



Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNICEF, UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, WFP and UN Women 2 June 2023

The importance of joint development solutions and quality financing in the face of multiple crises

ANNEX: COUNTRY-SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

This annex complements the Background Note to the joint meeting of the Executive Boards. It contains country-specific examples of joint development solutions supported by the United Nations. The examples include different modalities, including those led by one or more United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes, to ensure quality financing in the face of multiple crises.

The examples have been clustered according to the main themes of the background note, which focus on the following:

Key entry points

- Protecting and enhancing social spending, particularly across sectors related to education, gender, health, nutrition and protection
- Momentum for social protection and its role in enabling Sustainable Development Goals
- Innovative financing solutions and partnerships
- Strengthening all forms of international development cooperation
- Integrated financing for inclusion and climate action
- Unlocking development financing in fragile and crisis settings

Progress on joint innovative solutions

- United Nations Secretary-General Global Accelerator
- Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF)
- Just energy transition
- Anticipatory action at the nexus between development and humanitarian financing

Benin – Building partnerships for joint financing solutions to expand social spending for children

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) engaged with the UN system, built partnerships, generated evidence and advocated with the Ministry of Finance to increase allocations to social spending amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It also collaborated with Social Watch Benin to improve budget transparency. Furthermore, it advocated with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to influence conditionalities in IMF lending on budget allocation to social sectors. The Government of Benin used analyses conducted by UNICEF/United Nations to prepare a proposal for a 500 million Sustainable Development Goals Eurobond. Benin was also the first country in Africa, and one of the first worldwide, to issue a long-term bond to finance projects related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

South Sudan – Leveraging partnerships to prioritize Sustainable Development Goals and social spending

As part of a Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund programme, UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) engaged with the Government of South Sudan and international partners to overcome challenges in public financial management. The joint programme¹, concluded in May 2022, made progress in evidence generation, capacity building and budget transparency. For instance, the capacity of staff at the Ministry of Finance was strengthened through training on the use of the Integrated Financial Management Information System. The

¹ Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, “Strengthened national and subnational public financial management (PFM) mechanisms in South Sudan for increased budget allocations to social sector”, available at <https://jointsdgfund.org/where-we-work/south-sudan>



National Budget Brief and Citizens' Budget for fiscal year 2020/21 were published. The results from the 2021 Open Budget Survey were disseminated. The recommendations from the public expenditure review and public expenditure tracking survey related to the education sector were implemented. Finally, the Government re-established State Transfer Monitoring Committees and County Transfer Monitoring Committees. As part of the joint programme, UNICEF engaged with local media companies and journalists on public finance for children and on reporting on budgetary issues related to health care, education and nutrition. UNICEF also engaged with the Government² in evidence-based advocacy and policy dialogue to increase budget allocations for basic social services. Furthermore, it created opportunities for leveraging donor funding in one of the Special Administrative Areas of South Sudan.

Efforts by the United Nations and international partners in support of the Government contributed to positive changes. The combined budget allocated to health, education and the social and humanitarian sectors increased from 14 to 28 per cent of the national budget between fiscal years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. The education sector budget increased from 14 to 17 per cent during that period, making significant progress towards the national commitment of allocating 20 per cent of the national budget to education.

South Sudan – Women's social and economic empowerment

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is working to strengthen the capacity of the Government of South Sudan to build resilient systems that support the needs of women and girls. It is supporting the South Sudan Women's Social and Economic Empowerment Project³, which is a \$70 million project that is financed by the World Bank and that seeks to increase the access by girls and women to services related to livelihood, entrepreneurship and the prevention of gender-based violence, and to strengthen the Government's capacity to provide these services. As a key implementing partner, UN Women will collaborate with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. The Ministry is primarily responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies and legislation to promote gender equality, women's empowerment, child protection, social protection and social welfare of vulnerable groups. UN Women will support service delivery to women in project areas and it will support capacity development of the Ministry of Gender through:

- The construction of new Women's Economic Community Centres and the facilitation of service provision through these centres.
- Technical assistance and financing provided to women entrepreneurs and to ecosystem development.
- The establishment of a national hotline to respond to gender-based violence, in addition to the construction of a safe house in Juba that can provide appropriate services.
- The construction of a new headquarters building for the Ministry of Gender and capacity development within the Ministry.

Tunisia – Leveraging partnerships to advance social protection and roll out universal child grants (Sustainable Development Goal 1.3)⁴

In Tunisia, UNICEF built strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Finance, the World Bank, the IMF and development partners to advance social protection and to roll out the Universal Child Benefit (UCB) in the country. Prior to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, UNICEF and partners had been engaging in sustained policy dialogue on social protection financing in Tunisia. In 2018–2019, UNICEF supported a feasibility study on the UCB grant, which concluded that the UCB would be a more cost-effective and equitable option than existing subsidies. In 2021, UNICEF updated the fiscal space analysis, recommending a progressive extension of the UCB to all children under 18 years of age, which would cost 1.09 per cent of the GDP if universal coverage were to be achieved by 2025. As a result, UNICEF was able to leverage a \$26 million grant from the Government of Germany to increase the coverage of social protection of children between mid-2020 and the end of 2021. The legal framework was modified to remove a limit on the number of eligible children per family and the age threshold of 6 years. A new monthly grant

² UNICEF, "Empowering journalists to report on public financial management", available at <https://www.unicef.org/southsudan/stories/empowering-journalists-report-public-financial-management>

³ World Bank, "South Sudan Women's Social and Economic Empowerment Project", available at <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P176900>

⁴ UNICEF, "Global annual results report 2021 – Goal Area 5", available at <https://www.unicef.org/media/122786/file/Global-annual-results-report-2021-goal-area-5.pdf>



was introduced: it covered children under 5 years of age in most households that were not part of the contributory system. By December 2021, approximately 129,000 children (0-5 years) were receiving monthly benefits. In addition, the number of school-aged children receiving annual school allowances doubled to 310,000. In March 2021, the Boards of Directors of the World Bank approved a loan of \$300 million to create the COVID-19 Social Protection Emergency Response Support Project, which enabled the continuation of monthly child benefits for around 125,000 children (0–5 years). Finally, the Government of Tunisia adopted a law in January 2022 that institutionalized the monthly benefit grants for all children under 5 years of age who are registered on social assistance schemes. UNICEF will continue its efforts to advocate for national budget allocation for the UCB, as constrained fiscal space poses a major challenge to scaling up the grant in the medium term.

Bahamas – Building back equal through innovative financing for gender equality and women’s empowerment

Through the Joint Sustainable Development Goal Fund and in partnership with the Government of the Bahamas and the Government of Bermuda, UN Women, UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are facilitating the sustainable economic empowerment of women, youth and people with disabilities and improving their access to financial mechanisms, knowledge sharing and capacity building, particularly in the areas of agribusiness and fishing. The project is designed and expected to catalyse millions of dollars in additional investment to support the achievement by the Bahamas of the Sustainable Development Goals: in particular, Goal 5 on gender equality; Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth; and Goal 9 on reduced inequalities. The Bahamas Development Bank (BDB) is the primary implementing partner. The BDB is the first Caribbean financial institution to be a part of the 2XCollaborative, which is a global industry network of capital providers for gender-lens investing. The work undertaken by UN Women on innovative financing and with the 2X collaborative reinforces the argument that public and private sectors must collaborate to create an environment that enables women’s full engagement in economic growth. The project is designed to “build back equal”, promoting better and gender-inclusive socioeconomic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also aimed at demonstrating how innovative financing vehicles, digital platforms and the tools and frameworks of the Women’s Empowerment Principles can be leveraged to close the financing gaps that women and youth face in the agriculture, sustainable tourism and creative and cultural industries in Small Island Developing States. Launched on 30 May 2022, the process to ascertain financing options within the Caribbean is underway: products will include micro and small business loans, receivables financing and equity/quasi-equity investments. The project has begun training fund managers on gender-lens investing and women entrepreneurs on leadership and networking.

Bangladesh – Financing for inclusion and climate action

The National Resilience Programme in Bangladesh was implemented from 2017 to 2022. It supported human and economic development through initiatives that were aimed at strengthening inclusive and gender-responsive infrastructure resilience. Co-financed by the Government of Sweden and the Government of the United Kingdom, the joint project between the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and UN Women improved the capacity of the Government to design and construct risk-informed and gender-responsive infrastructure and it strengthened the management of infrastructure assets. It increased the country’s resilience to shocks and stresses affecting the natural and built environments and it created an applied understanding of failure analysis to enhance the build-back-better approach to reconstruction.

Guatemala – Financing for inclusion and climate action

In 2022, the partnership between the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) enabled the insurance operations of WFP in Guatemala to contribute to reinforcing food security by incorporating insurance components for smallholder farmers. Focusing on the main weather risks, drought and excessive rain, the project provided parametric microinsurance to subsistence farmers who participated in nationwide activities. The partnership with IFAD resulted in the inclusion of 1,300 households in 2021. WFP also partnered with Heifer International, communities and municipalities to expand the microinsurance programme and contributions towards insurance premiums in 2022, which facilitated the insurance of more than 9,000 households, the installation of 200 rain gauges and 23 automated agroclimatic sensors, and the training of 155 families and four institutions to monitor weather conditions.

Kenya – Adolescent sexual and reproductive health development impact bond



In Kenya, a joint United Nations team, comprising of the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office, the Sustainable Development Goal Partnership Platform, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), has developed the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Development Impact Bond, an innovative financing vehicle that is aimed at transforming adolescent health outcomes in Kenya by tackling the challenges of adolescent pregnancy and HIV infections among adolescent girls. Backed by a \$7 million investment from the United Nations Joint Sustainable Development Goal Fund, the bond will tap into resources from private and public investors to finance the provision of quality adolescent and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, including HIV testing and treatment, to adolescent girls aged between 15 and 19 years in low-income settings.

Lao People’s Democratic Republic – Integrated national financing frameworks

The 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP, 2021-2025) of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic calls for high-quality, sustainable, green and focused development. Following the finalization of the Plan, the Government initiated the formulation of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to identify policies to increase the availability and volume of development finance across public, private, domestic and international financing streams. The formulation of the INFF was supported by the United Nations Joint Programme on Financing Efficiency, funded by the Joint Sustainable Development Goal Fund. Led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office, UNDP, UNFPA and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the Joint Programme partnered with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Environment Programme, UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, WHO, the European Union, the World Bank, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (DFAT) to mobilize specific technical expertise in support of the Government of Lao People’s Democratic Republic. Following discussions between Government and development partners, a consensus was reached on 19 policy directions and 54 practical actions to increase the volume of development finance and align resources to national development priorities. Thanks to the multi-stakeholder participation, the level of ownership across the Government, the prior completion of a series of economic and financial diagnostics, and the addition of a detailed monitoring and evaluation framework, the INFF has become a crucial central policy document for the 9th NSEDP cycle in the context of economic and financial difficulties halting development progress. The Government is currently involved in the implementation of the country INFF. The INFF process in Lao People’s Democratic Republic was also showcased at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Doha in March 2023.

Libya – Innovative private sector partnership

In Libya, WFP is playing a key role in supporting the national development agenda and the transition from emergency to development, through a unique and innovative private sector partnership. Following a comprehensive private sector stakeholder mapping exercise, WFP established a partnership with PepsiCo to advance resilient agricultural practices. This includes supporting the scaling up of hydroponics activities in the Sebha region, which strengthened the climate adaptation skills of local farmers and preserved water resources from over-exploitation. Furthermore, WFP has been collaborating closely with the World Bank since 2020 to strengthen the social protection system. The first phase of the collaboration ended with the dissemination of the 2022 assessment of social assistance programmes and delivery in Libya. Currently, WFP is conducting a social protection survey targeting migrants and refugees, working in collaboration with the World Bank, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Multi-country – Financing for inclusion and climate action

In 2022, WFP partnered with the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Group and Start Network to develop the ARC Replica programme, an innovative approach to expanding climate risk insurance coverage and improving effective humanitarian response in countries prone to climate risks. Under this programme, WFP subscribed eight macroinsurance policies in six countries⁵ to increase protection in case of drought in agricultural and pastoral areas and of tropical cyclones. In total, 1.6 million people were provided protection in the case of an extreme event. From these policies, WFP received four payouts totalling \$15.8 million. In Zimbabwe, StartNetwork and WFP subscribed

⁵ Mauritania, the Gambia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Madagascar and Zimbabwe



a policy and provided technical assistance to the Government. This approach will be replicated in 2023 in Somalia. Furthermore, WFP will collaborate with the UNHCR to inform the engagement of UNHCR in microinsurance.

Multi-country – Blended finance facilities to strengthen food security and regional trade integration in Africa

In July 2022, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, African Export–Import Bank (Afreximbank) and the WFP signed a three-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) to disburse \$2 billion in farming loans and credit lines for agro-processors and commodity traders. The funds will be channelled through Afreximbank’s lending instruments and blended finance facilities to strengthen food security and regional trade integration in Africa. The MoU seeks to promote the commercial development of smallholder agriculture, to facilitate intraregional agricultural trade initiatives and to advance climate change mitigation and adaptation of smallholder agriculture and related value chains. As part of the financing component, Afreximbank will provide adequate financing, lines of credit, supply chain financing and guarantees, among other methods, to support smallholder productive activities. This includes the development of post-harvest storage facilities, support to agro-processing and the development of trade-in commodities and value-added products. An action plan is currently being developed among national governments and partners to implement the MoU.

Southeast Asia – Just energy transition

The Southeast Asia Energy Transition Partnership (ETP) is a five-year multi-donor partnership formed by governmental and philanthropic partners to accelerate the transition to sustainable energy in Southeast Asia in line with the Paris Agreement to help the region to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. UNOPS serves as its fund manager and hosts its secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand. ETP aims to empower its partner countries – Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines – to transition to a sustainable energy system, generate economic growth and ensure energy security. To achieve this goal, ETP will help to mobilize and coordinate necessary technical and financial resources to create an enabling environment for renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable infrastructures in the region.

Panama – Sin taxes for promoting healthy lifestyles for youth

UNFPA has negotiated with the Government of Panama to channel a percentage of taxes coming from the trade of tobacco and its related products to promote healthy lifestyles among youth. UNFPA has used these resources from the Ministry of Health (\$548,000) to invest in promoting healthy lifestyles for youth through the Youth-Friendly Health Service Facilities.

Innovative financing to advance the zero-hunger agenda

In order to address the financing gap, WFP has continued to expand the use of innovative financing mechanisms, including debt swaps and blended finance. WFP Bridge is a joint initiative with UNCDF that is aimed at leveraging the strengths of both United Nations agencies in providing loans to businesses working towards achieving zero hunger. The WFP Bridge facility is aimed at increasing cooperation between United Nations agencies by providing catalytic loans and guarantees to enterprises or projects that have the potential to achieve a scalable positive impact and financial sustainability to support the zero-hunger agenda.

Multi-country – Financing multi-country gender-based violence services and women’s leadership

In 2021, UNFPA and UN Women received \$25 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund to support the strengthening of prevention, mitigation and response to gender-based violence in emergencies. The initiative, which is being implemented in 11 countries and States⁶, is aimed at ensuring that more women and girls who have experienced/are experiencing gender-based violence or are at risk of gender-based violence benefit from the provision of and access to good-quality services and are empowered to increasingly engage in decision making and leadership in the response to and mitigation and prevention of gender-based violence.

⁶ Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar, State of Palestine, Somalia, Sudan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela



The funds were intended to enable a multisectoral response to gender-based violence, including through the provision of medical care, family planning services, psychosocial support, safe spaces, legal support and counselling, and through improved access to livelihoods-related training and cash-for-work opportunities across diverse country settings. The interventions focus on four outcomes, namely:

- Changes in attitudes towards social norms and practices that perpetuate gender-based and gender inequality
- Women-led organizations are empowered to engage in decision making and leadership in the response to and mitigation and prevention of gender-based violence.
- Services for responding to gender-based violence are accessible to women and girls and are delivered through a survivor-centred approach
- Women and girls benefit from the provision of and access to quality, multisectoral services, including legal aid
- The risk of gender-based violence is reduced through the provision of livelihood opportunities and cash-based programming.

Multi-country – Unlocking development financing in fragile and crisis settings

Between 2018 and 2022, more than \$700 million have been invested through a programme on integrated and comprehensive resilience and social protection. Funded by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ), the programme was implemented by WFP, UNICEF and FAO in fragile and crisis contexts, including in the Sahel, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Somalia. WFP is generating evidence on the impact of the joint WFP-BMZ endeavours through impact evaluations of various projects, including the Sahel Resilience Initiative. The BMZ is supporting collaboration between WFP and UNICEF through the funding of joint projects, which is bringing the partnership to new levels in various contexts. For example, WFP and UNICEF continued collaborating on additional initiatives to bolster the livelihoods of vulnerable communities across Niger: supported by BMZ, both agencies aligned their actions to contribute to reinforcing resilience and social cohesion in the Diffa Region. In sites where WFP was conducting land and water rehabilitation activities through asset creation, UNICEF was supporting community engagement and the adoption of good practices, including through malnutrition prevention and social and behavioural change interventions.

Philippines – The humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach in action

WFP worked with the Government of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) to support the region in addressing immediate humanitarian needs while enhancing peace and development. Building on its systematic conflict analysis and humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus approach, WFP supported efforts to improve food security and the agricultural livelihood of decommissioned combatants and those who will soon be decommissioned, smallholder farmers, internally displaced persons and food-insecure families in conflict-affected communities. This included implementing food assistance for assets and home-grown school feeding. WFP provided technical assistance to develop the Government's policy framework and to implement concrete and scalable initiatives that support food security and livelihoods in the region. This complemented the strategic long-term implementation of activities on food security in BARMM. WFP, FAO, UNDP and IOM also embarked on a joint conflict transformation project for BARMM, which received initial seed funding to commence activities.

Kenya – Financing the access to health services

UNOPS, UNICEF and UNFPA worked with the Government of Kenya⁷ to strengthen health-care services across five of the counties that were the worst affected by high maternal mortality. When health-care infrastructure is not functional, patients cannot access health clinics close to their homes, health clinics lose medical supplies that need refrigeration and medical professionals must fight to save lives in overcrowded or unsanitary conditions. As part of a project funded by the United Kingdom, 57 health centres were rehabilitated, incorporating a range of green technology retrofits and solar-powered solutions that were designed to minimize electricity usage and to provide access to clean water services. The project was completed in 2018 and the health centres can now benefit an estimated 1.6 million people.

⁷ <https://www.unops.org/news-and-stories/stories/delivering-for-mothers-in-nairobi>



Zimbabwe – Building long-term resilience

In 2019, flash floods and landslides damaged critical infrastructure in Zimbabwe, leaving more than 50,000 households destroyed, affecting 270,000 people and displacing 60,000 people. Cyclone Idai also cut off communities from basic services. With funding from the International Development Association of the World Bank, the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project was launched to help the recovery in the immediate aftermath of the disaster and to build long-term resilience. As part of the four-year project, work is focused on nine districts that were directly affected by the cyclone. FAO, IOM, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNFPA, WFP and WHO are working together through grants transferred from one United Nations entity to another (“UN-to-UN grant”) to address needs related to food security, livelihoods, health care, education and water, hygiene and sanitation.