

JOINT PROGRAMME DOCUMENT

Project Title: Accelerating Progress toward the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women

Project short title: Rural women's economic empowerment (RWEE)

Geographical coverage: Global: Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda

Executing Agencies: FAO, IFAD, UN WOMEN and WFP

Administrative agent: UNDP Multi Partner Trust Fund Office

Implementing partners: Rural women's networks, Rural institutions, Ministries of agriculture, Ministries of gender, Ministries of environment, Ministries of rural development, Ministries of Finance, Ministries of youth, Ministries of community/local development, and their decentralized entities, National Statistical Systems, and other relevant partners.

Duration of project: 5 years: 15 October 2012 – 14 October 2017

Budget: 35,000,000 US\$

Funds available 375,000 US\$

To be mobilized 34,625,000 US\$

Brief programme description:

The overarching goal of this 5-year joint global programme is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the post MDGs, based on four outcome areas: improved food and nutrition security; increased income to secure their livelihoods; enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes; and gender responsive policy environments for the economic empowerment of rural women.

Names and signatures of participating UN organizations

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(On behalf of ~~IFAD~~)

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TABLE OF CONTENT

ACCRONYMS

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

II. CONTEXT

III. JUSTIFICATION

IV. EXPECTED RESULTS

V. PROGRAMME STRATEGIES

VI. PROGRAMME PARTNERSHIPS

VII. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT MODALITIES

VIII. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

IX. BUDGET

ANNEX 1: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

ANNEX 2: COUNTRY PROFILES

ANNEX 3: THEORY OF CHANGE

ACCRONYMS

AA	Administrative Agent
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme
CEDAW	Commission on the Elimination of All forms of Discriminations Against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
EAFF	East African Farmers Federation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
HQ	Headquarters
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ID	Identity
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
JPO	Junior Professional Officer
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MDG-F	Millennium Development Goals
MPTF	Multi Partner Trust Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NEPAD	New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PAFFO	Pan-African Farmers Forum
P4P	Purchase for Progress
PMF	Performance Monitoring Framework
PO	Producer Organisation
PROPAC	Platform of Farmers Organisations in Central Africa
RWEE	Rural Women's Economic Empowerment
SACAU	Network of Farmer and Agricultural Producer Organisations in Southern Africa
SC	Steering Committee
SOFA	State of Food and Agriculture
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Procurement and Services
UNV	United Nations Volunteer
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Women are central to the development of rural areas and to national economies: they account for a great proportion of the agricultural labour force, especially in subsistence farming, and perform most of the unpaid care work in rural areas. However, rural women and girls have restricted access to productive resources, such as land, agricultural inputs, finance and credit, extension services, and technology, which in turn limits agricultural output. They face more difficulty than men in gaining access to public services, social protection, employment opportunities, information, innovations and local and national markets and institutions, due to cultural norms and security issues. Unpaid care work further hampers rural women's ability to take advantage of on- and off-farm employment and new market opportunities in the agricultural sector. Their leadership and participation in producer organisations, decision making and local governance remains low and rural and agricultural policies insufficiently address their needs and priorities.

Within this context, the overarching goal of this 5-year joint global programme is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the post MDGs, based on four outcomes. Outcome 1 on **improved food and nutrition security**, deals with increasing the productive potential of women smallholder farmers through: ensuring their access to and control over productive resources and services critical to food security and nutrition; and enhancing their agricultural know-how and role in agricultural value chains for increased production and productivity. It also addresses their social protection, and enhanced control and management of local food security reserves. Outcome 2 on **rural women's increased income to secure their livelihoods**, focuses on supporting rural women's livelihood strategies, enhancing their income opportunities along the food value chain, supporting women-led entrepreneurship and promoting their linkages to high value markets. Activities will support women led associations and small scale businesses in overcoming their supply side constraints so that they can take full advantage of all opportunities such as those offered by the food assistance programmes of the World Food Programme such as the Purchase for Progress and school feeding programmes.

Outcome 3 on **rural women's enhanced leadership and participation** in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes promotes their agency in producer organizations and local governance. It involves working with men to guarantee political and social recognition of the role of women by the whole community. Actions under this outcome area will also leverage rural women's voice and influence in key policy processes such as the follow up process to the Rio +20 Conference and the post MDG +15. Outcome 4 on **gender responsive policy environments** for the economic empowerment of rural women catalyzes legislative and policy reforms for the effective enforcement of rural women's land rights and their access to decent wage employment and social protection, and infrastructure. It involves advocating with governments, parliaments and other relevant stakeholders to deliver greater development outcomes to rural women.

The programme will be implemented in the following countries: **Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda**. Each country will define its specific detailed programme implementation plan based on the local context, in partnership with Governments and other national stakeholders and in line with Government priorities.

The available funds amount US\$ 375,000 to fund preparatory activities. The balance of US\$34,625,000 will be funded through non-core resources to be jointly mobilized by the four entities.

II. CONTEXT

Rural women are leaders, decision-makers, producers, workers, entrepreneurs and service providers. They represent one fourth of the world population, account for a great proportion of the agricultural labour force, and perform most of the unpaid care work in rural areas. Therefore, they are at the forefront of food production, processing and distribution. Indeed, available data suggest that agriculture provides a livelihood for 86 percent of rural women and men and employment for about 1.3 billion smallholder farmers and landless workers, of whom 43 percent are women.¹ An estimated two-thirds of the 400 million poor livestock keepers worldwide are women.² Rural women's contributions are vital to the well-being of families and communities, local and national economies, and sustainable development.

Yet, rural women have restricted access to productive resources, such as land, agricultural inputs, finance and credit, extension services, and technology, which in turn limits their agricultural output. They face more difficulty than men in gaining access to public services, social protection, employment opportunities, and local and national markets and institutions, due to cultural norms and security issues. For instance, only 5 percent of agricultural extension services are provided to women farmers³, and in rural sub-Saharan Africa, women hold less than 10 per cent of the credit available to smallholder agriculture.⁴ Although rural women's access to micro-credit has progressed in recent years, microcredit volumes per person while reducing poverty can hardly address changes in production scales required for transformative changes for women's positioning as rural entrepreneurs. Without land titles as collateral, women experience greater difficulty obtaining loans, and this further compromises women's ability to add value, diversify and upscale their production.

Rural women lack access to remunerative markets due to inappropriate scales and/or standards of production, as well as context-specific gender roles and norms. Gender differences in crop choice still persist with lucrative cash crops termed 'male crops' while crops for home consumption are tagged 'female crops' (World bank and Malawi, 2007). FAO notes that *'women farmers smallholders cultivate traditional food crops for subsistence and sale, whereas men are more likely to own medium to large commercial farms and are better able to capitalize on the expansion of agricultural tradable goods. Farms managed by women are generally characterized by low levels of mechanization and technological inputs, which often translate into low productivity'* (FAO 2006).

The burden of unpaid care work further limits rural women's ability to take advantage of on- and off-farm employment and new market opportunities in the agricultural sector. For

¹ www.fao-ilo.org/ilo-dec-employ/en/?no_cache=1

² FAO (2011 (b)), opt.cit.

³ www.fao.org/docrep/005/y3969e/y3969e05.htm

⁴ United Nations (2011). Report of the Secretary-General on Ten-year appraisal and review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, A/66/66.

instance, eight out of ten people without access to an improved drinking water source live in rural areas, and it is most often women and girls who are tasked with fetching water. FAO reports that poor rural women can work as many as 16 to 18 hours per day, doing farm work as well as handling all their domestic responsibilities, whereas men typically work less and have more time to engage in community politics and income generating activities. However, rural women's rights, contributions and priorities have been largely overlooked by mainstream policies and institutions, as their participation in decision making remains very low. They score lowest in all the MDGs compared to women in urban areas and to rural and urban men⁵.

These challenges facing rural women have been further amplified by the combined impact of the recent economic and financial crises, the volatile energy and food prices, climate change, the lack of investment in rural development and agriculture, and demographic changes. For instance in 2010, 925 million people were chronically hungry,⁶ of whom 60 percent were women.⁷ Major spikes in the prices of rice, wheat and maize in 2008 led to a large increase in the number of people going hungry and falling into poverty. Between 130 and 155 million people in the developing world fell into extreme poverty between 2007 and 2008, due to the food and fuel price hikes.⁸ The FAO estimates that the productivity gains from ensuring women's equal access to fertilizers, seeds and tools could raise total agricultural output in developing countries by an estimated 2.5-4 per cent, thereby reducing the number of hungry people by between 100 and 150 million.⁹

Although various development partners have made strong commitments to invest in agricultural development, this has not yet significantly trickled down to rural women. For instance the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reports that of the US\$18.4 billion spent on agricultural aid between 2002 and 2008, donors reported that just 5.6 percent included a focus on gender. In line with the aid effectiveness agenda, there is need to engage donor coordination mechanisms to leverage support to rural women's rights and livelihoods in aid volumes and in their modalities for aid delivery.

Within this context, effective strategic, policy and programmatic responses are called for to improve rural women's food security and nutrition, build the productivity potential of women smallholder farmers, improve their access to assets, resources and services, and expand their income opportunities and access to high-value product markets. It is also crucial to ensure rural women's participation and leadership in the shaping of responses to the identified challenges, rather than to consider them as passive recipients of development interventions.

⁵ Women Watch (2012), Facts and Figures: Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals

⁶ Estimate of FAO in 2010: www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/45210/icode/

⁷ United Nations (2007). Strengthening efforts to eradicate hunger. ECOSOC Annual ministerial review: strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development, E/2007/71, <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/communications/wfp224568.pdf>.

⁸ World Bank (2009). Global Economic Prospects 2009: Commodities at the crossroads.

⁹ FAO (2010). The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11: Women in agriculture, Closing the gender gap for development.

III. JUSTIFICATION

The last decades have witnessed an unprecedented momentum in advancing rural women's rights and improving their livelihoods. The recent Fifty Sixth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on the priority theme "the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges" exemplifies this international attention to issues facing rural women. Although the session did not lead to the adoption of agreed conclusions, the political momentum it has generated provides strong incentives to accelerate progress in the implementation of legal frameworks benefiting rural women, including: the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discriminations Against Women, the November 2011 United Nations General Assembly Resolution on "the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas". These various instruments have not yet fully delivered their promises to rural women in critical mass as evidenced by their huge proportion among the hungriest, their asymmetrical access to capabilities and economic resources and assets, and their low participation in decision making spheres.

Within these parameters, a transformative agenda for the economic empowerment of rural women should be grounded on:

- The recognition of women as food producers, nutrition-care providers, income-earning farmers, while women are also predominant among nutritionally vulnerable populations. This requires addressing production constraints, including unequal access to productive resources, assets, services, knowledge, inputs, credit and markets. Women and men should also be viewed as partners in food security and nutrition efforts, and in ensuring rural women's economic empowerment.
- The urgency to enhance rural women's capacity to take advantage of on- and off-farm decent wage employment. This also involves improving wages and conditions of work for women engaged in agriculture, and promoting women as service providers in the agricultural and rural development sector, including in nontraditional areas such as green jobs through appropriate training.
- The need to build systems and institutions that can deliver the range of financial services rural women need, both in the formal and informal sectors. For instance, access to credit schemes with no collateral and low interest rates, setting up guarantee funds, as well as savings and other financial services are required for the economic empowerment of women food producers. The financial sector should be enabled to provide special lending products to women producer organisations.
- A policy environment that is supportive of rural women's full access to productive resources, assets and services, the strengthening of their food production systems, their ability to consume food of good nutritious value, and their agency at all levels of decision making related to food and nutrition security.
- A knowledge base with sex disaggregated data and gender sensitive indicators on access to and control over resources, agricultural production, asset

ownership, income, time use, governance, leadership and participation, legal and policy frameworks.

- The need to build resilience to external shocks and risks associated with climate change and variability. As the number of human and man-made disasters are increasing around the world, sustainable empowerment of rural women requires the building of resilient food security systems, based on strong institutions and coping mechanisms.
- The recognition of the need to guarantee equal opportunities and benefits to men, women, girls and boys in all areas. A rights-based approach to rural women's economic empowerment, focusing on the elimination of discrimination against rural women and girls which impact on: (i) gendered entitlement systems imposing disparities on access of men and women to resources such as land, services, and infrastructure; (ii) Gender role differentiation leading to unequal distribution of unpaid work burden between women and men, and their availability to respond to changing economic opportunities; (iii) Gendered nature of production which imposes differential outcomes not only on productivity of men and women but also on returns to production due to valuation bias on productive and reproductive work outputs.

Based on these premises, this document outlines a results-oriented collaborative programme among FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women to promote the economic empowerment of rural women. Each agency brings a distinct comparative advantage to this subject: FAO's specialist technical knowledge and policy assistance on agriculture and food security, IFAD's co-financing of rural investment programmes and strong presence in the rural areas, WFP's food assistance innovations and UN Women's technical knowledge on women's economic empowerment, its strong linkage with the women's movement, and its leadership for gender equality and women's empowerment within the UN System. This is to respond to the diversity of issues constraining rural women's economic empowerment which go beyond the mandate of any individual UN entity to tackle alone. By bringing together their know-how, resources, experiences and constituencies, the four entities will have the potential to greatly enhance the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of their work on rural women's economic empowerment.

First, this programme will **link the normative and operational work of the four entities** to foster a comprehensive approach for the economic empowerment of rural women. For instance, FAO as a knowledge based organisation has been instrumental in availing verifiable, accurate, reliable and disaggregated data on rural women which will inform the capacity development and advocacy components of the programme. Its publication 'The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11: Women in agriculture, Closing the gender gap for development' (SOFA) has set high benchmarks in providing reliable evidence on the growth potential of the agricultural sector, and rural women's contribution in it. The FAO's *Agrigender database*, and the *Gender and Land Rights database* which covers more than 70 countries worldwide also provide key elements to substantiate evidenced based advocacy on rural women's land rights. IFAD, through its co-financing of rural investment programmes on the ground and clear targeting strategies for social inclusion, brings in operational knowledge of rural areas, its communities and long-term development patterns. Another key resource in documenting experiences that work on the ground in securing rural women's livelihoods is the FAO, IFAD and WB joint publication

on the *Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook*. At operational levels, UN Women's experience in advocating for women's land rights through legal reforms and in empowering women's groups to claim these rights is also a valuable asset to build on. The WFP food assistance innovations also provide an operational space for promoting rural women's access to market opportunities and income.

Second, this programme will **strengthen macro, meso and micro linkages** in the way the four entities address rural women's economic empowerment. For instance, at the macro level, UN Women's current work on inclusive growth is building a case that macroeconomic policies should prioritize support to rural and agricultural development, and rural women and girls for growth to be at all inclusive and meaningful for hunger and poverty eradication. The FAO SOFA publication also contributes into this debate by linking the underperformance of the agricultural sector in many developing countries to rural women's asymmetrical access to resources, capabilities and opportunities and by raising a red flag on the cost of gender inequality in terms of lost agricultural output, food security and economic growth. By linking macroeconomic policies with the performance of meso level institutions in providing services, assets and inputs, and the impact on rural women's livelihoods at micro level, the programme will build a strong case for a holistic approach to addressing issues facing rural women. The programme will also strengthen collaboration between ministries of agriculture and ministries of gender/women's entities, both at central and local levels.

Third, the programme will enforce a **dual accountability framework** for securing rural women's food and nutrition security, and their access to decent wage employment and other income opportunities: it will strengthen the capacity of rural women's constituencies to demand accountability for full access to productive resources, services, infrastructures, and decision making positions in producer organisations and local governance structures, linking their advocacy platforms with those of the broader women's movement; it will also enhance the capacity of government institutions, structures and systems to adequately respond to rural women's needs and priorities.

Fourth, the programme will address **different dimensions of rural women's economic empowerment**: (i) rural women's asset building and wealth accumulation, ensuring a more equitable balance in the sharing of economic and social benefits, and workloads between women and men; (ii) the social context within which such accumulation occurs including changes in social norms, and in political and social institutions both in terms of how they impact individuals and institutional culture; and (iii) rural women's agency through their collective action to demand positive and meaningful change in their condition and status.

Fifth, the programme has great potential for **breaking the intergenerational transfer of rural women's poverty and dis-empowerment**: through educational and skill enhancement opportunities of both women and girls to improve their access to livelihood options, strengthening their confidence and self-respect in the communities, and engagement in local governance systems and leadership positions.

Although the agencies have participated in many bi-lateral initiatives, this would be the first occasion in which the four agencies have directly collaborated with the specific aim

of empowering rural women in a joint field programme. Together, focusing on a limited number of field sites, this coalition is expected to generate synergies that capitalize on each agency's mandate, comparative advantage and institutional strength to generate more lasting and wider scale improvements in the livelihoods and rights of rural women. The Rio+20 Conference and its follow up processes, and the post 2015 agenda provide great opportunities to the four agencies to reaffirm the role of rural women in sustainable development and strengthen their collaboration through knowledge exchange, advocacy, policy dialogue and joint initiatives on the ground.

IV. EXPECTED RESULTS (see logical framework in annex)

The programme's goal is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the post MDGs +15. The programme design is articulated around four outcomes areas: (i) Improved food security and nutrition; (ii) Increased income opportunities; (iii) Enhanced leadership and participation; and (iv) More gender responsive policy environment. The programme will enhance the role of young women by specifically targeting them throughout its four outcome areas and its activities.

Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security.

This outcome area deals with promoting the productive potential of women smallholder farmers through ensuring their access to and control over productive resources and services critical to food security and nutrition, and building their capacities in enhanced agricultural production, harvesting and storage. It also addresses their social protection, and enhanced control and management of local food security reserves.

Output 1.1

Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security.

Indicative activities

- Work at community level to foster changes of gender-based roles, ensuring equitable access to and control over productive resources, to reach a more adequate share of benefits and workload between men and women.
- Work with communities to raise awareness about land tenure and land use rights to promote women's equal access to and ownership of land for agricultural production.
- Advocate with governments and financial institutions for rural women's increased access to financial services and products such as savings, credit, insurance, domestic payment services and remittances, and promote better linkages between informal and formal financial services.
- Support Governments and the private sector to promote rural women's access to critical integrated services (e.g. personal identification documents, land registration, extension advice, marketing services, medical checkup, legal advice).
- Support Governments to relieve the burden of women's work through research innovations, labour-saving technologies, child care services and fuel efficient stoves.
- Support rural women's access to critical inputs for agricultural production such as tools, high quality seeds and machinery.

Output 1.2

Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production.

Indicative activities

- Support women-led and women-managed local food reserve systems through food banks, consumer cooperatives and nutrition awareness initiatives, as well as the role of women in men-women systems.
- Strengthen rural women's productive capacities through promotion and improvement of food processing and storage, using innovative, productivity enhancing and culturally and ecologically acceptable technologies.
- Build the capacities of women farmers in agricultural technologies, including crop planting, cultivation and harvesting, through bottom up approaches such as Farmer Field Schools.
- Enhance the capacities of women-led associations to jointly manage productive assets and to deliver effective services to their members.

Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth

This outcome area focuses on creating, supporting and developing rural women's-led enterprises, supporting women's role along value chains, enhancing their income opportunities and promoting their linkages to high value markets. It will support women-led associations and small scale businesses in overcoming their supply side constraints so that they can take full advantage of opportunities offered by the market.

Output 2.1

Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products.

Indicative activities

- Strengthen entrepreneurship and support rural women's businesses through access to credit, other financial and business development services, capacity building and training, including in rural service provision and non-traditional roles.
- Support women-led associations and small scale businesses to supply home grown school meals in low income and food insecure countries and areas.
- Support women POs to address their supply side constraints including their transport capacity so that they so that they can procure agricultural products within the framework of the P4P programme and access other market opportunities.
- Strengthen provision of, and linkages to, value addition, marketing and market information, using ICT and sustainable and environmentally-sound tools and technologies.
- Support women and their groups to decide for themselves what they want to farm and provide information on the benefits and limitations of each crop in terms of nutritional benefits and possibilities for income generation.
- Support the capacities of women led associations to develop and manage savings and loan associations.

Output 2.2

Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities.

Indicative activities

- Promote access of rural women to decent work, while addressing issues related to childcare, occupational safety and health, minimum wages, child labour prevention.
- Support rural women's groups to access opportunities for paid ecological services, within the framework of climate change adaptation and mitigation (eg. watershed management, forest nurseries, etc.).

Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.

This outcome area promotes rural women's participation and leadership in rural producer organizations and local governance systems. It involves engaging men such as religious and traditional leaders, chiefs, local authorities and men in general in all activities to guarantee political and social recognition of the role of women by the whole community. Beyond community level empowerment, actions under this outcome area will also leverage rural women's voice and influence in key policy processes such as Rio + 20 and the Post MDG + 15.

Output 3.1

Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to take an active part in local governance systems.

Indicative activities

- Support rural girls/women to access and complete primary and secondary education and vocational training.
- Strengthen rural women, including young women, self-confidence and capacity to take on leadership roles in local governance systems (land committees, community development initiatives) and producer organisations (POs).

Output 3.2

Rural women have greater organisational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions.

Indicative activities

- Develop the capacities of rural women to organize into and participate in cooperatives, service provider and producer organizations, and worker unions.
- Assist informal rural women's groups to affiliate with formal organisations.
- Support POs, cooperatives and unions to make their corporate governance more transparent, effective, accountable, gender equitable and age inclusive through: developing quotas on boards; setting up gender committees; implementing gender policies and strategies; and providing managerial and leadership training.

Output 3.3

Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels.

Indicative activities

- Strengthen rural women's advocacy platforms so that they can engage in regional processes (e.g. CAADP) and key policy debates (e.g. Rio + 20 and Post MDGs +

15), and advocate with their own Governments to hold them accountable at national and local levels.

- Provide women, youth and men with information and means of communication in isolated areas so as to be able to network and exchange experiences and know-how.
- Support regional level dialogues among rural POs, both mixed and women and youth only, through participatory communication, networking, exchange of experiences, dissemination of information, and stakeholder consultations.
- Facilitate networking of rural women's organisations at sub-national and national levels, and their stronger links with the women's movement for better information exchange, advocacy, coordination and participation in national policy and decision making processes.

Output 3.4

Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.

Indicative activities

- Raise awareness on rural women's rights (land, water) through legal literacy, community listening clubs and community radios, and other forums and platforms for communication.
- Foster a supportive and enabling environment, including by involving and sensitizing male advocates at all levels to champion and support change: community dialogue to change gender discriminatory norms and attitudes, sharing of knowledge, networking, participatory methodologies and consultative mechanisms.

Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women

This outcome area catalyzes legislative and policy reforms for the effective enforcement of rural women's land rights and their access to decent wage employment, social protection, and infrastructure. It involves advocating with governments, parliaments and other relevant stakeholders to deliver greater development outcomes to rural women, including in the framework of Rio + 20 and Post 2015. Policy assistance will be grounded on sound information and knowledge about the conditions under which national and regional policies are being formulated and implemented. Those conditions include: (i) the social, cultural, economic and political context of policy making; (ii) the way rural gender issues are conceptualized in policy debates, and the extent to which policy themes are prioritized; (iii) the "rules of the game" in policy making processes; (iv) the key players in terms of their specific roles, interests, expectations, etc.; (v) the role of international and regional policy instruments, such as CAADP framework, various treaties and conventions, etc.; and (vi) capacities and gaps for effective policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and outcome-based adaptation (vii) legal frameworks in place, promoting or hindering women's and youth economic empowerment.

Output 4.1

Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets.

Indicative activities

- Provide Policy Assistance to countries:
 - To mainstream gender into their food, agriculture, nutrition and rural development policies and legal frameworks;
 - To improve national governance for food and nutrition security;
 - To facilitate the establishment and development of gender equitable POs.
- Advocate and strengthen capacities for the implementation of policies advancing women's land rights, including granting of titles to land, joint titling, land distribution programmes and other changes in land law by providing:
 - Capacity development among decentralized officials at all levels;
 - Awareness building and advocacy with parliamentarians, land commissions, and other relevant stakeholders; and
 - Legal aid and appeal mechanisms in relation to land and property issues, both in statutory and customary law.
- Strengthen national institutions and donor coordination mechanisms to deliver evidence-based gender responsive rural development and agricultural programmes, policies (eg. Gender focal points in Ministries, support for gender responsive budgeting –GRB-, etc.) and investments.
- Enhance agricultural and rural development policies to advance rural women's rights within the decent work agenda, through policy support, advocacy and implementation.
- Advocate with Governments for rural infrastructure development and investments in environmentally sustainable technologies and enterprises.

Output 4.2

Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women

Indicative activities

- Pilot the 'women's empowerment in agriculture' index or national scorecard for rural gender equality.
- Provide technical assistance to mainstream gender in agricultural censuses and surveys.
- Build the capacities of national and sub-national stakeholders, including national statistical systems and ministries of agriculture in collecting and analyzing gender disaggregated data.

Output 4.3

An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional and global policy processes.

Indicative activities

- Organize a global conference on rural women farmers in 2014, within the context of the international year of family farmers.
- Support regional policy processes and help develop sustainable regional capacities to accelerate rural women's economic empowerment (e.g. in processes such as CAADP, Rural Futures Initiative, Land Policy Initiative, etc.).

V. PROGRAMME STRATEGIES

- **The accountability framework of the programme** focuses on the following:
 - Status, including improved nutrition security and higher productivity and income, enhanced skills for entrepreneurship, and better working conditions.
 - Rights, addressing the areas of inequalities in social, economic, cultural and political positioning of rural women which prevent them from being part of transformative change in agricultural development and accessing productive resources and assets such as land, services, skills, infrastructure and social protection.
 - Resources, looking at value chain development and access to financial services and products, high value markets, and decent wage employment, and control over the financial returns of their activities.
 - Agency, focusing on participation and leadership of rural women in key policy spaces, processes and rural institutions so that their needs and priorities are adequately addressed in rural development and agricultural policies and financing.
- **Capacity development strategy:** It is articulated around three levels:
 - Strengthening individual capacities of rural women producers to address their supply side constraints, strengthen their productive capacities in agricultural production, harvesting, storage, processing and marketing, and access remunerative markets. Other key areas of individual capacity strengthening are as follows: supporting rural girls/women's access to primary and secondary education and vocational training; boosting rural women and girls' confidence and capacity to participate in local governance; and facilitating the entrance of young women (15-24) in the agro-sector.
 - Developing collective capacities of POs, cooperatives and unions to make their corporate governance more transparent, effective, accountable, gender equitable and age inclusive, as well as supporting informal rural women's groups to affiliate with formal organisations. This also involves strengthening the capacities of rural women's constituencies to demand accountability to their government for greater access to capabilities, assets, opportunities and agency.
 - Enhancing system/institutional capacities as duty bearers to respond effectively to rural women's needs and priorities, through policy interventions that can advance rural women's full access to productive resources, assets, services and decent wage employment, and ensure their equal participation in decision making. This involves capacity development for both decentralized officials such as agricultural extension workers and central officials located in the Ministries of agriculture and other relevant institution.
- **Combination of quick wins and medium/long term results:** The programme will adopt a twin-track strategy with both short-term and medium/long-term results. In the short term, the focus will be on 'quick-wins' through ensuring rural women's equitable access to and benefit from WFP programmes such as Purchase for Progress (P4P), 'Food-for-work' and school feeding programmes. The medium

and long term work will focus on promoting gender responsive policy and legal environments for rural women's economic empowerment, building the productive capacities of rural women, and ensuring their full access to productive resources, assets and inputs.

- **Replicating, upscaling and expanding successful and innovative models on rural women's economic empowerment:** Each site will work to apply best practices and build on existing experiences of the four agencies in each country. Successful and innovative models to be jointly scaled up have been identified. These include: (i) the UN Women One-window model of service provision for rural women successfully piloted in Moldova which brings together ten services providers such as territorial employment agency, labour inspection, rural extension services, chamber of commerce, land and cadastre, entrepreneurship development in one physical location, the Joint Information and Services Bureau (JISB) located in the district Council; (ii) the FAO's model of community listening clubs implemented through the Dimitra programme which have greatly contributed to raising awareness of women and men in rural areas and policy makers, and support for rural women's rights and livelihoods; FAO Farmer Field and Life school and Junior Farmer Field school methodology (iii) the WFP food assistance innovations such as the P4P and the school feeding programmes which provide great entry points for enhancing the entrepreneurship skills and value chains of rural women and for accessing market sustainable market opportunities; (iv) IFAD's experience in household approach and in working with intra-households dynamics, and its knowledge of targeted strategies for social inclusion mechanisms will be a great asset for the programme.

Based on these models, the programme will promote coherence and learning among the four agencies, building on already existing practices and developing synergies among them. Good practice experiences will be documented for scaling up and replication in additional countries. Indicators of impact for gender equality and women's empowerment will also be developed.

- **Tailor made approach for programme design and implementation in each country:** a participatory approaches involving consultation with government officials, rural women's group, youth groups, farmers' organisations, implementing partners, other UN agencies, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) will be used in shaping and implementing the initiative in each country. Considering the diversity of the field sites, the following factors will be taken into account in both the design and implementation phases:
 - Factors affecting the position of rural women, including age, religion, ethnicity, social, economic, political and ecological status.
 - Formal and informal local gender norms (i.e. ideas about the appropriateness/safety of women in public spaces, practices such as early marriage, etc.) and the constraints they may present to the successful implementation of the programme.
 - Social dynamics, with particular attention to tensions or conflicts between men and women that may be triggered by any improvements in women's economic status (i.e. spikes in domestic violence that may accompany any gains made by women in terms of economic agency).

- Agricultural production and food security systems, taking into account the types, varieties and quantities of crop grown, climate change and variability, soil conditions, livestock systems and agricultural practices and technologies.
 - Resilience to external shocks affecting agricultural production and food security, such as natural disasters, forced migration and other natural and man-made disasters.
- **Positioning the joint programme in UN interagency Coordination processes**, such as UNDAF, existing joint programmes, One UN and other coordination mechanisms. Efforts will be made to build support for the programme within the UN country teams and to link it with existing relevant joint programmes.

VI. PROGRAMME PARTNERSHIPS

The programme implementation involves a range of partners.

The implementing partners include:

- Rural women cooperatives, youth groups, POs, unions or groups which may be organized by local areas or by crop;
- Nation- wide POs and unions;
- The main regional rural women's networks. For instance in Africa, the following organisations could participate in the implementation of the regional components of the programme: the women's branch of major farmers organizations such as the Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organizations of West Africa (*Reseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'ouest*- ROPPA); the Network of Farmer and Agricultural Producer Organisations in Southern Africa (SACAU); the East African Farmers Federation (EAFF), the sub regional Platform of Farmers Organisations in Central Africa (PROPAC); and the Pan-African Farmers Forum (PAFFO).
- Ministries of agriculture and rural development, gender/women's affairs, youth land, employment, environment and other relevant ministries and institutions.
- NGOs and CSOs working with rural women.
- Some UN agencies such as UNOPS could also be used as implementing partners.
- UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNV and other UN agencies
- National statistical offices.

The strategic partners include:

- UNEP for the activities related to ecological services;
- UN country teams under the various UNDAFs and Joint Programmes, and the Gender Theme Groups;
- Regional intergovernmental organisations and Regional Economic Communities as they develop regional and sub-regional policies and programmes on agriculture, rural development and land;

- Financial institutions, such as regional, national or local banks that could be sensitized to develop special lending products for rural women to support rural women’s production and marketing systems.
- Multilateral partners such as the World Bank.
- The ‘Contact Group for Rural Women’ established by the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations based in New York and the Informal Network of Women Permanent Representatives based in Rome could play a key role in leveraging political and financial support for the programme.

The potential financial partners include:

- Bilateral and multilateral organisations (e.g. the European Commission, World Bank);
- Private sector companies;
- Private philanthropic foundations and continental/regional business councils.

VII. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT MODALITIES

7.1 Preparatory process for the development and roll out of the programme

The development of this programme document was informed by the following:

Date	Activity
September 2011	Organisation of an Expert Group Meeting on “Enabling rural women's economic empowerment: institutions, opportunities and participation” in Accra in view of the Fifty Sixth Session of CSW, where together with the experts, we jointly identified concrete policy and programmatic recommendations to governments, the UN system, civil society and other stakeholders
September 2011	Organisation of a High-Level Luncheon Event on ‘Empowering Rural Women for Food and Nutrition Security’ at the occasion of the Sixty-Sixth session of the General Assembly, which resulted in the adoption of a Joint Statement of Action with concrete goals and action points for supporting rural women’s role in food and nutrition security
October 2011	Meeting of the Executive Directors for FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP during in Rome at the occasion of the 2011 World Food Day to discuss ways of strengthening our partnership based on each entity’s comparative advantages and pooling resources together to make significant progress for rural women around the world
November 2011	Participatory development of a concept note , based on: (i) substantive inputs from each agency; (ii) consultation with country

	offices to scan the policy environment at country level, and to get detailed information on existing joint work and opportunities for joint programming; and (iii) desk review of documentation/publications from the four entities to inform the design of the programme document
February 2012	Organisation of a joint side event on ‘Accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women’ during the Fifty Sixth session of CSW, to engage member States and other stakeholders in a dialogue on the programme, so and get their concrete suggestions on initiatives that work for enhancing rural women’s economic empowerment
January-April 2012	Scan of the policy environment and mapping of already ongoing programmes and initiatives in the selected countries to inform the development of country programmes.
May 2012	Organisation of a 2-day interagency retreat in Rome to discuss the concept note and various management modalities, including the geographical coverage, the operational and financial management of the programme, etc.
July-December 2012	Joint field missions and consultation workshops at country level to: (i) brief Government counterparts and partners, and identify relevant policy processes and sustainable actions; (ii) organize informal consultation/ meetings with UNCT to brief/inform them and get ownership from UN partners, in parallel with informal consultation and briefing to Government; (iii) organize a stakeholder consultation to formulate country-specific work plans; (iv) engage with UN Country Teams to position the programme within the joint programming window; (v) engage with the donor community at country level to leverage financial support for the programme (vi) gather relevant information from the implementation partners.
July-December 2012	Preparation of baseline indicators and targets against which the performance of the programme will be measured in each country.
July-December 2012	Develop and M&E system and operational guidelines for the programme management.
September-December 2012	Launch of the programme at national and international levels: the launch will be organized in New York during the UN General Assembly, and in Rome and in country during the International Day of Rural women on 15 October 2012. National-level launches will also be organized.

7.2. Management modalities for the implementation of the programme

7.2.1 Geographical coverage

The seven countries to be covered by the programme were selected based on the following criteria:

- Strong presence of the four agencies and an environment conducive to the implementation of a joint programme.
- Enabling political environment as evidenced by: Government's commitment expressed under national development priorities that support rural women's empowerment; the extent to which real impact is possible in five years; there is a reasonable expectation that the investments will be lasting beyond the duration of the programme.
- Economic profile of the country: levels of poverty, especially in rural areas.
- Existence of ongoing project or programmatic initiatives on which the agencies feel they can build on.
- Opportunity for a UN Joint Programme on rural women.
- Priority countries for major donors for agriculture/rural development.
- Pilot countries for the P4P programme.

Different agencies are expected to take the lead in different countries based on their comparative advantage, their ongoing activities and the size of their presence on the ground. The countries chosen and the leading agencies are shown in the table below.

Table: Countries selected and lead agency

Country/ criteria	Participating agencies	Lead agency
Ethiopia	All four	IFAD and UN Women
Guatemala	All four	WFP
Kyrgyzstan	All four	UN Women
Liberia	All four	UN Women
Nepal	All four	UN Women
Niger	All four	FAO
Rwanda	All four	WFP

Additional countries could be considered if funding is available, or for some specific activities: for instance, the women in agriculture empowerment index can only be piloted in countries where data is available, which might be different from the above list of priority countries. The programme will also engage countries that have developed innovative models of rural women's economic empowerment which can inform the implementation of this programme, e.g. integrated service provision.

7.2.2 Operational management of the programme

The programme implementation is based on a principle of dual leadership by the four entities:

- Different agencies will lead for the implementation of the programme at country level, as reflected in the table on the countries according to selection criteria and lead agency in the section of this document on geographical coverage;
- Different agencies will lead for specific activities based on their comparative advantages as reflected in the logical framework in annex 1.

Detailed operational guidelines will be prepared to spell out what it means to be a leading agency in a country or for a specific activity. It is expected that the lead agency in a

country should coordinate activities related to the consultative process for the roll out of the programme at country level, including the engagement with the Government and local donors. The lead agency should also consolidate the narrative and financial reports for submission to donors. Lead agencies will therefore play a key role in ensuring coordination among agencies and between HQ and field level, carrying out joint reporting and streamlining the accounting systems.

The guidelines will also address how staff from each agency communicates internally and with the other three entities about the programme, using for instance various email recipients lists. A dedicated SharePoint site will be created within IFAD, granting also access to external users. Participating staff from each of these agency offices will be affiliated to a “group user ID”. Together with the operational guidelines, country baselines and a joint M&E system will be developed, so as to consolidate project results at country level and also make them comparable globally.

Two ways of working have been identified to inform the programme implementation:

- To strengthen the core business of the four entities, identifying what we are already doing, building synergies and improving the outreach for greater impact;
- To engage in upscaling innovative ‘new’ models of rural women’s economic empowerment.

A programme management unit will be established (location to be defined) and it will be responsible for the overall management of the programme. It will be staffed by a senior programme coordinator, and an operations/knowledge management specialist. Regardless of the geographical location of the programme coordination unit, the programme manager will report to a designated senior official from the entity hosting the coordination unit. In this regards, a detailed reporting and accountability mechanism will be defined in the beginning of the programme. In each country, the programme staff will be composed of the following: a national programme coordinator and an operations manager/M&E specialist. The four entities based at Headquarters will play an advisory role throughout the life cycle of the programme. Detailed job descriptions will be developed for all the positions to be created at international and national levels.

Country teams will be responsible for the implementation of the country programmes. Each country will define a detailed programme implementation plan with specific country information, activities to be implemented, baselines and targets, in partnership with national partners from rural women’s organisations, government, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders. In each country, a National Project Guidance and Coordination Mechanism will be established to build synergies, address intersectionalities and review progress in the implementation of the programme’s activities. It will include government representatives from Ministries such as agriculture/rural development and gender/women’s affairs, the country representatives of the four entities and the national programme coordinator. Joint monthly co-ordination meetings will be held at the county level to share progress, challenges, constraints, good practices and to discuss the way forward for each project site.

7.2.3 Financial management

The programme will use a Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) modality to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency. UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP will

appoint the UNDP Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) to serve as their Administrative Agent (AA) for this Joint Programme. The AA will be responsible for a range of fund management services, including:

- Receipt, administration and management of donor contributions;
- Transfer of funds approved by this Joint Programme to Participating Organizations;
- Consolidation of statements and reports, based on submissions provided to the AA by each Participating UN Organization;
- Synthesis and consolidation of the individual annual narrative and financial progress reports submitted by each Participating Organization for submission to donors through the Steering Committee.

All documentation related to the programme including narrative and financial reports, and other statements will be made available in the website of the MPTF Office online gateway to ensure transparency and accountability.

An international Steering Committee (SC) of the MDTF will be set to oversee the allocation of funds mobilized at international level, and discuss the MDTF requirements and priorities regarding the implementation modalities, the results based reporting, and the information management including donor visibility. It will review the periodic progress reports consolidated by the AA, and give guidance to ensure consistency in reporting from the various countries and documentation of lessons learnt. It will also review the findings of the summary audit reports consolidated by the internal audit service of the AA. It will be composed of the following:

- One senior official from each of the four participating entities: UN Women, FAO, IFAD, and WFP.
- Representatives of the main donors to the MDTF.
- The AA will be an ex-officio member of the international SC.

A national SC of the MDTF will be set up in each of the countries covered by the programme. The national SC will be co-chaired by the designated government official, and the UN Resident Coordinator in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda or the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG) in Liberia. The members of the national SC are:

- One representative from each of the participating entities: UN Women, FAO, IFAD, and WFP.
- One representative from each of the following ministries: agriculture/rural development, gender/women's affairs, economy and finance, community/local development, youth and environment.
- Representatives from the main donors to the programme.
- The MPTF Office will be an ex-officio member of the national SC.

The main tasks and responsibilities of the national SC include the following:

- To oversee the allocation of funds to the different components of the programme. More specifically:
 - For funds earmarked by donors to specific outcome areas (e.g. improved food and nutrition security, increased income, enhanced leadership and participation, or gender responsive policy environments) or activities, the

national SC will review and ensure the alignment of the allocations with the RWEE country programme document and national priorities.

- For unearmarked funds, the national SC will review and approve the criteria for the allocation of available MDTF resources and allocate the available resources to the programme outcome areas. It will prioritize among the outcome areas as necessary, making sure that the allocations are aligned with the RWEE country programme document and the national priorities, and avoiding duplication and overlap between the MDTF and other funding mechanisms.
- To review and approve the periodic narrative and financial progress reports consolidated by the administrative agent, based on the progress reports submitted by UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP.
- To review the findings of the summary audit reports consolidated by the internal audit service of administrative agent the This involved highlighting the

Allocation of administrative costs to the participating agencies will be done as follows:

- The AA will received 1% of all resources mobilized at international and national levels.
- The 7% administrative costs will be allocated as follows:
 - For funds earmarked for a specific country or mobilized at national level or allocated by the International SC to a particular country, the lead agency for the implementation of RWEE in the country will receive the 7% administrative fee levied by MDTF. In the event of two agencies co-leading the Joint Programme at country level, the 7% administrative fee levied by MDTF will be shared equally between the two co-lead entities.
 - For funds allocated to activities to be coordinated from the headquarters (e.g. normative work such as the development of scorecards, and other methodological tools), the 7% administrative fee these will be allocated to the agency hosting the coordination unit.

7.2.4. Communication, advocacy, knowledge management and knowledge networking

A comprehensive communication strategy will be developed at the beginning of the programme to streamline the information, key messages and policy positions, and provide guidance/advise on:

- How the senior leadership of the four organisations will communicate on the programme in interagency mechanisms such as the High Level Task Force on Global Food Security, and in intergovernmental processes (e.g. the G20 on food security, etc.)
- How the staff of the four entities can influence the UN's programming agenda and the donor community to prioritise support to rural women, using the knowledge generated through the joint programme.
- How to conduct gender sensitive participatory communication for the community level activities.
- How to document business cases and best practices, and package the knowledge for the general public. For instance, platforms such as Facebook, Wiki and Twitter could be used as very effective communication and advocacy tools to launch the

programme and engage donors and the wider public through news' updates, threads of discussions and pictures. Wiki is a great interactive platform for knowledge sharing with a wider public and could be used to take stock of the programme's lessons learned, practices etc.

Beyond the communication strategy, the programme will include a strong knowledge management component to ensure that information about the programme, experiences and lessons learnt will be shared among all relevant stakeholders. Another key dimension is the setting up of communities of practice involving relevant staff members from the four entities.

VIII. FUNDRAISING STRATEGIES

The four agencies will jointly fundraise for the programme, with each one allocating some seed funding to kick start the implementation. Traditional donors for agriculture and rural development will be approached as well as those for gender equality and women's empowerment. The following funding options are considered:

- Applying for funding at country level through the UN Joint Programme window.
- Integrating elements of the joint programme into the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).
- Engaging the country offices of bilateral and multilateral organisations during the field visits.
- Organising donor roundtables on the programme, both at national and international levels.
- Setting up a multi donor trust fund for actions targeting rural women.
- Building partnerships with private sector companies, private philanthropic foundations and continental/regional business councils.
- Advocating with women's national funds where they exist for leveraging their support to rural women's agribusinesses.
- Supporting fundraising efforts of Ministries of agriculture or Ministries of gender for the implementation of the programme (e.g. 'telethons').
- Engaging with government programmes on food and nutrition security for them to prioritise initiatives benefiting rural women food producers.
- Engaging with donor coordination mechanisms to leverage financial support to rural women's initiatives.
- Advocating with bilateral development organisations and UNV so that they can assign JPOs and/or volunteers to support the programme implementation.

Individual donors can indicate the programme components and/or countries they would like to support, so that these are reflected in the donor cooperation agreement.

IX. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

A comprehensive Performance Monitoring Framework (PMF) will be developed as an integral part of the programme, highlighting the performance indicators, data sources, collection methods and frequency, responsible actors and baselines and targets for each result (goal, outcomes and outputs). It will be developed in collaboration with local partners and with technical support from the monitoring and evaluation sections of the

four entities. Field visits to key projects sites will be part of the PMF and a plan of supervision and implementation support visits will be prepared on a quarterly basis at country level.

Monitoring activities will involve both the outcome and output levels: monitoring at output level is to be conducted at least quarterly, while it will take place semi-annually at outcome level. Financial monitoring is to be conducted on a monthly basis for effective financial managements and monitoring delivery targets.

Regular reporting will be an integral part of M&E for systematic and timely provision of information. Implementing partners will be reporting on progress on programme management at least semi-annually, and on financial management – at least quarterly. A schedule for narrative and financial reporting to donors will be developed in compliance with donor requirements.

Annual programme review meetings at country level will be organized, involving all the programme's staff and implementing partners, selected government officials from relevant ministries and relevant staff of the four entities.

Both an external mid-term and final evaluations of the programme are planned: the mid-term evaluation will take place in September 2015, while the final external evaluation will be conducted at the end of the programme. Their compliance with the norms of evaluation in the UN System will be ensured with support from the Evaluation Units of the four entities. The monitoring and evaluation information will be shared broadly with all stakeholders involved in the programme to inform future initiatives.

X. SUMMARY BUDGET

OUTCOMES	TOTAL AMOUNT	% COSTS
Preparatory activities (to be covered by the four participating entities)		1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise a 2-day interagency retreat in Rome involving all relevant staff for the preparation of the joint programme document • Undertake joint field missions to the countries covered to engage national partners and stakeholders • Organise national consultative workshops and prepare national programme documents, including the definition of baselines and targets (25,000 \$ per country) • Set up country level national steering committees of the joint programme • Engage in donor coordination mechanisms at country and global levels to leverage political and financial support for the programme • Engage UNCT to leverage UN support to the programme through the gender theme groups, UNDAF, ONE UN and Joint Programmes • Launch the programme at national and international levels (New York during the UN General Assembly and in Rome and in country during the International Day of Rural women) • Identify implementing partners in each country • Recruit programme's international and local staff 	20,000 US\$ 70,000 US\$ 175,000 US\$ - - 100,000 \$ 375,000 US\$	
Total		
Outcome 1 on Improved Food and Nutrition Security	8,200,000 US\$	23%
Outcome 2 on Increased income opportunities	9,000,000 US\$	26%
Outcome 3 on Enhanced Leadership and Participation	4,000,000 US\$	11%
Outcome 4 on More Gender Responsive Policy Environments	4,500,000 US\$	13%
Miscellaneous	250,000 US\$	1%
Programme staff	3,500,000 US\$	10%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme management unit: 1 international programme coordinator, and 1 local finance/knowledge management specialist • In each country: national programme coordinator, and 1 other national staff (profile to be determined based on existing capacities and the specific needs of the programme) 		
Expert consultants	625,000 US\$	2%
Monitoring, mid-term and final evaluations	1,750,000 US\$	5%
Administrative costs (7%)	2,450,000 US\$	7%
Multi Partner Trust Fund (1%)	350,000 US\$	1%
TOTAL	35,000,000 US\$	100%

ANNEX 1: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Results	Indicators	Means of Verification/ Sources of Information	Assumptions/ Risks
Goal: To secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the post MDGs	<u>Quant:</u> % of decrease in the number of undernourished population <u>Quant:</u> proportion of rural women owning or –co-owning land	Data from agricultural surveys and censuses Official government reports FAO reports	
Outcome 1 Rural women have improved food and nutrition security	<u>Quant:</u> Increase of agricultural production of women farmers <u>Qual:</u> Evidence of improvement of rural women dietary diversity and consumption patterns	Reports of ministries of agriculture/rural development Crop assessments Reports of local councils Programme's progress reports	
Output 1.1. Rural women have increased access to resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security.	<u>Quant:</u> Number of rural women's cooperatives accessing credit <u>Quant:</u> Number of rural women accessing integrated services <u>Quant:</u> Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques	Reports of local banks and microcredit institutions Records of the joint service bureaus in rural areas Programme's progress reports	
<p><u>Activity 1.1.1.</u> Work at household and community level to foster changes of gender-based roles, ensuring equitable access to and control over productive resources to reach a more adequate share of benefits and workload between men and women (all).</p> <p><u>Activity 1.1.2.</u> Work with communities to raise awareness about land tenure and land use rights to promote women's equal access to and ownership of land for agricultural production (Lead: FAO and UN Women)</p> <p><u>Activity 1.1.3.</u> Advocate with governments and financial institutions for rural women's increased access and remittances, and promote better linkages between informal and formal financial services to financial services and products such as savings, credit, insurance, domestic payment services (Lead: IFAD and UN Women)</p> <p><u>Activity 1.1.4.</u> Support Governments to promote rural women's access to critical integrated services (e.g. personal identification documents, land registration, extension advice, marketing services, medical checkup, legal advice). (Lead: UN Women)</p> <p><u>Activity 1.1.5.</u> Support Governments to relieve the burden of women's work through research innovations, labour-saving technologies, child care services and fuel efficient stoves (Lead: IFAD and UN Women)</p> <p><u>Activity 1.1.6</u> Support rural women's access to critical inputs for agricultural production such as tools, high quality seeds and machinery (Lead: FAO)</p>			
Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves.	<u>Quant:</u> Number of sustainable women led and managed local food security reserves <u>Quant:</u> Number of rural women accessing innovative food	Programme's progress reports WFP activity reports FAO activity reports	

	processing plants		
<p><u>Activity 1.2.1:</u> Support women's led and managed local food reserve systems through food banks, consumer cooperatives and nutrition awareness initiatives, as well as the role of women in men-women systems (Lead: WFP)</p> <p><u>Activity 1.2.2:</u> Strengthen rural women's productive capacities through promotion and improvement of food processing and storage, using innovative, productivity enhancing and culturally and ecologically acceptable technologies (Lead: FAO)</p> <p><u>Activity 1.2.3:</u> Build the capacities of women farmers in agricultural technologies, including crop planting, cultivation and harvesting, through bottom up approaches such as Farmer Field Schools (Lead: FAO)</p> <p><u>Activity 1.2.4:</u> Enhance the capacities of women-led associations to jointly manage productive assets and to deliver effective services to their members (Lead: UN Women)</p>			
<p>Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.</p>	<p><u>Quant.:</u> Income generated by rural women's cooperatives from their sales to WFP and other markets</p> <p><u>Qual:</u> Evidence of better quality of life and status of rural women</p>	<p>Reports of WFP on P4P and school feeding programmes</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>	<p><u>Assumption</u> Rural women's groups have the capacities to meet the standards of WFP for P4P</p>
<p>Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products.</p>	<p><u>Quant:</u> Number of rural women's cooperatives procuring agricultural products and home grown school meals through WFP programmes</p>	<p>Reports of WFP on P4P and school feeding programmes</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>	
<p><u>Activity 2.1.1.</u> Strengthen entrepreneurship and support rural women's businesses through access to credit, other financial and business development services, capacity building and training, including in rural service provision and non-traditional roles (Lead: IFAD, UN Women and WFP)</p> <p><u>Activity 2.1.2.</u> Support women led associations and small scale businesses to supply agricultural products and home grown school meals in low income and food insecure countries and areas (Lead: WFP)</p> <p><u>Activity 2.1.3.</u> Support women POs to address their supply side constraints including their transport capacity so that they so that they can procure agricultural products within the framework of the P4P programme and access other market opportunities (Lead: WFP)</p> <p><u>Activity 2.1.4.</u> Strengthen provision of, and linkages to, value addition, marketing and market information, using ICT and sustainable and environmentally sound tools and technology (Lead: FAO)</p> <p><u>Activity 2.1.5.</u> Support women and their groups to decide for themselves what they want to farm and provide information on the benefits and limitations of each crop in terms of nutritional benefits and possibilities for income generation (Lead: FAO)</p> <p><u>Activity 2.1.6.</u> Support the capacities of women led associations to develop and manage savings and loan associations (UN Women)</p>			
<p>Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities.</p>	<p><u>Quant:</u> Number of rural women's cooperatives providing paid ecological services</p>	<p>Reports from the Ministry of environment</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>	
<p><u>Activity 2.2.1.</u> Promote access of rural women to decent work, while addressing issues related to childcare, occupational safety and health, minimum wages, child labour prevention (Lead: FAO)</p> <p><u>Activity 2.2.2.</u> Support rural women's groups to access opportunities for paid ecological services, within the framework of climate change adaptation and mitigation (eg. watershed management, forest nursery, etc.) (Lead: UN Women)</p>			

<p>Outcome 3 Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.</p>	<p><u>Quant:</u> Proportion of rural women elected representatives in rural councils</p> <p><u>Quant:</u> Proportion of rural women who are members of land committees</p> <p><u>Quant:</u> Proportion of POs led by women</p> <p><u>Qual:</u> Evidence of rural women's empowerment in intra-household decision making</p>	<p>Reports of local councils</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>	<p><u>Risk</u> There is resistance against rural women's leadership and participation</p>
<p>Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance.</p>	<p><u>Quant:</u> Number of rural girls enrolled in secondary education</p> <p><u>Quant:</u> Number of women candidates for elections in rural councils</p>	<p>Reports of the ministries of education WFP activity reports</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>	
<p><u>Activity 3.1.1.</u> Support rural girls/women to get primary and secondary education and vocational training (Lead: WFP) <u>Activity 3.1.2.</u> Strengthen rural women and young women's self confidence and capacity to take on leadership roles in local governance (land committees, community development initiatives) and producer organisations (POs). (Lead: UN Women)</p>			
<p>Output 3.2 Rural women have greater organisational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions</p>	<p><u>Quant:</u> Number of informal rural women's groups who join formally registered POs, cooperatives and unions</p> <p><u>Quant:</u> Number of POs, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/strategy and/or a women's quota for their board</p>	<p>Programme's progress reports</p>	<p><u>Risk:</u> Resistance of leaders of POs, cooperatives and unions to have more transparent, accountable and gender equitable organisations</p>
<p><u>Activity 3.2.1.</u> Develop the capacities of rural women to organize into and participate in cooperatives, service provider and producer organizations, and/or worker unions (Lead: WFP, FAO, IFAD) <u>Activity 3.2.2.</u> Assist informal rural women's groups to affiliate with formal organisations (Lead: all) <u>Activity 3.2.3.</u> Support POs, cooperatives and unions to make their corporate governance more transparent, effective, accountable, gender equitable and age inclusive through: developing quotas on board; setting up gender committees; implementing gender policies and strategies; and providing managerial and leadership training (Lead: FAO)</p>			
<p>Output 3.3 Rural women including young women have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels.</p>	<p><u>Qual:</u> Extent to which rural women's coalitions adopt common positions to influence national and regional policy forums on the Post MDG Plus 15 and Rio Plus 20 follow up</p>	<p>Reports of rural women's networks</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>	
<p><u>Activity 3.3.1.</u> Strengthen rural women's advocacy platforms so that they can engage in regional processes (e.g. CAADP) and key policy debates (e.g. Rio +20 and Post MDGs +15), and advocate with their own Governments to hold them</p>			

<p>accountable at national and local levels. (Lead: UN Women)</p> <p>Activity 3.3.2: Provide women, youth and men with information and means of communication in isolated areas so as to be able to network and exchange experiences and know-how (Lead: FAO)</p> <p>Activity 3.3.3. Support regional level dialogues among rural POs, both mixed and women and youth only through participatory communication, networking, exchange of experiences, dissemination of information, and stakeholder consultations (Lead: IFAD)</p> <p>Activity 3.3.4. Facilitate networking of rural women's organisations at sub-national and national levels, and their stronger links with the women's movement for better information exchange, advocacy, coordination and participation in national policy and decision making processes (Lead: FAO and UN Women)</p>			
<p>Output 3.4 Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment.</p>	<p>Quant: Number of rural women and youth participating in community listening clubs</p>	<p>Reports of the FAO Dimitra Programme</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>	<p>Risk: There is male resistance to women's empowerment at local level</p>
<p>Activity 3.4.1. Raise awareness on rural women's rights (land, water,..) through legal literacy, community listening clubs and community radios (Lead: FAO)</p> <p>Activity 3.4.2. Foster a supportive and enabling environment, including by involving/sensitizing male advocates at all levels to champion and support change: sharing of knowledge, networking, participatory methodologies and consultative mechanisms (Lead: UN Women)</p>			
<p>Outcome 4 A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p>	<p>Quant.: Proportion of government budgets and donor funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women</p> <p>Quant: number of countries passing laws to secure rural women's land ownership</p>	<p>National budgets</p> <p>OECD/DAC reports</p> <p>National CEDAW reports</p> <p>Reports of NWM</p>	<p>Assumption: There is political will to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment</p>
<p>Output 4.1 Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets.</p>	<p>Qual: extent to which national land, food, nutrition, agricultural and rural development policies and laws make provisions for gender equality and women's empowerment</p>	<p>Reports of sectoral ministries dealing with: land, food, nutrition, agricultural and rural development policies</p> <p>Reports of parliamentary commissions</p>	
<p>Activity 4.1.1. Provide Policy Assistance to countries: to mainstream gender into their food, agriculture, nutrition and rural development policies and legal frameworks; improve national governance for food and nutrition security; and facilitate the establishment and development of gender equitable POs (Lead: FAO and UN Women)</p> <p>Activity 4.1.2. Advocate and strengthen capacities for the implementation of policies advancing women's land rights, including granting of titles to land, joint titling, land distribution programmes and other changes in land law by providing: capacity development among decentralized officials; awareness building and advocacy with parliamentarians, land commissions, and other relevant stakeholders; and legal aid and appeal mechanisms in relation to land and property issues, both in statutory and customary law (Lead: FAO, IFAD and UN Women)</p> <p>Activity 4.1.3. Strengthen national institutions and donor coordination mechanisms to deliver evidence based gender responsive rural development and agricultural programmes, policies (eg. GFP in Ministries, support for GRB, etc.) and investments. (Lead: UN Women and FAO)</p> <p>Activity 4.1.4. Enhance agricultural and rural development policies to advance rural women's rights within the decent work agenda, through policy support, advocacy and implementation (Lead: FAO)</p> <p>Activity 4.1.5. Advocate with Governments for rural infrastructure development and investments in environmentally sustainable technologies and enterprises (Lead: UN Women and WFP)</p>			

<p>Output 4.2 Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women</p>	<p><u>Quant:</u> Number of countries where the women's empowerment in agriculture index is piloted</p>	<p>Reports of USAID on the Women's empowerment in agriculture index</p> <p>Reports of national statistical offices</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>	<p><u>Risk</u> Gender disaggregated data are not available to compute the women's empowerment in agriculture index in the programme's priority countries</p>
<p><u>Activity 4.2.1.</u> Pilot a 'women's empowerment in agriculture' index/national scorecard for rural gender equality (Lead: all) <u>Activity 4.2.2.</u> Provide TA to mainstream gender in agricultural censuses and surveys (Lead: FAO) <u>Activity 4.2.3.</u> Build the capacities of national and sub-national stakeholders, including national statistical systems and ministries of agriculture in collecting and analyzing gender disaggregated data (Lead: FAO)</p>			
<p>Output 4.3 An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes.</p>	<p><u>Quant:</u> Number of regional dialogue mechanisms on agriculture, rural development and land that involve rural women's groups</p>	<p>Reports of regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organisations (e.g. NEPAD's reports on CAADP)</p>	<p><u>Assumption</u> There are political openings for rural women's participation in regional policy processes</p>
<p><u>Activity 4.3.1.</u> Organize a global conference on rural women farmers in 2014, within the context of the international year of family farmers (Lead: all) <u>Activity 4.3.2.</u> Support regional policy processes and help develop sustainable regional capacities to accelerate rural women's economic empowerment (e.g. in processes such as CAADP, Rural Futures Initiative, Land Policy Initiative, etc.) (Lead: all)</p>			

Ethiopia

- Strong presence of all agencies: All four agencies are present, along with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). All have long presence with established programmes in Ethiopia and are members of UNCT.
- Enabling political environment: Rights of women are included in the Constitution and a number of policies and programmes with interventions to promote gender equality and women's empowerment: the National Policy on Women of Ethiopia (1993) and sectoral strategy, the Women's Change and Development Package and the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (2005/06-2009/10). More recently, the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) (2010/11-2014/15) has included specific commitments to increasing women's participation in political life and decision making, promoting women's economic empowerment and reducing violence against women. The Government of Ethiopia has also set up an extensive network of institutions at federal and regional level to ensure that policies and programmes on gender are effectively implemented and coordinated including the Ministry and Regional Bureaux of Women, Children and Youth Affairs. Although women's representation in the current cabinet is very low with only 3 out of 23 cabinet ministers, and 5 of the 33 state ministers, the percentage of women Members in the House of People's Representatives has increased from 7.7 percent in 2000 to 27.2 percent in 2010, while the percentage of women elected to Regional Councils has risen from 13 percent in 2000 to 26 percent in 2005 elections.
- Economic profile: Ethiopia is a least developed country (LDC), ranking 174 out of 187 countries for the Human Development Index (HDI) in 2011. Ethiopia is one of the most rural societies in the world, with 85% of its 79 million population engaged in subsistence agriculture, of whom 49.9% are women. Women own only 19 percent of the land (CSA 2007/2008). The 2011 drought left 4.5 million people in need of emergency food assistance in Ethiopia. Pastoralist areas in southern and south-eastern Ethiopia have been worst affected by the drought. Further, cereal markets had a supply shock and food prices rose above 2008 levels, resulting in high food insecurity among poor people. The Humanitarian Requirements Document issued by the government in early 2012 estimates that 3.2 million people will require relief food assistance from January to June 2012.
- Ongoing initiatives to build on: FAO, UN Women and WFP provide multi-partner support under the Household Asset Building Programme (HABP) which is part of the National Food Security Programme, and IFAD through complimentary support on micro-financing under the RUFIP II framework. There is also a Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment embedded in the joint UNDAF Action Plan 2012-2015, which is led by UN Women. UN Women also acts as the permanent co-chair of the Donor Group on Gender Equality (DGGE), coordinating and monitoring its joint annual work plan and representing the DGGE in sector working group chaired by Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MoWCYA).
- Opportunity for UN Joint Programming: Yes. Ethiopia is a self starter for the One UN and all UN agencies have one joint UNDAF Action Plan rather than specific ones.
- Pilot country for the P4P: Yes

Guatemala

- Strong presence of all agencies: FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP all have a strong presence with Country Offices in Guatemala..
- Enabling political environment: The Presidential Secretariat for Women has been assigned a higher profile and political importance within the current administration, and the economic empowerment of women is stated as one of its highest priorities. The government's priorities place emphasis on the eradication of malnutrition and the creation of employment; however, resources are concentrated in the field of malnutrition, leaving an excellent opportunity to boost employment opportunities in the rural areas. The need to provide entrepreneurial services to women is recognized in the Government Plan. The government's flagship program "Hambre Cero" (Zero Hunger) has established that aid transfers will be realized through women, and women's important role in combating malnutrition and poverty is frequently mentioned: however, there is a lack in the implementation of practical measures to improve women's conditions. Guatemala scores 0.542 for its gender inequality index in 2011.
- Economic profile: Guatemala ranks 131 out of 187 countries for the HDI in 2011. With the fourth highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world and the highest in Latin America and the Caribbean, the country faces a serious challenge to reduce chronic undernutrition, currently at 49.8% among children under 5. In Guatemala, the face of poverty and hunger is young, indigenous and rural.
- Ongoing initiatives to build on: The agencies have experience in working together in joint programmes through the MDG-F funded "Strengthening the Women's Machinery in Guatemala" programme that ended in 2011. Guatemala is one of the countries covered by the new IFAD-UN Women multi-country programme on 'Broadening economic opportunities for rural women entrepreneurs in the Latin America and Caribbean region'. The programme aims at further expanding women's productive potential, empowering them to retain control over their produce and income, and identifying women's local talents and strengthening their leadership capacities in rural organizations and local government institutions. IFAD is also funding the National Rural Development Programme for the Central and Eastern Regions (2008-2014) and the National Rural Development Programme, Phase I for the Western Region (2006-2012). All these IFAD funded programmes promote the inclusion of poor indigenous women in producers' groups and enterprise development initiatives.
- Opportunity for UN Joint Programming: Yes. Since 2012, UN Women leads a consortium consisting of UN and other international organizations, the private sector, academia, civil society organizations and representatives of the ministries of Economy, Environment and Agriculture aimed at designing a joint program for the promotion of women's green inclusive production chains, with a strong focus on income generation, environmental sustainability and food security in rural areas. The Consortium has established a committee consisting of UN Women, FAO, IICA, CATIE and the University of Rafael Landívar for the design of the program strategy which will be presented at the governmental Roundtable on Rural Economy. Some members of the consortium (eg. FAO and IICA) work actively with WFP, while AGEXPORT works closely with IFAD.
- Pilot country for the P4P: Yes

Kyrgyzstan

- Strong presence of all agencies: FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP have country presence.
- Enabling political environment: Between 2010 and 2011, Kyrgyzstan enjoyed two years of a woman's presidency, with H.E. Rosa Otunbayeva who was the first-ever female president in the EECA sub-region, who managed to maintain stability and peacefully pass on power to a newly elected President. Kyrgyzstan has an extensive legislative base, guaranteeing gender equality: GEL (2003), DVL (2003), civil, penal, labor and family codes proclaiming equal rights, land/privatization legislation (2001/2002), etc. However there is no full-fledged body performing the functions of a women's national machinery, but only a department within the Ministry of Youth, Labour and Employment with low mandate and budget. The development of the separate National Action Plan on Gender Equality (2007-2010), the draft National Gender Equality Strategy (NGES- 2012-2020) and its Action Plan (2012-2014) is a manifestation of political to address that. The country has adopted a 30% quota for women's political participation however women's representation is still low with 23.3% of women MPs, and only one female Minister (Social Protection) and one female Vice Prime Minister. The country scores 0.370 for the gender inequality index in 2011.
- Economic profile: Kyrgyzstan ranks 126 for the HDI out of 187 countries in 2011. It is the second poorest country in Central Asia, with almost 40% of the people living below the poverty line and an estimated 47% who are food-insecure. One of the main reasons large parts of the population are locked in a cycle of poverty and hunger is that the country is frequently exposed to natural disasters shocks such as earthquakes, mudslides and flooding combined with dilapidated infrastructure and a complex ethnic and political environment.
- Ongoing initiatives to build on: Since 2001, UN Women has been working to incorporate gender issues within the land privatization reform. Key achievements to date include adoption and enforcement of specific provisions in policy and legislation frameworks securing women's right to land, provision of legal assistance, ensuring women's access to formal and informal justice, and raising general public awareness of women's rights to land. UN Women has expanded its work beyond land ownership to overall economic security, including access to necessary agricultural services and products, financial mechanisms, micro-credit instruments, and raising awareness and skills to effectively utilize these resources, with the overall goal of working the land and improving the livelihoods of members of the most economically vulnerable households. FAO works on Agricultural support to families affected by conflict. There is some collaboration between FAO, GIZ, UN Women, WB and WFP on food security. IFAD is supporting two programmes: Program for Accelerating the Financial Empowerment of Poor Rural Communities in Asia and the Pacific through Rural Finance Innovations (APRACA); and Programme on Improving Livelihoods of Small Farmers and Rural Women through Value-Added Processing and Export of Cashmere, Wool and Mohair (ICARDA). Additionally, UN Women has also established a productive partnership with the private sector (Kumtor Operating Company) to improve women's food security and livelihoods. There are a functioning UN GTG and a Donors' Gender Coordination Group. The UNCT has adopted a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy 20011-2016 which is currently being implemented.

- Opportunity for UN Joint Programming: Yes. Kyrgyzstan is a self starter for the One UN.
- Pilot country for the P4P: No

Liberia

- Strong presence of all agencies: FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP are present in Liberia..
- Enabling political environment: The election of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as Africa's first female president since 2005 marked the beginning of a new era with political commitment at the highest level to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. Liberia has adopted policies and actions critical for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. These include the revised Rape (2006) and Inheritance (2003) Laws, the National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action (2006), the National Health Policy (2007), the Policy on Girls Education (2006), the HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan of Action (2006), the Poverty Reduction Strategy (2008-2011), as well as the National Gender Policy (2009). Liberia scores 0.671 for the gender inequality index in 2011. Liberia's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) recognizes the importance of the agriculture sector for economic recovery, inclusive growth and poverty reduction, and lists gender inequality as a key concern on the way to improve agricultural production. The policy framework for agriculture also includes the Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Programme (LASIP) as well as the Food and Nutrition Strategy, both stressing the importance of expanding agricultural production to reduce dependency on food imports, reduce food insecurity and promote inclusive economic development.
- Economic profile: Liberia is a LDC, ranking 182 out of 187 countries for the HDI in 2011. Its GDP growth rate in 2011 is 6.9%. The impact of its 14-year civil war which devastated the country's entire physical and organizational infrastructure still inhibits human development.
- Ongoing initiatives to build on: FAO, UN Women, and WFP are partnering in Liberia through the UN/Government of Liberia Joint Programme for Food Security and Nutrition, JP FSN 2008 – 2012. Within JP FSN, UN Women provides organizational development, business development and capacity strengthening to women's farming groups. These women's groups receive support, including agricultural inputs and labour-saving technologies and training in marketing, food processing and nutrition from FAO and WFP. Highly performing women's cooperatives are then connected to the WFP P4P Programme to sell their produce. The current activities under JP FSN are funded by the Government of Denmark and the programme's funding will end in June 2012. UN Women also leads the Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment, JP GEWEE 2009 – 2012, which provides complementary support to the rural women targeted under JP FSN. This support for rural farmers includes literacy training and increased access to financial services through savings and loan associations and credit unions. Through a grant from IFAD in 2010, UN Women has supported initiatives to increase rural women's access to land and financial services. Under the IFAD-funded project, UN Women conducted a study on access to land, trained rural women's groups on advocating for land access, and piloted Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) with two rural farming groups resulting in their increased access to credit facilities and purchase of deeded land.
- Opportunity for UN Joint Programming: Yes. Liberia is a self starter for the One UN. Recent initial discussion at country level between FAO, UN Women and WFP

has led to the proposal to focus this joint programme on building on the success of the JP FSN to expand its activities to reach women's farming groups in two additional counties in Liberia. Currently the JP FSN is only covering 4 of the 15 counties. The activities would include the following: providing linkages to affordable inputs and technology; providing training in processing, marketing and nutrition; and increasing women's access to credit, and literacy and business training. The activities would also build on the lessons learned from the IFAD-funded UN Women project and use a similar model of training in agricultural-based VSLA to increase women's financial independence and access to purchased land.

- Pilot country for the P4P: Yes

Nepal

- Strong presence of all agencies: All four entities have a country office in Nepal.
- Enabling political environment: The country has enacted various gender equality and women's empowerment legal instruments such as: Gender Equality Act (2006); Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act (2007) and its Regulation (2008); Domestic Violence (Crime and Punishment) Act (2009) and its Regulation (2010); Engendering of Foreign Employment Act (2007) and its Regulation (2008); Engendering of Constituent Assembly Election Act (2007); and adoption of NAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 (2011). The new constitution is expected to be adopted by 2012. With the ongoing advocacy, there is an opportunity that Nepal will have a gender responsive constitution which will also safeguard women's concerns in the federal structure of governance. The introduction and implementation of quotas for women in the CA Election in 2008, led to 33 percent women's representation. Nepal's gender inequality index is 0.558.
- Economic profile: Nepal is among the poorest countries in South Asia, ranking 157 out of 187 countries for HDI. Agriculture remains Nepal's principal economic activity which accounts for 34 % of its GDP, and provides employment to over 73% of the population, out of which more than 80% are women. However, three and a half million people are considered moderately to severely food insecure. Ongoing political instability combined with frequent droughts and floods and sustained high food price inflation have compounded endemic factors, leading to increased vulnerability to food insecurity in the country. The overall thrust of the Government's Three-Year Plan (2010/11-2012/13) is on poverty alleviation and sustainable peace through employment centric inclusive and equitable economic growth.
- Ongoing initiatives to build on: Nepal is a pilot country for the scaling up nutrition initiative. UN Women is leading the coordination of the 'SG's Seven Points Action Plan for Gender Responsive Peace Building'. Seven UN agencies have committed to supporting one or more of the commitment areas. FAO has committed to support the work on economic recovery and post conflict financing. IFAD provides support to the UN Women's programme on 'Making Politics Work for Women'. The UN System in Nepal prioritises gender as part of its UNDAF, both the current (2008-2012) and the new UNDAF (2013-2017) now under development. Other initiatives to build on are: joint support of UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA for gender mainstreaming into Nepal's Population and Housing Census 2001 and more recently in 2011, resulting in the collection of gender disaggregated data on women's unpaid household economic activities, property ownership and migration; UN Women's Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)

initiated in 2001 in partnership with UNDP and the Ministry of Finance (MoF), which led to the adoption of GRB by all the government machineries at the national level since the fiscal year 2007/2008¹⁰, including at local level; the safe migration and reintegration programme for returnee of women migrant workers (WMWs) through the use of remittances for creating sustainable livelihoods and organising them at the local level to claim rights and entitlements.

- Opportunity for UN Joint Programming: Yes.
- Pilot country for the P4P: No

Niger

- Strong presence of all agencies: FAO, IFAD and WFP have a liaison office, while UN Women has very limited presence, with support from its sub-regional office based in Dakar.
- Enabling political environment: The country has ratified CEDAW with numerous reservations and scores very high for the gender inequality index with 0.724. However, both the new Constitution and electoral Code provide for equal voters rights. Niger also adopted a quota law in July 2000 (Act No. 2000-008) which brought substantial improvements in women's representation in government, parliament and communal councils. The law requires that at least 10% of all elected positions should be occupied by the one or the other sex and 25% for all appointed positions. At national level, there has been a 11,5 % increase (from 1 to 14 out of 113) in female Members of Parliament between 1999 to 2011.
- Economic profile: Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world. It is a LDC which ranks 186 out of 187 countries for the HDI. 80% of its population lives in rural areas. Approximately 59, 5 % of the population is living under the poverty line (INS 2009). Niger also lacks behind on most socio-economic indicators and is unlikely to achieve any of the MDGs by 2015, with a global literacy rate of 29% (INS 2008) and a maternal mortality rate of 648/100 000 births. Over 750,000 of its 13 million population are severely food insecure, a number which could rise to over one million by early 2012.
- Ongoing initiatives to build on: FAO has been partnering with UN Women for the community listening clubs within the framework of the Dimitra Project. There has also been some attempt for FAO and UN Women to implement a joint project on rural women's leadership.
- Opportunity for UN Joint Programming: Yes
- Pilot country for the P4P: No

Rwanda

- Strong presence of all agencies: All four entities have physical presence in Rwanda with a long experience of working in rural areas.
- Enabling political environment: Rwanda is one of the best performers African countries in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment with a gender inequality index of 0.453. The role of women in realizing the vision 2020 is central to Rwanda's development agenda. The Government of Rwanda has demonstrated that, in order to fast track the achievement of its vision and the Millennium

¹⁰ With the adoption of the system, the directly gender responsive budget increased from 11.3% in 2007/2008 to 19.05% in 2011/2012. Similarly, during the same period, the indirectly gender responsive budget increased from 33.16% to 45.78% and the gender neutral budget decreased from 55.54% to 35.17%.

Development Goals, both women and men must equally participate in, and benefit from development processes (Vision 2020; EDPRS, 2007). National Laws, policies and institutional mechanisms have been implemented to promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment including the National Gender Policy, the Law on Prevention and Punishment of GBV (2008), the National Agricultural Gender Strategy, etc. Women represent 56.25% of seats in Parliament, 36% in Senate, 30% of Ministers in Cabinet, 42% of Judges at Supreme Court, and 50% of Permanent Secretaries¹¹. Women are also well represented in other decision making organs, at central and local levels. The high representation of women in decision making organs at national level has positively impacted on women's perception of their role in participating in leadership at grassroots and institutional levels through role modeling particularly for the youth. Several bodies have also been set up at national and decentralized levels to advance, coordinate and monitor gender issues. These include the Ministry for Gender and Family Promotion, the Gender Monitoring Office (GMO), the National Women's Council and Rwanda Women Parliamentary Forum.

- Economic profile: Rwanda is a LDC which ranks 166 for the HDI out of 187 countries. Rwanda has sustained an average economic growth rate of 5.8 % for over 10 years making the country one of the fastest growing economies of Africa and a model in post-conflict reconstruction. In the past three years, Rwanda's economy has registered a consistent 7% annual growth rate. Poverty rates dropped from over 70% in 1995 to 56.9% in 2010 (with a national target of 23.8% by 2015). Despite this drop, 42% still live in absolute poverty of which a great majority is women. The incidence of poverty is much higher in rural areas (62.5 %) than in urban areas (13% in Kigali and 41.5% in other towns) (NISR 2006). Although agriculture is the backbone of the economy generating over 37.4% of GDP (EDPRS), and over 80% of employment, production remains predominantly at a subsistence level due to challenges related to the hilly topography, lack of modern technology, demographic pressures etc.
- Ongoing initiatives to build on: Rwanda is a One UN pilot country under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator. FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP are all members of the Agriculture sector working group (ASWG) which is a forum of all stakeholders working in the agriculture sector in Rwanda. They are members of the agriculture gender sub sector working group which is a forum for advocacy and coordination of gender mainstreaming activities in the sector. UN Women through its Programme on Enhancing gender responsive service delivery in the agriculture sector works in partnership with WFP through the Purchase for Progress Programme (P4P) to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in the P4P. FAO and UN Women collaborate on the Farmer Field Schools Programme to promote proximity extension services to women and facilitate their access to innovative technologies. UN Women and IFAD work together in promoting GEWE in IFAD's programmes.
- Opportunity for UN Joint Programming: Yes. Rwanda is a pilot country for the One UN.
- Pilot country for the P4P: Yes

11 Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (Republic of Rwanda) National Action Plan 2009-2012: The UN Security Council Resolution 1325/2000 on Women, Peace and Security.

ANNEX 3: THEORY OF CHANGE

THEORY OF CHANGE: JOINT PROGRAMME ON ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN

