



Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment

Context

Rural women are key agents for achieving the transformational economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development. But limited access to credit, health care and education are among the many challenges they face, which are further aggravated by the global food and economic crises and climate change. Ensuring their empowerment is key not only to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Programme overview

The Joint Programme on "Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women" (JPRWEE) is a global initiative whose overarching goal is to secure rural women's livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development.

Jointly implemented by FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, and Rwanda, RWEE builds on each Agency's comparative advantage and strengths in order to improve the status of women in rural areas. JPRWEE has four main outcomes:

- Improved food and nutrition security
- Increased income to sustain livelihoods
- Enhanced participation in decision-making
- More gender-responsive policy environment

Key results

The programme is currently supporting **41,000 rural women** and **213,000 members** of their families, with a potential to scale up to additional 50,000 women if further contributions are received. Some of the key results achieved so far include:

- Over **20,500** women trained on improved agricultural technologies;
- **19,000** women received nutritional advice
- **20,000** women accessed financial services;
- Over **20,000** women received business development support for income-generation;
- More than **20,000 people** attended sensitization campaign on women's rights;
- National governments of Guatemala, Ethiopia and Nepal supported for the development and implementation of **gender policies** in the agricultural sector.

This holistic approach has also allowed to broaden the scope of the programme to include activities that focus on combatting Gender-Based Violence.

Budget



Key results and success stories



Why is it working?

- Integrated, **holistic support** to tackle the deep-rooted gender inequalities that prevent many women and girls from contributing up to their full potential to sustainable development.
- Each participating UN Organization is building on its **comparative advantage**.
- **Same beneficiaries** and target areas to maximize impact.
- **Active engagement of men** to support gender equality.
- **National ownership** of activities through regular involvement of local governments.
- **South-South cooperation** and exchanges on good practices and lessons learnt among country teams.
- Inclusion of **climate resilient agricultural techniques** in training.
- Access to **financial services** to unleash the productive potential of vulnerable women.
- Inclusive governance structure that ensures smooth implementation.
- **Dedicated staff** (national and global coordinators) to ensure programme-wide coherence and impact.
- Potential to **replicate the successful model** in other countries.

Voices from the field

“Now I know what rights we have as women, and that we have the right to participate in the different committees established in our community”

Herlinda, Guatemala

“The interactions and exchanges among men and women participating in the programme has encouraged mutual understanding”

Biba, Niger

“I often share my learnings about gender with my husband; I am so happy that he is helping me both in my household chores and in farms”

Chandra, Nepal

“Through my participation in a self-help group I have realized that joining efforts is the most effective way to achieve results; I now have a regular income and I am inspiring also others to move forward”

Asel, Kyrgyzstan

“Thanks to the agricultural inputs and technologies received, I increased the yield of my land”

Kedja, Ethiopia

“I was able to buy two additional hectares of land for farming and pay an health insurance for my family and education fees for my children”

Anastasia, Rwanda

“I learned how to write and do basic calculations; as a member of a Savings and Loan Association, I am taking loans regularly and saving my money for the future”

Margaret, Liberia

