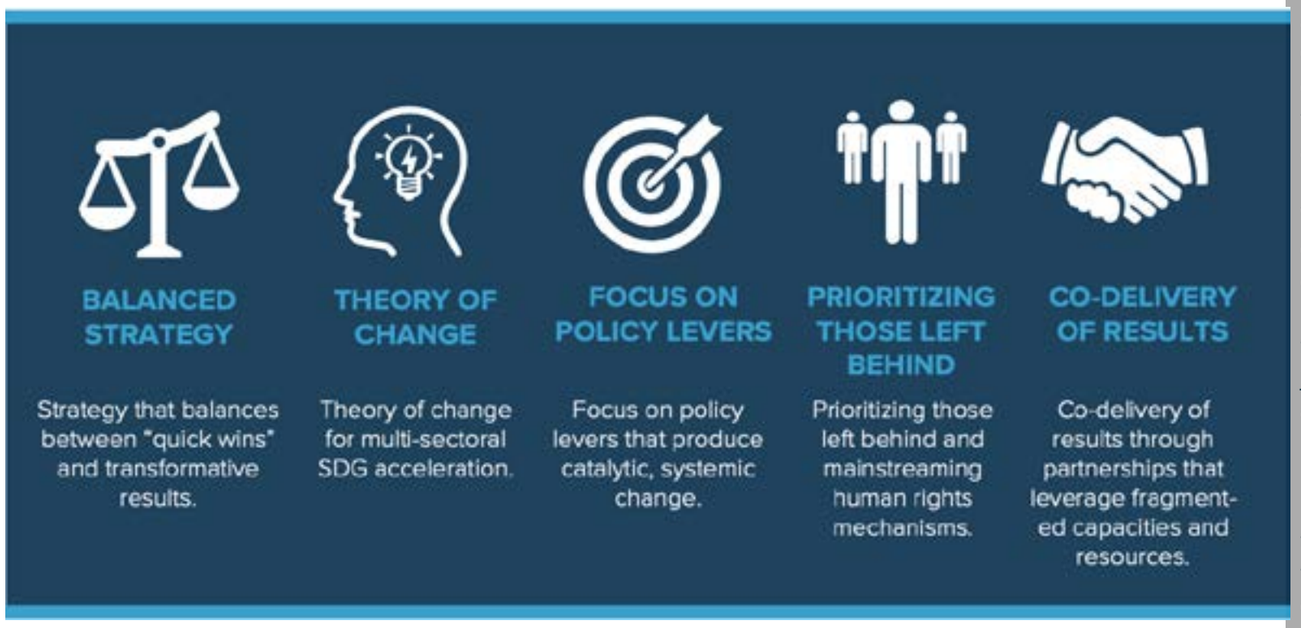
Similarly, in Malawi, the joint programme addresses a lesser number of SDGs, but applies an innovative approach focused on food security in the context of natural disasters. This adaptive social protection strategy combines acceleration of the progress on universal social protection (SDG target 1.3) with ending poverty (SDG targets 1.a and 1.b), ending hunger (SDG target 2.1) and ensuring sustainable financing through domestic resource mobilization (SDG target 17.1).

KHASAR SANDAG / WORLD BANK

PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION



KEY INGREDIENTS FOR SUCCESS IN JOINT PROGRAMMES



The approach in Chile focuses on an innovative programme that offers digital connections and community for older persons. This digital platform is piloted as a way to provide accessible social protection and community for older persons. By creating a digital community for its older population, Chile hopes to improve the quality of life for older persons and ultimately integrate this platform into its national social protection programme by 2022.

The emphasis in the Republic of Congo is on indigenous people living in rural areas who often struggle to access social protection programmes, specifically through providing birth certificates which will enable approximately 50,000 children to access benefits and later scale up nationally to provide access to all indigenous and rural people.

At this writing, results from the first quarter of programming are extremely positive. Despite delays expected due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, all joint programmes are maintaining ambitious plans with some activities continuing on-line.

In support of COVID-19 response and recovery, the Fund has enabled re-purposing of up to 20% of the annual joint programme budgets. Over half of the joint programmes are expected to re-programme and align the broader approach of their joint programmes within the specific aspects of COVID-19, including through support to: governments to develop new social policies or innovative solutions to address COVID-19; analyses and assessments of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable; multi-sectoral coordination capacity, data and ICT systems; and services for the most vulnerable that are specific to responding to COVID-19 and advocacy, surveys, and communications focusing on COVID-19.

While deeper analysis will follow upon fuller implementation, early insights are emerging. The joint programmes are considered strategic and catalytic, as the already established management arrangements were able to provide fast and focused support to the pandemic. The upstream focus of many joint programmes, the availability of multidimensional expertise and the access to ministers and high-level officials have all been essential for the challenging multi-sectoral coordination required and have noticeably improved coherence of the more downstream support to the most vulnerable. Moreover, the Fund provided maximum flexibility, which ensured that the response to COVID-19 was fully contextualized in each country. The continued benefits provided by joint programmes in the aftermath of the pandemic will provide an opportunity for further resource mobilization and scaling up.

VINCENT TREMEAU / WORLD BANK

OUTCOME II

ADDITIONAL FINANCE LEVERAGED TO ACCELERATE SDG ACHIEVEMENT

Results on SDG Finance

World leaders have made ambitious commitments to achieve the SDGs. Securing enough resources was already a major challenge, with developing countries facing a gap estimated between US$ 2.5 to 3 trillion per year. However, given the COVID-19 pandemic, the enormous negative impact on global financial markets has yet to be fully comprehended.

Stepping aside from COVID-19, financing is theoretically available, given the size, scale and level of sophistication of the global financial system — with global gross financial assets estimated at over US$ 200 trillion. While the world has never been as rich, financial flows and mostly private wealth do not reach the people – and countries – which need it most. The path towards building a sustainable financial system that can close this gap is a key priority in many countries. The way forward is rooted in the idea of empowering countries to link the SDGs with dynamic national development solutions and mobilizing the means to implement them.

As we know, the SDGs constitute a unique compass and guiding framework for allocating and measuring the impact of financing flows, both public and private. The SDGs themselves define the scope of what financing for sustainable development means. The Joint Fund's results framework is fully aligned with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and builds upon the findings of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development. The operationalization of windows B and C of the Joint Fund are directly guided by the Secretary-General's Strategy and Road Map for Financing the 2030 Agenda.

The results framework of the Joint Fund is clear in measuring how more and better financing can lead to the acceleration of SDG achievements. The joint programmes financed through the Joint Fund will increase the resource envelope for the SDGs, as clearly stated by Outcome 2, the "ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scope and scale".

Social and technological innovations along with behavioral change will help to define the challenges and related solutions. The outcome will initially be achieved by setting the stage and crafting a favorable enabling environment and a supporting institutional architecture and ecosystem for SDG financing. This will include designing integrated financing strategies, like Integrated National Financing Frameworks, and capacitating institutions to implement and act in an increasingly complex landscape.

Secondly, the Fund will carefully invest in key initiatives that can leverage public and private financing for the SDGs at scale and provide a demonstration of concept for replication. The expected results of the first Call on SDG Financing will include the enhancement of 30 to 60 integrated financial frameworks and 7 to 12 investments to leverage financing at scale. The Fund expects innovations across geographies, where particular financing solutions were never previously tried or tested, and themes, to introduce new financing solutions where not previously available.

Call on SDG Financing

The Joint SDG Fund launched its first Call on SDG Financing on December 20th, 2019, for a total envelope of US$ 100 million. The Call is divided into two components:

The first component aims at creating the enabling environment and conditions, everywhere possible, for increased and better-quality financing for the SDGs. It is about financing strategies (e.g. Integrated National Financing Frameworks), strengthened capacities of the supporting institutions and private-public ecosystems, and more effective public-private partnerships and dialogues on SDG investing.

The second component is about investing in key initiatives that leverage public and private financing to advance the SDGs at scale. The objective is to offer a demonstration of concept and options for wider adaptation and replication of the solutions suggested.

The Call is about making better allocations and investments towards the SDGs and innovating to allow social good to be linked to investment decisions. It will address systemic bottlenecks in the financial sector that prevent greater investment in SDG-related areas or can accelerate progress at the country level. The application and selection processes differ between Component 1 and Component 2, with the latter lasting from March 2020 to the end of 2020. Particular attention is given to Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, and fragile or conflict-affected countries, with a minimum allocation threshold of 35%.

The drafting of the call was very participatory. It was coordinated with UN agencies, DESA, Member States and DCO through the Integrated National Financing Frameworks working group and Financing for Development forum, and was also informed by seminars hosted by the Fund Secretariat and its partners throughout the year. This preparatory work included an inception workshop in Geneva in September, 2019, where strategic financing experts from the private sector, international financial institutions, academia, Member States and UN agencies met to discuss the next call for concept notes, based on the Joint SDG Fund's Theory of Change, and identified its strengths and areas for improvement.

Participants shared experiences to identify the highest value opportunities for the Joint SDG Fund and to ensure that the Fund's call accelerated the impact of national and UN efforts towards the achievement of the SDGs. The design phase included direct interaction with over ten UN agencies and the core development partners of the Fund. A technical review meeting and several rounds of peer reviews were conducted over the final text of the call that went out to UN Resident Coordinators.

As of writing, the response to the call on SDG financing has exceeded all expectations with 258 proposals received from over 100 UN country teams. The potential portfolio of eligible projects surpasses US$ 1 billion with a preliminary estimated financial leverage capability of US$ 40 billion. The special attention given to LDCs, SIDS, and fragile or conflict-affected countries in the process has resulted in LDCs submitting more than a third of total applications under Component 2.

Initial review of the applications showcases a new generation of Joint Programmes that will address systemic bottlenecks in public finance and the wider financial sector that inhibit SDG achievement or can accelerate progress at the country level. The intellectual exchange evidenced in the design phase has continued online in the first quarter of 2020 where over a 1,000 UNCT colleagues are participating in discussions and experience sharing through webinars.


SIMONE D. MCCOURTIE / WORLD BANK

1ST CALL ON SDG FINANCE

> ***A call on SDG financing, launched in December 2019, for a total envelope of USD$ 100 million, – the largest single systemic initiative led by the UN in promoting SDG financing in its history.***
>
> ***- United Nations Development Coordination Office***

GRAHAM CROUCH / WORLD BANK

> ***As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society.***

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (p.3)

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

As previously noted, given the mis-alignment of some indicators and the progress made on some of the reform-related indicators that go beyond the Joint Fund - and are more appropriately reviewed in the broader context of implementation of The Funding Compact - the Fund Secretariat will review and propose an amended version of the results framework for stakeholder review in 2020.

i. Catalyzing UN Coherence

Four operational performance indicators were developed to measure the impact of the Joint SDG Fund in catalyzing UN coherence. Given that 2019 marked the initial operationalization of the Fund, with funding disbursements approved in December 2019, it is still much too early to see clear evidence of reduced transaction costs through joint programmes of the Fund. At the same time, global data collection regarding the establishment of SOPs, a wider survey of UN coherence and global data on pooled funding levels are beyond the scope of the Joint Fund Secretariat and will be completed in alignment with QCPR processes. Given these limitations, the Fund Secretariat spoke to a select group of Resident Coordinators for concrete examples of the UNDS reform in action.

The MCO Samoa reported that the joint programme allowed agencies to work together more effectively, by strengthening agency complementarities and providing a space where separate agencies could showcase their relevance and expertise. In Costa Rica, the UNCT moved beyond thinking in respective agencies' boxes by enabling an intervention that presented the added value of the whole UN system - beyond that of each agency separately. Montenegro noted a genuine spirit of collaboration and willingness to discuss options, priorities and budgets while in Lao PDR, the joint programme facilitated a high-level buy-in for a "whole-of-government" approach with the Resident Coordinator leading the ministerial level consultations. In Gabon, the opportunity to work with the Joint SDG Fund, empowered the UN to sharpen its analysis of key impediments to SDG achievement as well as overcome 'different languages' within different entities for talking about the development challenges that must be overcome.

Innovation in process and product was also noteworthy. Indonesia noted how the inter-agency initiative, led by the Resident Coordinator, focused on innovation within the context of social protection. MCO Samoa shared that the joint programme bridged efforts to address climate change with human resilience, a dimension previously missing in the UN Pacific Strategy. In Turkmenistan and Nigeria catalytic funding provided by the Joint SDG Fund was essential to mobilize UN agencies around social service reform and demonstrate implementation of the UN reform in practice.

[1] Annual survey will provide qualitative information towards this indicator

ANNUAL REPORT - 2019/20

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ii. Resource Mobilization

In 2019, the Joint SDG Fund mobilized US$ 55,459,834 from nine Member States, a significant increase from 2018. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the clear early indications of the Joint Fund's potential impact on incentivizing much more effective and joined-up UN policy intervention and its central importance to the success of UNDS reform calls for urgent efforts by Member States to substantially increase resources going to the Joint Fund so that it meets the Funding Compact's target of US$ 290 million in annual contribution as soon as possible. Of the nine Member States who provided financial contributions to the Joint SDG Fund, the Netherlands and Sweden hosted Joint SDG Fund events to showcase progress made and support resource mobilization efforts. The format of the events, including Resident Coordinators who are recipients of the LNOB/social protection call, were well received amongst the wider Member State community.

Long-term success for the Joint SDG Fund demands reliable and inclusive partnerships from traditional as well as non-traditional donors and the private sector. From collaborative exchanges and knowledge sharing, 2019 marked the creation of innovative networks and new partnerships to accelerate the SDGs and helped position the Joint SDG Fund as the funding vehicle of choice for Resident Coordinators and UN country teams to fulfil the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2019, the Joint SDG Fund forged new paths and partnerships with governments, academia, the private sector and civil society. Through outreach to donor-advised funds on possible contributions through industry levies and engaging coalitions that provide de-risking products for SDG investments in emerging and frontier markets, the Fund Secretariat consistently engaged with normative and research organisations, including the OECD, and explored the design new financial products with providers, including Morgan Stanley, to serve the portfolio under the Call on SDG Financing.

55,459,834

VOLUME OF RESOURCES MOBILIZED ANNUALLY

100

% OF JOINT PROGRAMMES WITH MATCHED FUNDING

9

OF JOINT SDG FUND CONTRIBUTORS IN 2019

Similarly, the Stanford Graduate School of Business has offered to support the Joint Fund in fine-tuning its pitch to private investors in Silicon Valley while collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation, considered among the global leaders in philanthropy and known for pioneering innovation in impact financing, has offered to both identify ways to deploy their philanthropic risk capital and provide much-needed in-kind support to the Joint SDG Fund in the SDG Financing space. This includes continued outreach to family offices, philanthropists and private sector entities to position the Joint Fund in the SDG Financing space, familiarize the Joint SDG Fund with a broad array of stakeholders, and support the Fund's resource mobilization efforts.

All Joint Programmes funded by the Joint SDG Fund in 2019 had a matched funding component. This will contribute to the Programme's long-term sustainability and national ownership and buy-in, and will ensure the initiatives are implemented in synergy with other key social protection programmes.

iii. Operational Effectiveness

100

% OF JOINT PROGRAMMES WITH MATCHED FUNDING

2,622,511

DIRECT COST EXPENDITURES

REPORTING IN 2021

ANNUAL % FINANCIAL DELIVERY

% OF JOINT PROGRAMMES SUPPORTED THAT ARE FINANCIALLY CLOSED 18 MONTHS AFTER THEIR OPERATIONAL CLOSURE

% OF JOINT PROGRAMMES OPERATIONALLY CLOSED WITHIN ORIGINAL END DATE

The first call for proposals set the foundations for the Fund's overall vetting and selection process, in effect, operationalizing and fine-tuning the guidance for the governance and initial decision-making of the Fund. Concept note development was completed by the UN Country Teams within eight weeks and subsequent joint programmes were developed in the space of 11 weeks. Assessment of 114 proposals was completed within two weeks.

The Operational Steering Committee did not include readiness in the first call for proposals as they determined that small amounts of funding (e.g. less than US$1 million per country for 18 months) would escalate transaction costs for Secretariat oversight. This is an example of an indicator that needs to be explored at a stakeholder meeting in 2020. Given we are in the initial year of programme implementation, the remaining indicators will remain outstanding until 2021.

[2] Reporting in 2021. Refers to the resources utilized.

[3] For this indicator, the targets will be set in Year 4 after joint programmes start to close.

iv. Compliance with UN Standards

ANNUAL PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS INFORMS THE FUNDING PRIORITISATION BY THE STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP

% OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT FACILITATED ENGAGEMENT WITH DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS (E.G. PARLIAMENTARIANS, CIVIL SOCIETY, IFIS, BILATERAL/MULTILATERAL ACTOR, PRIVATE SECTOR) (QCPR)

% OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT INCLUDE ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES (QCPR) AND THE PRINCIPLE OF "LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND"

% OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT UNDERTAKE OR DRAW UPON RELEVANT HUMAN RIGHTS ANALYSIS, AND HAVE DEVELOPED OR IMPLEMENTED A STRATEGY TO ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

% OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT HAVE MADE USE OF RISK ANALYSIS IN PROGRAMME PLANNING, WHEN RELEVANT (DISAGGREGATED BY COUNTRY)

100

% OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT HAVE CONSIDERED THE NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (QCPR)

94

% OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT HAS PLANNED FOR AND CAN DEMONSTRATE POSITIVE RESULTS/EFFECTS FOR YOUTH

% OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT FEATURED GENDER RESULTS AT THE OUTCOME LEVEL (QCPR)

91

% OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT CONDUCTED DO-NO-HARM / DUE DILIGENCE AND WERE DESIGNED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREAS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

20

1. ANNUAL PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS INFORMS THE FUNDING PRIORITISATION BY THE STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP

The Joint SDG Fund governance structure is led by the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), the overarching high-level mechanism that provides leadership, vision and strategic direction. The SAG meets annually to recommend strategic priorities and to take stock of the Fund's overall progress. In 2019, the Joint SDG Fund operationalized the vision of the SAG as outlined in its first meeting in October 2018. Notably, the SAG endorsed the focus of the Fund to support national SDG policy and investments to accelerate and scale SDG progress and recommended to do so through joint policy and programme contributions of UN Country Teams under the leadership of the RC, and in line with broader UN development system reform. The Group also tasked the Operational Steering Committee to develop and launch its first call for concept notes. The Joint SDG Fund implemented the SAG's recommendations and launched its first call for concept notes on Social Protection for Leaving No One Behind in March, 2019.

The annual analysis conducted by the Joint SDG Fund in 2019 informed the Fund's SAG meeting in November 2019. The SAG acknowledged the thorough selection process established by the Fund Secretariat and the criticality of the "Leaving No One Behind" agenda to achieve the SDGs. Member State members of the SAG agreed that the Fund is a critical piece of the reform of the UN development system and of a reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system. Member State members highlighted that the Fund's support to truly transformative and integrated initiatives should also align with efforts to promote and strengthen the new UN Cooperation Framework at country level. During the meeting, the Joint SDG Fund presented its analysis of the SDG financing space and proposal for an SDG financing call for proposals to be launched in 2019. It was agreed that the Joint SDG Fund would engage with the SAG as it finalized the call for concept notes on SDG financing. Following a round of consultation with Member State members and partners, the Fund launched its first call on SDG financing in December 2019.

2. % OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT FACILITATED ENGAGEMENT WITH DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS (QCPR)

All joint programmes seek to increase national capacities and establish functioning partnerships to accelerate SDG progress. Led by national governments, all 35 joint programmes are supported by 17 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, as well the Regional Economic Commissions for Latin America and the Caribbean and for Asia and the Pacific. These involve over 600 partner organizations, including more than 300 national and local authorities, and over 130 civil society organizations including more than 40 trade unions. Notably, more than 50 private sector organizations will participate in programme implementation, including employers' associations, chambers of commerce, financial service providers and telecommunications leaders.

The portfolio will leverage 42 investments of International Financial Institutions, with active World Bank partnerships in 18 where engagement supports alignment of the programme strategy to larger scale investments which build upon broader cooperation on fiscal space for social protection as well as sectoral reforms in education and healthcare.

3. % OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT INCLUDE ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES (QCPR) AND THE PRINCIPLE OF "LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND"

By designing the entire call for integrated policy on the principle of "Leaving No One Behind, the innovative development of this portfolio ensured that every joint programme directly addresses inequalities. This marked the Fund's first step toward incentivizing and supporting countries to draw on expertise and innovation from across the UN Development System and operationalizing the Fund's Theory of Change.

The portfolio design incorporated lessons learned from other global funds, , including every Resident Coordinator to lead a self-assessment of their proposal against the eligibility criteria. An innovative template for concept notes, the result of a participatory, inter-agency process and workshop, introduced the Theory of Change for SDG Acceleration and transformative change. The degree of readiness for implementation was embedded into the template, based on previous analyses that linked acceleration of results with a confirmed proof of concept. Proposals also required risk assessments, budget estimates, demonstration of agency capacity to implement and clearly presented government ownership via an endorsement letter.

Technical assessment criteria, shared at the outset with UN country teams, enabled a comprehensive and much more robust analysis of proposals than any UN pooled funding mechanism had done before. Eleven criteria were divided and weighted across relevance and delivery and operations, including coherence of the approach, rationale for the proposal, expected results and theory of change, value-add of the UN and cross-cutting issues. The technical assessment criteria were each scored separately, providing a more comprehensive, dynamic, and transparent way of assessing the proposals.

Independent assessments by both several external and UN social protection experts coupled with additional vetting identified the forty top-scoring proposals from the unprecedented 114 applications received. The additional vetting, requested directly by the UN Deputy Secretary-General, focused on validating the transformative nature of proposed joint programmes, the commitment to deliver results at scale in two years and the adequate integration of risks and relevant political contexts.

The programmes, co-designed with government, mainstream human rights through systemic analysis of vulnerable groups, including a gender marker that unpacks how gender is woven into the context analysis, outputs and indicators, collaboration with civil society organizations and Government leadership and ownership. At the same time, upgrading the template for joint programmes added new elements, including mapping of the ecosystem of related initiatives, the articulation of funding to financing in joint programmes, joint plans for strategic communications, learning and sharing and budget allocations per SDGs, effectively raising the bar on how the UN system can support and align with government priorities.

As shown, the portfolio's regional composition includes 11 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), three Small Island Developing States (SIDS), four countries in fragile situations and three conflict-affected countries.

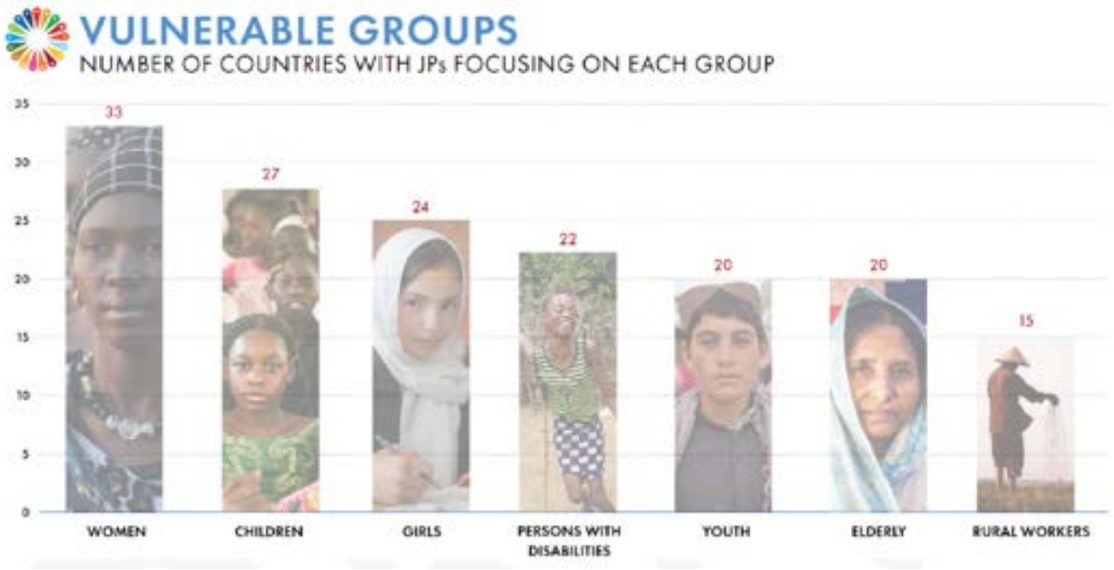

Figure X: Targeted vulnerable groups across the joint programmes

4. % OF JOINT PROGRAMMES FEATURING GENDER RESULTS AT THE OUTCOME LEVEL (QCPR)

All joint programmes address gender equality and women's empowerment, with 33 joint programmes or 91% of the portfolio featuring gender results at the outcome level. A gender matrix of six indicators evaluated and scored each programme to determine the level of gender-sensitivity of programme budgets, context analyses, partnerships and outputs. With all scoring above 70 per cent, programmes focused on expanding existing government health and social security programmes, increasing women's economic empowerment through access to well- paying jobs or small business loans. For example, over 230,000 female tea garden workers in Bangladesh will gain access to social security – empowering them to care for their families and increasing their access to postnatal and antenatal care. Costa Rica's joint programme creates opportunities for women-led businesses, empowering women through educational and financial tools to start their own businesses and create safer, better paying job opportunities for women. In Mexico, where 72% of women's labour is unpaid domestic labour, women working in the informal sector will gain access for the first time to social security and in the Republic of Congo, where indigenous women face discrimination and gender based violence and lack healthcare, increasing their education and employment opportunities will help them gain access to healthcare and nutrition, opportunities to work, earn money, and ideally, escape violence. South Africa social insurance schemes for women in the informal sector, particularly in rural areas is supporting the development and financing of a new strengthened welfare services and linkages to social grants. Affordable care services in Uzbekistan, including for children and adults living with disabilities, allow for greater participation of women in the labour force and society at large.

5. % OF JOINT PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKING OR DRAWING UPON RELEVANT HUMAN RIGHTS ANALYSIS, DEVELOPING OR IMPLEMENTING A STRATEGY TO ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

All joint programmes mainstream human rights through comprehensive incorporation of international law across gender, children's rights, rights for persons living with disabilities and more.

For example, Mexico is applying the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women by expanding its social protection coverage for rural women engaged in unpaid work and in the informal sector. Lebanon's joint programme takes a human rights approach by shifting the national understanding of social protection from a charity or needs-based dialogue to a rights-based one. The programme is ensuring surveys to identify the poorest and most vulnerable, specifically focusing on gender, youth, and persons with disabilities.

Joint programme in Somalia is strengthening the capacity of the Government in transitioning from short-term emergency response, to long-term predictable social protection linking to education, health and justice systems. In Rwanda, application of CRC, CEDAW and CRPD recommendations ensure that social protection coverage focuses on female-headed households, households with a large number of children, households exposed to climate-related shocks and households with disabled persons.

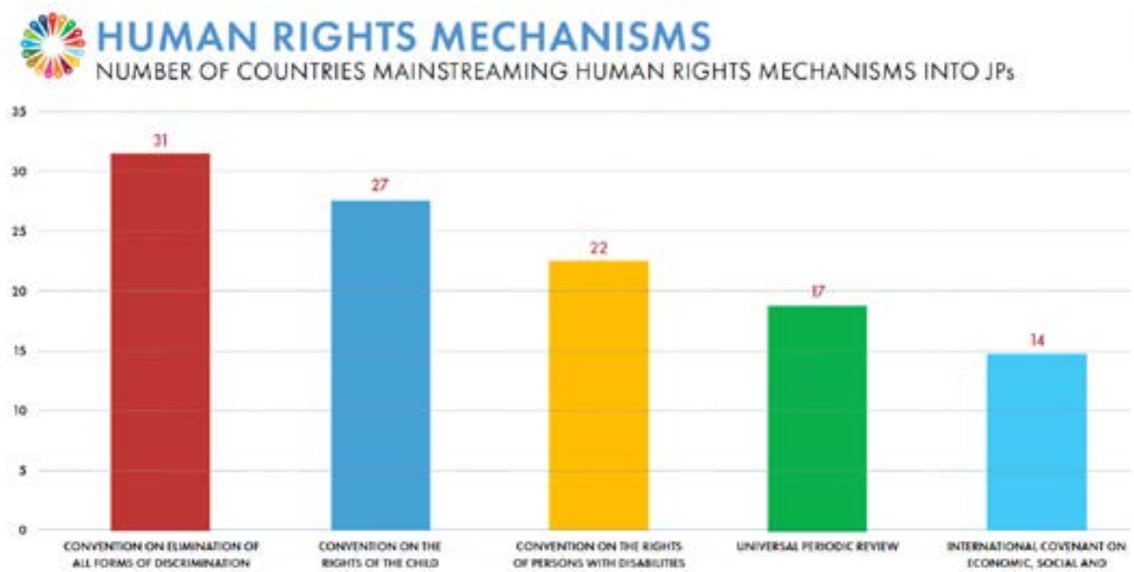

Figure X: Number of countries mainstreaming human rights mechanisms into joint programmes (top 5)

6. % OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT PLANNED FOR AND CAN DEMONSTRATE POSITIVE RESULTS/EFFECTS FOR YOUTH

The implementation of social protection systems focused on youth means direct returns into economic growth and promotes the achievement of decent employment. Proper employment fosters universal health coverage and care services to young fathers and mothers- ensuring an increased access to early childhood development for the next generation of youth and promotes gender equality. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres, has urged Member States to invest in, and empower, youth nationally while challenging businesses to provide young people with skills and opportunities.

With 91% of the portfolio committed to demonstrating positive results for youth, examples include Kenya, where youth comprise 7% of the unemployed. The joint programme focuses on work productivity and skills building by designing innovative social protection systems that respond to those in the informal economy, including farmers and rural dwellers – with options for greater flexibility in the cash transfers, employment security and health benefits they offer. Sao Tome and Principe focuses on parental education, youth engagement in the social sector and access to a health services. Montenegro will increase youth access to relevant technical and vocational skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. Ecuador is estimated to reach 1.4 million people with improved access to employment, health benefits and financial inclusion - at least 50% will be women, by providing adequate childcare services and rights to parental leave.

7. % OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT HAVE CONSIDERED THE NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (QCPR)

With 94% of the portfolio considering needs of Persons with Disabilities, 22 joint programmes provide direct support to this vulnerable population, with an overall investment of $US 43 million.

Georgia is adapting its infrastructure to be disability accessible, making schools inclusive, reducing stigma, and increasing employment opportunities by eliminating the physical barriers in work environments. Flexible employment policies for parents of children living with disabilities promotes social inclusion and increased well-being. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, one in three disabled individuals aged 15 years and older have never been enrolled in school. Over 85% of all disabled individuals were not employed. A new social protection system that provides cash benefits, access to health, livelihoods and access to employment for female focused persons with disability and the elderly aims to accelerate poverty reduction and food security.

Uzbekistan's joint programme replaces the current disability assessment with one that is focused on individual needs, income security and social support throughout peoples' lives. In Madagascar, cash transfers, agricultural insurance and livelihood activities focused on people living with disabilities will have immediate impact on increased household consumption, enrolment rate of children, access to health facilities, reduced risks of loss of agricultural production and increased productive investments.

> ***Persons living with disability often experience stigma and discrimination exacerbating their vulnerability to monetary poverty, hunger, malnutrition and the impacts of disasters. An inclusive and universal social protection system in Kenya will help alleviate extreme poverty, reduce malnutrition, and enhancing food security for all.***
>
> ***David Kamau, WFP programmatic lead of Kenya's joint programme***

UNICEF UZBEKISTAN

Ozoda, an 8-year-old girl born with a physical disability living in rural Uzbekistan has no access to public services. Stigma worsened Ozoda's parents' efforts to access child disability benefits, receiving only a poverty-targeted child benefit for one year. Struggling for many years to care for Ozoda, she was eventually sent to live in a residential centre for children with disabilities in the region's capital.

The joint programme strategy instead defines social protection as an entitlement. Designed to provide appropriate support across the life-cycle, tailored interventions to the specific needs of children, women and men with disabilities will contribute to better social inclusion and integration in society while overcoming stigma. By accessing an additional financial allowance, Ozoda will be able to live at home in the nurturing love of her family.

8. % OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT HAVE MADE USE OF RISK ANALYSIS IN PROGRAMME PLANNING, WHEN RELEVANT (DISAGGREGATED BY COUNTRY)

All joint programmes conducted risk analysis and identified ways to mitigate the risks that they saw in their respective programmes. Argentina and Gabon are engaging closely with all levels of government and non-governmental groups to raise awareness of the importance of social protection programmes. Barbados and Malawi identified socio-economic shocks and natural disasters as a potential risk and will monitor the key risk areas, working closely with governments to emphasize the importance of long term investment in social protection to help people survive disasters and lessen the impacts. Social stigma against people with disabilities was identified by Georgia and Madagascar where widespread advocacy and awareness raising about the importance of social protection programmes for all people is being designed to combat this risk. Other risks included difficulty finding qualified workers to implement the programme in Mauritania which was addressed by awareness raising while the lack of interest initially shown by vulnerable groups in Chile was addressed by showcasing the potential benefits of the programme in Chile from its very first day of programming.

Before the school meal programme, children were attending school irregularly, especially indigenous children..now, the school meals keep the kids in school. To me, social protection means well-being of all and eliminating marginalization.

Loudssina Bassinguila Vastine, Mongo School director in Sibiti, Congo

ARNE HOEL / WORLD BANK

REPUBLIC OF CONGO / WFP

UN WOMEN/RYAN BROWN

9. % OF JOINT PROGRAMMES THAT CONDUCTED DO-NO-HARM / DUE DILIGENCE AND WERE DESIGNED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREAS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Natural disasters pose a threat to the fulfilment of dignity and basic human rights. They increase direct and indirect health risks, disrupt continuous education of school-age children, disrupt food systems and economic sustainability, all of which can have lifelong effects on poverty and livelihood opportunities.

The Philippines is one of the world's most natural disaster-prone countries due to a combination of high incidence typhoons, floods, landslides, droughts, volcanoes, earthquakes and the country's considerable vulnerability to these hazards. The joint programme will improve the use of climate and disaster-risk information sharing and early warning systems and through cash transfers will support both policy and programme interventions. Through this critical support communities will have timely access to disaster-risk information and be better able to prepare for various shocks - thereby allowing them to respond better once disaster strikes. An investment plan such as.

In Indonesia, global warming is increasing the frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters. Climate change will have a direct impact on the country's ability to progress with structural economic transformation. The joint programme is expected to reduce the exposure and enhance resilience of vulnerable communities by providing faster information sharing, more predictable responses to disasters and cash voucher assistance before and after a disaster. MCO Barbados is strengthening the Caribbean Disaster Management Strategy and an innovative finance strategy for vulnerable communities to have the ability to anticipate, absorb and recover from major climate related shocks.

ANNEX

- SUMMARIES OF 35 JOINT PROGRAMMES
- ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

- FOR MORE STORIES ON OUR JOINT PROGRAMMES VISIT OUR LATEST PAGE.


CURT CARNEMARK / WORLD