

Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women

CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2014

<p>Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Title: Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women • Programme Number <i>(if applicable)</i> • MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 	<p>Countries</p> <p><i>Country/Region:</i> Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda</p> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results</i></p>
<p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-Women • FAO • IFAD • WFP 	<p>Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Ministries, NGOs/CSOs, private sector, and other International Organizations
<p>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF /JP Contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>UN-Women: \$671,252</i> • <i>FAO: \$344,518</i> • <i>IFAD: \$158,160</i> • <i>WFP: \$437,961</i> <p>TOTAL: \$1,607,891</p>	<p>Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration <i>(months)</i>: 60 months</p>
<p>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>	<p>Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Technical Advisory Committee ○ Title: ○ Participating Organization (Lead): UN-Women, FAO, IFAD, WFP ○ Email address:

NARRATIVE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Programme on “Acceleration of Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women” (JP RWEE), being implemented jointly by UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP, was launched in October 2012 in seven pilot countries, i.e., Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Niger, and Rwanda. It is a 5-year global joint initiative established to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the post-MDGs agenda. Due to challenges in resource mobilization for the first two years, participating UN agencies decided to initiate some pilot activities with own resources. As a result, the first two years of programme implementation were characterized by identification of beneficiaries, mapping and scoping activities, national consultations with key stakeholders, and few activities contributing to results.

Funding of **US\$1,607,891**, through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the programme, was received by all countries in the latter half of 2014, being deployed to programme activities in all seven countries during fall 2014. In Ethiopia, these preliminary funds have leveraged the mobilization of matching resources from the Sustainable Development Goal Fund. Nepal has received indications from some in-country donors of interest to finance activities, and negotiations continue to take place. Programme governance structures have been reported in all countries, being primary decision bodies for programme management at the country level. These are also primary interlocutors with the International Steering Committee, a high-level body consisting of donors, the four participating UN Agencies and the seven participating countries, established primarily to steer the programme at the international level by undertaking key strategic decisions.

Results for 2014 have been varied among the countries since the first tranche of resources reached them. The four outcome areas were the focus for implementation. Nevertheless, most countries have implemented activities under outcome areas 1 and/or 2; Guatemala and Rwanda teams reported high level interventions that support women’s participation in decision making and the creation of enabling policy and legal frameworks in support of Outcomes 3 and 4, respectively. Ethiopia has made significant progress in negotiating the implementation frameworks and planning with country stakeholders. However, the Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa slowed down implementation in Liberia, as activities had to be halted during the peak of the crisis.

At the international level, the International Steering Committee (ISC) was established in July 2014. The ISC takes strategic decisions necessary for guiding the successful delivery of the programme. Terms of reference for the ISC were developed during 2014 and were finally approved in February 2015. The ISC works closely with the Technical Advisory Committee, a group of participating UN agency experts that manage technical aspects of the joint programme. This Technical Advisory Committee is the primary interface with the national teams in the participating countries. It reports to the ISC and ensures technical review of project proposals from the country teams. In 2014, the ISC also approved the first financial disbursement to the countries from the first tranche received into the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the programme.

This report compiles the individual country reports in the participating countries of the JP RWEE which have been agreed at the national level by the national coordinating structures. It also contains the financial information provided by the Participating Organizations Headquarters and compiled by the MPTF Office. The report has been approved by the International Steering Committee through its Technical Advisory Committee.

I. Purpose

The partnership between UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP is expected to generate synergies that capitalize on each agency’s mandate, comparative advantage and institutional strength to generate more lasting and wider scale results. Results are expected to inform lessons that are useful for upscaling activities as well as replication, depending on the specific country context. The joint programme is designed and implemented in the spirit of

ongoing UN Reform efforts as stipulated in the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and follows a Delivering as One approach. This has proven to be effective and mutually reinforcing. Following this model, the programme will utilize the comparative advantages of four agencies: FAO's policy assistance on agriculture and food security, value chain training and normative work; WFP's food assistance innovations; UN Women's technical expertise on women's economic empowerment and its mandate to promote accountability for gender equality and women's empowerment; and IFAD's capacity for co-financing rural investment programmes and strong presence in rural areas.

The JP RWEE aims to promote rural women's economic empowerment in the seven participating countries through securing rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the post-MDGs agenda. The programme is designed around the following four outcome areas: Outcome 1 on **improved food and nutrition security**, deals with increasing the productive potential of women smallholder farmers; 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. 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; and finally, 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.

The programme implementation approach follows a decentralized structure in which the global framework is localized according to the national development landscape and priorities. Accordingly with internationally agreed development accountability principles, e.g., the Paris Declaration and the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/226 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, the JP RWEE aligns with national priorities articulated in national development plans while encouraging national ownership. More importantly, the programme has been aligned with the UN's strategic framework for development at the country level, by ensuring that it is an integral component of UNDAF delivery. Accordingly with this approach, the outcomes of the programme have contributed to at least one outcome of the UNDAFs and the national development plans. Thus, the country-specific project documents, annual plans for implementing the programme at the country level, are implemented through the UNDAF and agency Annual Work Plans.

II. Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

As indicated above, significant donor resources were received in the latter half of 2014, implying slow activity between January and October 2014. However, for some countries some progress against the programme outcomes and outputs was reported.

- **Outcomes:** In all countries, with the exception of Guatemala, where Outcomes are at the strategic higher level, progress has been made in mainly Outcomes 1 and 2.

Outcome 1: With the leadership of FAO and WFP, the identification of beneficiaries was completed in all countries, except in Ethiopia, where beneficiaries were identified in an ongoing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment UNDAF Joint Programme (GEWE JP) and the focus given to poor pastoralist women to access financial and non-financial services. In Kyrgyzstan, food items were distributed to beneficiaries to cushion them from effects of harsh weather conditions. Partners joined forces to enhance the productive potential of women smallholder farmers through ensuring adequate and secure access to productive resources such as land and agricultural inputs. In some countries, such as Kyrgyzstan and Niger, self-help groups (Dimitra Clubs in Niger) were organized to achieve this. In Rwanda, local authorities were trained and capacitated to ensure that the public

institutions are responsive to rural women's challenges in agriculture, food security and social protection.

Outcome 2: The self-help groups in Kyrgyzstan were also used for training in business planning, gender and development, group solidarity and participation in the agricultural value chain. Other types of women's groups were trained in similar enterprise development mechanisms in Rwanda and Guatemala, for example, where linkages with markets beyond the WFP/P4P were strengthened. In Liberia, JP RWEE partners have engaged the private sector as partners in the roadmap for the programme implementation.

Outcome 3: Progress in this Outcome was reported in participating countries. Particular references have been made in Niger, where, through Dimitra Listeners' Clubs, women leaders are selected to represent other rural women in village councils. In Guatemala, a reference to women's participation has been made among the indicator framework of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI).

Outcome 4: Considerable progress was reported in Guatemala, where policy instruments were engendered through the Ministry of Agriculture's development programme, the National Policy for Advancement and Integral Development of Women, and the Equal Opportunities Plan 2008-2013. As part of the programme, the partners contributed to the Government's certified course titled "Human Rights, Racism, Discrimination and Economic Empowerment of Women - Phase II," which is training stakeholders in grasping the challenges of rural and indigenous women of the country as a way to facilitate the smooth implementation of the programme.

- **Delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices:**

Delays and Challenges: All the country teams experienced challenges in mobilizing to produce project proposals tailored for available funding, after almost 2 years of [work on a more detailed programme document resulting in delayed \[lack of\] funding](#), which also affected the interest of national teams. This mainly affected planning processes as it was imperative to ensure all partners were on board. For Kyrgyzstan, in particular, harsh weather conditions affected the agricultural growing season, and led to a reliance on social protection approaches to cushion the effects of this bad weather on the beneficiaries. As stated above, the height of the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease in Liberia made mobility almost impossible for the programme to properly respond to the needs of the beneficiaries. In addition to the EVD, the low literacy and technical capacities of rural women made it difficult for programme interventions in Liberia to be as effective as intended. In Ethiopia the planning process for RWEE has taken a long period and holding back the agencies from implementation due to: (i) the institutional country context and alignment with UNDAF as well as a (ii) long consultative process with all stakeholders involved for the design and identification of activities.

Envisioned activities will be implemented more fully speed during 2015.

Best practices: In Guatemala, a good practice emerged related to the interagency coordination; which had provided specialized technical assistance to MAGA in the formulation of the Institutional Policy on Gender Equality and Implementation Strategic Framework 2014-2023. It is worth noting that the Ministry of Agriculture's new gender policy was supported by the four UN organizations own resources. This policy should constitute a good basis for the implementation of RWEE's activities in 2015.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

In all countries, the processes of planning and implementation have been fully participatory. This has made successful the interaction with partners and Government Ministries by ensuring that there is national commitment that will be important for the programme to succeed. The innovative integrated approach has generated interest in the Governments, which participate as the main partner of the participating UN Agencies in the design and follow-up activities.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1¹: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:			
Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security. Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:	<u>Kyrgyzstan</u> - 36 SHGs with 231 members received vegetable seeds and received 24.782 MT of food products - 85% of the training participants are equipped with knowledge in marketing and basic financial and business skills as well as market assessment - 100% of families of SHGs have increased access to diversified diets during harvest and lean seasons (% of families with improved food consumption and dietary diversity) - 5 Community funds have been established, revolving funds have been collected and expected to be put in use in spring 2015 <u>Liberia</u> The programme was launched nationally and through the hosting of the 2015 National Rural Women’s Conference with targeted trainings in leadership and democratic representation, consultations on governance reforms (Constitutional Review and Decentralization) and consultations for the adoption of a roadmap for the JP	<u>Kyrgyzstan</u> - Fully achieved in 2014 - Achieved - Achieved - Achieved <u>Liberia</u> 225 planned and achieved; additional 187 participants reached	<u>Kyrgyzstan</u> - Seed distribution reports, food distribution report from the cooperating partner CDA, together with WFP Field Monitor Reports - Post-training evaluation report - Verification and post-distribution monitoring reports - Community funds registration with the local self-government bodies, bank accounts with collected repayments <u>Liberia</u> 2015 National Rural Women’s Conference Report available; Draft 2015 - 2017 JP RWEE Roadmap document; and Minutes from the conference

¹ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

	<p>RWEE and expanded support for women's agricultural production through the Rural Women's Structure for 412 participants.</p> <p><u>Niger</u> Five villages of the commune of Falwel (Dosso region) were selected to start with the implementation of the activities under the Norwegian funds.</p> <p>With the financial support from the FAO-Dimitra Programme, a participatory Forum of the Dimitra Clubs was organized (February 2, 2015) in Niamey. The Forum focused on the main contribution of the Dimitra Clubs in the field of socio-economic empowerment of rural women in Niger. The protagonists of this event were the women and men members of the Dimitra Clubs who have become leaders of their communities thanks to access to information and participatory communication. These women had the opportunity to raise their voices and shared their stories and experiences. The good practices shared included access to land, access to agricultural strategies relating to resilience and climate change, school enrollment of girls, better food and nutrition, health and sanitation, technologies that alleviate women's work burden and increased agricultural production.</p> <p><u>Rwanda</u> 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>Achieved</p>	<p><u>Niger</u> Reports of the Technical Advisory Committee</p> <p>Report of the Dimitra Clubs Forum with the good practices and stories showcased</p> <p><u>Rwanda</u> Programme progress reports</p>
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<p>Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves.</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p>	<p><u>Liberia</u> Conducted a strategic mapping and scoping of 19 rural communities and 18 rural women’s farming groups (minimum of 100 women and men per group)</p> <p><u>Niger</u> One of the main components of the JP in Niger is to increase the capacity of women to manage their local food reserves through the strengthening of rural organizations both formal and informal. The federations, unions, producers’ organizations (POs), both formal and informal, of the commune of Falwel have been identified.</p> <p>The training modules on gender, equity and good governance for POs have been finalized and are ready to be implemented in coordination with the social mobilization activities of the Dimitra clubs</p> <p>P4P programme also aims to strengthen POs. The mapping of existing school kitchens has been carried out and the links with local POs have been identified.</p>	<p><u>Liberia</u> 2,000 planned and achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p><u>Liberia</u> Baseline study report; Training of researchers report; Minutes from training of researchers</p> <p>Training modules on gender, equity and good governance for POs</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p>			
<p>Output 2.1: Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products.</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline:</p>	<p><u>Niger</u> One of the activities to increase women’s entrepreneurial activities is the establishment of Multi-functional Platforms to increase women’s income-generating opportunities while reducing their work burden. Exchange visits have been organized by FAO and UN-Women in those areas of Niger where UNDP multi-functional platforms are successfully managed by women. In many cases, the success of these platforms is due to the</p>		

<p>Planned Target:</p>	<p>existence of strong grassroots networks, such as the Dimitra Clubs. Lessons already learnt have been incorporated in the feasibility study for the set-up of the Platforms.</p>		
<p>Output 2.2: Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities.</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</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: Baseline: Planned Target:</p>			
<p>Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance.</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p>	<p><u>Guatemala</u> 1 WEAI database with its corresponding study / characterization on women's situation in the intervention area (IFAD)</p> <p><u>Niger</u> Strengthening of women's capacity in social mobilization, collective action, participatory communication, governance and leadership.</p> <p>The main entry point for the activities of the JP-Niger are the Dimitra Clubs. Thirty Dimitra Clubs with 60 leaders (40 women and 20 men) have been created in 5 villages</p>	<p><u>Guatemala</u> There were no delays.</p>	<p><u>Guatemala</u> - WEAI Study and survey database.</p> <p><u>Niger</u> Progress report of the NGO AEDL-Espoir (April 2015)</p>

	(Falwel, Deytagui Yamba, Mallam Koira, Kokoukou et Tegoize Koira) in the commune of Falwel. There are 900 direct beneficiaries (over 50% represented by women) and 6,300 indirect beneficiaries. A mapping of these Dimitra Clubs is available. The Clubs have received training on the Dimitra Clubs' approach which strengthens women's leadership skills and enables rural women and men to have access to information and improve their capacities to become actors of change in their communities.		
<p>Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p>	<p><u>Niger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A first training session of the CoOPequity approach (governance, equity and gender equality of Producer Organizations) has been carried out in Falwel in collaboration with DACPOR in Dosso. 		<p><u>Niger</u></p> <p>CoOPequity Report of the 1st session</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>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p>	<p><u>Niger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Dimitra Clubs have been created to enhance women's voice and strengthen their leadership skills at various levels (households, community and policy dialogue). - CoOPequity approach is building capacity and linking gender equitable POs to policy processes. 		<p><u>Niger</u></p> <p>Progress report of the NGO AEDL-Esper (April 2015)</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>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p>	<p><u>Niger</u></p> <p>Sharing of good practices: during the Dimitra Forum (February 24, 2015) good practices in, amongst others, the field of education, sanitation, leadership, nutrition and increased agricultural returns were shared. For example thanks to the activism of the Clubs, a literacy center has been set-up with funding from the local government. In addition the women from the clubs themselves have reported an increase in school enrollments for girls.</p>		<p><u>Niger</u></p> <p>Report from the Forum, which includes good practices for scaling up.</p>
<p>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</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: Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p>	<p><u>Guatemala</u></p> <p>2 institutions: MAGA & SEPREM.</p> <p>MAGA designed and approved, with the support of the Joint Programme, its Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and Strategic Implementation Framework 2014 - 2023, to promote women's economic rights and to ensure compliance with the axis of Economic and Productive Development with equity of the National Policy for the Advancement and Integral Development of Women - PNPDIM- and Equal Opportunity to the Plan -PEO- 2008 - 2023 (SEPREM as the leading institution).</p> <p>3 staff from MAGA's Gender Unit. 2 staff at the management level (vice minister and minister) 60 planning staff from MAGA, Ministry of Economy, and the Presidential Commission on Human Rights ("Human Rights, discrimination, racism, and economic empowerment of women - 2014").</p>	<p><u>Guatemala</u></p> <p>There were no delays.</p> <p>There were no delays.</p>	<p><u>Guatemala</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministerial Agreement No. 693-2014. - Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and Strategic Implementation Framework 2014-2023. - Axis of Economic and Productive Development with Equity of the National Policy for the Advancement and Integral Development of Women - PNPDIM- and Equal Opportunity to the Plan -PEO- 2008 – 2023 <p>Lists of participants.</p> <p>Graduation Act "Human Rights, discrimination, racism, and economic empowerment of women - 2014".</p>

	<p>Unpaid household Module included in ENCOVI and ENEI 2014.</p> <p>Contribution of unpaid household to GDP estimated (Satellite Account).</p> <p>MAGA designed and approved, with the support of the Joint Programme, its Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and Strategic Implementation Framework 2014-2023.</p> <p><u>Niger</u> The year 2014 has been crucial to lay the foundations for the implementation of the Joint Program. More than ten technical meetings were organized in order to build a common vision among the different actors involved. This process resulted in the setting-up of two governance mechanisms for coordination and decision-making (a Technical Advisory Committee and a National Steering Committee).</p> <p>The Gender Focal Points of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Ministry of the Environment are part of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Director of the Unit of Women’s Economic Empowerment of the Ministry of Population, Advancement of Women and Protection of Children are all part of the National Steering Committee.</p> <p>The National Coordinator of the Joint Programme in Niger has been recruited. She organizes and coordinates regular contacts with these stakeholders who actively participate in the meetings of the Joint Programme. Her role is also to advocate for gender mainstreaming with the various Ministries and civil society organizations.</p>	<p>There were no delays.</p> <p>There were no delays</p>	<p>ENCOVI & ENEI 2014.</p> <p>Ministerial Agreement No. 693-2014.</p> <p>Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and Strategic Implementation Framework 2014-2023.</p> <p><u>Niger</u> Official ToRs of the National Steering Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee</p>
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<p>Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p>	<p><u>Niger</u></p> <p>A baseline methodology has been developed based on Women's Empowerment in Agricultural Index (WEAI), which has been adapted to the context of Niger and will be implemented by the end of 2015. Baseline methodology includes a quantitative and qualitative modules.</p> <p>The first progress report of the status of the Dimitra Clubs has been submitted in the beginning of 2015</p>		
<p>Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes.</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p> <p>Indicator: Baseline: Planned Target:</p>			

iii) RWEF lifts family out of poverty in Kyrgyzstan - A Specific Story

The Rural Women's Economic Empowerment project is bringing real change in the lives of vulnerable households. The project particularly helps to improve their household income through improved skills and knowledge gained in growing vegetables as well as improving their dietary diversity by consuming home grown vegetables. Many participants, particularly in Naryn, a northern province, believed that vegetables could not grow in their area due to severe climate conditions unlike in the south. Producers were also lacking the necessary skills to be able to successfully market their produce. For these reasons, their involvement in vegetable production was limited.

The beliefs of women vegetable growers in Naryn were shattered after project participants collected a good harvest as a result of receiving quality seeds and agro-trainings from FAO, of supporting each other through self-help groups, which were formed with assistance from UN Women, and after having received WFP food assistance as enabling investment into human capital, which supported them to follow through the various aspects of the project. Each participant generated an average income of 46,000 KGS per year after having invested about 4,000 KGS.

In one particular case, Orozova Gulnara, a project participant from Jungal district of Naryn province, a mother of five children, lived in a difficult economic condition and her family hardly made both ends meet. She noted that her life and position has greatly improved after she joined the project. Gulnara dutifully fulfilled all what was expected from her in the project: attended training sessions and grew cucumbers with other fellows in her group. After generating income from selling her harvest, she bought more varied food products and took her children to the market to buy clothes for school. The group leader Tamchygul, who met Gulnara at the market, later said that Gulnara emotionally expressed that she felt a motherly happiness for the first time at the age of 40 now that she has money and can meet her family and children's needs. Until then she could only meet basic necessities and provide her children with old clothes that she would get from people in her community. There was a change in the life of her family too. Gulnara's husband, who turned into an alcoholic and was prone to violence because of his desperate situation in the face of unemployment and poverty, stopped drinking alcohol. He started respecting his wife and decided to help her in vegetable growing. Gulnara grew produce on the plot of 0.025 ha of land last year. This year, Gulnara and her husband are planning to grow on the 0.1 ha of land. They now together see a better future and have already started thinking of different ideas to further improve this activity and are contemplating plans for processing their produce.

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

- No assessments, evaluations or studies were undertaken in the period under review.

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

- Among major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs, the Liberia programme adopted Ebola Response in its programme results approach as dictated by the country context. These changes are mainly expected to take effect in the subsequent years of programme implementation.

V. Additional Funding

- The Sustainable Development Goals Fund's Steering Committee agreed to approve the Joint Programme Document proposal, on "Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment –Rural Women Economic Empowerment Component (Ethiopia) with allocation of US\$1,500,000 over two years from the SDG-F/UNDP (Rural Women Economic Empowerment - Consolidated Annual Financial Report 2014)

**Consolidated Annual Financial
Report of the Administrative Agent
of
the Rural Women Economic Empowerment
for the period 1 January to 31 December 2014**

**Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
Bureau of Management
United Nations Development Programme
GATEWAY: <http://mpf.undp.org>**

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



Food and Agriculture Organization



International Fund for Agriculture



United Nations Entity for Gender
Equality and the Empowerment of
Women



World Food Programme

CONTRIBUTORS



NORWAY, Government of



SWEDISH INT'L DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION

DEFINITIONS

Allocation

Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme.

Approved Project/Programme

A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.

Contributor Commitment

Amount(s) committed by a donor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

Contributor Deposit

Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement.

Delivery Rate

The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization against the 'net funded amount'.

Indirect Support Costs

A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. UNDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmable costs.

Net Funded Amount

Amount transferred to a Participating Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organization.

Participating Organization

A UN Organization or other inter-governmental Organization that is an implementing partner in a Fund, as represented by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.

Project Expenditure

The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Participating Organization follows for donor reporting.

Project Financial Closure

A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.

Project Operational Closure

A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all programmatic activities for which Participating Organization(s) received funding have been completed.

Project Start Date

Date of transfer of first instalment from the MPTF Office to the Participating Organization.

Total Approved Budget

This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.

US Dollar Amount

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.

2014 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the Rural Women Economic Empowerment using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December 2014. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/RWF00>.

1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December 2014, 2 contributors have deposited US\$ 9,290,028 in contributions and US\$ 3,580 has been earned in interest,

bringing the cumulative source of funds to US\$ 9,293,608.

Of this amount, US\$ 1,607,891 has been transferred to 4 Participating Organizations, of which US\$ 54,437 has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ 92,900. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the Rural Women Economic Empowerment as of 31 December 2014.

Table 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2014 (in US Dollars)

	Annual 2013	Annual 2014	Cumulative
Sources of Funds			
Gross Contributions		9,290,028	9,290,028
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income		3,580	3,580
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations		-	-
Refunds by Administrative Agent to Contributors		-	-
Fund balance transferred to another MDTF		-	-
Other Revenues		-	-
Total: Sources of Funds		9,293,608	9,293,608
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations		1,607,891	1,607,891
Refunds received from Participating Organizations		-	-
Net Funded Amount to Participating Organizations		1,607,891	1,607,891
Administrative Agent Fees		92,900	92,900
Direct Costs: (Steering Committee, Secretariat...etc.)		-	-
Bank Charges		103	103
Other Expenditures		-	-
Total: Uses of Funds		1,700,894	1,700,894
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent		7,592,714	7,592,714
Opening Fund balance (1 January)		-	-
Closing Fund balance (31 December)		7,592,714	7,592,714
Net Funded Amount to Participating Organizations		1,607,891	1,607,891
Participating Organizations' Expenditure		54,437	54,437
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations			1,553,454

2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this Fund as of 31 December 2014.

Table 2. Contributors' Deposits, as of 31 December 2014 (in US Dollars)

Contributors	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2013	Current Year Jan-Dec-2014	Total
NORWAY, Government of	-	1,624,168	1,624,168
SWEDISH INT'L DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION	-	7,665,860	7,665,860
Grand Total	-	9,290,028	9,290,028

3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent ('Fund earned interest'), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations ('Agency earned interest') where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest

to the AA. As of 31 December 2014, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ 3,580. No interest was received from Participating Organizations. Details are provided in the table below.

Table 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2014 (in US Dollars)

Interest Earned	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2013	Current Year Jan-Dec-2014	Total
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income		3,580	3,580
Total: Fund Earned Interest		3,580	3,580
Participating Organization			
Total: Agency earned interest			
Grand Total		3,580	3,580

4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December 2014, the AA has transferred US\$ 1,607,891 to 4 Participating Organizations (see list below).

Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

Table 4. Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2014 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2013			Current Year Jan-Dec-2014			Total		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
FAO				340,518		340,518	340,518		340,518
IFAD				158,160		158,160	158,160		158,160
UNWOMEN				671,252		671,252	671,252		671,252
WFP ²				437,961		437,961	437,961		437,961
Grand Total				1,607,891		1,607,891	1,607,891		1,607,891

² Expenditure of US\$62 000 for the Joint Programme in Kyrgyzstan will be reported under the 2015 Annual Financial Reporting exercise.

5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported for the year 2014 were submitted by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

5.1 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ 1,607,891 and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ 54,437. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of 3 percent.

Table 5. Net Funded Amount, Reported Expenditure, and Financial Delivery by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2014 (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure			Delivery Rate %
			Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2013	Current Year Jan-Dec-2014	Cumulative	
FAO	340,518	340,518				0
IFAD	158,160	158,160				0
UNWOMEN	671,252	671,252		54,437	54,437	8.11
WFP ³	437,961	437,961				0
Grand Total	1,607,891	1,607,891		54,437	54,437	3.39

³ Expenditure of US\$62 000 for the Joint Programme in Kyrgyzstan will be reported under the 2015 Annual Financial Reporting exercise.

5.3 EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT

Table 6 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Participating Organization.

Table 6. Expenditure by Project within Country, as of 31 December 2014 (in US Dollars)

Country / Project No.and Project Title		Participating Organization	Approved Amount	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Delivery Rate %
Ethiopia						
00092000	RWEE Ethiopia	FAO	53,810	53,810		0
00092000	RWEE Ethiopia	IFAD	59,528	59,528		0
00092000	RWEE Ethiopia	UNWOMEN	68,517	68,517	15,006	21.90
00092000	RWEE Ethiopia	WFP	63,627	63,627		0
Ethiopia Total			245,482	245,482	15,006	6.11
Guatemala						
00092001	RWEE Guatemala	FAO	49,776	49,776		0
00092001	RWEE Guatemala	UNWOMEN	49,776	49,776	3,256	6.54
00092001	RWEE Guatemala	WFP	145,929	145,929		0
Guatemala Total			245,481	245,481	3,256	1.33
Kyrgyzstan						
00092002	RWEE Kyrgyzstan	FAO	74,900	74,900		0
00092002	RWEE Kyrgyzstan	UNWOMEN	97,501	97,501	6,379	6.54
00092002	RWEE Kyrgyzstan	WFP ⁴	73,081	73,081		0
Kyrgyzstan Total			245,482	245,482	6,379	2.60
Liberia						
00092003	RWEE Liberia	UNWOMEN	197,308	197,308	12,908	6.54
00092003	RWEE Liberia	WFP	48,174	48,174		0
Liberia Total			245,482	245,482	12,908	5.26
Nepal						
00092004	RWEE Nepal	UNWOMEN	135,000	135,000	8,832	6.54
Nepal Total			135,000	135,000	8,832	6.54
Niger						
00092005	RWEE Niger	FAO	101,032	101,032		0
00092005	RWEE Niger	IFAD	48,150	48,150		0
00092005	RWEE Niger	UNWOMEN	48,150	48,150	3,150	6.54
00092005	RWEE Niger	WFP	48,150	48,150		0
Niger Total			245,482	245,482	3,150	1.28

⁴ Expenditure of US\$62 000 for the Joint Programme in Kyrgyzstan will be reported under the 2015 Annual Financial Reporting exercise.

Rwanda						
00092006	RWEE Rwanda	FAO	61,000	61,000		0
00092006	RWEE Rwanda	IFAD	50,482	50,482		0
00092006	RWEE Rwanda	UNWOMEN	75,000	75,000	4,907	6.54
00092006	RWEE Rwanda	WFP	59,000	59,000		0
Rwanda Total			245,482	245,482	4,907	2.00
Grand Total			1,607,891	1,607,891	54,437	3.39

5.4 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY CATEGORY

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. In 2006 the UN Development Group (UNDG) established six categories against which UN entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executive Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories. All expenditure incurred prior to 1 January 2012 have been reported in the old categories; post 1 January 2012 all expenditure are reported in the new eight categories. The old and new categories are noted to the right.

Table 7 reflects expenditure reported in the UNDG expense categories. Where the Fund has been operational pre and post 1 January 2012, the expenditures are reported using both categories. Where a Fund became operational post 1 January 2012, only the new categories are used.

2012 CEB Expense Categories

1. Staff and personnel costs
2. Supplies, commodities and materials
3. Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation
4. Contractual services
5. Travel
6. Transfers and grants
7. General operating expenses
8. Indirect costs

2006 UNDG Expense Categories

1. Supplies, commodities, equipment & transport
2. Personnel
3. Training counterparts
4. Contracts
5. Other direct costs
6. Indirect costs

Table 7. Expenditure by UNDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2014 (in US Dollars)

Category	Expenditure			Percentage of Total Programme Cost
	Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2013	Current Year Jan-Dec-2014	Total	
Supplies, Commodities, Equipment and Transport (Old)	-	-	-	
Personnel (Old)	-	-	-	
Training of Counterparts(Old)	-	-	-	
Contracts (Old)	-	-	-	
Other direct costs (Old)	-	-	-	
Staff & Personnel Cost (New)	-	-	-	
Suppl, Comm, Materials (New)	-	-	-	
Equip, Veh, Furn, Depn (New)	-	-	-	
Contractual Services (New)	-	4,000	4,000	38.01
Travel (New)	-	-	-	
Transfers and Grants (New)	-	-	-	
General Operating (New)	-	6,524	6,524	61.99
Programme Costs Total	-	10,524	10,524	100.00
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	-	43,913	43,913	417.28
Total	-	54,437	54,437	

¹ **Indirect Support Costs** charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

6. COST RECOVERY

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2014, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period US\$ **92,900** was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2014, US\$ **92,900** has been charged in AA-fees.
- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US\$ **43,913** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ **43,913** as of 31 December 2014.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (<http://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

8. DIRECT COSTS

The Fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Participating Organization to cover costs associated with Secretariat services and overall coordination, as well as Fund level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as 'direct costs'.