

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

<p align="center"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in (<i>Rwanda</i>) MPTF Office Project Reference Number<sup>3</sup>: 00092007</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p><i>Rwanda/ Kayonza, Kirehe, Nyaruguru, Nyagatare and Rubavu,</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results: Accelerating Progress Towards Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Rwanda. (RWEE)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rural women’s improved food and nutrition security</li> <li>- Rural women’s increased income to sustain their livelihoods</li> <li>- Rural women’s enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</li> <li>- Gender responsive policy environment for the economic empowerment of rural women</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN, WFP</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), National Women Council, cooperative/unions, local authorities. RABOBANK, Imbuto Foundation, Rwanda Chamber of Women entrepreneur, Rwanda Environment Management Agency (REMA), INADES Formation Rwanda, Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA), Duhozanye Association, National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR), Selected Cooperative Unions, OXFAM. BAIER – MUSANZE, YMCA- Musanze</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: US\$5,000,000 MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>4</sup>: US\$1,288,256 <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>FAO US\$ 321,693</i></li> <li>• <i>IFAD US\$ 311,175</i></li> <li>• <i>WFP US\$ 319,693</i></li> <li>• <i>UN Women US\$ 335,695</i></li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration: 5 YEARS</p>

<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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](#)

Agency Contribution • <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i> Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i> <b>TOTAL: US\$ 1,288,256</b>	Start Date: <i>15.10.2012</i> Original End Date: <i>14.10.2017</i> Current End date <sup>5</sup> : <i>14.10.2017</i>
<b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b> Assessment/Review -- <i>if applicable 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>	<b>Report Submitted By</b> Name: Jean-Pierre de Margerie Title: Representative and Country Director <input type="radio"/> Participating Organization (Lead): World Food Programme  <input type="radio"/> Email address: jean-pierre.demargerie@wfp.org

## ACCRONYMS

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

<sup>5</sup>If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date, which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE) programme is being implemented in Rwanda jointly by FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women. The overarching goal of this five-year joint global programme is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development based on four outcome areas: improved food and nutrition security; increased income to secure their livelihoods; enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes; and gender responsive policy environments for the economic empowerment of rural women.

### **Key achievements of the Programme in Rwanda during 2015 include:**

- Increased the productive potential of women smallholder farmers through their access to market and control over productive resources and services critical to food security and nutrition.
- 860 rural women have improved modern agricultural technologies and use of alternative farming methods and integrated pest management using greenhouse farming.
- Twenty women have been promoted to leadership positions in rural producer organizations, cooperatives;
- Supported and developed three rural women-led enterprises, supported 30 women's role along agriculture value chains, enhanced their income opportunities and promoted their linkages to high value markets. Supported vulnerable rural households affected by food insecurity to develop 974 kitchen gardens, and have access to small livestock (782 women and 192 men)
- Participating agencies and partners ensured all stakeholders received sufficient information regarding the programme. Several meetings were held with the local authorities, community leaders, smallholder farmer organizations to explain the project objectives and expected results.
- Good collaboration between stakeholders namely UN agencies, Government, district, sectors and cells and implementing partner. The bio-fortified seeds were distributed in time, and there has been a strong follow-up of activities. Regular coordination meetings between the 4 UN agencies were crucial to share lessons and better joint planning.
- Partnerships were established with technical organizations such as the National Agriculture and Export Development Board, the Rwanda Agriculture Board and the Agriculture Technology Demonstration Centre to enhance knowledge and skills of women beneficiaries in high-productivity agriculture technologies, access to quality seeds and greenhouse management.
- More than 480 (190 women and 290 men) members of farmers' organizations were trained on market access and financial literacy. In addition, some cooperative members were sponsored to participate to a study tour to learn from the best performing cooperatives widely recognised for their successful development model and effective management.
- A total of 54 rural women were supported to participate to the 2015 National Agriculture show to share lessons and experiences on agricultural innovations and establish business connections. Participants included Government institutions, private sector entities, farmer cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), financial institutions, insurance companies among others.
- A total of 15 cooperatives (12,058 beneficiaries encompassing 5,762 women and 6,296 men) were supported with post-harvest handling equipment (combined shelling and cleaning machines)

## **I. Purpose**

The programme's goal is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The programme design is articulated around four outcomes areas: (i) improve food and nutrition security; (ii) increase income to secure their livelihoods; (iii) enhance leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes; and (iv) more gender responsive policy environments for the economic empowerment of rural women.

The expected outcome of the project are:

### **Outcome 1: Improved food and nutrition security**

This outcome deals with promoting the productive potential of women smallholder farmers through ensuring their access to and control over productive resources and services critical to food security and nutrition, and building their capacities in enhanced agricultural production, harvesting and storage. It also addresses their social protection, and enhanced control and management of local food security reserves. It contributes to malnutrition reduction by introducing bio-fortified crops and promotion of Kitchen Gardens. Furthermore, it contributes to mastering of agricultural techniques that help increase production.

### **Outcome 2: Increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth**

This outcome focuses on creating, supporting and developing rural women-led enterprises, supporting women's role along value chains, enhancing their income opportunities and promoting their linkages to high value markets. It supports women-led associations and small-scale businesses in overcoming their supply side constraints so that they can take full advantage of opportunities offered by the market.

### **Outcome 3: Enhanced leadership and participation in their communities, in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes**

This outcome promotes rural women's participation and leadership in rural producer organizations and local governance systems. It involves engaging men such as religious and traditional leaders, chiefs, local authorities and men in general in all activities to guarantee political and social recognition of the role of women by the whole community. Beyond community-level empowerment, actions under this outcome area will also leverage rural women's voice and influence in key policy processes.

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

This outcome catalyzes legislative and policy reforms for the effective enforcement of rural women's land rights and their access to decent wage employment, social protection, and infrastructure. It involves advocating with the Rwandan government, parliament and other relevant stakeholders to deliver greater development outcomes to rural women. Policy assistance will be grounded on sound information and knowledge about the conditions under which national and regional policies are being formulated and implemented. Those conditions include: (i) the social, cultural, economic and political context of policy making; (ii) the way rural gender issues are conceptualized in policy debates, and the extent to which policy themes are prioritized; (iii) the "rules of the game" in policy making processes; (iv) the key players in terms of their specific roles, interests, expectations, etc.; (v) the role of international and regional policy instruments, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework, various treaties and conventions, etc.; (vi) capacities and gaps for effective policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and outcome-based adaptation; and (vii) legal frameworks in place, promoting or hindering women's and youth economic empowerment.

The RWEI country implementation plan is based on the local context, in partnership with the stakeholders and in line with the government's priorities. It contributes to the UNDAF Outcome 1.2: Rwandans able to tap into and benefit from expanded international, regional and local markets, and improved agriculture value chain, and more specifically to UNDAF Output 1.2.1. Strengthened agricultural innovation and value chains.

## **II. Results**

The Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment in Rwanda supported 7,560 women and 620 men in 2015.

### **i) Narrative reporting on results:**

#### **A) Outcomes and outputs:**

### **JP Outcome 1: Improved food and nutrition security**

#### **Output 1: Increased access to resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security**

More than 860 rural women farmers were supported with standard greenhouses (35m of length and 8m of width) and trained in efficient horticulture techniques through improved modern agricultural technologies and use of alternative farming methods such as agricultural extension practices and integrated pest management. They were also trained in tomato production techniques, namely field preparation nurturing, spacing, seedling, transplanting, fertilization, irrigation and staking, pruning, support systems, weed control, crop rotation, harvesting, disease control, climate and soil varieties. Rural women were also supported with start-up tools and equipment for better management of greenhouses. The introduction of irrigation ponds system have decreased women's expenditures on water bills used for irrigation, which has affected positively their income. Beneficiaries have also received improved seeds, fertilizers and other tools including pumps, watering cans, rakes, spades, hoes, wheelbarrows, etc.

Furthermore, 860 vulnerable farmers among which 722 women and 138 men rural women farmers were supported to diversify and modernize their farming practices, increase crop yield at the same time helping them to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change. Greenhouse farming technology has improved the yield and contributed to solving food and nutrition needs, and reduced poverty in rural areas. Compared to open-field products, greenhouse farming have improved the yield of farmers contributing to solve food and nutrition needs of beneficiaries, and the poverty in rural areas of Rwanda. In general, the production of tomato per greenhouse hovered between 2 to 3 MT per season, while the average production of tomato in open fields per ha varies between 0.8 MT to 1.2 MT.

Extension services were strengthened through the training of facilitators to support farmers improve their agricultural techniques and life skills. A total of 24 facilitators (15 women) were trained in Farmer Field and Life skills. To facilitate the trainings and follow up actions, 974 household beneficiaries (782 women and 192 men) were organized in 24 Farmer Field and Life School groups of 40 members each. Approximately 10.1 MT of bio-fortified beans seed were distributed and each household set up a kitchen garden.

#### **Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production.**

Through trainings in Farmer Field Schools, 974 beneficiaries (782 women and 192 men) acquired advanced skills to select better quality seeds, to monitor their crops, to harvest in time and correctly store their production to reduce post-harvest losses.

Fifteen combined shelling and cleaning machines were distributed to 15 smallholder farmers' cooperatives (totalling 12,058 members including 5,762 women and 6,296 men). This equipment will assist women to reduce the time and energy spent (manually) on shelling and cleaning activities and improve the grain quality which will lead to higher income.

## **JP Outcome 2: Increased income to sustain their livelihoods and create wealth**

### **Output 2.1: Enhanced entrepreneurship skills and involvement in value chains to access markets for their products**

Over 400 members of farmers' organizations in tomato value chain (368 women and 32 men) were trained to expand their market access, strengthen their financial literacy, and build their institutional capacity as entrepreneurs. This has substantially improved the tomato sale and the level of income among women beneficiaries. "We secured a market to supply tomatoes to a supermarket in Kigali, and this increased the price from RWF 300 per Kg locally to RWF 700 per Kg due to the high quality standards", explained Ms. Uwikeza Vestine, a farmer and President of ABEZA BINDATWA Cooperative in Kayonza District, Eastern Province during one of the project team's field visits. The increased yields and income helped them pay for their health Insurance and children's education.

Ms. Nyiransabimana Eugenie, Vice President of TERIMBERE Cooperative in Rwamagana District, Eastern Province said that the cooperative managed to save RWF 3,384,794 (USD 4,650) from their own contribution in addition to revenues from the sale of produce. They bought goats for each cooperative member and purchased a motorcycle to transport their products to the market.

Another positive impact on individual consumption, rural women beneficiaries of greenhouse farming project secured markets for their products in different supermarkets and hotels in Kigali and Rubavu. All activity beneficiaries (860) were further supported through sensitization, facilitation and follow-up to open savings accounts in the "*Saving and Credit Cooperative (SACCO)*" and to develop savings and credit schemes which considerably benefit farmers.

Some groups are now renting plots to expand their agricultural activities, other groups bought coffee plantations. At individual level, some 30 women beneficiaries started small businesses, or bought livestock such as rabbits and chicken.

## **JP Outcome 3: Enhanced leadership and participation in decision-making process**

### **Output 3.2. Greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate in FOs, cooperatives and unions.**

The project aims to build leadership and managerial skills in women in selected cooperatives to enhance their participation in decision-making within rural institutions. Out of 8,180 members of the 51 supported cooperatives, 7,560 representing (92%) are women. Men account for only 620 (8%) of membership. This trend is also observed in the leadership committees of these cooperatives in which 78% of Presidents and Vice-Presidents positions are held by women. The high proportion of women in membership and leadership committees of supported cooperatives is a result of the project strategy and advocacy with local authorities to target more women vulnerable among beneficiaries.

Approximately 482 members (190 women, 292 men) in supported farmers' organizations under this joint programme were trained on economic cooperative governance, financial management, business-planning preparation, capitalization and zero-loss policy.

A total of 54 rural women members of farmers' organizations were supported to participate to the 2015 National Agriculture show to share lessons and experiences on agricultural technologies, innovations and services. The participation of women had a very positive impact on their mindset toward approaching financial institutions, agricultural insurance companies, and use of new technologies such as improved seeds, fertilizers and machinery.

Participating agencies conducted joint field missions to targeted district which included meetings with the local authorities, local leaders and farmer groups. The visits were used to explain the project objectives, expected results and also to seek stakeholder's support for successful implementation of the project in their respective areas.

Other field missions were organized to monitor the gender issues in supported cooperatives to tailor the capacity-building training based on their pressing needs and priorities. Identified needs include governance and leadership, finance management, price negotiation skills, cooperatives capitalization and post-harvest food loss reduction. Training on identified topics were customized to meet their needs and are being delivered.

Among supported rural women smallholder farmers' organizations 34 were connected to high value markets, which will increase their income.

The Project sought to build leadership and managerial skills of women in selected cooperatives to improve their management and enhance their participation in decision-making of rural institution. Greenhouse farmers organized themselves to operate as formal Cooperatives. During 2015, twelve tomato greenhouses were established and supported in various areas, including cooperative management. Newly formed Cooperatives (8 out of 12) obtained registration certificates delivered by Rwanda Cooperative Agency.

### **Output 3.3: Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels**

The Joint Programme RWEE enhanced the capacity of the chamber of women entrepreneurs to provide business development services to its members, such as the dissemination of business related information, establishment of profitable relations with financial institutions. 2 trainings sessions and a national advocacy forum to discuss key challenges that business women face in the formal and informal sectors in Rwanda were organised. During those forums, rural women were given more space and platform to share ideas, experiences, challenges and potential solutions. This enabled rural women to increase their participation to engage in and influence policy formulation especially related to women's financial inclusion.

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

The following challenges were identified during the implementation period.

- 1) Limited greenhouse management skills among beneficiaries.
- 2) Inadequate skills in cooperative management within beneficiaries.
- 3) Lack of market intelligence and negotiation skills among women to secure more markets for their produce.
- 4) A good proportion of selected women are illiterate which obstruct their ability to fully participate in training and other development activities.

- 5) Limited financial literacy skills to prepare bankable business plans and work with financial institutions.

### **Programme Interventions:**

The Programme is addressing the rural women challenges by providing a number of basic trainings to beneficiaries on entrepreneurship and cooperative management skills. However the training gap remain huge and many more beneficiaries require capacity development. In collaboration with implementing partners, monitoring field visits have been organized and market linkages with potential buyers have been established to help rural women secure quality markets for their produce.

### **Result (if applicable):**

The programme targeted beneficiaries commitment is commendable. They are fully engaged to achieve expected results. Women beneficiaries further committed to train other rural women in their communities on modern farming practices, and to sensitize them to join cooperatives.

- 1) Increased agricultural productivity and crop yield due to the introduction of modern farming practices
- 2) Increased income resulting from the sale of products at negotiated prices
- 3) Improved food and nutrition status
- 4) Improved capacity of farmers to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change (changes in rainfall).

### **Lessons Learnt:**

- 1) RWEE is an excellent example of how the UN can and does coordinate its work, by leveraging from agencies' respective comparative strengths, and bringing together a broad range of partners towards a common goal.
- 2) Continued dialogue with rural women through farmer organizations, such as cooperative, can lead to increased participation of women in decision-making structures and serve as a forum for bottom-up advocacy.
- 3) There is a need to strengthen the involvement of the local authorities and government extension officers to help women targeted groups to solve issues related to cooperative management and greenhouse production.
- 4) Initiatives such as Savings and Loans scheme were excellently innovative and have the potential to improve socio-economic conditions of the rural population and specifically women. If women are supported to organize and develop further their saving scheme it can add value to their work, increase their credibility to work with financial institutions and secure loans to expand their farming activities. Rural women need more capacity building and coaching on how they can develop profitable relationships with financial institutions.
- 5) The recognition that farmers' knowledge of natural resources and social conditions is crucial for the success of this programme.

There is a need to strengthen the involvement of the local authorities and government extension officers to help targeted groups of women solve issues related to cooperative management and improved farming practices and new technologies.

## ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP<sup>6</sup>** - 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.

	<b><u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>
<p>Outcome 1 Improved food and nutrition security</p> <p><b>Indicators</b> 1.1 Increase quantity of women farmers' agricultural production 1.2 Quality evidence of improvement to rural women's dietary diversity and consumption patterns</p> <p>Baseline: 30% of participating women</p> <p>Planned target: 50% of participating women</p>	<p>1.2 Provided training on food security and nutrition. Some 2,344 participants (1,724 women and 620 men) gained clear understanding of food and nutrition security issues. Approximately 1,504 women and 330 men improved rural women's dietary and consumption patterns following the production of vegetables and staples. Given the availability of vegetable women diversified their diets. This information was collected during the project monitoring interview.</p>		<p>Reports from Ministries on agriculture/rural development</p> <p>Crop assessments</p> <p>Reports from local councils</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p> <p>Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring System (FNSMS) Report</p>
<p><b>Output 1.1</b> Increased access to resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security</p> <p><b>Indicators</b> 1.1.1 Number of rural women's cooperatives accessing credit 1.1.2 Number of rural women accessing integrated services 1.1.3 Number of rural women utilizing improved production techniques</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 30% of the participating women</p> <p><b>Planned target:</b> 60% of the participating women</p>	<p>1.1.1. 482 farmers (190 women, 292 men) from 48 cooperatives were assessed and coached on cooperative governance, business planning, capitalization and zero-loss policy.</p> <p>1.1.2. 54 Rural women participated to the National Agricultural show to share lessons and experiences on agricultural technologies, innovations and services.</p> <p>1.1.2. &amp; 1.1.3. Two (2) new women-led groups (60 people) each received 280 m<sup>2</sup> greenhouses and were trained on best practices in horticulture production. More than 703 women participants are accessing integrated services (agricultural</p>		<p>Programme's progress reports</p>

<sup>6</sup> Please refer to the attached PMF for your easy reference

	<p>tools, fertilizers and seeds, cash for labour, technical advice etc.)</p> <p>1.1.3: 974 beneficiaries (782 women, 192 men) that participated to Farmer Field and Life Schools were trained in best agricultural techniques and were supported with agricultural inputs.</p> <p>1.1.3: 974 households beneficiary produced vegetables trough kitchen gardens</p> <p>1.1.5: 10.1 MT of bio-fortified beans seed were distributed and each household set up a kitchen garden (each of the 974 beneficiaries).</p>		
<p><b>Output 1.2</b> Greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves.</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 1.2.1 Number of sustainable women-led and managed local food security reserves 1.2.2 Number of rural women accessing innovative food processing plants</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 30% of the participating women</p> <p><b>Planned target:</b> 60% of the participating women</p>	<p>Fifteen (15) combined shelling and cleaning machines were distributed to 15 cooperatives totalling 12,058 members including 5,762 women and 6,296 men).</p>		<p>WFP/P4P reports</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2</b> Increased income to sustain their livelihoods.</p> <p>Indicator: 2.1 Income generated by rural women's cooperatives from their sales to WFP and other markets 2.2 Evidence of better quality of life and status of rural women</p>	<p>2.1. More than 34 women from CODAR cooperative sold quality produce worth US\$ 28,590 to quality market.</p> <p>2.1. Approx. 722 woman producers accessed better markets (more than 100% increase in prices) for tomatoes due to better quality product.</p>		<p>WFP reports on P4P and school feeding programmes</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p> <p>UN Women report</p>

<p><b>Baseline:</b> 30% of participating women</p> <p><b>Planned target:</b> 50% of participating women</p>	<p>2.2. The Joint Programme (RWEE) facilitated 974 beneficiaries under the Farmers Field Life School (FFLS) to open 24 saving accounts (1 account for each of the 24 groups) at the Saving and Credit Cooperative (SACCO). The income from sells generated FRW 4.5 million (US\$ 5,863) which is being used for individual and collective income generating activities.</p>		
<p><b>Output 2.1</b> Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and involvement in value chains to access markets for their products</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.1.</b> Number of rural women's cooperatives procuring agricultural products and home-grown school meals through WFP programmes</p> <p><b>Baseline</b> 1,000 women</p> <p><b>Planned target:</b> 4,000 women</p>	<p>2.1.1. Some 1,028 women from six cooperatives (55% of membership) were linked to WFP's home-grown school feeding programme in order to sell their quality produce to schools and increase income.</p>	<p>No delay was observed.</p>	<p>WFP reports on P4P and school feeding programmes</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>
<p><b>Output 2.2</b> Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities.</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.2.1.</b> Number of rural women's cooperatives providing paid ecological services</p> <p><b>Baseline</b> 1,000 women</p> <p><b>Planned target:</b> 4000 women</p>	<p>Sixty five (65) rural women have been employed for cleaning and sorting cereals and pulses at good wages. Six (6) women have been employed as accounts in their respective cooperatives.</p>		<p>Smallholder cooperative reports.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3</b> Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.</p> <p><b>Indicator</b> <b>3.1</b> Proportion of rural women elected representatives in rural councils</p>	<p>3.3. Overall 78% of supported 51 cooperatives are led by women. The project is supporting 7,560 women and 620 men.</p>		<p>Reports from local councils</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>

<p><b>3.2</b> Proportion of rural women who are members of land committees</p> <p><b>3.3</b> Proportion of Farmer’s Organizations (FOs) led by women</p> <p><b>3.4</b> Evidence of rural women’s empowerment in intra-household decision making</p> <p><b>Baseline</b> 30% of the participating women</p> <p><b>Planned Target</b> 75% of the participating women</p>			<p>Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA) reports</p>
<p><b>Output 3.1.</b> Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 3.1.1: Number of rural girls enrolled in secondary education</p> <p>3.1.2: Number of women candidates for elections in rural councils</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 30% of women participants improve skills. 10% increase in decision-making positions occupied by women in the organizations.</p> <p><b>Planned target:</b> 60% of women participants improve skills. 15% increase in decision-making positions occupied by women in the organizations.</p>	<p>114 women representing the chamber of women entrepreneurs in Provinces were trained to provide business development services to other women such as the dissemination of business related information, leadership trainings and promotion of women</p>		<p>Reports of the Ministry of education</p> <p>Programme’s progress reports</p>
<p><b>Output 3.2</b> Rural women have greater organisational capacities to form, sustain and participate in farmer’s organisations (FOs), cooperatives and unions</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 3.2.1 Number of informal rural women’s groups who join formally registered FOs, cooperatives and unions</p>	<p>3.2.2. Open discussions on gender participation and benefits in households and cooperatives are being facilitated in 14 cooperatives including 98 women (53%) and 88 men.</p> <p>3.2.2. Within 12 cooperatives implementing greenhouse project, 94% of participating farmers are women and 90% holding top leadership positions.</p>		<p>Programme’s progress reports</p>

<p>3.2.2 Number of FOs, cooperatives and unions that adopt a gender policy/strategy and/or a women's quota for their board</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 10% Rural women have leadership abilities.</p> <p><b>Planned target:</b> 60% Rural women improve leadership abilities.</p>			
<p><b>Output 3.3</b> Rural women's, including young women's, increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels.</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 3.3.1 Extent to which rural women's coalitions adopt common positions to influence national and regional policy forums on the Post MDG Plus 15 and Rio Plus 20 follow up.</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> To be determined</p> <p><b>Planned target:</b> To be determined</p>	<p>Next year the Programme will train national oversight institutions (e.g. parliamentary commissions, Ombudsman, Transparency Rwanda, and Gender Monitoring Office) on monitoring core elements of Gender Equality with regards to food security, laws. Policies and budgets</p>		<p>Gov. of Rwanda Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS 2)</p> <p>Reports from rural women's networks</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>
<p><b>Output 3.4</b> Rural women's, including young women's enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> 3.4.1 Number of rural women and youth participating in community listening clubs</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 30% Rural women and young women have enhanced awareness on their rights</p> <p><b>Planned target:</b> 60% Rural women and young women have enhanced awareness on their rights</p>	<p>Through 3 sensitization campaigns rural women and young women received detailed information on their rights and how to support their communities. The campaign reached 7,560 women and 620 men in 51 cooperatives.</p>		<p>Reports from the FAO Dimitra Programme</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>

<p><b>Outcome 4</b> A more gender responsive policy environment secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 4.1 Proportion of government budgets and donor funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women</p> <p>4.2 Number of countries passing laws to secure rural women's land ownership</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b></p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b> 25% compliance</p>	<p>The Gov. of Rwanda allocated RWF163.2 billion (US\$212.6 million) for Rural Development in 2015.</p>		<p>Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS 2)</p> <p>National budgets</p> <p>OECD/DAC reports</p> <p>National CEDAW reports</p> <p>Reports of NWM</p>
<p><b>Output 4.1</b> Policy makers' and parliamentarians' enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets.</p> <p><b>Indicator 4.1.1</b> Extent to which national land, food, nutrition, agricultural and rural development policies and laws make provisions for gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 65% of governmental institutions and national mechanism</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b> 95% of governmental institutions and national mechanism</p>	<p>Next year the Programme will train national oversight institutions (e.g. parliamentarian commissions, Ombudsman, Transparency Rwanda, and Gender Monitoring Office) on monitoring core elements of Gender Equality with regards to food security, laws. Policies and budgets</p>		<p>Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS 2)</p> <p>Reports from sectorial ministries dealing with land, food, nutrition, agricultural and rural development policies</p> <p>Reports of parliamentary commissions</p>
<p><b>Output 4.2</b> Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p><b>Indicator 4.2.1</b> Number of countries where the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index is piloted</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b></p>	<p>Tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women are available. The Joint Programme in close collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR) is suggesting specific reports and queries to retrieve greater information</p>		<p>Reports from USAID on the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index</p> <p>Reports from national statistical offices</p> <p>Programme's progress reports</p>

<p>15% of governmental institutions and national mechanisms</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b> 65% of governmental institutions and national mechanisms</p>			
<p><b>Output 4.3</b> An enabling environment promoted to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional policy processes.</p> <p><b>Indicator 4.3.1</b> Number of regional dialogue mechanisms on agriculture, rural development and land that involve rural women’s groups</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 75% of governmental institutions and national mechanism</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b> 95% of governmental institutions and national mechanism</p>	<p>The parliamentary commissions, Ombudsman, Transparency Rwanda, and Gender Monitoring Office will continue to advocate to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional policy processes. The GoR promotes enabling environment and the policies on Rural women development are in place.</p>		<p>Reports from regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organisations (e.g. NEPAD’s reports on CAADP)</p>

### iii) A Specific Story (Optional)

No woman's story is the same. For some, mastering new farming techniques has boosted harvests and incomes. For others, new business skills and access to credit have helped them start new enterprises. Whatever their path, these rural women in Rwanda have all achieved the same goal: With support from an innovative joint UN initiative, they have begun to build a better life for their families, and can now afford school fees and medical insurance that they previously could not.



In the north-eastern district of Nyagatare, the RWEE initiative provided training in modern farming techniques and post-harvest handling for 55-year old **Anastasia Nyiraturatsinze** and other women farmers. Anastasia – a member of the CODAR farmer's organisation – has increased her maize production by more than 70 percent by applying what she learned about food storage and the use of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and improved seeds.

With the increased income from the maize she sells, Anastasia was able to buy two additional hectares of land for farming. She also purchased five cows and upgraded her house. She is now able to pay school fees for her children, and has also managed to pay for medical insurance for her entire family.

### III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

### IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

### V. Coordination mechanisms

The coordination mechanism in place is the National Steering Committee, composed of representatives from participating UN agencies and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI). In Rwanda WFP is the lead agency coordinating this pilot project. The Technical Working Group composed by officers of the 4 UN agencies meet regularly to discuss the progress implementation and address relevant issues.

### VI. Resources

Through the MPTF the RWEE programme in Rwanda received US\$ 1,288,256 from the Joint Programme Trust Fund that or preparatory activities and project implementation. Received funds are being disbursed according to the work plan. Below is the financial status for all participating Agencies including outstanding balances. Due to some delays on implementing partners contracting IFAD was not able to commit and spend the funds as planned.

**Rural Women Economic Empowerment - RWEE MDTF RWANDA  
PROGRAMME BUDGET**

**Financial Information**

PROGRAMME BUDGET (status)

CATEGORY	FAO (US\$)	WFP(US\$)	IFAD	UNWOMEN	Total
<b>Norway Contribution</b>					
Received	61,000	59,000	50,482	75,000	245,482
Spent	61,000	59,000		75,000	195,000
Outstanding Balance	-	-	50,482	-	50,482
<b>Swedish Cooperation Agency SIDA contribution</b>					
Received	260,693	260,693	260,693	260,695	1,042,774
Spent	139,257	220,620		238,805	598,682
Outstanding Balance	121,436	40,073	260,693	21,890	444,092
<b>Total</b>					
Received	321,693	319,693	311,175	335,695	1,288,256
Spent	200,257	279,620	-	313,805	793,682
Outstanding Balance	121,436	40,073	311,175	21,890	494,574