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**“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2015**

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in (<i>Ethiopia</i>) MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 00092000 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p align="center"><i>(Ethiopia)</i></p>								
<p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN, WFP 	<p>The strategic result is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.</p> <p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <p>National counterparts</p> <p>Federal: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA); Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR),; Federal Cooperatives Agency (FCA),Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC); Federal Micro and Small Enterprise Development Agency (FeMSEDA); Ministry of Education (Department of Functional Adult Literacy);Land Administration Agency.</p> <p>Regional: Regional Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperation (BoFEDs); Farmer Training Center (FTC); Regional Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCAs) in Oromia and Afar Regions; Regional Bureaus of Agriculture (BoA) in Oromia and Afar Regions; Regional Micro Finance Institutions in Afar and Oromia; Regional Micro Finance Institutions in Afar and Oromia; Organization for Women in Self-employment (WISE)</p>								
<p>Programme/Project Cost</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: (1,288,256USD)</p> <p>MPTF Contribution⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency) <table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>UN Women</i></td> <td><i>130,536</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>FAO</i></td> <td><i>278,741</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>WFP</i></td> <td><i>439,210</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>IFAD</i></td> <td><i>439,769</i></td> </tr> </table> <p>Agency Contribution 211,000 USD</p>	<i>UN Women</i>	<i>130,536</i>	<i>FAO</i>	<i>278,741</i>	<i>WFP</i>	<i>439,210</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>439,769</i>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p align="center">5 YEARS</p> <p>Start Date (<i>15 10 2012</i>)</p>
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¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number are as follows: ETHIOPIA: 00092000; GUATEMALA: 00092001; KYRGYZSTAN: 00092002; LIBERIA: 00092003; LIBERIA: 00092004; NEPAL: 00092005; NIGER: 00092006; RWANDA: 00092007.

⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the global amount (sum of Norway’s and Sweden’s contributions) transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i> Other Contributions (donors) <i>(SDG 1,500,000)</i>
TOTAL:
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.
Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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>

Original End Date <i>(14 10 2017)</i>
Report Submitted By
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ACRONYMS

BoWCA	Bureau of Women and Children Affairs
BoFED	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
FCA	Federal Cooperative Agency
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FeMSEDA	Federal Medium and Small and Enterprise Development Agency
GTP	Growth and Transformational Plan
HLSC	High-level Steering Committee
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labor Organization
IPs	Implementing Partners
MoFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MoANR	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
MoFEC	Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation
MDGs.	Millennium Development Goals
RWEE JP	Rural Women Economic Empowerment Joint Program
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WFP	World Food Program

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the official launch of the Rural Women Economic Empowerment Programme (RWEE) in Ethiopia, results in programme implementation have included the setting up of a strong coordination mechanism that includes all major stakeholders – at the federal, regional and district levels – to ensure not only activities are implemented, but that they are aligned to, and beneficiaries continue to benefit, from government’s main policies, interventions and support.

Consecutive meetings were undertaken with government partners and community groups at different levels mainly to establish working procedures with government system and identify women saving and credit cooperatives to channel revolving fund. Based on the annual work plan, micro plans of each region has been further refined by indicating roles and responsibilities of different government partners in line with the corresponding budget.

With the close technical support of UN Women and MoWCA, the ‘Cooperative Strengthening Manual of Federal Cooperatives Agency (FCA)’ was made gender sensitive. This Manual is to strengthen the capacity of cooperatives nationwide and incorporated women access specific indicators, including the tracking of membership in cooperatives at all levels, leadership participation and roles of women, and how women are able to access the services offered by the Cooperatives. This manual will be disseminated for responsible regional and district level cooperative agencies as a guide for their implementation. Under this component of RWEE, experts from FCA who are responsible for the execution of the cooperative strengthening plan, were supported to actually develop the women access specific indicators, one on hand to ensure buy in and better implementation/tracking of indicators and on the other hand, to build a corps of gender experts within the Federal Cooperatives Agency.

With support from the Programme and in collaboration with other stakeholders, a National Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture was established. This Network aims to ensure, and advocate for, gender responsiveness of the agriculture sector policies, strategies and programmes, using evidence based advocacy, capacity building, knowledge and information sharing. The Network is made up of stakeholders drawn from USAID, CIDA, MoWCA and is hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR) with ongoing technical and financial support provided by UN Women and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

One of the results of the RWEE Programme is the bringing together of 82 stakeholders (50 female; 32 male) from government sector ministries at the Federal and Regional Levels, to strengthen their understanding of existing rural land proclamation of government and its benefit and challenges for rural women, accessibility and utilization of rural women friendly agricultural technologies, rural women entrepreneurship and women policies and legal frameworks. Through discussions conducted, challenges and opportunities to effectively implement the policies and legal frameworks for women were identified to plan for further actions by the sector offices.

I. Purpose

RWEE is a 5 year results oriented collaborative global programme initiated in 2012 at global level by UN WOMEN, FAO, IFAD and WFP to promote the economic empowerment of rural women. It has an overarching goal of securing rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the post MDGs. The Ethiopian RWEE Joint Programme aims at accelerating the economic empowerment of 2000 rural women and securing their livelihoods and rights as defined by Ethiopia’s

Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) and in contributing to the achievements of the SDGs. The JP RWEE has the following interrelated four outcomes as a marker of its achievements:-

Outcome 1. Rural women improve their food security and nutrition

Outcome 2. Rural women increase their income to sustain their livelihoods

Outcome 3. Rural women strengthen their voice in decisions that affect their lives

Outcome 4. Gender responsive policy and institutional environment for women's economic empowerment.

II. Results

Following the 2014 official Launch of Ethiopia RWEE JP, major activities that include planning with regional government partners to cascade the major activities of the joint program and contextualize it with specific situation and needs of the targeted regions was conducted. For the regional and district level activities, technical support was provided to the regional and district level participating sector bureaus so as to create enabling condition at grass root level and cascade the big pictures of the program along with the specific activities designed to realize the results. This process is believed to familiarize the implementing partners at grass root level with the expected results of the joint program so that they will consciously work and track achievements throughout the program. Additionally, activities designed to be implemented at national level and which are expected to impact the policy and institutional environment for economic empowerment women were initiated and progresses that could potentially impact the existing policy and institutional environment were observed.

i) Narrative reporting on results:

As a priority action to initiate implementation of the programme, a planning workshop was conducted with the target regions of Oromia and Afar and federal representatives. The purpose of the planning workshop was to create common understanding about the programme among all key implementing partners and also to agree upon the indicative activities in annual work plans for 2015 and 2016.

The planning workshop was attended by high level Government Minister and Regional Bureau Heads, UN agency officials, representatives of target women and community and Non-government Organizations. In general, the participants for both regional planning workshops included representatives from different sectorial government bodies at federal, regional level and Woreda levels including MoFED, MoWCA BoFED (Bureau of Finance and Economic Development), Regional BoWCA (Bureau of Women and Children Affairs), Regional Cooperative Promotion Bureau, Regional Bureau of Agriculture and their respective structures in the targeted Woredas, women community representatives. In addition technical working group members from each agencies have actively taken part.

As result of the above planning workshop, the following has been achieved:

- Government commitments towards economic empowerment of rural women were articulated and the RWEE program appreciated for its contributions towards this effort in the piloted regions of Oromia and Afar,
- Increased awareness on and support by all stakeholders to facilitate implementation of the program in the target regions created.
- The programme was introduced to participants with a detailed articulation of programme outcomes by stating the joint programme partnering agencies comparative advantage in each outcome, the key donors and the funding status.
- There was broad consensus from participants and government counterparts on the importance of the programme and this was reflected with foreseeing programme scale up at national level,

- Relevant guidelines were agreed to be developed or revised and translated in local language of both regions and shared to all including Programme Implementation Manual (PIM), Guidelines on financial reporting, Guidelines on Revolving funds management and what it entails, guidelines on M&E.

Following up on the Inception Workshop, the Technical Working Group (TWG) and the Ministry of Women Children Affairs (MoWCA) conducted supportive monitoring visits to the 4 implementing districts (three in Oromia and one in Afar Regional states respectively). As a result the annual work plan, micro plans of each region has been further refined by indicating roles and responsibilities of different government partners in line with the corresponding budget. The program objectives, government partner's roles and responsibilities and budget transfer channels/modalities have been thoroughly discussed during the micro plan preparation meetings.

Additionally, the visits and technical support of the TWG provided a first opportunity for district level relevant sector bureaus (agriculture, cooperative agency and women and children affairs) to come together to strengthen their cooperation and create synergy to deliver not only on the results of the Programme, but to demonstrate a potentially more sustainable way of delivering government services for women in those districts. In Afar, within the pilot district, Dubti, for example, a technical committee chaired by the Afar Bureau of Women Affairs (BoWCA) was established. Membership include the Bureaus of Agriculture and District Cooperative Agency. This committee is expected to meet regularly to deal with the challenges of the program, identify appropriate interventions and follow up on the coordination of activities at the district level.

Consecutive meetings were also undertaken with government partners and community groups at different levels mainly to establish working procedures with government system and identify women's target groups for the program. Joint criteria to select potential intervention groups and/or organize new women saving and credit target groups was developed together with government counterparts and RWEE technical working team. Using the criteria, ten saving and Credit Cooperatives (SACCO'S) are targeted in four districts of the two working regions. The best approach of the JP is taken to be the holistic approach (targeting a single woman for the different intervention areas –food and nutrition security, decision making, and livelihood improvement) capitalizing on each agencies experience.

With support from UN Women and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), under the Programme, Federal Cooperative Agency (FCA) has developed gender sensitive manual which is to strengthen the capacity of all cooperatives in the country. The gender experts from MoWCA along with women economic empowerment staff of UN Women country office reviewed the manual and incorporate their valuable input that helps FCA to incorporate women related indicators like increasing the membership and leadership participation of women in all types of cooperatives in the country. Additionally, the experts of FCA who are responsible for the execution of the cooperatives strengthening plan were sensitized to consciously work on these indicators and track results accordingly by including these points in their checklists while evaluating the cooperatives performance at national and regional level.

In collaboration with other stakeholders, a National Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture chaired by Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR) is established to serve as national platform for gender equality in the sector. The Network will be co-chaired by UN Women with CIDA and USAID in rotation with support of technical committee which will be selected from members of the network. The goal of the network is to ensure gender responsiveness of the agriculture sector policies, strategies and programmes through evidence based advocacy, capacity building, knowledge and information sharing. As one of the activities of RWEE JP, UN Women is closely working with the Gender Directorate of MoANR by bringing the all stakeholders relevant to establish the National Network for Gender Equality in

Agriculture. Besides, with the financial support from RWEE JP and in collaboration with other stakeholders, MoANR is facilitating the development of gender equality strategy in agriculture which will be used as road map to impact the policy and institutional environment of the agricultural sector for women empowerment.

Finally, the first phase action oriented workshop which aimed at identifying challenges, opportunities and action points on the implementation of the existing women focused legal frameworks, policies and sectorial development packages of Oromia and Afar regional states was conducted with the direct engagement of MoWCA and regional and federal level sector offices. 82 participants (Male 32 and Female 50) participated in the workshop representing the relevant federal and regional sector offices participating in the RWEE JP. Experts from MoANR, Federal Micro and Small and Enterprise Development Agency (FeMSEDA) and MoWCA have taken the role to familiarize participants about the existing rural land proclamation and its benefit and challenges for rural women, accessibility and utilization of rural women friendly agricultural technologies, rural women entrepreneurship and women policies and legal frameworks respectively. Following this, a series of discussions which ultimately lead to identification of challenges and opportunities of the aforementioned sectorial policy and legal provisions were conducted. In the second phase of the action oriented workshop, further discussion on the identified challenges and opportunities will be conducted so as to identify action points and set plan of action which will be implemented by all the participating government sector offices.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Since the official launch of the program, RWEE JP has been challenged with some anticipated and other emerging internal and external circumstances which adversely affected the overall performance of the Joint Program.

The major and first challenge was the planning process which happened to take longer than expected due to a number of reasons listed below:-

- Selection of regions for RWEE was not an easy task as government, especially Ministry of Women and Children Affairs wanted the programme to be implemented nationwide. UN agencies had to make series of negotiations with MoWCYA and the former Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) and the current Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC) to limit the number of Regions to a maximum of 2 out of 9 regions, which was finally accepted with the precondition that the programme will expand to more regions as results are demonstrated and more resources are mobilized.
- Negotiating on activities with the different UN agencies and regions also took a longer time and contributed to the delay in implementation.
- The merger of the Rural Economic empowerment programme to an ongoing Joint Programme run by 6 other UN agencies (ILO, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO and UN Women), peculiar only to Ethiopia, has meant that the Technical Working Group had to integrate the RWEE components into the pro doc and in the resource result framework. This has led to signing of an addendum/amendment that takes into consideration the unique nature of the RWEE Joint programme was made possible under the leadership of UN Women.

The purpose of the JP GEWE is to address core gender inequality issues and ensure the empowerment of women and girls and support the realization of their rights. Cognizant of the fact that changes need to take place at the individual level, institutional level and at the community level, the joint

programme adopts a multi-sectoral and comprehensive approach taking place at different levels. The second phase of the GEWE JP started in July 2013 is expected to last until June 2016. The programme has been implemented in 126 Woredas in all 9 regions and the two city administrations of Ethiopia.

The Joint Programme is designed to achieve four outcomes: Rural and Urban Women have increased income for improved food & nutrition security and livelihoods, Rural and Urban Women and girls have increased opportunities for education, leadership and decision making, Federal and Local level government institutions have strengthened their capacity to implement national and international commitments on gender equality and improve the lives of Ethiopian women and support the realization of their rights. Federal and local level institutions and communities have enhanced their capacity to promote and protect the rights of women and girls.

- Negotiations between MoFEC and UN agencies on resources for UN agencies to conduct researches, assessments, M+E, capacity building of IPs was a tough process where we were forced to accommodate to some extent

Secondly, following the long planning process, though the required support to kick off the activities on the ground was provided, it has not been an easy task for the RWEE JP to start regional level activities. The minimal capacity of the regional IPs to quickly respond to the requirements of UN Financial system and to provide error free institutional venter formats coupled with the long process within the participating agencies and the government system challenged the implementation of the program in 2015. This is due to the fact that the implementing partners are new for the systems of the participating agencies that demands creation of new accounts for the purpose of fund transfer. In order to solve these problem, focal persons of the participating agencies along with their operation staff have engaged directly in filling and correcting the formats required to initiate the fund transfer process. However, absence and resistance of officials to quickly sign and respond on the requirements forced the process to take time longer than it should.

The lesson learned from this experience is that how requesting IPs to respond to the systems of all the participating UN agencies in disintegrated manner and without giving orientation ahead adversely affects a program. As a joint program, major steps should be undertaken in a coordinated manner and government IPs which are new to the UN System should be oriented ahead before they are requested to full fill reporting or other requirements necessary for the joint program effectiveness.

Moreover, the difficulty in the transfer of IFAD allocated funds to the regional IPs is the other challenge that has caused delays in the program implementation at the grassroots level. It realized later that IFAD could not within its operations/mandate, transfer funds directly to IPs which has meant WFP taking over IFAD's resources. The lesson from this is how analyzing the mandates and operational procedures and guidelines of participating agencies is critical before resources are committed and activities which are predecessors for the activities of other agencies are designed.

Finally, other risks to the Programme implementation include staff turnover of government IPs, delays in implementation, possible postponements in fund flow calendar, limited capacity of monitoring and reporting, and disaster risks like drought and flood which even though identified as potential risks, during the design, happened sooner, making it more difficult for planning and implementation. The 2015 drought in Ethiopia, the worst in its history and due to El Niño, is now affecting 2016 harvest, and affecting the RWEE targeted districts of Afar and agricultural lowlands of Oromia region. This concern has already been discussed at the monthly TWG meeting and its impact analyzed with government agencies, led by Her Excellency, Mrs. Zenebu Tadesse, Minister of MoWCA and the Oromia and Afar Regional Heads of Women and Children Affairs. While government indicated that the RWEE specific targeted areas of the programme are not among the most vulnerable places, all participating agencies in collaboration with the

targeted government bureaus, have recognized that there is still a challenge of how to better support targeted women in light of the overall drought affecting the country, and devise mechanisms that could help to create resilient households amid the existing challenges in the programme implementation. While the drought has had the potential to delay the programme, it has also presented an opportunity to critically look at the planned activities from a climate resilience approach, support targeted women and their households during this difficult times, while also building their overall resilience and food security. For instance, the “Assessment on Women Friendly Agricultural Products, Technologies and Income Generating Activities and Opportunities” which is undergoing under the responsibility of FAO is geared to consider approaches that include Sustainable Livelihood Frameworks, Analysis of Anticipated Socio-Economic Impact of the Selected IGAs & technologies that include reduction to vulnerability to drought and Assessment of Environmental Impact & Environmental Sustainability.

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
Outcome 1 Improved food and nutrition security			
<p>Indicator 1.1: Frequency and composition of meals and dietary diversity among targeted women and family members</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia -87.6% eat three times a day;10.2% eat twice a day and 2 % eat once a day Afar -39.9% eat three times a day;34.1 % eat twice a day; 20.3 % eat once a day</p> <p>Planned Target: 70% of the target in Afar will eat three times a day with appropriate dietary diversity 97% of the target in Oromia will eat three times a day with appropriate dietary diversity.</p>			<p>Food Security and Nutrition Survey and by Ministry/ Bureau of Agriculture.</p> <p>Ministry of Health and FAO, end Program Household (HH) Survey/Program Evaluation).</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2: % increase in agricultural production of targeted women farmers (targeted households) in a sustainable manner</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia- 4.7%</p>			<p>End line survey report (Program Evaluation);</p> <p>Household (HH) Survey.</p>

<p>Afar-18.4% declining Planned Target: Average 20% increase</p>			
<p>Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</p>			
<p>Indicator 1.1.11.1.1 Percentage of women with increased access and control over local food reserves. Baseline: Oromia -Control over local reserves- 20.6% Afar- Control over local reserve none due to depletion of household asset Planned Target: On average 50% of the targeted women</p>			<p>Implementing partners; Programme biannual and annual reports</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.2 % of targeted rural women/households accessing integrated agriculture services and Inputs. Baseline: Oromia - 15% Afar-none Planned Target: On average 30% of the targeted rural women</p>			<p>Programme biannual and annual reports</p>
<p>Output 1.2 Rural women have capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production.</p>			
<p>Indicator 1.2.1% of targeted women leading and managing food household reserves as a result of enhanced capacity Baseline: Oromia 20.6% Afar -None Planned Target: On average 50% of the targeted women</p>			<p>Programme biannual and annual reports from Implementing partners. Joint field visit reports, midterm and annual program review meetings.</p>
			<p>Programme biannual and annual reports from</p>

<p>Indicator 1.2.2% of targeted women utilizing improved production techniques Baseline: Oromia – 2.3%, Afar-none as pastoralist community ,women per se hardly improved production techniques Planned Target: Average 30% of the target women</p>			<p>Implementing partners Programme Report</p> <p>Joint field visit reports ,midterm and annual program review meetings</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2.2% of Spouses (family members) who started supporting women in their engagement like HH food reserve management and control activities Baseline: None Planned Target: 50% of the targeted households</p>			<p>Programme biannual and annual reports from Implementing partners, programme Report</p> <p>Joint field visit reports ,midterm and annual program review meetings</p>
<p>Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.1: Number of women with diversified income sources. Baseline: Oromia –All targeted women (households) have one to two source of income (agriculture and livestock) Afar-All targeted women (households) have one to two source of income (agriculture and livestock) And very few (14-16% engage in labor work like Food for work program and petty trade for subsistence life) Planned Target: 3 to 4 income sources for at least 67% of the target Woredas depending on the target areas</p>			<p>Program annual and end line survey report (program Evaluation)</p>

<p>Indicator 2.2 :Average annual income of the targeted women/household Baseline: 450 USD per Annum Planned Target: 900.00 USD per annum for 70% of the target</p>			<p>Program annual and end line survey report (program Evaluation)</p>
<p>Output 2.1 Women's increased capacity to produce goods with diversified access to local markets</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.1.1 Number of targeted Women getting access to diversified market opportunities(district and regional markets for their goods /services Baseline: Oromia –None; Afar –None Planned Target: At least 1,200 of the target women(2000) got access to diversified/better market</p>			<p>Implementing Partners. Programme biannual and annual reports. Joint field visit reports, midterm and annual program review meetings.</p>
<p>Output 2.2 Rural women access to holistic income-generating facilities and to gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services increased</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.2.1 Percentage of targeted women in the targeted SACCOS (cooperatives) benefitting from gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services Baseline: Oromia- Women Benefited financial services -38.2% ; The financial services found to be gender insensitive. Afar-None</p>			<p>Implementing Partners. Programme biannual and annual reports. Joint field visit reports, midterm and annual program review meetings.</p>
<p>Planned Target: 80% of the target women</p>			<p>Implementing Partners Programme biannual and annual reports Joint field visit reports,</p>

<p>Indicator 2.2.2 Number of women engaged in profitable IGA Baseline: Almost all women have engaged in subsistence kind of business Planned Target: 600 of the targeted women</p>			<p>midterm and annual program review meetings.</p>
<p>Output 2.3 Rural women access to holistic income-generating facilities and to gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services increased</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.3.1 % of target women with increased capacity on basic business management skills, functional literacy and entrepreneurship in accessing to BDS services</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia- Those who received Entrepreneurship and business skills Trainings:13.1% Received BDS(counseling, coaching, cooperative formation etc.): 14% Received Functional Adult literacy:10.4% Afar- only 3.4% received training on Entrepreneurship and business skills</p>			<p>Implementing Partners.</p> <p>Programme biannual and annual reports</p> <p>Joint field visit reports, midterm and annual program review meetings.</p>
<p>Planned Target: 75% of targeted women to have improved capacity on business and entrepreneurship ;30% of the target women to have participate in functional adult literacy</p> <p>Indicator 2.3.2 Number of women initiated self-employment activities(IGAs) with the interventions Baseline: Oromia-None; Afar-None</p>			<p>Annual Reports from Implementing Partners.</p> <p>Joint field visit reports, midterm and annual program review meetings.</p>

Planned Target: 70% of the target women either initiate business group /individual business			
Output 2.4 Rural women have increased access to productive resources and services (land and agricultural inputs and technologies)			
<p>Indicator 2.4.1 Number of women provided with equipment and tools with access to necessary capacity building interventions Baseline: Oromia- None; Afar-None Planned Target: 1500 on accessing technology and tools</p>			<p>Annual Reports from Implementing Partners</p> <p>Joint field visit reports, midterm and annual program Review meetings.</p>
<p>Indicator 2.4.2 Gender Responsive centers and financial and non-financial services provided to target women jointly by agricultural offices, ,cooperative promotion agency and other key sectors Baseline: Oromia -Gender Neutral FTC Center Afar- Gender Neutral FTC Center Planned Target: At least three gender responsive functional Service / BDS centers established to provide women with non-financial services</p> <p>Indicator 2.4.3 Percentage of women who succeeded in obtaining joint land certificates and benefiting from it as compared to end of 2014. Baseline: Oromia-18%; Afar-None Planned Target: 25 % of the target women (households on average)</p>			<p>Programme biannual and annual reports from implementing partners.</p> <p>Joint field visit reports ,midterm and annual program review meetings</p>
			<p>Annual Reports from Implementing partners</p> <p>Joint field visit reports, midterm and annual program review meetings.</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>Indicator 3.1 : Proportion of targeted rural women jointly deciding on household resources and matters Baseline: Oromia-Almost non except in their self-help groups /cooperatives Afar - Almost non except in their self-help groups /cooperatives Planned Target: 60% of the target women will have equal say on HH resources and matter</p>			<p>Program end line survey reports.</p> <p>Programme biannual and annual reports.</p> <p>Implementing Partners.</p> <p>Joint field visit reports, midterm and annual program review meetings.</p>
<p>Indicator 3.2: Proportion of targeted rural women participating in decision making in rural institutions and communities Baseline: Oromia –only in their self-help groups /women SACCOs Afar- only in their self-help groups /women SACCOs Planned Target: 10% of the target women will be participating in leadership and decision making in rural institutions including RUSACCOs and community based organization.</p>			<p>Programme biannual and annual reports.</p> <p>Implementing partners</p> <p>Joint field visit reports, midterm and annual program review meetings.</p>
<p>Output 3.1 Rural women confidence and leadership skills built to fully participate in family matters, rural institutions, cooperatives and unions</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.1.1 Number of institutions and communities advocating for women and girls’ economic rights. Baseline: Oromia -2 women Cooperative Per Woreda; Afar- 2 women Cooperative Per Woreda Planned Target: At least 3 Cooperative unions, and 16 Cooperatives (both led</p>			<p>District data Programme Sample surveys/end line survey among targeted population Programme biannual and annual reports</p> <p>Implementing partners</p>

<p>by women and men) and 50% of the family members of the Target women</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.2 Number of community members(by sex) whose misunderstanding /misconception on gender issues and women’s economic rights minimized Baseline: There exist a misunderstanding of gender and women right’s issues in targeted areas Planned Target: 80% of the target community (both male and female)</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.3 Number of women with improved leadership, assertiveness and management skills. Baseline: Oromia -10% of the target (SACCO committee members); Afar - None Planned Target: 65% of the target will have better skill and confidence</p>			<p>District data Programme Sample surveys/end line survey among targeted population Programme biannual and annual reports</p> <p>Implementing partners</p> <p>District data Programme Sample surveys/end line survey among targeted population Programme biannual and annual reports</p> <p>Implementing partners</p>
<p>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p>			
<p>Indicator4.1 : Number of new/ revised agricultural strategies, regulatory frameworks and standards which mainstreamed gender Baseline: There is one agricultural policy which is gender sensitive at national level Planned Target: 3(One gender responsive policy, one gender mainstreaming strategy and one implementation guideline the same cascaded to the target regions)</p>	<p>1 (Cooperative Strengthening Manual)</p>		<p>Ministry of Agriculture ,</p> <p>Programme biannual and annual reports</p>

<p>Indicator 4.2: Number of relevant institutions incorporated gender equality related targets in their policy and programs Baseline: TBD Planned Target: 3 sectoral institutions (Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ministry of Education (Integrated functional adult literacy program and manual) and Federal Cooperative Agency</p>			<p>Programme annual reports and end line survey Ministry of Agriculture , BOA, CSA, Federal and regional Cooperative Agency</p>
<p>Output 4.1: Agriculture key stakeholders, including relevant government bodies, capacity enhanced to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender sensitive indicators and targets in planning and budgeting</p>			
<p>Indicator 4.1.1 Number of experts and officials in agriculture cooperative and other institutions whose capacity increased to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender sensitive indicators and targets in planning and budgeting Baseline:TBD Planned Target: 624 experts and government officials working in agriculture, cooperative and other government institutions</p>			<p>Programme quarter and annual reports. Reports from Ministry of Agriculture, Federal Cooperative Agency.</p>
<p>Indicator 4.1.2 Availability of evidence based research and actions to inform policy development/revision, to better integrate gender equality in key sectors strategy and investment framework Baseline: Only national level Preliminary Gender Profile Planned Target: Three policy advocacy oriented research including comprehensive national gender profile and Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index” (WEAI)</p>			<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, BoA, Central Statistics Agency, Federal Cooperative Agency, WFP/FAO.</p>

iii) Beneficiary Story



Fate Bariso is a 35 year old married women living with her six children in Adami Tulu district of Oromia Region, and one of the targeted beneficiaries under the RWEE Programme. Currently, Fate is a member of Abine Gowota women saving and Credit Cooperative (SACCOs) where she learned the culture of saving and credit. Jointly with her husband, she owns 2 hectare land, 1 ox, 2 cows, 2 goats and 2 sheep that are used to support their livelihood.

Fate aspires to improve her source of income and change her subsistence type of life which is now limited to the one time harvest that she and her family able to get every year. Besides, though she has an indigenous knowledge on rearing and fattening of cattle, the minimal access she has on modern agricultural technologies like fertilizer, financial services and trainings on business development services constrained her to have a better production and start sustainable business.

Fate would like to conduct animal fattening, expand modern agricultural system such as irrigation and diversify her income through petty trade. She also said she wishes to intensify her non-farm business, educate her children so that they will have better life than herself. The Programme provides an opportunity for Fate and her household to improve their knowledge and ways of doing things, and in the process, hoping to increase their productivity/incomes and food security, and to other food related activities like ensuring a good future for her children.

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

During the reporting period a baseline survey which aimed at collecting appropriate and timely baseline data/information for the RWEE JP Program and guide program implementation and prompt evidence based advocacy and communication of the program was conducted. More specifically the study was conducted to achieve the following objectives:

- To generate qualitative and quantitative baseline information with regard to the indicators set in the Performance Monitoring Framework
- To assess the social, economic and literacy status of target women and their families;
- To assess key institutions' capacity and practices in the areas of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment especially in promoting socio economic empowerment of women and functional literacy for women entrepreneurs and their challenges/gaps
- To identify the enabling factors, constraints and risks for the implementation of the RWEE JP program and the ongoing legal and policy frameworks related to the economic empowerment of women both at country and target regions.

Baseline reports covering the findings of targeted districts of Oromia and Afar regional states was produced and used to update the performance monitoring frameworks of RWEE JP to be used for the M&E activities of the program. The baseline reports for the Afar and Oromia region are separately produced including major findings on frequency and composition of meals, the inter-household food consumption pattern, targeted women utilization of improved production techniques and agricultural inputs and skills training, information technology; access and control over resources like land and other properties, decision making power, available support on business development and extension services found to be inadequate and others. The findings of the study will be used to guide the program monitoring and evaluation activities and as a base to do the advocacy and communication activities throughout the program period.

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

Not Applicable for now

V. Coordination Mechanisms

A Joint Programme Management Committee (PMC) which comprises the head of agencies of UN Women, IFAD, WFP, and FAO and MoWCA and MoFED is in place for RWEE JP. The PMC is responsible to oversee the overall program implementation of RWEE JP and is co -chaired by MoWCYA and UN Women in its role as the JP RWEE lead agency.

The planning, implementation, operational coordination, monitoring and report of RWEE are the responsibility of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The TWG allows for a representation of the agencies directly engaged in programme implementation. The TWG is also co-chaired by the designated official of MoWCYA and UN Women. The TWG meets once every month and as necessary.

The RWEE JP also has specialized technical as well as managerial staff within the UN and government(MoWCA, (Afar and Oromia), the Regional Bureaus for Women, Children and Youth Affairs (BOWCYAs)) responsible to ensure timely and effective implementation of the JP at different levels as well as adequate oversight in terms of coordination monitoring, accounting and controlling, reporting.

During the reporting period, a National Program Coordinator and Communication and Knowledge Management Specialist were hired for RWEE. The National Programme Coordinator is responsible for ensuring the overall effective and successful implementation of the program the at all levels. Specifically, the responsibilities include Programme planning and implementation; technical oversight and support to RWEE TWG and partners; advocacy and partnership building and knowledge management and communication. The Communications and Knowledge Management Specialist will closely work with the RWEE Programme Coordinator and WEE team of UN Women and provide technical support to ensure the effective communication and advocacy works of RWEE JP.

VI. Resources

The RWEE JP has secured a total of 3.06 million USD as a result of the positive response from Donors. The funding comprises of 1.5 million USD from the Spanish Government (SDG Fund), 245,482 USD from the Government of Norway, 1,106,102 USD from Government of Sweden and 211,000 USD contribution from the participating UN Agencies. The core contribution of the agencies has been used for the staff time being invested in the program along with other logistic activities necessary to coordinate the activities of the programme.