



“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”

**MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2015**

Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results ²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Nepal MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 92005 	<p>Nepal, 30 Village Development Committees (VDCs) from three districts: Rautahat, Sarlahi and Sindhuli districts (Terai and Hill regions)</p> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results:</i></p> <p><u>Goal:</u> Women farmers’ empowerment and rights secured to promote their survival and livelihood in select districts of Nepal</p> <p>UN Women Strategic Plan (2014-2017): Impact 2: Women, especially the poorest and most excluded, are economically empowered and benefit from development</p> <p>UNDAF (2013-2017) Outcomes: Outcome 1: Vulnerable and disadvantaged groups get improved access to basic essential social services and programmes in an equitable manner Outcome 2: Vulnerable groups have improved access to economic opportunities and adequate social protection Outcome 3: Vulnerable groups experience greater self-confidence, respect and dignity</p> <p>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 1) End poverty in all its forms and everywhere; 2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; 4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and remote lifelong learning opportunities for all 5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; 8) Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; and 12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns and 16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to</p>

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.

	justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Participating Organization(s)	Implementing Partners
<p>United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and World Food Programme (WFP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed by UN Women as the Lead Agency • Implemented jointly by UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP 	<p>National counterparts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Nepal (GoN), Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD) • Coordinating with relevant government agencies including the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) and other relevant groups and networks such as Rural Women’s Cooperatives, Networks, youth clubs, media and women farmers’ groups • Non-government stakeholders: Full Bright Consultancy (FBC) Pvt. Ltd.
Programme/Project Cost (US\$)	Programme Duration
<p>Total planned budget as per project document: US \$ 1,177,774</p> <p>MPTF /JP Contribution⁴: US \$ 1,177,774</p> <p>Agency Contribution: by Agency (if applicable)</p> <p>Government Contribution (if applicable)</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable)</p> <p>TOTAL: US\$ 1,177,774</p>	<p>Start Date⁵: 15/10/2012</p> <p>Original End Date⁶: 14/10/2017</p>
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.	Report Submitted By
<p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Ms. Mio Yokota ○ Title: Unit Manager, Women’s Economic Empowerment Unit ○ Participating Organization: UN Women (Lead Agency) ○ Email address: mio.yokota@unwomen.org

4 The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

5 The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

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

ACRONYMS

ADS	Agriculture Development Strategy
APP	Agriculture Perspective Plan
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
DADC	District Agriculture Development Committee
DADO	District Agriculture Development Officer
DCVDO	District Cottage and Village Development Office
DLSO	District Livestock Service Officer
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DoLS	Department of Livestock Services
DPHO	District Public Health Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBC	Full Bright Consultancy Private Limited
GDI	Gender Development Index
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GoN	Government of Nepal
HDI	Human Development Index
HHs	Households
HQ	Headquarter
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
JP	Joint Programme
KOICA	Korean International Cooperation Agency
KSF	Knowledge Share Fair
LDO	Local Development Officer
MoAD	Ministry of Agricultural Development
MoFALD	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
MoWCSW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
MPTF	Multi Partner Trust Fund
NARC	Nepal Agricultural Research Council
NCE	No Cost Extension
NPC	National Planning Commission
NWC	National Women Commission
PC	Programme Coordinator
PDI	Poverty Deprivation Index
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessments
PICCD	Policy and International Cooperation and Coordination Division
PSC	Programme Steering Committee
RWEE	Rural Women's Economic Empowerment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
TBD	To be developed
TC	Technical Committee
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
VDCs	Village Development Committees
WCO	Women and Children Office

WFP
WG

World Food Programme
Working Group

NARRATIVE REPORT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Development context in 2015

The GoN has endorsed the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) in July 2015. The recently approved ADS, a 20-year strategy for agricultural development in Nepal, is committed to the inclusion of women, disadvantaged groups and geographically disadvantaged populations throughout the planning, implementation and monitoring of the strategy. The vision of the ADS is a self-reliant, sustainable, competitive and inclusive agricultural sector that drives economic growth and contributes to improved livelihood and nutrition security. The Strategy includes a 10-year Plan of Action, which specifies the development of a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)⁷ strategy in agriculture. One of the overarching objectives of the ADS is to transform Nepal's agricultural sector into an 'inclusive' one. Earlier, the Agriculture Perspective Plan (APP), 1995-2015 of the GoN had missed important components such as gender relations, decision making roles and the contribution of women to agriculture. The APP analysis notes that it lacked a clear gender strategy to implement the APP.

The Joint Programme (JP) "Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Nepal (RWEE): A Joint Pilot Support Contributing to Implementation of the ADS 2015-2035 in Nepal" aims to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights ensuring sustainable development in the post conflict context of Nepal. The programme is being piloted in three districts (Sindhuli, Sarlahi and Rautahat) of central development region. The ADS action plan and roadmap clearly highlights "a self-reliant, sustainable, competitive, and inclusive agricultural sector that drives economic growth and contributes to improved livelihoods and food and nutrition security leading to food sovereignty" which are in alignment with the RWEE JP outcomes.

The country saw the promulgation of a new constitution in September 2015, representing a key milestone of the country's peace process. The constitution includes a number of progressive gender responsive provisions, such as the establishment of the National Women's Commission (NWC) as a constitutional body. The new constitution, under the Fundamental Rights Chapter has extended the fundamental rights of the women, with following rights related to women's economic empowerment such as: right to equality and non-discrimination based on sex, health condition, pregnancy; right to social security for single women⁸; right to a life free of violence ; right to equal wage; right of women to participate in all state structures and bodies on the basis of the principle of proportional inclusion⁹; equal right of women to lineage without any gender discrimination¹⁰; equal right of both the spouses in property and family affairs¹¹; right of women to special opportunity in the spheres of education, health, employment and social security on the basis of positive discrimination¹² and right of socially backward women, and

7 Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) is a concept that addresses unequal power relations between women and men and between different social groups. It focuses on the need for action to re-balance these power relations and ensure equal rights, opportunities and respect for all individuals regardless of their social identity.

8 Article 43, Constitution of Nepal 2015.

9 Article 38(4), Ibid.

10 Article 38(1), Ibid.

11 Article 38(6), Ibid.

12 Article 38(5), Ibid.

gender and sexual minority groups to inclusion in state structures on the basis of the principle of inclusion¹³.

The development context was challenging for Nepal in 2015 as the country faced a devastating earthquake on 25 April and 12 May 2015 followed by continuous aftershocks. According to the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)¹⁴, women and girls comprised the single largest group to be adversely affected by the disaster across all sectors, especially in the social and productive sectors; the inequalities, discrimination, exclusion and poverty women face are shaping not only their vulnerability to disasters, but also affecting how they respond to the disaster as survivors and their resilience to future disasters. The devastating earthquake in April affected the smooth implementation of the RWEE JP activities. The PSC meeting could take place only in June due to concentration of the GoN in the earthquake affected districts as part of the post-earthquake response. This meeting was planned in April 2015. All three districts were affected by the earthquake. The earthquake impact in Sindhuli district was considered particularly high as it was one of the 14 severely affected districts¹⁵. The political instability related to the widespread discontent with the new constitution and its perceived lack of inclusivity by certain groups, has manifested as ongoing strikes in the southern part (Terai districts) of the country with wide reaching impacts on the movement of people and goods as well as public administration and programme implementation. The border with India has remained blocked since October 2015, resulting in severe shortage of medicines, petrol, gas and other essential goods, which has severely impacted the humanitarian and reconstruction needs and development efforts. Given the circumstance, the Government advised not to conduct any field activities in two of the programme districts (Rautahat and Sarlahi) from September-mid December. This impacted timely completion of the baseline assessment, while a start-up workshop and the baseline assessment was completed in Sindhuli district in December.

Key milestones of the Joint Programme (JP)

The RWEE JP in Nepal was designed in close coordination with GoN, women's networks and civil society organizations to align with and contribute to a range of international and national commitments seeking to address rural women's social and economic empowerment. The JP in Nepal has two phases: a preparatory phase planned for January to June 2015, funded through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF); and an implementation phase, including an inception phase, covering the period 2015–2017. The initial implementation phase that includes an inception period (January-December 2015) has also been funded through the MPTF.

This annual report provides an overview of the key achievements during the twelve-month period of the preparatory phase as well as inception and partial implementation phase and therefore covers the period January – December 2015. During the twelve-month period, the key achievements included ownership and leadership of the programme taken by the national government. The MoAD endorsed the RWEE JP and agreed to pilot the development of a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion strategy of the recently approved ADS with support from the JP, under the leadership of UN Women. . From a governance perspective, the MoAD

¹³ Article 42, Ibid

¹⁴ National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal, Nepal Earthquake 2015: Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, available at <http://npc.gov.np/web/ui/index.php/home/pdna>

¹⁵ For details please visit Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report Volume B: Sector Report http://www.npc.gov.np/images/download/PDNA_volume_BFinalVersion.pdf

endorsed two committees, namely the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) and a Technical Committee (TC), including representation from high level government authorities. To provide support to the PSC and to ensure the smooth implementation of the RWEE JP, the Working Group (WG) of the four participating UN agencies has also been formed.

The major inception work included conducting a baseline assessment and developing a draft of the GESI strategy for the implementation of the ADS. During this reporting period, the national and district level start-up workshops were organized in Kathmandu and Sindhuli districts to prepare for the baseline assessment and a situation analysis of Sindhuli district. The baseline assessment will be completed by the first quarter of 2016. With the technical support of a national consulting firm, the zero draft of the framework of the GESI strategy is being developed.

The key findings of the preliminary baseline assessment report (from Key Informants Interviews and Focus Group Discussions) included: the District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) has various technological sections and field level services including farmer contact centers; Women and Children Offices (WCO under the MoWCSW) have been involved in implementing income generating cash crop programs through women farmer groups in close coordination with the DADO; a number of NGOs were reported to have been involved in implementing women focused income generating agriculture and non-agriculture activities in the district; District Livestock Service Office (DLSO) is conducting programmes on rural women's economic empowerment such as goat raising, piggery, poultry raising, broiler buffaloes production and dairy sector programmes such as *Paneer* and *Churpy* making and cheese production techniques; limited women were found aware of nutrition program of the Government, food consumption patterns and its effect on their health; rural women have limited knowledge on the use of modern technology for agriculture farming; women employment ratio in government office in Sindhuli is about 3- 5 % only and there is a higher degree of gender disparities in the rural areas compared to the urban areas in Sindhuli district. The relevant line agencies under the District Agriculture Development Committee (DADC) were actively involved in the baseline assessment in Sindhuli district.

A national level start-up workshop held in August 2015 and chaired by the Secretary of MoAD was able to establish ownership of the RWEE JP among the stakeholders and collect inputs for the finalization of baseline assessment, situation analysis and the draft GESI strategy framework. At the district level, 10 Village Development Committees (VDCs)¹⁶ were finalized and endorsed by DADC as a result of the district level start-up workshop in Sindhuli.

A series of consultations with the gender equality experts, relevant government officials and Development Partners (DPs) contributed to the development of the zero draft of the framework of GESI strategy. Nine consultations at the national level and seven consultations at the district level took place with agriculture experts, gender equality experts, relevant government officials and relevant DPs organization members in order to collect inputs for drafting the framework of the GESI strategy. The GESI strategy is a commitment made by the GoN for the implementation of the ADS adopted in July 2015. The RWEE JP has been supporting the MoAD in the development of the GESI strategy. The zero draft of the strategy highlighted the relevance of applying the GESI approach in the agriculture sector, including the strategic

16 A VDC in Nepal is the lower administrative part under the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development. Each district has several VDCs, similar to municipalities but with greater public-government interaction and administration. For more details please visit http://www.undp.org/content/dam/nepal/docs/reports/governance/UNDP_NP_Local%20Self-Governance%20Act%201999,%20MoLJ,HMG.pdf

direction of GESI initiatives as well as institutional arrangements to support the implementation of the GESI strategy. The draft strategy will be shared with the gender focal points of the relevant ministries in the first quarter of 2016 to include their inputs on identifying the specific roles of sectoral ministries in implementing the ADS.

As a capacity development initiative under the Outcome 4, bilateral meetings were held with the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)¹⁷ and Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC)¹⁸, which are both government agencies, to explore a partnership to generate gender responsive statistics and evidence-based gender-responsive agriculture researches through the RWEE JP, aligning with SDGs localization process linking with the data gaps identified under agriculture components. The partnership will be officially formalized in the first quarter of 2016.

I. Purpose

The RWEE JP in Nepal is aligned with the five years Global RWEE JP. In Nepal, the goal of the RWEE JP is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights ensuring sustainable development in the post conflict context of Nepal. To achieve its stated goal, four outcome areas have been provisionally identified based on the context specific issues and opportunities, and within the framework of the global programme. Within each outcome area, a number of outputs have been formulated that build specifically on identified needs and opportunities.

The JP is in line with the GoN's Development Cooperation Policy 2014 which focuses specifically on assisting the GoN to implement its new 20-year ADS. The ADS, drafted by the GoN in collaboration with 13 development partners, is committed to the inclusion of women, disadvantaged groups and geographically disadvantaged populations throughout the planning, implementation and monitoring of the strategy. The ADS specifies the development of a clear GESI strategy to address the shortcomings in the earlier APP and is align with recommendation of the CEDAW Concluding Observations 2011. For example, special measures to accelerate the advancement of women (page 6 recommendation 16); create employment of self-employment opportunities for women within the country and ensure provision of loan opportunities for women (page 12 recommendation 34a). This has provided a high opportunity to address key macro level gender issues including women's invisibility at macro-economic policy, unpaid care work and work load along with women friendly technology through GESI strategy by implementing RWEE JP.

The JP has been designed through a consultative and collaborative approach. An extensive national consultative workshop was organized by the four UN agencies in 2012, and attended by the relevant government agencies, women farmers, civil society private sectors and other concerned stakeholders representing three ecological regions, Terai, Hill and Mountain of Nepal. The outcome of the workshop assisted in the design and drafting the initial RWEE proposal. Besides this, a mapping study was also carried out that contributed to the 'Strengthening Gender Equality and Social Inclusive Provisions in Nepal's report of the ADS'.

The RWEE programme was planned to consist of two phases: a preparatory phase of six months from January to June 2015, and an implementation phase from 2015 to October 2017. The initial implementation phase (January-December 2015) included an inception phase. However, the devastating earthquakes in Nepal of April and May 2015, and the ongoing political unrest since August in the Terai region followed by promulgation of the new

17 More information on CBS can be accessed at: <http://www.cbs.gov.np/>

18 More information on NARC can be accessed at: <http://narc.gov.np/narc/index.php>

Constitution, caused delay in the field activities, particularly the baseline assessment. The preparatory phase, under the financial support of the MPTF, focused on baseline assessment, situation analysis, programme modality and implementation guidelines and developing of GESI strategy framework including selection of districts and VDCs in close collaboration with the GoN, MoAD. The preparatory phase supported the design and launch of the five-year programme focusing on the social and economic empowerment of rural women in Nepal, based on the consolidation of gender statistics, evidence-based gender responsive research and lessons learned from the field, and ownership from local, regional and national stakeholders. Both the preparatory and implementation phases of the programme have been jointly designed by the four UN agencies to complement each other.

II. Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

The progress made during the period January-December 2015, in line with the RWEE JP Global Outcomes and Outputs is provided below. As the JP was in a preparation and inception phase and the JP implementation has been impacted due to earthquakes and ongoing political instability in 2015, the Outcome-level progress and some Outputs (1.2, 2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 4.3) level progress will be reported in 2016.

Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security

Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security

Identification of households (HHs) and number of beneficiaries: 6,600 rural women and their HHs were finalized for the overall programme period in three districts

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

Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products

Knowledge Share Fair (KSF) on rural women's empowerment: Participation of the representatives of RWEE JP and the GoN in KSF on rural women's empowerment equipped them for the preparation to initiate effective intervention on the entrepreneurship skills and value chains for rural women to access markets for their products in three JP districts.

The RWEE JP participating agency, FAO, and a representative of GoN attended the KSF which was organized by FAO HQ with its own resources, on rural women's empowerment between 7-8 December 2015 in Rome. The KSF on rural women's empowerment gave opportunities to highlight activities and experiences of participants based on FAO's projects/programmes in 10 countries. Each country presented its best ideas/tools/approaches and created a good learning-sharing environment and opportunity. It also gave opportunities to the participants to compare and learn from each other's best practices.

District visit by RWEE JP participating agency: District visit made by RWEE JP participating agency initiated the preparation of formation of rural women's group for economic empowerment by enhancing their entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products.

A field visit made by FAO on 22-23 December 2015 to Sindhuli district, sensitized the relevant local stakeholders on RWEE JP. The visit facilitated preparation and implementation of RWEE JP in the district. The rural women and relevant government officials such as Local Development Officer (LDO), DADO and DLSO were consulted and four VDCs of Sindhuli district, select wards and communities were visited.

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

Output 3.1: Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to take an active part in local governance systems.

Baseline assessment: The purpose of the baseline assessment is to assess and track the progress of the programme before and after the implementation.

Needs and capacity of rural women and the relevant government stakeholders in one (Sindhuli) out of three RWEE target districts identified with active involvement of the DADC in Sindhuli district.

The first round of visits by a consulting firm (Full Bright Company, FBC) was made to three districts where the information on the baseline assessment were to be made in order to set a tone of the baseline assessment among target beneficiaries and local stakeholders. Selection criteria of VDC to be assessed and supported were also discussed during the visits (Refer Annex 1 for the proposed district selection criteria).

Start-up workshops at both national level and district level (Sindhuli district) took place to announce the commencement of RWEE JP and implementation of the baseline assessment. The national level start-up workshop was organized in collaboration with the MoAD at the end of August 2015. The workshop, chaired by the Secretary, provided an opportunity for participants to provide their inputs on the baseline assessment, framework for situation analysis and the draft GESI strategy framework for the ADS, developed by UN agencies. The workshop in Sindhuli district led to the finalization of the VDCs in the district in close consultation with the DADC and relevant stakeholders based on the VDC selection criteria developed in consultation with the MoAD. The framework of draft GESI strategy was also shared during the workshops and input/feedback were collected.

The orientation training to enumerators to conduct the baseline assessment in Sindhuli district was organized in December. The WG of four UN agencies under the RWEE JP provided inputs in the questionnaire and checklist. The

questionnaire has been divided into eight thematic areas that included basic information of the household, income, access to services and resources like land, irrigation, kitchen garden, use of energy for cooking food, livestock, income and expenditure, nutrition and food security. Questions related to the GESI and migration were also incorporated. The questionnaire also incorporates six questions related to five domains of Women Empowerment Agriculture Index (WEAI) which focus on production, resources, income, leadership and time. The WG also jointly orientated the enumerators and provided inputs in terms of making the baseline assessment effective and result oriented. Out of total 12 enumerators 50% were women. The baseline assessment in Sindhuli district was completed in December.

The baseline assessment in other RWEE JP districts (Sarlahi and Rautahat) will be completed in March 2016.

Development of the national framework of GESI strategy for the ADS:

A GESI strategy for the implementation of the ADS is being developed in close coordination with the MoAD under RWEE JP. The zero draft of the strategy will be shared with the gender focal persons of the relevant ministries in the first quarter of 2016 for their inputs as well as identifying the specific roles of the sectoral ministries to implement the ADS. The line agencies will have role to play in implementation, coordination and monitoring of the ADS, therefore, it is crucial to engage the gender focal persons of the relevant ministries (Please refer to Annex 2 for a zero draft of the GESI strategy).

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

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.

Incorporation of RWEE JP outcome results in the ADS: As a result of ongoing policy advocacy with the MoAD for the design of RWEE JP since 2012, the recently endorsed ADS is in line with RWEE JP outcomes. The ADS action plan and roadmap clearly highlights “a self-reliant, sustainable, competitive, and inclusive agricultural sector that drives economic growth and contributes to improved livelihoods and food and nutrition security leading to food sovereignty” which are in alignment with the RWEE JP outcomes.

Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women

Consultations with CBS and NARC: Preparatory activities for the partnership with Government agencies like CBS and NARC to support the development of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women. A number of meeting/consultations and discussions were held to formalize a partnership with the CBS and NARC (one meeting with CBS and three with NARC) to generate gender responsive statistics linking with the localization of

SDGs¹⁹ which has pointed out the data gaps in the agriculture sector and to conduct evidence based gender responsive agricultural research, respectively. The CBS is serving as the national statistical organization of GoN. It is the only central agency for the collection, consolidation, processing, analysis, publication and dissemination of statistics. The NARC is an autonomous organization under "Nepal Agricultural Research Council Act - 1991" to conduct agricultural research in the country to uplift the economic level of the people. To support further, promotion of evidence-based GESI responsive policies and programming in Agriculture has also been outlined under output 1.5 of ADS final report. The final ADS report clearly stated NARC to take in charge in agricultural research. As per APP implementation status report, MOAC²⁰2005, quoted in ADS, that research was limited responsiveness to farmers' needs. A draft ToR has been developed for NARC to initiate a preparatory work for gender responsive agricultural research. (Please refer to Annex 3 and 4 for draft ToRs).

Apart from the above progress toward the results, the RWEE JP was also able to achieve the following progress:

Resource mobilization

For resource mobilization, the RWEE JP participating agencies have been proactively and strategically engaged in resource mobilization efforts throughout the reporting period. Efforts include: proposal submissions to the UN Trust Fund for Human Security – JAPAN in 2014, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and USAID in 2015. The GoN showed ownership in the proposal submission by giving inputs on the proposal. Two field missions from KOICA HQ to Nepal in 2015 met with the GoN and RWEE JP participating agencies to get a better sense of the RWEE JP, share KOICA's feedback based on a review of the proposal submitted to KOICA earlier. The mission team also submitted their findings to the GoN with regard to the feasibility of this programme. Despite of continuous efforts, no additional fund has been secured yet. In addition to those efforts, a proposal on RWEE JP-implementation phase for the period of 2016-17 was developed and submitted to request for funding to MPTF, HQ in November 2015. The budget of IFAD also included in the proposal for two activities. These activities are related to conducting household methodologies (aims to improve household livelihood and women's economic empowerment) and end line survey.

Problem / Challenge faced during the reporting period:

- The devastating earthquake in April affected the smooth implementation of the RWEE JP activities. The PSC meeting could take place only in June due to concentration of the GoN in the earthquake affected districts as part of the post-earthquake response. The RWEE JP participating agencies were planning to hold this meeting since April 2015. The political fallout following the promulgation of the constitution has led to ongoing political instability and uncertainty. The blockade along the southern border (Terai districts), resulting in severe shortages of petrol, gas, cooking gas and other essential goods, violent street protests and vehicular restrictions has severely impacted the humanitarian and reconstruction needs and development efforts. The targeted

¹⁹ For localization of SDGs please visit at:

http://www.npc.gov.np/images/download/23rd_Jan_final_for_print_Sustainable_Development_Goals.pdf

²⁰ Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives-former name of current MOAD

districts Rautahat and Sarlahi are unrest since September 2015²¹. As a result, the Government had suggested not to plan any field activities currently in these districts from September-mid December. However, in Sindhuli district the start-up workshop and the baseline assessment have been completed in December. Baseline assessment in Rautahat and Sarlahi will take place as soon as the situation in districts will improve. At present, it is planned in the first quarter of 2016.

- Selected district Sindhuli is also one of the earthquake affected districts. It might also be challenging to implement the programme in this district as many women have lost their homes during the devastating earthquake.

Programme Interventions for mitigating the challenges:

Actions taken:

- The WG under the RWEE JP has been holding regular meeting to review the progress of the programme amid the ongoing challenges. From January to October, 11 meetings were held with WG to update on the progress, discuss on issues and challenges. The WG has also met with the partner agency FBC regularly to address the ongoing challenges.
- A second PSC meeting was held in December identified a solution to address the issues of implementation in the selected districts in light of the political unrest and ongoing fuel crisis followed by promulgation of the new Constitution. The meeting decided to select the VDCs in Rautahat and Sarlahi districts nearby the highway areas which are less affected by the current political unrest.
- Formation of a DADC at the district level comprised of relevant stakeholders for the programme. DADC is a mechanism formed by the GoN at the local level to coordinate agriculture related development programmes. The Local Development Officer (LDO) chairs the DADC in the districts. Working in close coordination with the DADC and local stakeholders is expected to support smooth implementation of the RWEE JP.

Mitigation strategies for 2016

- Regular meetings with the Government to track the results under the JP by holding detailed discussions and update on the progress towards achieving the programme results.
- Quarterly meetings among Heads of Agencies to follow up on the results progress and delivery status of the JP. Issues which cannot be solved at the WG level will be brought up for HoAs' management decision.
- Continuation of regular meetings of WG to track the field-level programme implementation and progress on the JP results. Delivery status will be also reviewed in a quarterly basis and corrective measures will be agreed as needed. A joint matrix with

21 The former UN Resident Coordinator to Nepal, Jamie McGoldrick, in an interview in Republica (a national English daily newspaper) on 2 December 2015, expressed UN's concerns over the impending problem with the supplies of fuels and essential materials which are not coming in, and a large number of earthquake affected people are facing difficult situation during the winter (the interview is available at: file:///C:/Users/rachana/Downloads/My%20Republica%20-%20Third-party%20mediation%20is%20only%20required%20when%20parties%20stop%20talking%20%28Video%29.htm). A Joint Statement of the External Development Partners in health regarding critical and growing shortages of essential medical supplies in Nepal expressed deepest concerns at critical and growing shortages of essential and lifesaving medicines and supplies at health care facilities across Nepal, as well as ongoing fuel supply issues that are severely impeding service delivery and the ability to access these services.

milestones and joint procurement plan will be developed in the first quarter of 2016 as a tool to track the progress.

- Continuation of regular meetings with the national and local partner agencies to track partners' delivery. The progress reporting will be shared among the WG members in a quarterly basis.

Lessons Learned:

As there were only limited activities implemented during the reporting period, lessons learned will be consolidated and analyzed in the next report. Possible programme interventions to support the accelerated implementation and mitigate challenges identified in 2015 are provided in the above section.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP²²** - 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.

Below is the progress under the Government of Norway and SIDA's support:

	<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: 1.1% of increase of agriculture production of women farmers Baseline: To be developed (TBD) after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 10% increase in food production of beneficiary HHs on the baseline (FAO/WFP)</p> <p>Indicator 1.2 : Women's dietary diversity or HHs food consumption patterns (% of increase over baseline) Baseline: To be developed (TBD) after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 50% increase by quantity and frequency in vegetable consumption of kitchen garden beneficiaries (FAO) At least >70% should have minimum acceptable diet (MAD) 80% of the targeted beneficiary should improve Food Consumption Score (FCS) Cooping Strategy Index (CSI) and Community Assets Score (CAS)</p>	<p>The programme is yet to be implemented in the three districts,</p>	<p>The reasons are explained under the Problem/challenges faced section</p>	
Output 1.1 Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security			

²² Please refer to the attached PMF for your easy reference

<p>Indicator 1.1.1 (a): Number of rural women's groups/cooperatives accessing credit (% of increase over baseline) Baseline: To be developed (TBD) after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 75% women groups/cooperatives accessing credit sources (FAO/UN Women)</p>	<p>The programme is yet to be implemented in the three districts, however, following progress were made in 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of HHs and number of beneficiaries finalized by the RWEE JP 		<p>Baseline assessment report</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.2: Number of rural women accessing integrated agriculture nutrition services 1.1.2 a nutritious food 1.1.2b tonnage of super cereal distribution 1.1.2c number of community assets created 1.1.2d amount of cash distributed 1.1.2 e areas of land irrigated 1.1.2 f number of rural women access to the assets Baseline: To be developed (TBD) after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 1.1.2 a 1500 HHs 1.1.2 b 1500 HHs 1.1.2c 75 irrigation 3 community extension service centres 1.1.2d 1500 HHs gets 30 workdays of employment 1.1.2 e hectares of land 1.1.2 f 3750 HHs</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.3 Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques (% of increase over baseline)</p>	<p>The programme is yet to be implemented in the three districts.</p>	<p>The reasons are explained under the Problem/challenges faced section</p>	<p>Baseline assessment report</p>

<p>Baseline: To be developed (TBD) after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 50% of beneficiary HHs are using (additional improved production techniques (FAO))</p>	<p>The programme is yet to be implemented in the three districts.</p>	<p>The reasons are explained under the Problem/challenges faced section</p>	<p>Baseline assessment report</p>
<p>Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production</p>			
<p>Indicator 1.2.1: Number of women-led and managed local food security reserves Baseline: NA Planned Target: NA</p>			
<p>Indicator 1.2.2: Number of rural women accessing innovative food processing plants Baseline: TBD after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 20% beneficiary (women) HHs are using techniques and drudgery reduction equipment (FAO)</p>	<p>The programme is yet to be implemented in three districts</p>	<p>The programme is yet to be implemented in three districts</p>	<p>Baseline assessment report</p>
<p>Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.1: Variation of women/women groups/cooperatives income generated from their sales markets (% of baseline) Baseline: TBD after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 20% women (HHs), groups/cooperatives increased their income due to programme interventions (FAO/WFP)</p>	<p>The programme is yet to be implemented in the three districts,</p>	<p>The reasons are explained under the Problem/challenges faced section</p>	

<p>Indicator 2.2: Proportion of rural women with empowerment in the income domain of the WEAI (control over use of income)</p> <p>Baseline: NA</p> <p>Planned Target: NA</p>			
<p>Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.1.1: Number of rural women's cooperatives procuring agricultural products and home grown school meals through WFP programmes</p> <p>Baseline: NA</p> <p>Planned Target: NA</p>			
<p>Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.2.1: Number of women employed who entered the formal labour market or initiated self-employment activities</p> <p>Baseline: TBD after the completion of the baseline assessment</p> <p>Planned Target: 25% of trained on technical skills (FAO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of RWEE JP partner and the GoN in the KSF in Rome funded by FAO's HQ own resources • District visit (Sindhuli) by the RWEE JP partner (FAO). The visit has initiated the preparation and implementation of the RWEE JP in the district 	<p>The reasons are explained under the Problem/challenges faced section</p>	
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.</p>			

<p>Indicator: 3.1 % of rural women elected as representatives in rural council/local authorities 3.2% of rural women who are members of land committees 3.3% of Producers Organizations led by women 3.4% of rural women Proportion of rural women with empowerment in the leadership domain of the WEAI Baseline: TBD after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 5% of 750 beneficiaries (UN Women) At least 1 member in DADC (UN Women) 10% of 30 Women Groups (UN Women) 5% of targeted beneficiaries (750) UN Women TBD (dependent on the baseline values)</p>	<p>The programme is yet to be implemented in the three districts,</p>	<p>The reasons are explained under the Problem/challenges faced section</p>	
Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance			
<p>Indicator 3.1.1: Proportion of rural girls enrolled in secondary education Baseline: NA Planned Target: NA</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.2: Number of women candidates in rural councils' elections Baseline: NA Planned Target: NA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start-up workshops at a national level and in Sindhuli district accomplished in December. The start-up workshops supported in finalization of the districts and VDCs in the districts • The WG provided inputs in the questionnaire of the baseline assessment • The baseline assessment of the programme is being conducted. The assessment was completed in Sindhuli district. • 9 consultations at national level and 7 at district level were held with the government, relevant Development Partners (DPs) and 		

	<p>relevant experts on the formulation of the GESI strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft framework of the GESI will be shared with the gender focal persons of the relevant ministries in the first quarter of 2016 		
Output 3.2: Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions			
<p>Indicator 3.2.1: Number of information rural women's groups who join formally registered POs, cooperatives and unions Baseline: TBD after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 10% of total Women Groups (30 WGs) (FAO)</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.2: Number of POs, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/strategy and/or a women's quota for their board Baseline: TBD after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 25% of total women groups/cooperatives adopted a gender policy/strategy and /or a women's quota for their board (UN Women/FAO)</p>	<p>The programme is yet to be implemented in the three districts,</p>	<p>The reasons are explained under the Problem/challenges faced section</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>Indicator 3.3.1: Extent to which rural women's coalitions adopt common positions to influence national and regional policy forums on the new SDGs and Rio+20</p>	<p>The programme is yet to be implemented in the three districts,</p>	<p>The reasons are explained under the Problem/challenges faced section</p>	

<p>Baseline: TBD after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 5% of targeted beneficiaries (UN Women) Indicator 3.3.2: Number of POs, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/strategy and/or a women’s quota for their board Baseline: NA Planned Target: NA</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 3.4.1: Number of rural women and young women participating in community listening clubs Baseline: TBD after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 25% of baseline target</p>	<p>The programme is yet to be implemented in the three districts,</p>	<p>The reasons are explained under the Problem/challenges faced section</p>	
<p>Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p>			
<p>Indicator: % of government budgets and donor funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women Baseline: TBD after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 20% Indicator: Number of countries including special measures to guarantee women’s equal rights to land ownership and control Baseline: NA Planned Target: NA</p>	<p>The programme is yet to be implemented in the three districts,</p>	<p>The reasons are explained under the Problem/challenges faced section</p>	
<p>Output 4.1: Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets.</p>			

<p>Indicator 4.1.1 Extent to which national land, food, nutrition, agricultural and rural development policies and laws make provisions for gender equality and women’s empowerment Baseline: TBD after the completion of the baseline assessment Planned Target: 5% of the target</p>	<p>As a result of ongoing capacity development support to the MoAD, the ADS incorporated the RWEE JP outcomes. The ADS action plan and roadmap clearly highlights “a self-reliant, sustainable, competitive, and inclusive agricultural sector that drives economic growth and contributes to improved livelihoods and food and nutrition security leading to food sovereignty” which are in alignment with the RWEE JP outcomes. The ADS was finally endorsed by the GoN in July 2015.</p> <p>ToRs for the partnership with the NARC to carry out GESI responsive agricultural research and with the CBS for strengthening Gender Unit for development and consolidation of statistics on rural women’s economic empowerment being finalized</p>		
Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women			
<p>Indicator 4.2.1: Number of countries where the “Women’s empowerment agriculture index” (WEAI) is piloted or mainstreamed in national statistics Baseline: NA Planned Target: NA</p>			
Output 4.3: An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional policy processes.			
<p>Indicator 4.3.1: Number of national/regional/global dialogues mechanisms on agriculture, rural</p>			

development and land that involve rural women's groups (change over baseline) Baseline: TBD after the completion of the baseline Planned Target: 10%			
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iii) A Specific Story (Optional)
Not Applicable for the current report

<p>Problem / Challenge faced:</p> <p>Programme Interventions:</p> <p>Result (if applicable):</p> <p>Lessons Learned:</p>
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III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

Developed district and VDCs selection criteria for preparatory and inception phase of RWEE implementation. The district selection criteria took into account several indicators such as Human Development Index (HDI), Gender Development Index (GDI), Poverty Deprivation Index (PDI) etc., as identified by UNDAF (2013-2017). The VDCs in Sindhuli district were selected after a series of discussions with the DADC and relevant stakeholders. The number VDCs were decided taking into account the timeline of the programme and realistic analysis about requirements for achieving programme results.

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

N/A

V. Implementation and coordination mechanisms

Implementation mechanism

- At the national level, the PSC and TC were formed by the GoN on 26 January 2015. The PSC is chaired by the Secretary of the MoAD and includes representation of the joint secretaries of the MoAD as well as other relevant sectoral ministries and departments (director generals) such as the MoWCSW, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), National Planning Commission (NPC), Department of Livestock Services (DoLS) and Department of Agriculture (DoA). The engagement of the high level authorities in the PSC reveals ownership taken by the government for the successful piloting of the ADS. The PSC also includes representation from women farmer from the National Peasant Coalition in an effort to ensure inclusive participation. The role

of the PSC is to provide strategic guidance for the implementation of the programme and also to monitor the effective programme implementation. To support and coordinate the PSC, a TC has been formed which includes senior officials of the MoAD. The Joint Secretary of the Policy and International Cooperation and Coordination Division (PICCD) of the MoAD is the chairperson of the TC and also the focal person for the RWEE JP in coordination with RWEE JP HQ. (Please refer to Annex 5 for the list of the members in PSC and TC and Annex 6 for the meeting minutes of the first and second PSC meetings).

- The established WG of four UN agencies holds meeting regularly to provide guidance on programme implementation and to support the PSC. The WG is led by UN Women and meets regularly to discuss progress of the RWEE JP and to discuss and address emerging issues and challenges.
- Technical and managerial capacity of the RWEE JP was strengthened with recruitment of programme officials in 2015. A national consultant (Gender and Agriculture Expert) was recruited by UN Women in January 2015 to provide substantive technical support to national counterparts to engender economic empowerment policies/strategies/actions plans. The consultant supported the effective management of the Women's Economic Empowerment Unit in the Country Office by supporting in the RWEE JP preparatory and initial implementation phase. The recruitment of an international Programme Specialist / Unit Head and dedicated Programme Officer by UN Women will further enhance the implementation capacity of the RWEE JP. A Senior Consultant is on board at FAO from September 2015 and is responsible for providing the overall support to the field level work of RWEE JP ensuring the linkage and joint synergies between the four agencies at the field level.

Coordination mechanism

- At the district level, DADC is the coordinating body comprised of the district line offices such as the DADO, DLSO, District Women, and Children Office (WCO), District Cottage and Village Development Office (DCVDO) and District Public Health Office (DPHO). The Chairperson of the DADC will be the LDO which provides overall coordination and guidance for the implementation of the programme and the DADC will have the overall responsibility for approving work plans and providing oversight of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the district level interventions. The district level coordination will ensure a coordinated approach to avoid overlaps.

VI. Resources

- A total of USD 1,177,774 was received from the MPTF (Norway and SIDA) in 2015. As of 31 December 2015, a total of USD 267,642.57 was disbursed. The expenditure includes cost of activities such as: preparation for baseline assessment, start-up workshops, development of monitoring and evaluation framework, outline of situation analysis, draft GESI strategy and draft programme management and operations modality,