



## Proposal for Government of Norway Contribution

<i>Country:</i>	<b>ETHIOPIA</b>
<i>Project Title:</i>	<b>Accelerating Progress Towards Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Ethiopia (RWEE)</b>
<i>Total budget requested</i>	<b>US\$ 250,000.00</b>
<i>Beneficiaries to be assisted with the contribution</i>	<b>Rural Women: 2,000 (planned)</b>
<i>Duration of project:</i>	<b>1 October 2014 – September 2015</b>

### 1. Brief Background Information

Ethiopia, a 1.1 million square kilometers land area located in Eastern Africa, is engaged in a swift pace of change, driven by its vision to become a middle-income country and carbon-neutral economy by 2025. With a consistent double-digit growth rate over the last eight years, the country has registered substantial progress in socio-economic development in the last decade. Per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has grown from USD 121 in 2001 to USD 349 in 2010 according to World Bank data; in Addis Ababa the average is probably closer to USD 500 and most likely will double over the next ten years according to World Bank estimates.

To maintain this economic growth and facilitate rapid transformation, the country is implementing the 2011-2015 Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP). The GTP is directed towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Ethiopia's long term vision and sustaining economic growth. The overriding development agenda of the GTP is to sustain the rapid, broad-based and equitable economic growth path witnessed during the past several years and to eventually end poverty. The growth is backed by prudent macro-policy management and significant investment in infrastructure.

The 2012 MDG report indicates that Ethiopia is likely to meet most of the MDGs before 2015, with the notable

exception of MDG 3 (on the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women) and MDG 5 (on improving maternal health). Gender-related disparities remain prominent indicators of societal inequality in Ethiopia. According to the 2013 Global Gender Gap Report, Ethiopia ranks 118th out of 133 assessed countries. The 2011 Gender and Development Index (GDI) placed Ethiopia in the 174th position out of 187 countries. Those rankings and analyses expose prevailing social attitudes that favour men/boys over women/girls with regards to food, health care and education while leaving women/girls with limited opportunities for participation in formal sector employment.

Despite a fast-growing economy, and meeting some of its MDG targets, Ethiopia remains a low-income country with significant challenges. In 2011, the GDP was US\$31.71 billion (GNI per capita: US\$ 1,110). Services (45.51 percent) and agriculture (46.4 percent) account for most of GDP. Gains in reducing poverty have not yet translated to significant reduction in hunger or acute malnutrition, decreased vulnerability to internal and external shocks and a high dependence on Official Development Assistance (ODA), amounting to a third of its national budget (of which some 30-50 percent is humanitarian and food aid). Rural-urban disparities, as well as regional disparities in income levels, poverty, and social services provision still prevail. Four of the country's nine regions lag behind the national average in almost all development indicators. The economy is dependent mainly on small-scale rain-fed agriculture, which is characterized by low production and productivity and is highly vulnerable to climate change. Private sector participation remains weak.

It is against this background that UN Women along with IFAD, FAO and WFP and in collaboration with Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs have developed a strategic programme for the first year aimed at launching JP RWEE nationally as a UN system response in support of rural women's economic empowerment through joint actions. This programme is a two year joint programme initiative 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, including young women in line with sustainable development and post MDGs.

Ethiopia is one of the seven countries where the other six countries are Guatemala, Rwanda, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Niger and Liberia which are all considered as pilot countries under the implementation of the RWEE Joint Programme. UN Women in collaboration with participating U.N. agencies and government ministries adapted the global joint programme to its context, identifying Ethiopia's priorities for a proposed joint rural women economic empowerment programme for the UN participating agencies and national stakeholders.

The programme priorities emanate from the national policy priorities set out in the GTP 2011-2015 and the currently being developed for the next GTP (2016-2020), and also in close consultation with relevant Ministries and regions, as follows: increased agricultural productivity and production, sustainable conservation and utilization of natural resources (food availability), increased smallholder farmer income, strengthened access to financial and non-financial resources, and participation of women in all development processes and benefiting of it.

The JP RWEE is fully aligned with the current five-year development plan of Government (GTP) Pillar 1: "Sustainable Economic Growth and Risk Reduction "and; a Pillar 4: "Maintaining agriculture as major source of economic growth", and Pillar 7 "Promote gender and youth empowerment and equity".

The JP RWEE is also fully aligned with the Ethiopia UNDAF 2012-2016, which includes pillars on sustainable economic growth and risk reduction, with a strong focus on strengthening agricultural development, financial inclusion, and supporting vulnerable communities; on governance and capacity development; and also on

women, youth, and children. Cutting across all UNDAF pillars are issues such as gender equality, the environment, and human rights, all of which are addressed through this Joint Programme, with its focus on promoting greater equity and supporting the inclusion the vulnerable, marginalized and excluded groups especially women and children as contributors to and beneficiaries of development in the country.

## **2. Objectives**

The JP RWEE aims at accelerating rural women economic empowerment in the context of the country national policy priorities on food security, economic growth and sustainable development as defined by Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan 2011-2015, and in contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as, to the emerging Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The JP RWEE will target directly 2,000 agrarian and pastoralist women in the regions of Oromiya and Afar, and indirectly 12,000 household members, as well as over 14,000 community members, 80 rural women run producers' cooperatives, 3,000 women members of rural savings and credit cooperative and 5,000 women members of producers' cooperatives over the two years of program implementation.

The JP RWEE is articulated around four interrelated outcomes:

1. Rural women improve their food security and nutrition.
2. Rural women increase their incomes to sustain their livelihoods
3. Rural women strengthen their voice in decisions that affect their lives.
4. Gender responsive policy and institutional environment for women's economic empowerment.

The Year 1 preparatory phase of JP RWEE in Ethiopia will pave a way for the 2 year evidence-based Rural Women's Economic Empowerment Joint Programme (JP RWEE) which targets the economic and social empowerment of Ethiopian rural women. The programme will be implemented based on the consolidation of research, evidence-based practices and lessons learned from the field in similar interventions, and ownership from local, national and regional stakeholders.

Strategic objectives for Year 1 programming include:

### **Establishing comprehensive baseline data and putting in place evidence based intervention strategies**

Assessment of Socio Economic status of Women (baseline study), feasibility study and market assessment are among the major activities planned to achieve this strategic objective. To this effect UN Women will be conducting a comprehensive profile of the beneficiaries in the beginning of the project. The profile will provide comprehensive data on women socio-economic status, level of income, nutritional status, participation and leadership within rural institutions and cooperatives, other interventions in the project site as well as main barriers to economic empowerment, low agricultural productivity and production. The comprehensive profile will serve as a baseline information to feed in to the monitoring and evaluation framework and guide the M&E of the program.

And also in order to ensure that the technology support brings the highest impact, feasibility study is planned to be conducted to identify the best technologies for the women. Market Assessment will also be conducted by FAO to identify feasible agricultural products for rural women to engage in. Both feasibility study and market

assessment will help to identify opportunities at the ground and also to devise strategies that will enable women benefit from the program in a meaningful manner.

#### **Transformative and inclusive leadership introduced in Federal Cooperative Agency**

Women's participation in leadership of cooperatives nationally is very low. Hence capacity building of experts of Federal Cooperative Agency will be conducted to initiate introduction of guideline development on inclusive leadership in cooperatives.

#### **Rural women's capacity on control management over local food household reserves enhanced**

Development agents will be trained on control management over local food household reserves by FAO. After their training, the development agents will train the targeted rural women accordingly.

#### **RUSACCOs capacitated in gender sensitive financial and non-financial product development and supported with revolving fund**

Rural Saving and Credit Cooperatives will be trained in gender sensitive financial product development. The RUSACCOS will also be provided with revolving fund so that they provide to the women members once they are trained in entrepreneurship and in the agricultural skills that they will be engaged in as income generating activity.

### **3. Justification for intervention**

Economic empowerment is the capacity of women and men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways which recognize the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth (Eyben et al., 2008). Economic empowerment increases women's access to economic resources and opportunities including jobs, financial services, property and other productive assets, skills development and market information.

Women's economic participation and empowerment are fundamental to strengthening women's rights and enabling women to have control over their lives and exert influence in society.

The Joint Programme's goal is to accelerate rural women's economic empowerment and its design and formulation process rests on a thorough analysis of the gender dimensions of food insecurity, looking not only at its causes (from the supply side, food availability and food accessibility; and from the demand side food utilization and food stability), but in the impacts which are also linked to women's household responsibilities and the impacts on household quality of life (especially health and productivity).

In that regard, the Joint Programme fully captures the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on rural women (Concluding Observations, CEDAW Forty-ninth session, 11 – 29 July 2011) with regard to:

- 1) Effectively enforce women's equal right to land ownership, e.g. by taking legal measures providing for the systematic inclusion of female spouses' names in landholder certificates;
- 2) Facilitate rural women's access to credit and loans, by controlling microfinance repayment terms to preclude unfair payment periods and interest rates and by expanding gender-sensitive projects; and,

3) Awareness raising among rural women including pastoralist women on their rights under the Convention and invest in women's capacity to claim them.

Building on the above mentioned analysis, the RWEE JP seeks to: drastically improve women farmer's output by intensification through yield enhancing inputs and land security; enabling women to move beyond subsistence production and into higher-value and market-oriented production; improving women economic capabilities and access to assets, skills, employment and income; improving access to food storage and gender-sensitive technologies in all areas of agriculture; and, addressing factors affecting female nutrition. For changes to be sustainable the JP intervention will also address gender relations at household and community levels while at the same time building the capacities of the agriculture sectors stakeholders and strategies to deliver for rural women as well as of women themselves to fully participate in decisions that affect their lives at individual, community and institutional level.

#### 4. Activities

Activity Description	Place of implementation	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Activity cost In USD	Lead Agency
Conduct Baseline study	Four Woredas (Adami Tulu ,Yaya Gulele, Dodola) in Oromiya and Asayita in Afar regional states )	2000 women	36,000.00	UN Women, Bureau of Women, Children and Youth Affairs
Conduct feasibility study on time and labour saving technology for women	Oromiya and Afar	500 women	14,000.00	UN Women, Bureau of Agriculture
Conduct market assessment to identify women friendly agricultural products with high demand	Oromiya and Afar	3 woredas (2 In Oromia and 1 in Afar	11,000.00	FAO, Regional Cooperative Bureaus
Capacity building training for RUSACCO and PASACCOs; for the improvement of existing and development of new gender sensitive financial products	Oromia and Afar	8 RUSACCOs	55,634.00	IFAD, Regional Cooperative Bureaus
Train Federal Cooperative Agency management and experts on developing	National	40 management members and experts	11,000.00	UN Women, Federal Cooperative

inclusive leadership guidelines to support mainstreaming gender in cooperatives leadership				Agency
Training for beneficiaries on control and management of local household food reserves	Oromiya and Afar	220 Women	23,000.00	FAO, Regional Bureaus of Agriculture
Training for Extension workers/DAs on control and management of local household food reserves	Oromiya and Afar	60 DAs	16,290.00	FAO, Regional Bureaus of Agriculture
Strengthening of 8 existing Farmers Training Centers (FTCs) to meet rural women's needs	Selected site/kebeles in Oromiya and Afar	4 FTCs	5,000.00	WFP, Regional Bureaus of Agriculture
Gov. staff technical support and joint monitoring	Selected woredas in Oromiya and Afar	1 woreda in each region	6,464.00	WFP, Regional Cooperative Bureaus, MSE agencies
Training entrepreneurship skills	Selected woredas in Oromiya	100 women	3,000.00	WFP, MSE agencies, Regional Bureaus of Women, children and Youth Affairs
Provide revolving fund for 100 women	Selected woredas in Oromiya	100 women	40,000.00	WFP, Micro and Small Enterprises Development Agency
Train community facilitators and organize community facilitation groups	Selected woredas in Oromiya and Afar	10 facilitators for two groups	5,000.00	WFP, Bureaus of Women, Children and Youth Affairs.

Monitoring of program implementation	Afar and Oromiya	Regional Bureaus of Oromiya and Afar	3,034.43	UN Women, IFAD, WFP and FAO
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Each of the above activities are associated with the cost for implementation, taking into consideration the importance of the activities to kick off the programme. For each activity a Lead Agency and government ministry has been identified in the RWEE Joint Programme document based on the comparative advantage and area of specialisation.

**5. Modality of Activities**

All activities presented above will be implemented by the respective UN agencies with collaborating partners from the Government of Ethiopia (i.e. Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Federal Cooperative agency, Micro and Small Enterprises Development Agencies and their respective regional structures), RUSACOs, women associations and CSOs.

**6. Expected Outcomes**

Expected outcomes from Year 1 Programme by Activity include:

**Baseline information and evidence based intervention strategies in place**

- *Kebeles ( local administrations) and Women groups selected for JP RWEE support*
- *Baseline Information available on women's groups and communities selected in the 2 targeted regions for JP RWEE intervention(s) which informs M+E framework*
- *Women friendly technologies identified*
- *Feasible agricultural products for women identified*

**Inclusive leadership introduced in Cooperatives**

- *Gender Responsive leadership of cooperatives initiated by capacitating management and experts of Federal Cooperative Management*

**Rural women's capacity on control management over local food household reserves enhanced**

- *Knowledge and skill of DAs and women groups enhanced /improved*

**RUSACCOs capacitated in gender sensitive financial and non-financial product development and supported with revolving fund**

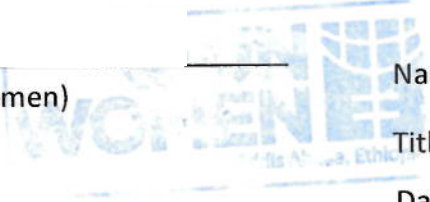
- *Gender sensitive financial services introduced by RUSACCO and PASACCOs*
- *Women members benefit from revolving fund and training support and engage in business*

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. Staff and Other Personnel Cost	5,000.00
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	3,290.00
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	3,000.00
4. Contractual Services	60,000.00
5. Travel	7,034.43
6. Transfers and Grants Counterparts	151,098.00
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	0.00
Total Programme Costs	229,422.43
8. Indirect Support Costs (cannot exceed 7%)	16,059.57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>245,482.00</b>



8. Names and signatures of participating UN organizations

(On behalf of UN Women)



Name: Ms. Lesty Chikera  
Representative  
Title: UN Women Ethiopia

Date: 23/10/2014



Name:  
Title:  
Date:

(On behalf of WFP)



Name:  
Title:  
Date:

(On behalf of FAO)



Name:  
Title:  
Date:

## 9. Contacts

### UN WOMEN ETHIOPIA COUNTRY OFFICE

Mme. Letty Chiwara

Representative to Ethiopia, Africa Union (AU) and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

(Office): +251-118-695004, +251-115-170816

(Mob): +251-912-506688

E-mail: [letty.chiwara@unwomen.org](mailto:letty.chiwara@unwomen.org)

### IFAD ETHIOPIA COUNTRY OFFICE

Mr. Robson Mutandi

Representative and Country Director Ethiopia, South Sudan and Angola.

Tel: +251-11-617-2439(Office)

Email: [r.mutandi@ifad.org](mailto:r.mutandi@ifad.org)

### WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME ETHIOPIA COUNTRY OFFICE

Mr. Abdou Dieng

Country Director and Representative

WFP Ethiopia Country office

Email; [Abdou.dieng@wfp.org](mailto:Abdou.dieng@wfp.org)

### FAO REPRESENTATION IN ETHIOPIA

Ms. Susan Minae

OIC, Sub regional Office for Eastern Africa and Representative in Ethiopia, to AU & ECA

Email :[Susan.Minae@FAO.org](mailto:Susan.Minae@FAO.org)

**RWEE Country Action Plan (July – December 2014)**

**Country name:** Ethiopia

**Lead Agency:** UN Women co-leading with IFAD

The purpose of this RWEE Country Action Plan is to provide detailed activities that the Country Team can implement within a timeframe of a year starting on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014. These activities were approved at country level as part of the RWEE joint strategy.

The current Country Action Plan will inform the International Steering Committee (ISC) in charge of allocating the resources received from donors and available through the Multi Partners Trust Fund (MPTF) in New York.

For each activity, please indicate: the cost and the period of planned for implementation considering the seasonality of agriculture, availability of partners and foreseen socio economic events.

Activity Description	Place of implementation	Expected impact or outcome	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Implementing partners	Starting date	Ending date	Activity cost in USD	Financial support already received in USD	Financial gap to be funded in USD
Activity 1.1.1 Training for beneficiaries on control and management of local food household reserve	Oromia and Afar	220 women's capacity built to control local food households reserves by the end of December 2014	220 women	FAO, BoA	July 2014	December 2014	23,000		23,000
Activity 1.1.2 Training for extension workers/DAs on control and management of local food household reserve			60 DAs	FAO, BoA			16,290		16,290
<b>Sub Total</b>							<b>39,290</b>		<b>39,290</b>

Activity 2.1.1 Training on life skills, financial and functional literacy, entrepreneurship skills, business development services	Oromiya and Afar	100 women made use of financial instruments, including regular saving services and debt financing by end of December 2014	100	WFP, BoA	July 2014	December 2014	3,000	3,000		
Activity 2.1.2 Support targeted women for market linkage				FAO, BoA	July 2014	December 2014	11,000	11,000		
Activity 2.1.3 Establishment and management of a revolving fund				WFP, BoFED/ Cooperatives					40,000	40,000
Activity 2.1.4 conduct Baseline study				UN Women, BoWCYA					36,000	36,000
Activity 2.1.5 Conduct feasibility study on time and labour saving technology for women				UN Women, ReMSEDAs, Cooperative Bureaus					14,000	14,000
Activity 2.1.6 Conduct community conversations for men and women on rural women's access and control over resources using trained				WFP, BoA/BoWCYA					5,000	5,000





PROGRAMME BUDGET (amount requested this time)

CATEGORY	WFP	UNWOMEN	FAO	IFAD	TOTAL
1. Staff and Other Personnel Cost				5,000.00	5,000.00
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials			2,290.00	1,000.00	3,290.00
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation				3,000.00	3,000.00
4. Contractual Services		50,000.00	10,000.00		60,000.00
5. Travel		3,034.00	1,000.00	3,000.00	7,034.00
6. Transfers and Grants Counterparts	59,464.00	11,000.00	37,000.00	43,634.00	151,098.00
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs					-
<b>Total Programme Costs</b>	<b>59,464.00</b>	<b>64,034.43</b>	<b>50,290.00</b>	<b>55,634.00</b>	<b>229,422.43</b>
8. Indirect Support Costs (cannot exceed 7%)	4,162.48	4,482.41	3,520.30	3,894.38	16,059.57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63,626.48</b>	<b>68,516.84</b>	<b>53,810.30</b>	<b>59,528.38</b>	<b>245,482.00</b>