



IFAD
INTERNATIONAL
FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT



**World Food
Programme**



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

**ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL
WOMEN
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2014**

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Title: Accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women • Programme Number (if applicable): 92490 • MPTF Office Project Reference Number:² 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results¹</p> <p>Country/Districts: <i>Rwanda, Kirehe, Bugesera, Rwamagana</i></p> <p>Priority Areas: Accelerating Progress Towards Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Guatemala. (RWEE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural women’s improved food and nutrition security - Rural women’s increased income to sustain their livelihoods - Rural women’s enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes - Gender responsive policy environment for the economic empowerment of rural women.
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <p>FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women,</p>	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), IMBUTO Foundation, Cooperative/unions, Local authorities</p>
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: US\$245,482 MPTF /JP Contribution³:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by Agency (if applicable): • FAO US\$61,000 • IFAD US\$50,482 • WFP US\$59,001 • UN Women US\$75,000 	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration: 5 years</p> <p>Start Date⁴ 01.09.2014</p> <p>Original End Date⁵ 31.08.2017</p>

¹ Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

² The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

³ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁴ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁵ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

TOTAL: US\$245,482
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.
Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>

Current End date ⁶ <i>31.08.2019</i>
Report Submitted By
Name: Jean-Pierre de Margerie Title: Representative and Country Director <input type="radio"/> Participating Organization (Lead): World Food Programme <input type="radio"/> Email address: jean-pierre.demargerie@wfp.org

⁶ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

ACCRONYMS

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INE	National Statistics Institute
JP	Joint Programme
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
MOU	Memorandum of understanding (MOU)
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NAEB	National Agriculture and Export Development Board
P4P	Purchase For Progress
PSTA II	Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture in Rwanda
RIMS	Risk and Impacts Management
RWEE	Rural Women Economic Empowerment
WEIA	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
WFP	World Food Programme

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 has been jointly implemented in Rwanda by FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women. The country implementation plan is based on the local context, in partnership with the stakeholders and in line with the Government's priorities.

The available funds amount US\$245,482 to fund preparatory activities. The balance of US\$3,711,750 will be funded through joint resource mobilization by the four entities.

The key achievements during the reporting period include:

1. New beneficiaries identified;
2. Technical and financial support provided to women-led cooperatives to access extension services and input supply.
3. Rural women-led cooperatives to WFP/P4P and other structured markets connected.

I. Purpose

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.

The expected outcome of the project are:

- **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.
- **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 smallscale businesses in overcoming their supply side constraints so that they can take full advantage of opportunities offered by the market.
- **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.
- **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 Rwanda government, parliament and other relevant stakeholders to deliver greater development outcomes to rural women. 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.

II. Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

With the support of Norwegian Government, the joint program started in September 2014 with the implementation of the following actions during the last quarter of 2014:

- The design of direct targeting criteria for the identification and selection of rural women participating in the Joint Programme, building tools and instruments;
- Administrative procedures for hiring technical staff to implement the programme;
- Two vulnerable associations and cooperatives were identified, which have all opted to grow tomatoes, maize and beans: Tangumucyo Ngeruka (Bugesera) and Cyimbazi Munyiginya (Rwamagana);
- Partnerships with local authorities (at Sector level) were formed to ensure a close follow up. Sectors appointed agronomists to help in the daily follow up of tomato, maize and beans production;
- Approximately 40 beneficiaries received training on greenhouse set-up and management, tomato upkeep (field preparation, nurturing, spacing, seedling, transplanting, fertilization, irrigation and staking, pruning, support systems, weed control, crop rotation, harvesting, disease control, climate and soil needed, varieties). In terms of tomato conservation techniques, beneficiaries have learned to use chemicals, tomato pest and disease control methods. In addition, they learned about effective cultivation practices, which include nursery preparation. All trainings undertaken ended with a study tour;
- Beneficiaries also received skills development interventions in basic business skills of tomato and improved their understanding on how to penetrate, supply and retain markets for their products by knowing how to satisfy consumer's needs. Participants acquired skills about marketing techniques starting with an 'Introduction to marketing' and moving on to 'The 4 Pillars of marketing', market survey and consumer behavior, as well as how to manage internal and external business environments.
- Four rural women-led cooperatives were connected to WFP/P4P and to other structured markets in Eastern and Southern Provinces.
- An exchange visit between cooperatives was organized in October to allow 10 selected cooperatives to learn from the experience of other top 4 performer cooperatives in key areas of the life of agricultural cooperatives including improving productivity, post-harvest handling and storage, markets, access to finances, governance /management and gender.
- Partnerships are under development with quality buyer to link smallholder farmers in Rwanda to quality markets.

• Outcomes:

To the extent of their expertise and mandate, each agency addressed specific areas within the joint program framework focusing its efforts in defining the implementation process and coordinating the programme at central and territorial levels.

At field level, negotiations with district authorities, Mayors, local leaders, farmers groups were held to endorse, support and implement the programme.

The capacity building of women vulnerable farmers in agriculture intensification and the link to quality markets contribute to the following outcomes from the Project document:

- 1) Outcome 1. Rural Women have improved food and nutrition security. Outcome indicator 1.1: Increase of agricultural production of women farmers
- 2) Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods. Outcome Indicator 2.1: Income generated by rural women's cooperatives from their sales to markets.

- **Outputs:**

To the extent of their expertise and mandate each agency addressed specific areas within the joint program framework focusing their efforts in defining the implementation process and coordinating the programme at central and territorial levels.

At field level, negotiations with district authorities, Mayors, local leaders, farmers groups were held to endorse, support and implement the programme.

Participants who attended it gained wider knowledge on Rural women empowerment.

The progress achieved on skills development of rural vulnerable women on basic business skills will contribute to the success of this project.

- **Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices:** No substantial delays experienced.
- **Qualitative assessment:** Overall, the level of achievement is satisfactory. Partnerships were established with local authorities to facilitate a smooth implementation on the ground, and with the National Agriculture and Export Development Board (NAEB) on capacity building of beneficiaries on intensive tomato production.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<p>Outcome 1 Rural women have improved food and nutrition security</p> <p>Indicators 1.1 Quantity increase of agricultural production of women farmers 1.2 Quality evidence of improvement of rural women dietary diversity and consumption patterns</p> <p>Baseline: To be determined</p> <p>Planned target: 50% of participating women</p>	<p>Provided training on food security and nutrition. Participants who attended gained a clear understanding on food and nutrition security issues.</p> <p>Worked 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>Reports of ministries of agriculture/rural development</p> <p>Crop assessments</p> <p>Reports of local councils</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>
<p>Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</p> <p>Indicators 1.1.1 Number of rural women's cooperatives accessing credit 1.1.2 Number of rural women accessing integrated services 1.1.3 Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques</p> <p>Baseline: To be determined</p> <p>Planned target: 60% of the participating women</p>	<p>We worked 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</p>		<p>Programme's progress reports</p>

<p>Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves.</p> <p>Indicator: 1.2.1 Number of sustainable women led and managed local food security reserves 1.2.2 Number of rural women accessing innovative food processing plants</p> <p>Baseline: To be determined</p> <p>Planned target: 60% of the participating women</p>			
<p>Outcome 2 Rural Women increase their income to ensure their livelihoods.</p> <p>Indicator: 2.1 Income generated by rural women’s cooperatives from their sales to WFP and other markets 2.2 Evidence of better quality of life and status of rural women</p> <p>Baseline: To be determined</p> <p>Planned target: 50% of participating women</p>	<p>Key activities were carried out to identify the programme participants based on the targeting strategy with its tool. Selected rural women are participating actively in the programme.</p>	<p>A slight delay occurred due to administrative arrangements for starting the program, which affected the technical staff recruitment processes.</p>	<p>Reports of WFP on P4P and school feeding programmes</p> <p>Programme’s progress reports</p>
<p>Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.1. Number of rural women’s cooperatives procuring agricultural products and home grown school meals through WFP programmes</p> <p>Baseline To be determined</p> <p>Planned target: 4000 women</p>	<p>The first group of women and the organizations of rural women participating in the program will be incorporated early 2015.</p>		<p>Reports of WFP on P4P and school feeding programmes</p> <p>Programme’s progress reports</p>
<p>Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent</p>			<p>Reports of WFP on P4P and school feeding programmes</p>

<p>wage employment opportunities.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.1. Number of rural women's cooperatives providing paid ecological services</p> <p>Baseline To be determined</p> <p>Planned target: 4000 women</p>			<p>Programme's progress reports</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>Indicator 3.1 Proportion of rural women elected representatives in rural councils</p> <p>3.2 Proportion of rural women who are members of land committees</p> <p>3.3 Proportion of POs led by women</p> <p>3.4 Evidence of rural women's empowerment in intra-household decision making</p> <p>Baseline To be determined</p> <p>Planned Target 75% of the participating women</p>	<p>The first group of women and the organizations of rural women participating in the program will be incorporated early 2015.</p>		<p>Reports of local councils</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>
<p>Output 3.1. Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance.</p> <p>Indicators: 3.1.1: Number of rural girls enrolled in secondary education</p> <p>3.1.2: Number of women candidates for elections in rural councils</p> <p>Baseline:</p>			<p>Reports of the ministries of education</p> <p>WFP activity reports</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>

<p>To be determined</p> <p>Planned target: 60% of women participants improve skills. 15% increase in decision-making positions occupied by women in the organizations.</p>			
<p>Output 3.2 Rural women have greater organisational capacities to form, sustain and participate into Farmer's Organisations FOs, cooperatives and unions</p> <p>Indicators: 3.2.1 Number of informal rural women's groups who join formally registered FOs, cooperatives and unions 3.2.2 Number of FOs, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/strategy and/or a women's quota for their board</p> <p>Baseline: To be determined</p> <p>Planned target: 60% Rural women improve leadership abilities.</p>			<p>Programme's progress reports</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>Indicators: 3.3.1 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>Baseline: To be determined</p> <p>Planned target:</p>			<p>Reports of rural women's networks</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>
<p>Output 3.4</p>			<p>Reports of the FAO Dimitra</p>

<p>Rural women, including young women have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment</p> <p>Indicators: 3.4.1 Number of rural women and youth participating in community listening clubs</p> <p>Baseline: To be determined</p> <p>Planned target: 60% Rural women and young women have enhanced awareness on their rights</p>			<p>Programme</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>
<p>Outcome 4 A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p>Indicator: 4.1 Proportion of government budgets and donor funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women</p> <p>4.2 Number of countries passing laws to secure rural women's land ownership</p> <p>Baseline: To be determined</p> <p>Planned Target: 25% compliance</p>		<p>There were no delays.</p>	<p>National budgets</p> <p>OECD/DAC reports</p> <p>National CEDAW reports</p> <p>Reports of NWM</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>Indicator 4.1.1 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>Baseline: To be determined</p>		<p>There were no delays.</p>	<p>Reports of sectoral ministries dealing with: land, food, nutrition, agricultural and rural development policies</p> <p>Reports of parliamentary commissions</p>

<p>Planned Target: 15% of governmental institutions and national mechanism</p>			
<p>Output 4.2 Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p>Indicator 4.2.1 Number of countries where the women's empowerment in agriculture index is piloted</p> <p>Baseline: To be determined</p> <p>Planned Target: 15% of governmental institutions and national mechanism</p>		<p>There were no delays.</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>Output 4.3 An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes.</p> <p>Indicator 4.3.1 Number of regional dialogue mechanisms on agriculture, rural development and land that involve rural women's groups</p> <p>Baseline: To be determined</p> <p>Planned Target: 15% of governmental institutions and national mechanism</p>	<p>Actions planned for 2015-2017.</p>	<p>There were no delays.</p>	<p>Reports of regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organisations (e.g. NEPAD's reports on CAADP)</p>

ii) A Specific Story (Optional)

Problem / Challenge faced: Describe the specific problem or challenge faced by the subject of your story (this could be a problem experienced by an individual, community or government).

N/A

Programme Interventions: How was the problem or challenge addressed through the Programme interventions?

Result (if applicable): Describe the observable *change* that occurred so far as a result of the Programme interventions. For example, how did community lives change or how was the government better able to deal with the initial problem?

- 1) Women farmer's capabilities in intensive production of vegetables improved through greenhouse farming, leading to increases in productivity (up to 2,5 tons per green house);
- 2) Experience sharing among different women's groups;
- 3) Access of women beneficiaries in agricultural inputs increased through project support
- 4) Basic business skills of beneficiaries improved to link up productivity and market access.

Lessons Learned: What did you (and/or other partners) learn from this situation that has helped inform and/or improve Programme (or other) interventions?

- 5) Agriculture intensification trainings coupled with business/entrepreneurship can help vulnerable farmers to improve their income and livelihoods.
- 6) Effective information sharing among members is essential to build the trust between cooperative members and their leaders; otherwise, the cooperative is not seen as a collective business, instead, a business of leaders.
- 7) Exchange/learning activities and networking is key to building capacities of beneficiaries.
- 8) Effective members of economic cooperatives can play important role in poverty reduction in the society because of knowledge from the capacity program they received.
- 9) Further support in infrastructure and equipment, such as processing and storage facilities is required to increase farmers' organizations capacity to meet the demand.

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

N/A

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

N/A

V. Resources (Optional)