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“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”

**MPTF OFFICE GENERIC BI-ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2016**

<p>Programme Title & Project Number</p>	<p>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p><i>(add Country/Region of implementation)</i> KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, Chuy, Naryn, Osh and Jalal-Abad provinces Beneficiaries supported: 3,150 directly (3,036 women and 114 men) and 8,418 indirectly (4,206 women and 4,212 men) In 2016: 1,419 new (1,324 women and 95 men) and about 4,000 indirectly (to be confirmed by survey in June) The strategic result is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.</p>
<p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN WOMEN • FAO • WFP • IFAD 	<p>Implementing Partners</p> <p>National counterparts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic • Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic • Local self-government administrations • NGO Community Development Alliance • NGO Alliance for Budget Transparency • NGO Chui-Talas Rural Advisory Services • NGO Centre for Activation and Development of Rural Initiatives (CADRI) • NGO Rural Advisory Service (RAS).
<p>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: USD 6,303,012 MPTF /JP Contribution³:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Women: USD 833,321 • UN FAO: USD 598,089 	<p>Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration 5 YEARS</p> <p>Start Date <i>(15 10 2012)</i></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 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](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN WFP: USD 594,845 • IFAD: USD 112,000 <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px;"> Agency Contribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by Agency (if applicable) • UN Women: USD 40,000 </div> <p>Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable) – N/A</p> <p>TOTAL: USD 2,178,255</p>	<p>Original End Date (14 10 2017)</p>
<p>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p>	<div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> Report Submitted By </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Zhyargul Turmamatova ○ Title: National Coordinator / UN Women Programme Manager ○ Participating Organization (Lead): UN Women ○ Email address: zhyargul.turmamatova@unwomen.org

ACRONYMS

CBO	Community based organization
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
GALS	Gender Action Learning for Sustainability
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
GIZ	German Development Cooperation
JP	Joint Programme
MT	metric tons
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NSC	National Statistics Committee
PC	Pasture Committee
RWEE	Rural Women Economic Empowerment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SHG	Self-help group
TOT	Training of trainers
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
WUA	Water Users Association

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the reporting period the joint programme partners of Rural Women Economic Empowerment Programme (RWEE) in Kyrgyzstan have continued implementation of the programme with 1,500 participants in 45 municipalities and started social mobilization of additional 1,000 participants in December 2016. The programme in Kyrgyzstan has received additional 850,000 USD allocation in March 2016 for implementation in 2016 and 2017. Joint work plan for the new allocation has also included funding for IFAD interventions, and specifically the introduction of the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology. GALS has been integrated in the communities to support gender-transformative changes within households through engaging men using participatory planning tools. Two first catalyst trainings have been conducted in 2016, preparing 19 champions for further dissemination, and will continue into 2017.

A total of 1,712 rural women are running productive agricultural and non-agricultural activities in 45 villages with the support of JP RWEE improving their livelihoods, food security and nutrition of their families. Out of these 1712 women, 805 are running small scale businesses, and have increased their income by 29.5% in average. All 1,500 women mobilized in 2015 received high quality vegetable seeds, tunnel greenhouses, and increased their productivity from 30 to 70% as a result of series of trainings on agricultural technology based on organic farming principles and extension support. Data shows that every programme participant has received in average an additional income of 488 USD from growing vegetables on 0.06 ha of land in 2016 agricultural season. Total cumulative additional income is approx. 732,615 USD. WFP has provided 1,500 rural women in target communities with 100 kg of fortified wheat flour and 10 liters of vegetable oil amounting to total of 163.800 MT of food as an incentive for their participation in training activities. Share of households having inadequate diet ('poor' or 'borderline' Food Consumption Score (FCS)⁴, has reduced from 24 to 9 percent after participation in the programme (reduction by 63 percent). Dietary Diversity Score (DDS)⁵ shows that households were able to diversify their consumption from on average 6 to 7 types of food items after participation in the programme.

By the end of 2016, 105 women's groups of 2 provinces have officially registered as cooperatives, which will start providing services to 750 women-members. The services will include joint procurement of agricultural inputs, access to revolving fund, joint marketing of the produce, joint processing, and access to consultations and training. Two more organizations are in the process of state registration.

Rural women activists jointly with local governments have conducted 28 difference public activities aimed at awareness raising, public discussions, and advocacy for changes in policies for gender

⁴ Food Consumption Score is a proxy indicator for household food access and food security. The FCS is a composite score based on dietary diversity, food frequency and relative nutrition importance of different food groups consumed during the last seven days.

⁵ Dietary Diversity Score is proxy indicator of household food access and food security. It measures the number of individual foods or food groups consumed over a seven-day recall period.

equality and women's empowerment. These events have reached over 3,000 people in communities. Two national level events National Rural Women's Conference, and budget hearing have contributed to the improvements in the draft laws on social insurance, called for gender quotas for local councils, and supported a legal ban on religious marriage ceremonies with underage children introduced in November 2016. Rural women have received an opportunity and an experience to formulate and lobby their interests with high level government officials and parliamentarians also relaying their voice on SDGs prioritization, and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Article 14 on Rural women.

In advance of local council elections in December 2016 UN Women has trained and coached 93 women and men on leadership, participation in the elections, public speaking skills. Despite a high number of candidates only 20 women and 3 men have been elected, which reflects a general trend of decreasing number of seats held by women in local councils⁶. 15 target municipalities have completed development of local development strategies. As a result, 15 gender-responsive local development strategies have been developed. The members of working groups, consisting of representatives of various groups, including 60 women activists, have been trained by UN Women in 2015 and coached throughout 2016 on the methodology of inclusive and gender-responsive development planning.

Programme partners developed a joint work plan for 2016, joint monitoring plan, and supported joint communication and advocacy events. An information sharing and coordination mechanism has been established through monthly coordination meetings. Two National Steering Committee meetings took place in 2016, one in April with teleconference organized with representatives of local governments, where JP operates, and one in October combined with a visit to JP sites, and a Harvest Festival in Jalal-Abad. Total budget received by the end of 2016 is 2,178,255USD from the Government of Norway and SIDA. Of the total programme budget received 73.1% have been expended, and 87.8% committed, with the remaining left to cover personnel, travel and operational costs through March 2017 when the next tranche is expected.

In 2016 the Joint Programme RWEE has stepped up on the visibility of the programme activities and results, and hosted several high level missions. On May 4-5, 2016 a high-level mission of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN Women and WFP have visited two communities in Naryn province, where JP is being implemented. Members of the delegation had an opportunity to see firsthand the results of building capacity of rural women to secure their livelihoods. The delegation has specifically noted the great initiatives of rural women and local activists and commended the joint work of the participating agencies⁷. On October 13 the Ambassador of Sweden to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan H.E. Christian Kamill has attended a Harvest Festival jointly with members of the National Steering Committee and interacted with programme participants in Osh and Jalal-Abad. JP partners have produced a video telling the story of JP results for resource mobilization purposes, and it has been screened as part of 16 days of activism campaign to end violence against women and girls at WFP HQ.

I. Purpose

⁶ In 2004 share of women in local councils has constitutes 19%, in 2008 – 17%, in 2012 – 12%, and in 2016 – 9%.

⁷ See post-release on the visit of the Executive Board to ARWEE programme sites

The goal of the RWEE programme is to promote rural women's economic empowerment in the Kyrgyz Republic. This corresponds with the Global Programme goal to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.. Programme is designed around the following four outcome areas: (i) increased food and nutrition security; (ii) better income and livelihood opportunities; (iii) enhanced leadership and participation of rural women in decision-making processes at the local and national levels; and (iv) a more gender responsive policy environment in the country. In Kyrgyzstan the RWEE National Steering Committee has reviewed and approved the merge of the first two outcomes into one as being complimentary to each other as the majority of livelihood opportunities of rural women in the country are closely linked to subsistence farming practices, as well as strengthening the importance of moving rural women out of subsistence farming into more productive and profitable agricultural and non-agricultural practice in addition to strengthening the food security and nutrition status.

The programme is in line with national priorities defined in the National Strategy on Sustainable Development (NSSD) 2013-2017, and the National Strategy on Gender Equality until 2020 with a special focus on improving the status of rural women, poverty reduction and sustainable agricultural development. It closely reflects priorities specified in the National Action Plan for GEWE 2015-2017, and also addresses concluding observations to the fourth periodic report of the Kyrgyz Republic to CEDAW committee, which underlines the need to undertake actions in response to the challenges faced by rural women.

The Programme is aligned with the National Food Security and Nutrition Programme and Social Development Programme for 2015-2017 and designed around the national priority of increased income opportunities and food security, targeted at improving food security and the nutrition status of rural vulnerable households through improved knowledge and technologies on agricultural production, value chain development and nutrition, which leads to improved food access, consumption and dietary diversity along with social and economic development.

Programme objectives are also aligned with United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) focus areas: 1) Peace and Cohesion, Effective Democratic Governance, and Human Rights, including deepening state building, security and justice for all; 2) Social Inclusion and Equity, encompassing issues of social protection, food security, education and health; and 3) Inclusive and Sustainable Growth for Poverty Reduction, with particular attention to vulnerable groups, including women and youth, as well as to disaster-prone communities.

The National Steering Committee is chaired by the Minister of Social Development, which hosts the national gender mechanism and is responsible for coordinating the Government's national and international commitments in the area of gender equality and women empowerment. Its members include other key ministries, which participate in the discussions of key strategic decisions of the programme, such as work planning, monitoring progress and reporting.

II. Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

Outcome 1: Rural women have increased income, better livelihoods and food security from enhanced agricultural productivity (Global outcome 1 Rural women have improved food and nutrition security & outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth).

Results: In January-December 2016 JP partners continued to support activities to enhance food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. Thus, WFP has provided 1,500 programme participants with 100 kg of fortified wheat flour and 10 liters of vegetable oil each, totaling to 150.000 MT of wheat flour and 13.800 MT of vegetable oil. This food assistance served as a good incentive and motivation for the women to participate in the programme training activities in such areas as social mobilization, leadership, agro technologies, business planning, marketing and value chain development, and it also contributed to enhancing the food security status of their families. As an incentive for their participation in training activities conducted by partner agencies. The provision of food assistance supported the programme participants, who are vulnerable women-headed households, during the lean season and helped them overcome the food gap, while also enabling them to purchase more varied local food products for the released money and thus improve their dietary diversity.

WFP trained 372 women on nutrition through district health promotion unit specialists with the aim of increasing their knowledge of quality nutrition. The women gained knowledge in the following areas: “window of opportunities” (which is about the importance of 1000 days from the moment of inception until a child is two years old), nutrition during pregnancy, breastfeeding, food culture, five principles of proper nutrition, food pyramid, vitamins, food related diseases and calculation of kilocalories that is necessary for a person for a day.

for a total of 116 leaders of Self-help groups (SHG) were trained by WFP through training-of-trainers (TOT) in value chain development, which included business planning, rapid market assessment, marketing and value chain development. The trained SHG leaders, in turn, were asked to provide a training to the rest of the SHG members, thus reaching all the 1,500 programme participants. The training participants learned about the elements of developing a business plan, preparation of a marketing plan and the importance of marketing activities. The training sessions also addressed the segments of a market and identifying potential clients, their needs, requirements and preferences, as well as studying and analyzing their competitors. Participants also learned about calculating the production cost of their product and identifying the estimated price for their product.

FAO has continued to support rural women’s access to agricultural knowledge, quality inputs, and sustainable technologies as the agricultural season has kicked off in late February. As a result, 1500 rural women have increased their productivity by 30-70%, received in average additional income of 488 USD from 0.06 ha of cultivated land (see details in table below) during 2016 agricultural season. Total cumulative additional income received by 1,500 women reached 732,615 USD. The support included:

- All 1,500 women participants have received *quality vegetable seeds, mini-plastic tunnel greenhouses*;
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- they attended *three trainings*: (1) a 2-day training on vegetable production technologies, with one day of theory and a second day of practical training in the field. It was later followed by (2) the training on vegetable and fruit processing technologies in home conditions. The latter is aimed at better food preservation and decreased post-harvest losses to support sustainable food production and consumption practices, as well as diversified food intake during off-vegetation

periods of the year. The third training focused on irrigation water saving technologies, which were accompanied by installation of 39 drip irrigation systems on the demonstration plots. Demonstration plots serve to show the effect and added value of using climate smart technologies to the wider communities. The monetary value of equipment and seeds provided to programme participants shall be paid into the revolving fund of the groups to allow the other group members to access these technologies.

- In addition, *three field days and 13 exchange visits* were conducted to disseminate knowledge on innovative climate smart technologies to the farmers in the surrounding communities demonstrating the advantages of water saving technologies on the plots, and comparing with nearby farms.
- *Regular extension support*, of 70 consultation days in total, has played a key role in ensuring application of the knowledge on the fields by training participants, adjustments to the climatic specifics, and monitoring and providing additional coaching and support to women farmers participating in this programme.

Despite adverse weather conditions and heavy rains in the agricultural season of 2016, programme participants have experienced a significantly higher yields from growing vegetables. Thus, as per official statistics average yield of vegetables is 18-20 tons per ha, and our participants have received 26-34 tons.

Table 1. Comparison of yields and profitability of vegetable production on demonstration plot and farm practices, by provinces.

1 USD = 69 KGS

Demonstration plot							Farm practice					
Oblast	ha	Yield, Kg/ha	Price, KGS/kg	Gross income, KGS	Expenses, KGS	Profit, KGS	ha	Yield, Kg/ha	Price, KGS/kg	Gross income, KGS	Expenses, KGS	Profit, KGS
Osh	1	29 047	12.30	359 249	149 826	209 423	1	20 943	12.66	265 295	125 672	139 623
Zhalal-Abad	1	33 790	17.37	586 784	40 010	546 774	1	26 783	16.35	437 903	38 626	399 277
Chui	1	49 544	16.67	825 590	279 116	546 475	1	38 907	17.26	671 466	192 070	479 396
Naryn	1	24 300	19.55	475 065	142 500	332 565	1	17 550	19.25	337 838	114 075	223 763
Average	1	34 170.3	16.43	561 672	152 863	408 809	1	26 046	16.43	428 126	117 611	310 515

Monitoring findings administered by WFP in mid-2016 indicate positive changes in household food consumption practices after participation in the programme. Share of households having inadequate diet ('poor' or 'borderline' Food Consumption Score (FCS))⁸, has reduced from 24 to 9 percent after participation in the programme (reduction by 63 percent). This is a significant improvement compared

⁸ Food Consumption Score is a proxy indicator for household food access and food security. The FCS is a composite score based on dietary diversity, food frequency and relative nutrition importance of different food groups consumed during the last seven days.

to the pre-programme status and is a result of increased consumption of vegetables, fruits, meat and milk products. Consumption of potato and sugar has decreased as a result of more diversified diets. Dietary Diversity Score (DDS)⁹ shows that households were able to diversify their consumption from on average 6 to 7 types of food items after participation in the programme. The outputs that have resulted in better food consumption are attributed to 1) ability to collect more harvests and plant more diverse crops and 2) ability to save money that could have been spent to buy wheat flour and oil (this money was spent on other food and non-food needs of the households enabling achieving better food access and food security).

In 2016 WFP has taken over the responsibility for social mobilization as per the joint work plan, and led the process of defining new areas for programme implementation from among its model municipalities. Thus, 1000 new programme participants have been identified in 28 villages of 14 sub-districts in three provinces in the south of the country – Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken. During December 2016, WFP conducted a first round of TOT training in formation and development of SHGs for social workers of the target sub-districts. UN Women has provided gender-sensitization session, and gender mainstreaming in social mobilization training. The trained social workers then, in turn, conducted training for programme participants and formed self-help groups amongst them. As a result, 125 SHGs have been formed in these 28 villages, each group consists of 6-10 persons.

To further strengthen income generating and livelihoods opportunities UN Women continued to support the joint businesses of women's groups and implemented a strategy for institutional capacity building of women's organizations. By the end of 2016 women's groups of two provinces -Osh and Jalal-Abad - have officially registered as cooperatives – “Iskra” and “Kadam”, which will start providing services to 750 women-members. The services will include joint procurement of agricultural inputs, access to revolving fund, joint marketing of the produce, joint processing, and access to consultations and training. The decision is a result of intensive consultative process in the two provinces. The GALs tool of visioning and vision journey have been used to jointly decide on the type of the organization, its mission, and services it will provide to its members. UN Women has provided legal advice, sharing of experiences from existing successful cooperatives, and supported the setting up of a partnership with the Union of Cooperatives. Specific tailored trainings on the operation of cooperatives have been delivered, and will continue in 2017, to strengthen management capacity of the elected board members. Two more organizations are in the process of registration. The purpose of building women's organizations' institutional capacity is to improve their joint marketing opportunities, moving them up the value chain, and allowing joint processing of the produce.

As at the end of December 2016, a total of 805 women are self-employed, running small scale businesses, and have increased their income by 29.5% in average¹⁰. UN Women has conducted 6 business trainings, vocational and marketing trainings, and provided access to community-run revolving funds to start their group business. To move women's groups up the value chain UN Women and its partners have conducted Value Chain Development training, training on processing of fruit and vegetables, and wool. As a result, a potato seed fund has been established in Naryn by a group of 20 women and men, and two fodder production units are starting operations in Osh. Analysis done by project team in November 2016 on the basis of information on time spent for operating businesses, traditional control over resources, anecdotal evidence from women on decision-making power over the

⁹ Dietary Diversity Score is proxy indicator of household food access and food security. It measures the number of individual foods or food groups consumed over a seven-day recall period.

¹⁰ JP M&E database with data on actual income received by women running businesses

use of the proceeds, obtained from the project database and monitoring visits of these businesses has demonstrated that services and production have the highest profitability and highest impact on empowerment, taking into consideration time requirements to operate business, women's control over resources, decision-making on the use of proceeds, and profitability. The best empowering business is photo service, growing pot flowers, and bakeries, as these require the least time, women control the use of proceeds to decide on re-investment, make their decisions on the business strategies, and use income for their needs. Other business ideas led by women, for instance, sheep breeding are still regarded as men's activity, and hence both business strategies, decisions over how to feed, when to sell, etc. are made by men, despite women initiating it in their household. From among agricultural activities growing corn has proved as most profitable and empowering, as corn is traditionally seen as men's crop. Handicrafts, while providing an off-season income source, requires substantial time, and remains in the traditional women's domain. Women's groups-operated savings funds have also contributed to improving quality of life of rural women, using it for buying automatic washing machines, fridges, or investment in self-education.

In order to diversify income sources and support off-farm employment opportunities 190 women have undergone vocational trainings in the field of: hairdressing, house painting, stove building, and carpet making. UN Women has partnered with the GIZ Sustainable Development Project to train 140 women from among JP participants on various vocational training courses, including 100 women on «Greenhouse and house plants», 20 women took the course «Hairdresser», and another 20 women took the course «Weaving». 12 women out of 140 launched their business start-ups (7 women on hairdressing and 5 women on greenhouse).

To further promote transformative changes for rural women JP partner IFAD has introduced GALS methodology through a network of 19 champions, who will further disseminate GALS tools for change of gender roles and redistribution of reproductive duties within the households. The use of GALS is aimed at the following:

- Transform power relations within families and communities. Particularly, it helped to address power relations between women, increasing understanding and equitable cooperation between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law.
- Engage men in programme implementation and get their buy-in to any transformation process, ranging from a more balanced household to income generating activities.
- Support participants to overcome stereotypes regarding women's ability to engage in income generating activities.

Community champions were identified to learn and subsequently teach the methodology. Since GALS is a participatory process that empowers participants, bottom-up facilitation techniques played a key role in the transformation process of champions and of people they shared the methodology with. Champions were selected from among RWEE group members and activists mainly on the basis of interest, and purposely included a mix of ages, education levels and backgrounds. This was in order to adapt the methodology to the needs of all participants – and potential participants – of the programme. It did not target existing leaders, as the main point was to demonstrate and empower people from all backgrounds and to show that everybody can learn and use the methodology to change their lives – and also teach others. The methodology was scaled up through a voluntary pyramid scheme: one champion

trained at least five people. These in turn will have to train another three, who train another three and so on in a chain.

Champions trainings consisted in sharing tools for simple and effective visioning and planning methodology, incorporating SWOT analysis and clear strategy implementation steps that can be tracked and adapted for different levels of education, different types of objectives (life, business, leadership) and used as a coherent ‘learning system’ linking all levels from individual to household to cooperative, community and local government. Moreover, these tools mainstream gender learning to promote change in issues such as domestic violence and unpaid care work. GALS provides a methodology to put these issues in the heart of the discussion with men as well as women, and trigger self-reflection and action planning and implementation at individual, household and community levels. Thereby strengthening the core activities for women’s economic empowerment. The GALS process was started in four provinces through 19 champions and benefitted 419 people who are vulnerable self-help groups members or champions' family members, and will continue into 2017 with an aim of reaching about 4,000 people by the end of the programme.

Table 2. Progress of GALS upscaling by regions

Region	Number of champions	Number of people reached by the champions (family and self-help groups members)
Naryn	8 champions	160
Chui	3 champions	92
Jalalabad	4 champions	92
Osh	4 champions	75
TOTAL	19 champions (16 women and 3 men)	419

To further support joint marketing opportunities for women farmers in October 2016 WFP and UN partners have conducted a Harvest Fair for the participants of Osh and Jalal-Abad Oblasts in the south of the country – Jalal-Abad. The event has also been devoted to the celebration of the International Rural Women’s Day, and World Food Day. The participants displayed the products they grow and had an opportunity to meet with processors in the region and discuss opportunities for future collaboration. The event was implemented in close partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Jalal-Abad Governor’s and Mayor’s offices and local community in Jalal-Abad. Members of the National Steering Committee, the Ambassador of Sweden to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, and Deputy Ambassador of Finland to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have been invited to the Harvest Fair, and to interact with programme participants directly to gain first hand impressions of the joint programme results.

Outcome 2: Rural women have mastered leadership and actively participate in shaping laws, policies and systems of service provision at local and central levels (corresponding Global Outcome 3 Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes)

Results: JP has achieved a significant progress under this outcome resulting from capacity development interventions of the first years of the programme implementation.

Under this outcome programme partners aim to develop rural women's knowledge and skills to participate in local decision-making processes, while simultaneously training local governments in gender-responsive development planning and budgeting to provide a platform for effective cooperation of women activists and the local government institutions. In 2016 working groups, comprising of 60 women activists, in 15 target municipalities have completed development of local development strategies. As a result, 15 gender-responsive local development strategies have been developed. The members of working groups have been trained by UN Women in 2015 and coached throughout 2016 on the methodology of inclusive and gender-responsive development planning. Additionally 29 people have been trained in November from among 14 new municipalities. A total of 318 persons, including 188 women participated in budget hearings at the local and national levels, and publicly discussed allocation of budget funds from a gender perspective. Local governments have gained knowledge and skills in preparing for and conducting budget hearings, and rural women have experience and learned how to understand and analyse budgets, and promote gender needs and priorities in public discussions. Budget hearings have been held in four municipalities for the first time. These 20 target municipalities have been invited to participate in the competition for the best joint social initiative aimed at improving rural women's lives of addressing gender-specific needs and priorities identified in their development strategies in fall 2016. The selection committee comprising of members of the JP National Steering Committee, participating UN agencies reviewed 28 applications and approved 12 applications for financing starting in 2017.

The joint programme has also intended to work with natural resource management institutions, such as water users associations and pasture committees in target areas with an aim of improving their policies and increasing access of rural women to resources and decision-making over resource management. To implement this activity UN Women has organized trainings in all four provinces for the representatives of water users associations and pasture committees in the target communities on gender-responsive planning process. The analysis of the documents received from these institutions after the trainings has revealed that these institutions operate with limited planning and strategic documents. Women in the pasture committees in the 20 municipalities analyzed account for 9.8% of members of the committee. Gender experts of the JP have formulated recommendations on improving women's participation in decision-making, and the gender-responsiveness of their strategic documents and transferred to the pasture committees. However, implementation of recommendations has been very limited due to institutional capacity gaps, unwillingness of current members of committees, and unsupportive social attitudes towards women in decision making in the male-dominated areas, such as livestock management. Due to limited funds for follow up and capacity building work with these institutions, only four out of 20 trained municipalities have implemented recommendations. Some pasture committees in Jalal-Abad oblast have implemented recommendations on women's representation in the committees, increasing from 1% to 16%. The situation with water users associations is even more complicated due to lack of publicly available information about membership, decision-making bodies,

and reporting. Yet, the water users associations in the target areas of Jalal-Abad have made changes in their management committees increasing representation of women from 8% to 23%. With the aim of ensuring the best use of the limited resources, by focusing limited resources on the promising areas, the JP secretariat has suggested to the National Steering Committee to remove select indicators in relation to the work with pasture committees and water users associations from the logical framework, and received approval.

In advance of the local council elections in December 2016 UN Women trained and coached 93 women and men programme participants on leadership skills, participation in the elections, electoral requirements, conducting electoral campaigns, and public speaking skills. Women-candidates have found the experience of standing for the elections very useful, and the survey has shown that many candidates have participated in the elections as candidates for the first time¹¹. As a result of the elections, 20 women and three men have been elected, which reflects a general national trend of decreasing number of seats held by women in local councils. However, this achievement can be closely attributed to JP support in helping women from vulnerable backgrounds to successfully practice their leadership skills. UN Women plans to further train the elected members of local councils from target areas on the roles and responsibilities of local council members, and effective integration and lobbying for needs and priorities of rural women in their work.

During the reporting year, rural women jointly with local governments have conducted 28 different community, regional and national level activities reaching almost 3,000 people, aimed at improving leadership skills of rural women, their awareness of the national gender policies, including their economic, political, sexual and reproductive rights (see details in Table 3 below). Activities devoted to the celebration of the International Women’s Day included 5 round tables and 7 conferences with an overarching topic of women's activism in promoting gender agenda and inclusive development. Participants of these events have raised awareness about the history of women's movement and female activism in the Kyrgyz Republic, role of women in nation building, emphasizing the importance of women's political participation for sustainable development. Brief information about the SDGs and the gender goal (SDG 5) has been shared. The events have also been used to share information about the work women's groups are promoting in their communities, and give them a platform to inform about their intentions to stand for the upcoming elections, and elevate their status in their communities.

Table 3. Awareness Raising, Activism and Advocacy Activities in 2016¹²

#	Activity	Purpose	Place and date	Number of participants
<i>Activities under the National Month of women’s history and activism for equal rights and opportunities devoted to the International Women’s Day 2016</i>				
1	Round table “Role of women in community development”	Discuss importance and ways to better engage women in community development and strategic planning at community and municipal levels	Bazar Korgon, Jalal-Abad, 27 February 2016	40, including 38 women and 2 men
2	Conference “Women	Present historic women leaders	Suzak, Jalal-	130, including

¹¹ Express survey of women-elected members of local councils from JP target municipalities

¹² 13.2% of total funds for activities have been provided by UN Gender Theme Group

	leaders of our communities”	from the area, and call for higher women’s political participation	Abad, 3 March 2016	128 women and 2 men
3	Conference “Rural women’s political activism”	Discuss rural women’s contribution to community development and call for rural women’s higher participation in upcoming local elections	BeshikJon, Jalal-Abad, 5 March 2016	172, including 160 women and 12 men
4	Conference “Women – agents of peace”	Role of women in peaceful co-existence in communities, call for higher participation in local elections	Seidikum, Jalal-Abad, 6 March 2016	135, including 122 women and 13 men
5	Conference “Outstanding women of our community”	Raise awareness of historical women leaders from the community, and their contribution to the development of the region, call for higher participation of women in local decision-making and local elections	JetiKoshkon, Jalal-Abad, 7 March 2016	103, including 98 women and 5 men
6	Round table “Women’s participation in rural development”	To discuss current contribution of women in rural development and ways to improve their influence in local decision-making processes	KashkarKyshatk, Osh, 27 February 2016	41, including 40 women and 1 man
7	Round table “Women’s participation in rural development”	To discuss current contribution of women in rural development and ways to improve their influence in local decision-making processes	KaraKulja, Osh, 4 March 2016	50, including 48 women and 2 men
8	Conference “Women and development”	Devoted to women’s activism in history and how to increase their role today, call for higher participation in decision-making	Mamajan, Osh, 3 March 2016	90, including 84 women and 6 men
9	Conference “Women and development”	Devoted to women’s activism in history and how to increase their role today, call for higher participation in decision-making	Kenjekul, Osh, 5 March 2016	90, including 61 women and 29 men
10	Conference “Women and development”	Devoted to women’s activism in history and how to increase their role today, call for higher participation in decision-making	ApshyrAta, Osh, 6 March 2016	87, including 82 women and 5 men
11	Forum theatre “Active woman is a basis of a successful community”	Demonstrate through performance the negative consequences of violence against women, female poverty, stereotypes, reproductive health	Baizak, Naryn, 4 March 2016	220, including 154 women and 66 men

		issues, and engage local community members concluding that women's activism is key to addressing these issues		
12	Forum "Women are smart and active"	Discuss women's political activism with participants, motivate rural women to stand for upcoming local elections	AtBashy, Naryn, 7 March 2016	194, including 174 women and 20 men
13	Round table "Rural women leaders"	Discuss historical examples of rural women leaders, their contribution, and ways to increase women's participation in local decision-making processes, and call for higher participation in the local elections	KaraDobo, Chuy, 4 March 2016	124, including 110 women and 14 men
14	Round table "Active rural women"	Discuss historical examples of rural women leaders, their contribution, and ways to increase women's participation in local decision-making processes, and call for higher participation in the local elections	KaraBulak, Chuy, 5 March 2016	132 women
15	Round table "Role of women in rural development"	Discuss obstacles for women's participation in community development, develop recommendations to local government, working group members on local strategic plan development on measures to increase women's participation in local decision-making bodies	AkJar, Osh, 30 March 2016	48 women
16	Round table "Role of women in rural development"	Discuss obstacles for women's participation in community development, develop recommendations to local government, working group members on local strategic plan development on measures to increase women's participation in local decision-making bodies	Mamajan, Osh, 6 April 2016	39 women
17	Round table "Role of women in rural development"	Discuss obstacles for women's participation in community development, develop recommendations to local	ApshyrAta, Osh, 8 April 2016	42 women

		government, working group members on local strategic plan development on measures to increase women's participation in local decision-making bodies		
18	Conference "Women and development"	Inform of SDGs and Goal 5, discuss issues of women's activism, ways to improve it, exchange experiences with participants	KashkarKyshtak, Osh, 18 March 2016	60, including 51 women and 9 men
19	Conference "Women and development"	Inform of SDGs and Goal 5, discuss issues of women's activism, ways to improve it, exchange experiences with participants	Bolshevik, Osh, 24 April, 2016	106, including 81 women and 25 men
20	Forum "Role of women in building peaceful co-existence and friendship between people"	Discuss history of women activism, ways for increasing women's participation in local decision-making bodies, strengthen cooperation with other local institutions, such as health committees, women councils, youth councils, law enforcement representatives, and local government.	Kamyshanovka, Chuy, 22 April 2016	133, including 128 women and 5 men
21	Forum "Women-leaders, women-mothers, women-wives"	Discuss history of women activism, ways for increasing women's participation in local decision-making bodies, strengthen cooperation with other local institutions, such as health committees, women councils, youth councils, law enforcement representatives, and local government.	Novonikolaevka, Chuy, 29 April 2016	145, including 140 women and 5 men
<i>Activities devoted to celebration of the National Rural Women's Day</i>				
22	Public hearings on draft law on tariffs for social insurance	To present gender analysis of draft law, its consequences and unequal impact on rural women and men, to develop recommendations and voice them to members of Parliament and Government	Bishkek, 17 May 2016	45, including 40 women and 5 men
23	National Rural Women's Day Conference	To discuss issues of women's leadership for sustainable development of the country, to	Talas, 17-18 June 2016	150, including 132 women and 18 men

		develop resolution to the Government and Parliament		
<i>Activities as part of the Global campaign of 16 days of activism to end violence against women and girls</i>				
24-27	Forum theatre and song contest on issues of violence against women	To showcase negative consequences of domestic violence, and violence against women and girls, specifically on bride-kidnapping and early marriages through performance and engage participants in the discussion of ways to prevent these cases	4 villages: Kamyshanovka in Chuy, JanyDyikan in Jalal-Abad, Mamajan in Osh, TogolokMoldo in Naryn	340, including 277 women and 93 men
28	Interactive trainings for high school students on violence against women and girls	To explain the concept of violence, its types, stereotypes, and root causes of violence; to jointly discuss negative consequences of violence and violence-free communications methods with high school students	KaraBulak, Chuy	131 students, including 73 girls and 58 boys
	Total	2,945, including 2,550 women and 395 men		

From 17 to 19 May, 24 rural women activists, whose capacities were strengthened to actively participate in the decision-making processes at the local and national levels participated in a number of high-level discussions in Bishkek. The rural women activists have obtained skills of formulating and lobbying their recommendations at the national level on legislative initiatives, which have an impact on their lives. Women activists have formulated recommendations during the public hearings and handed them over to the Parliament, Government and Social Fund of Kyrgyzstan. As a result, the Parliamentary committee has recalled the draft and opened public discussion of the draft laws "On the tariffs of social insurance".

The series of meetings were devoted to the celebration of the National Rural Women's Day of Kyrgyzstan on June 18, 2016 and included public hearings on improvements in the pension support to rural women, meetings with the President's Office, Central Election Commission, Ministry of Labour and Social Development, lead women's NGOs and associations, as well as UN agencies working to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The public hearings have been held on the impact of the newly introduced legal amendments on the state pension social insurance and pension provision for rural women. Gender analysis of the amendments has revealed that the new amendments increased the social insurance fees for the smallholder farmers, and especially women, without a relevant increase in the amount of pension entitlements, thereby increasing social injustice. During the meeting the following important issues of pension provision for rural women were raised for discussion:

1. Impact on rural women of the Law dd. March 19, 2015 #60 «On introducing amendments and addenda to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the rates of insurance payments on the state social insurance";
2. Level of respect for the rights of rural women in the implementation of social protection measures, namely the right to a retirement pension.

Participants have adopted a resolution calling the Parliament to review the newly introduced legislation in view of its negative impact on vulnerable groups, and the Government to ensure the pension system is effective and responds to the needs of the rural women.

Key result of these activity is that

On 15 to 18 June, 2016 UN Women supported the second series of meetings of rural women activists with key decision-makers, which took place on the 17 to 18 June national conference on Rural Women's Day in Talas. The conference was attended by 150 people from all the regions, and representatives of Parliament, President's Administration, Government of Kyrgyzstan, ministries and government agencies, civil society organizations, and donors. The main objective of the conference was to boost rural women's activism and their political participation in formulation of the country's gender-responsive policies and sustainable development agenda. The recommendations put forth by conference participants have been formulated in the resolution and forwarded to the Parliament and Government of Kyrgyzstan.

In follow up to the conference rural women activists held two meetings, namely with the Member of Parliament Salianova, and other parliamentary experts; and with the Deputy Head of the State Agency of Local Self-Government and Inter-Ethnic Relations Mr. Halitov. The main result of these meetings is the participation of rural women activists in the promotion of the draft law introducing amendments to the Criminal Code of Kyrgyzstan with penalties for religious marriage with minors. This draft law had been initially rejected on 8 June 2016, and then under public pressure passed the first reading of the Parliament on 19 June 2016, and later adopted by the national parliament.

Rural women participating in the programme are evidencing gradual improvement of the economic and social status of women within their households as a result of significant contributions of women to domestic savings and family budget from the joint businesses with group members, income from agricultural activities and leading social activities with women in their communities. Women have started solving many practical needs thanks to their own efforts: improved food quality, invite specialized doctors to the villages to get advice, acquire household appliances, lay on water supply systems in the houses, install water heaters etc., which significantly facilitate the housework of rural women, reduce their care burden, and save their time. It is worth mentioning that in some SHGs it is becoming a tradition to purchase household appliances at the expense of the group savings or as a present for a birthday. Activation of women at the community level gradually has been increasing their self-reliance with regard to the advancement of their own well-beings and participation in decision-making, both at the household and community levels. JP supports women activists in conducting community-based activities that help rural women to improve the quality of their life via raising awareness about their rights, and organizing discussions on pressing problems of rural women. For example, community-based awareness raising activities, conversations, lectures, and round tables that help to resolve practical gender needs, to improve reproductive health and to prevent domestic violence, etc. These activities have been conducted jointly with Village Health Committees and other active NGOS, such as Republican Alliance for Reproductive Health, which provided 400 brochures on sexual and reproductive health, Y-PEER-200 brochures on sexual health, GIZ and UNFPA provided

800 brochures on family planning. Thus at least 1,400 persons, and their families have received information on the above issues.

To further strengthen communication about rural women in the media, UN Women has conducted a training on basics of journalism for a group of 20 young boys and girls aged 14 to 22 from target areas representing family members of programme participants. Those training regarded more specifically: the basics of community journalism, storytelling, writing blogs and articles, taking photos and short videos. The group has started producing news and stories from their communities from a gender and social justice perspective and sharing it in a closed group on social media platforms. These young community journalists have been trained to further promote communication and public discussion around issues faced by rural women, and their contribution to local economy and national prosperity. Media experts are providing technical coaching in the initial period, after which the groups will open to the public. The best community journalists will be awarded in early 2017 and their stories published widely.

Outcome 3: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women (Global Outcome 4)

Results: As a result of capacity development of rural women activists two important legislative initiatives were publicly discussed. On 17 May 2016 the JP conducted public hearings on the impact of the newly introduced legal amendments on the state pension social insurance and pension provision for rural women. Rural women activists participated in the hearings and voiced their concerns and recommendations to national decision makers. The discriminatory provisions proposed had a significantly higher burden of social tariff payment for rural smallholder farmers, compared to large landholders. The calculation of the tariffs is based on average income of the region, and taking into consideration lower average earnings of men compared to women, the burden of payment is higher on women, without a respective increase in the cumulative pension funds. The recommendations were shared with the respective Parliamentary committee and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. As a result, the draft law was not passed in the first hearing and has been sent back for improvements.

On 15 June 2016 women activists met with the initiator of the draft law criminalizing the conduct of religious marriages with under age children. Rural women expressed their support to the draft law and committed to share information in their communities in support of this legislative initiative. The Parliament adopted a law criminalizing religious marriage with minors and putting a responsibility on the groom, parents and religious cleric.

Key staff of the Ministry of Agriculture increased their knowledge on Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, specifically on the gender-specific targets and indicators relevant for the Ministry. UN Women supported a workshop to discuss the vision of the Ministry of Agriculture on localization of SDGs in sectoral policies and strategies. The workshop was attended by the State secretary of the Ministry and heads of key departments. This was the first platform within the Ministry to discuss the SDGs. UN Women used the opportunity to raise awareness on the 17 goals, and gender targets and indicators, relevant for the Ministry, underlining the catalytic effect of gender equality and women's empowerment in achieving the SDGs, and highlighting the importance of the focus on rural women in sectoral policies and strategies. However due to lack of national level guidance and a roadmap the Ministry of Agriculture is not yet prepared for defining a clear action plan. Cooperation for SDG localization will continue, including conducting gender analysis of the existing policies and strategies, and the use of findings and recommendations in the process of localization of the SDGs in the agricultural and food security sector, as well as improving gender statistics in agriculture on the basis of SDG indicators.

- **Describe any delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices:**

The main challenge in programme implementation relates to the access of rural women to decision-making in natural resource management institutions, as described above. Given the limited resources of the programme, it has been recommended to focus them in the areas where most results can be achieved. Also given the operation of a large IFAD-funded project in pasture management, it is suggested that this aspect is addressed through collaboration and shared expertise.

JP partners have also intended to assist the Ministry of Agriculture in developing an Agricultural Development Strategy. However, currently the Ministry has suspended this activity due to discussions regarding the long-term national development strategy beyond 2017. Hence this activity has not been undertaken. UN Women has started gender analysis of the sectoral strategies and policies, and results will be shared with the Ministry of Agriculture to take into consideration in developing future development strategies.

The important lesson learned through implementation is that of one of the key impediments to economic empowerment of rural women is the prevailing social and cultural norms, restricting women's roles and participation in the decision-making processes at the household, community and national levels. The assumption underpinning programme design, was that the increased access of women to resources would automatically lead to their better social status and decision-making power, however this was not the case. Therefore, the JP partners have included support for community level awareness raising and educational activities to increase their sensitivity to gender roles and equal opportunities. In addition, the JP has employed men engagement strategies to use gender-sensitive men in delivering messages to their peers in the communities. It is expected that implementation of GALS will also contribute to the discussion and changes in the traditional gender roles in the families and communities where it will be introduced.

The JP also started employing the role models existing in the communities to build a mentorship programme with successful women running businesses in their communities. This will allow transfer of knowledge and increased trust of what is possible in the context of their communities. The approach of supporting the existing initiatives without undermining the willingness of participants to contribute their own resources in the business ideas needs to be strengthened and reinforced across all of its components.

Implementation of the GALS from the onset of the programme with a bigger budget, would have ensured its consistency with the social mobilization strategy. Early incorporation of GALS would also have allowed better supervision, more time to reach a wider scale and integrate GALS tools in RWEA support strategy for income generating activities. However -even with the short implementation time-frame- GALS seems to be yielding very interesting results in terms of i) building self-confidence ii) men's involvement in the programme, and iii) transformation of gender/generational power dynamics.

The internal analysis of women's businesses has shown that interventions aimed at women's economic empowerment should focus on creating maximum additional value for the unit of time spent by women, taking into consideration the burden of the care work, which primarily lies on the shoulders of rural women. Productive activities should have a long-term strategy of forming women producers into

larger organizational units to strengthen their negotiation power in the market, and provide opportunities for processing of the produce. Further, the results have shown that the sectors of service provision and off-farm employment have a higher potential to lead to empowerment of rural women, where women have a higher degree of control over the use of proceeds from their productive activities, and re-investment into their businesses.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights are key for empowerment of rural women. JP has partnered with local service providers and NGOs in disseminating the knowledge and publications available on topics of sexual and reproductive health, family planning, safe pregnancy, etc., and used them during monthly meetings of women groups. These discussion led to closer cooperation of women's groups with village health committees, and joint request to district hospitals from 7 villages, and a site visit by district hospital gynecologists and mammologist to these villages for consultations. However, more focus on these aspects through programme activities would be recommended, as part of nutrition and other trainings delivered through local health committees.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

Programme partners are on track on the activities as described in the annual work plan approved by the National Steering Committee. Agriculture-related activities will be planned for in the second half of 2016 and implemented in the first quarter of 2017.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP¹³** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1 Rural women have increased income, better livelihoods and food security from enhanced agricultural productivity			
			Partner reports Verification and post-distribution monitoring reports

¹³ Please refer to the attached PMF for your easy reference

<p>Indicator 1.1.3 Number of women organisations (Community Funds, cooperatives, CBOs) running economic activities Baseline: 0 Target: at least 40 women organizations</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.4 Average % of increase household income among members of self-help groups Baseline: 0 Target: at least up to 20 % by the end of project</p>	<p>45 community funds, 2 cooperatives</p> <p>20% in average</p>	<p>Exceeded target</p> <p>On target</p>	<p>Partner reports</p> <p>FAO report</p>
<p>Output 1.2 Rural women have increased opportunities for remunerated work at village level</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.1 Number of rural women trained on professions in demand at village level through Food for Training activities Baseline: 0 Target: at least 50 women (in 2015-2016)</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.2 Percentage of trained women establishing their own enterprise/business, producing agri/livestock/craft. etc. Baseline: 0 Target: at least 50% (in 2015) of trained women get paid for their professional services</p>	<p>140</p> <p>9% or 12 of 140 trained</p>	<p>Exceeded target</p> <p>Below target. Trainings have completed in 2016 and only 12 of the trained have started providing services</p>	<p>Partner reports</p> <p>Partner reports</p>
<p>Outcome 2 Rural women have mastered leadership and actively participate in shaping laws, policies and systems of service provision at local and central levels</p>			
<p>Output 2.1 Rural women have mastered leadership skills to participate in and influence decision making at local and central levels</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.1 Number of rural women leaders participated in the process of local planning and budgeting Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 60 (in 2015-2016)</p>	<p>60</p>	<p>Target achieved</p>	<p>Partner reports</p>

<p>Indicator 2.1.2 Number of rural women participated in policy lobbying activities at central level Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 10 (in 2016)</p>	30	Target exceeded	Partner reports
<p>Output 2.2 Local governments have increased capacities to ensuring transparent and gender responsive planning and budgeting system</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.1 Number of local development plans/budgets developed based on participatory process Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 15 (in 2015-2016)</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.2 Number of joint local government-communities initiatives addressing specific needs of rural women Baseline: 0 Target: 10 (in 2015-2016)</p>	15 0	Target achieved 12 initiatives have been selected, implementation starts in 2017	Partner reports Partner reports
<p>Output 2.3 Rural women are equipped with the skills and knowledge to participate in and influence decisions of local service providers</p> <p>Indicator 2.3.1 Share of rural women participate in Association of Water Users and Pasture Committees Baseline: 0 Planned Target: at least 30% (in 2015)</p> <p>Indicator 2.3.2 Share of priorities proposed by rural women included in the WUAs / PC development plans Baseline: 0 Planned Target: at least 10% (in 2015)</p>	18% 21 out of 118 members (baseline 4 out of 123) 10% 2 out of 20 institutions accepted recommendations	Not achieved. Challenges discussed in the report Partially achieved. Challenges discussed in the report	Partner reports Partner reports
<p>Outcome 3 A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</p>			

<p>Output 3.1 Policy makers have enhanced capacities to mainstream gender into food, agriculture and rural employment policies, laws and budgets</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.1. Agricultural Development Strategy integrates gender priorities, including in its Action Plan and budget Baseline: gender neutral Target: Adoption of the Strategy with gender priorities integrated throughout the text, plan and budget</p> <p>Indicator 3.1.2. Gender priorities integrated in the Employment Policies (rural development) of the Ministry of Economic Development, including its Action Plan and budget Baseline: gender neutral Target: Adoption of the Policy with gender priorities integrated throughout the text, plan and budget</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p>	<p>Activity not undertaken, development of Strategy not planned by Ministry of Agriculture. Gender analysis of agricultural sectoral policies and strategies is ongoing, recommendations will be presented in 2017</p> <p>Activity not undertaken, planned for 2017</p>	<p>Strategy, report</p> <p>Relevant policies, report</p>
<p>Output 3.2 Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.1. % of recommendations for filling in data gaps in rural gender statistics integrated Baseline: 0 Target: At least 60 % of recommendation integrated</p> <p>Indicator 3.2.2. The census and agriculture units of NSC integrate gender-inclusive methodologies in agricultural census and/or surveys on rural populations</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>Done</p>	<p>Activity started in 2016, recommendations will be developed in early 2017</p> <p>Will continue as per NSC requests</p>	<p>Gender statistics reports</p> <p>Survey templates</p>

iii) A Specific Story (Optional)



Ms. Taalaigul Isakunova (on the left), Minister of Labour and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic is congratulating Nuriya Temirbek kyzy (on the right) for being elected as a deputy of a local council. Photo: UN Women/Meriza Emilbekova

Nuriya Temirbek kyzy, a deputy of a local council in At-Bashy rayon, Naryn, Kyrgyzstan, a 40-old mother of three children.

“I use to be a mere housewife, sitting at home, doing chores around the house, taking care of my children and husband. During free time, I also produced local handicrafts to earn some money to support my family. Starting from 2014 I joined the Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment Programme (RWEE) and started working together with UN Women and other development partners on raising awareness of rural women of their rights, solving women’s issues, building their capacities and economically empowering them

so that women’s voices would be heard. Within the joint programme I was trained and capacitated together with other 1,500 rural women and gained leadership skills and learned to do effective business. In particular, we got trainings on gender-responsive budgeting, effective farming, handcrafting, bakery, sewing and many other trainings on women’s economic empowerment. After a while I became more economically empowered, got power in decision-making, learnt to socialize and work with society, got more independence. My view of life changed, I realized that I can also make a difference, change for the better not only within the family but in my community and the society in general. Soon after people got to know me I realized and believed in myself that many women support me and I decided to run for local elections.

In 2016 for the first time in my life I was elected as a deputy of a local council in Ak-Jara village, Naryn with the help of this programme. I got in total 225 votes, won the 5th place among 39 candidates. This gave a lot of strength to me and vitalized me to further work for women’s rights, solve problems faced by rural women and empower them.

In 2014, UN Women in partnership with WFP, FAO and IFAD joined forces to implement the RWEE project aiming at increasing income opportunities and enhancing leadership of rural women. Nuriya is one of the 1,500 rural women running productive economic activities in 45 villages with the support of RWEE for improved livelihoods, food security and nutrition of their families. Of them 805 women are running small scale businesses, and have increased their income by 29.5% in average. Analysis of these businesses demonstrates that services and production have the highest impact on empowerment, taking into consideration time requirements to operate business, women's control over resources, decision-making on the use of proceeds, and profitability. RWEE is a good example of a holistic approach to promote gender equality, tackle rural poverty, and improve food security. Evidence shows that women with good economic background have a higher opportunity to invest in their electoral campaign and be elected. Being economically empowered Nuriya too was elected to the local council and is now advocating for rural women's rights.

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

- No assessments or evaluations during the reporting period

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

- None

V. Coordination mechanisms

- The National Steering Committee of the programme has been established in October 2014 and convenes on a bi-annual basis to review progress and endorse key programmatic decisions. It comprises representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Agency for local self-government and inter-ethnic relations, and representatives of four participating agencies. The Minister of Labour and Social Protection co-chairs the National Steering Committee jointly with the head of one of the participating agencies on a rotational basis. WFP's Representative in Kyrgyzstan has been elected as co-chair for the year 2016 and will hand over the co-chairing to the next agency in 2017.
- The Technical working group comprises the focal points of four agencies participating in the joint programme. It convenes on a monthly basis to share information, coordinate, and discuss any upcoming events and issues. Technical working group develops a joint work plan annually with details of each agency's activities, schedule and places to facilitate better coordination of individual interventions. Based on the work plan, partners develop a joint monitoring plan to review progress, monitor key activities in the field and start discussions on the effectiveness of the programme's approach. Joint monitoring visits take place on a quarterly basis.

VI. Resources

- No additional resources have been mobilized. JP partners have submitted a concept note to the gender promotion initiative of the Peace Building Fund in June 2016, but it was not successful. A short video showcasing the programme and results achieved was produced. A brochure with stories from the programme participants to be used as a visibility and fundraising tool with donors is planned.

JP has used partnership and parallel funding modality to cooperate with a number of local NGOs and donor organizations. Thus, NGO Fair and Sustainable Development Solutions, has provided parallel funding of 75,000 EUR to UN Women's implementing NGO partner CDA to conduct additional trainings for women's organizations aimed at strengthening their organizational and institutional capacity through 2017. Australian Embassy has provided funding for training 18 women from among JP participants on a 10-day vocational training course on bakery, and provided 17,000USD for equipping a bakery shop for them.

In conducting public awareness and women's activism campaigns JP closely partners with the UN Gender Theme Group and raised additional 2,178USD for campaigns by JP participants in their communities.