
Programme Title:	Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment - Rural Women Economic Empowerment Component
Country:	Ethiopia

I. Joint Programme Information

Joint Programme Information

Programme title:

Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment - Rural Women Economic Empowerment Component

Sectorial area of intervention and policy objectives

Inclusive economic growth for poverty eradication

Food security and nutrition

UN Lead Agency:

UN Women (UN Women)

UN Participating Organizations:

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

World Food Programme (WFP)

Local Partners:

Federal: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA); Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR); Federal Cooperatives Agency, Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC); Ministry of Education (Department of Functional Adult Literacy); Land Administration Agency.

Regional: Oromia and Afar Regional and District Level Bureau of Finance and Economic Development (BoFEDs); Farmer/Pastoralist Training Centres (F/PTC); Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCAs); Bureaus of Agriculture (BoAs); and Bureaus of Cooperative Promotion Agencies (BoCPA)

Non-Governmental Organizations: Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia (SWAA-E) and Organization for Women in Self-employment (WISE)

Report submitted by

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III. Financial information

Detailed Financial Report:

 [Ethiopia RWEE JP SDG FR All+++3.pdf](#)

SDG-F Funds

UN Agency	Total approved funds	Total funds Transferred to date	Total funds committed to date	Total funds disbursed to date
UN Women (UN Women)	955,182.00	955,182.00	414,380.00	275,779.00
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	246,016.00	246,016.00	69,611.00	72,060.00
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)				
World Food Programme (WFP)	298,802.00	298,802.00	251,343.00	251,343.00
Total	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	735,334.00	599,182.00

Matching Funds

Name of source	Total approved funds	Total funds Transferred to date	Total funds committed to date	Total funds disbursed to date
FAO	300,000.00	300,000.00	133,475.00	113,171.00
UN Women	500,000.00	500,000.00	136,228.00	95,660.00
WFP	600,000.00	600,000.00	805,859.00	805,859.00
Total	1,400,000.00	1,400,000.00		

IV. Beneficiaries

Direct Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers	2,379	2,374	5	These are the members of the targeted women Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations in the Adamitulu District of Oromia Region.
Entrepreneurs	1	1		This is the woman entrepreneur who was supported to get training on Women Economic Empowerment at the Golda Meir MASHAV Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) in Haifa, Israel.
Civil servants/government	669	271	398	These are the experts participating in trainings and workshops to date (Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB); Result Based Management (RBM); ToT on basic financial, business management, entrepreneurship, saving and credit and leadership concepts, on control and management of food reserve, gender and leadership; action oriented workshop organized to review legal frameworks, land use and administration proclamation and agricultural policies; sensitization workshop on revolving fund management, including revision and translation of relevant guidelines into local languages, and programme coordination, on cropping, livestock production, small scale irrigation, good nutrition practice including dietary and complementary food preparation and demonstration Community Conversation (CC) facilitation skill and dialogue techniques; and an interactive workshop organized on pastoralist women's access to common resources)

Indigenous				
Children				
Youth				
Other 1				
Total	3,049	2,646	403	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments
SMEs		
Cooperatives	10.00	These cooperatives are the Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations (RUSSACOs) that are being strengthened to provide support (credit/leadership) to the 2,374 rural women beneficiaries of the project. The Cooperative Organisations are targeted in four (4) districts of Afar and Oromia Regional States.
Government/municipal organizations	34.00	These are the government agencies that includes the Federal Ministries - Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR), Federal Cooperative Agency - and the regional and district bureaus - Bureaus of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BoANR), Bureau of Pastoral and Agricultural Development (BoPAD), Bureaus of Cooperative Promotion Agencies (BCPAs) Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCAs), Bureaus of Education (BoE), Bureaus of Livestock and Fishery Development, Women and Associations, League and Federations.
Private sector		
Community-based organizations	8	These are the regional and district level Women Associations, Women Federations and Women Leagues and self-help groups (SHGs) in Afar and Oromia Regions.
NGOs	2	Organization for Women in Self Employment (WISE) and Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia (SWAA-E).
Total	54	

Indirect Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government				
Indigenous	3,104	2,779.00	375.00	These are community members addressed through the gender awareness campaign and CC sessions conducted in the four districts of Oromia and Aar Regions.
Children				
Youth				

Total	3,104	2,779.00	375.00	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments
SMEs		
Cooperatives		
Government/municipal organizations		
Private sector		
Community-based organizations		
NGOs		
Total		

Any other information regarding JP beneficiaries*:

- 1313 rural women (900 from Oromia and 413 from Afar), were trained on basic business and financial skills, business management, entrepreneurship, saving and credit and leadership concepts
- 1964 rural women were provided a training on control and management of household food reserves
- 1497 rural women in Oromia were provided with a training on cropping, livestock production, small scale irrigation, good nutrition practice including dietary and complementary food preparation and demonstration
- 54 members of women associations in both regions (26 from Oromia and 28 from Afar) had participated in a sensitization workshop on their rights to access and control land and other public services and resources.
- 60 rural women from both Afar and Oromia attended an annual conference organized to exchange experiences and information on market issues and to network with the Association of Women in Business.
- 32 women leaders and 36 members of the 10 Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations (RUSACCOs) from Oromia and Afar regions participated in national and regional exposure visits to successful RUSACCOs in the districts of the same regions and in Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS).
- 125 experts (45 female and 80 male), drawn from participation sector offices of both regions, were trained on Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)
- 50 experts (13 female, 37 male), from participating sector offices in Oromia, were trained on Result Based Management (RBM)
- 28 district level experts of Oromia region (7 female and 21 male) took a ToT on basic financial, business management, entrepreneurship, saving and credit and leadership concepts
- 47 (27 female, 20 male) Development Agents (DAs) and Health Extension Workers (HEWs) were trained on control and management of food reserves in Afar and Oromia
- 39 DAs, HEWs and district level experts (15 Female, 24 Male) from BoANR were trained on cropping, livestock production, small scale irrigation, good nutrition practice including dietary and complementary food preparation and demonstration
- 51 experts and management members (18 female, 33 male) of Cooperative Promotion Agencies of Afar and Oromia Regions were trained on gender and leadership
- 82 stakeholders (50 female; 32 male) participants from government sector ministries at the federal and regional levels participated in an action-oriented workshop organized to review legal frameworks, land use

and administration proclamation and agricultural policies

-88 (45 female and 43 male) higher officials and experts of regional and district level Bureaus were sensitized on revolving fund management, including revision and translation of relevant guidelines in to local languages, and programme coordination

-135 Community Facilitators (CFs) (38 female, 97 male) of Afar and Oromia were trained on CC facilitation skill and dialogue techniques

-24 (13 female and 11 male) participants coming from Dubti district participating sector offices, Afar Women Association, Afar women's league, and the four women cooperatives had participated in an interactive workshop organized on pastoralist women access to common resources such as water point, land right and conservation and sustainable land management, and preservation of ecosystem

e.g. # people received financial assistance to set up a business (disaggregated by sex)

-900 targeted women received financial assistance to set up and strengthen their business

V. Joint Programme Progress

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
JP Outcome 1: Rural women improve their food security and nutrition	Data against outcome 1 indicators was not collected considering the additional time needed to both achieve and measure real changes. However, the data collected for the output indicators are provided and discussed below.	The major drought that affected the target areas hindered the implementation of initiatives based on agricultural activities (due to lack of rainfall). This was one of the difficulties faced in realising the results under Outcome 1. However, to mitigate the effects of the drought, a high-level discussion was held between federal, regional, and district level officials to curb anticipated challenges on implementation of the activities. The discussion resulted in a common understanding of the solution that should be provided, particularly in setting priorities and addressing beneficiaries within the existing context.	
JP Output 1.1: Rural women's access and control management over local food household reserve increased	In this reporting period, the Joint Programme has procured production, irrigation and post-harvest technologies that include 2 maize shellers, 15 beehives, 25 bee wax, 20 honey jars 25 honey excluders, 5 bee brushes and 6 water pumps to enable the targeted women in Oromia to diversify their income with women friendly agricultural technologies. To date, 82 per cent (1,964) of the rural women were also able to access agriculture and nutrition related trainings and individualized and group based technical services through 47 (female 27 and male 20) Agricultural Development Agents (DAs) (32) and Health Extension Workers (HEWs) (15) who were trained by the regional Bureaus of Agriculture (BoAs) in partnership with the Joint Programme. With the training provided to date on household food reserve control and management and the house-to-house technical support provided by DAs, targeted rural women were able to enhance their capacities on household food reserve management. Currently, the women are able to plan and sort their current harvest for sale (to generate income for household expenses), consumption and reserve for emergency until the next harvest. In addition, almost 25 per cent (587) of the targeted women are able to utilize improved production techniques that include row planting, vegetable gardening using their wet land, timely weeding, ploughing three times for Teff plantation and following proper timing of fertilizer preparation and application and preparation of feed for cattle fattening.		As a continuation of this effort, the technical support of DAs and district agricultural experts will continue to sustain the results achieved so far. The procured technologies will also be timely distributed to the targeted women through their RUSACOs and based on criteria to be set by the regional and district Technical Working Group (TWG). Additionally, experience sharing exposures will be created in post-harvest management and food reserve for the rural women in both Oromia and Afar Regions.

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
JP Output 1.2: Rural women's and their household's nutritional status improved	<p>1497 rural women in Oromia were provided with training on cropping, livestock production, small-scale irrigation, good nutrition practice including dietary and complementary food preparation and demonstration. This training was provided by the 39 DAs, HEWs and district level experts (15 female, 24 male) who were provided with a 6-day ToT on the subject matters. In addition, as part of the efforts to improve the agricultural productivity and nutrition status of the targeted women and their families, a total of 45 quintals grain seeds that include Teff, maize and wheat and 140 kilograms of vegetable seeds (carrot, cabbage and onion) and 500 apple seedlings have been procured and partially distributed to the three Joint Programme districts of Oromia region. The seeds distributed will serve a dual purpose, where with the training in place on nutrition enhancement and specific income generating activities (IGAs) and business skills it is expected that the food and nutrition security of the targeted women will be enhanced significantly and their livelihoods diversified in the coming reporting seasons.</p>		<p>As a next step, the targeted women will be provided with the remaining seedlings and technologies coupled with continuous technical support to plant, harvest and use the vegetables and fruits for their dietary and complementary food preparations.</p>
JP Outcome 2: Rural women increase their income to sustain their livelihoods	<p>The Joint Programme's skill trainings and financial support have enabled 38 per cent (900) of the targeted rural women to diversify their sources of income as provided in Table 1 below. With the financial support, ten rural women in Yayagulele district of the Oromia region are also able to reclaim and return their family land. The land was rented out to third parties for only small amounts of money, giving the women limited access to use it for agricultural production to support their families. In rural areas of Ethiopia, specifically in the Oromia region, it is a common practice to rent out land for a small amount of money for a long time when families are faced with economic problems. The rural women have confirmed that they are currently using the reclaimed land for their regular agricultural activities.</p> <p>During the reporting period, encouraging results in the living standard and empowerment in the income domain of the rural women were also observed. Accordingly, 13 per cent (319) of rural women were able to provide educational materials for their children attending school. In addition, 600 rural women have opened a bank account, with the support of the cooperative offices of the targeted districts, with saving balances ranging from 400 Birr (17 USD) to 3000 Birr (130 USD).</p>	<p>The Joint Programme has been working to create access to and control of land for targeted women. However, the complex and sensitive nature of land issues in Ethiopia in general and the lingering traditional attitudes opposing women's right to land, pose difficulty to accelerate the realization of the result. The JP was planned on the assumption that there is an enabling environment in place in the form of a federal policy and proclamation to grant women access to land and there is the joint land certification process led by government. Even though both these conditions are fulfilled, the implementation of these processes on the ground proved to be more difficult and the progress made is not as much as anticipated by the JP RWEE. To address the factors hindering the JP RWEE implementation, dialogue forums are planned in the upcoming reporting period to sensitize and motivate all the relevant federal and regional stakeholders. This to achieve greater buy-in from actors that are crucial in advancing the processes to grant women access to land.</p>	

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 2.1: Women's increased capacity to produce goods with diversified access to local markets</p>	<p>During the reporting period, progress has been made to create diversified access to local markets.</p> <p>First, the market assessment, which was conducted in the last reporting period, was validated with recommendations for interventions that are feasible to empower the targeted women economically and enhance the food and nutrition security. During the assessment validation workshop with government counterparts, an agreed integration plan was set up. Thus, IGAs training and provision of technologies and agricultural inputs is being done as per the recommendations and with available resources. If resource availability permits, the provision of inputs, including live animals, technologies and dairy processing technologies, will be further enhanced.</p> <p>Second, a two days' annual conference held brought 60 rural women of the four targeted districts together to exchange experiences and information on market issues and to network with the Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs Association. During the conference, the traditional food called Chiko, which is made of barley flour and butter, was identified as a product with market potential. Thus, the president of the Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs Association pursued discussions with the manager of one of the famous supermarkets in Addis Ababa, who agreed to link up with the women to market their products. Following, a discussion with the Ethiopian Standard Agency has been started to assure the quality standards of the product so that the women can directly supply the supermarkets in Addis Ababa.</p> <p>Third, 14 rural women from the three districts of Oromia region are linked to Addis Ababa market through the first round 7 days' nationwide exhibition and bazaar organized by the Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency, which was formerly known as Federal Micro and Small Enterprises Development Agency (FMSEDA). During this event, the rural women were able to generate revenue in the amount of Birr 12,940 (570.04USD) from the sale of value added food products like Cheko (barley flour with butter), Kolo (roasted barley), Besso (barley flour), Kinche (Local oats), Chechebesa (traditional food made of baked teff and butter), butter, honey; and grains like lentils, sunflower, teff, chickpeas and onion. With the support from the joint programme, the women were also able to distribute 400 business cards to visitors and potential wholesalers in Addis Ababa.</p>		<p>The next step to fully realizing this output will be to support the targeted women to strengthen their IGAs with relevant technologies and technical support and continuously work on creating diversified market linkages for them in collaboration with various stakeholders as the Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency and regional and district Cooperative Promotion Agencies (CPAs).</p>
<p>JP Output 2.2: Rural women access to holistic income-generating facilities and to gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services increased</p>	<p>As part of the efforts to provide gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services to the targeted women, 38 per cent (900) of the targeted rural women in the Oromia region gained access to credit/financial services in the form of a revolving fund. These women have started using the credit services to initiate diversified and profitable IGAs and build their assets. The IGAs include shoa fattening and rearing, rental services of donkey, mule and horse carts for transport, cattle fattening and sales, small restaurant and shops, hair salon tearooms, milk production and cattle fattening as detailed in Table 1 above.</p> <p>The results are due to the consecutive capacity building interventions and technical support conducted to date to enhance the capacity of 669 government experts (271 female and 398 male) from regional and district level BoWCAs, CPAs, BoANRs, and district and zonal administrations and women associations. These experts and their respective offices have started extending gender-sensitive services including financial and specific technical services on management of loans and procurement of cattle for fattening.</p>		<p>The upcoming steps will continue the strengthening of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The women institutions (RUSSACOs), the gender machineries and the agriculture and cooperative offices to continue offering the financial, technical and capacity building services and specifically work on sustaining the programme results. The awareness raising campaign on services available for the targeted women and their associations so that the women will gain awareness and capacity to demand their rights.

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 2.3: Rural women increased their knowledge and incorporate acquired skills on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and sustainable agriculture techniques</p>	<p>To date various capacity building interventions including national and specific regional level exposure visits and trainings on general IGA and basic business skills were conducted to increase the knowledge, skills and experiences of targeted rural women on entrepreneurship, financial literacy and business skills. The exposure visits brought together 32 women leaders and 36 members of the 10 Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations (RUSACCOs) in national and regional exposure visits to successful RUSACCOs in the districts of the same regions and in Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS). As a result, they have gained practical and tested knowledge on saving and credit practices, use of business plans and feasibility studies to run successful businesses, revolving fund management and on how to diversify businesses. Furthermore, the Joint programme has created access to trainings on general IGA and basic business skills for 55 per cent (1,313) of rural women (900 Oromia and 413 Afar), which helped them to have enhanced knowledge on the basic financial and business management, entrepreneurship, saving and credit management and leadership concepts.</p> <p>The aforementioned trainings were provided by government experts, who followed a Training of Trainers (ToT) approach to train the women, and by experts of the Organization for Women in Self-Employment (WISE) - a local civil society organisation (CSO). The basic business training provided by WISE, particularly, helped women to avoid traditional practices that led to wasting their time and resources, which could be used otherwise to change their lives. For instance, the rural women in Yayagulele district reported that they reduced the number of coffee cups and the many traditional coffee ceremonies they have been attending per day. The rural women in Dodola district, on the other hand, have started to sell milk, which is a taboo in their culture, after they realized the economic benefits from this activity.</p> <p>In this reporting period, Integrated Functional Adult Literacy (IFAL) was also confirmed to take place for 300 women in Dodola district of Oromia. Finally, with the skill trainings and financial support from the Joint Programme, 900 women in the Oromia region are able to have either initiated or strengthened self-employment activities to support their livelihoods.</p>		<p>The next steps are to strengthen the Integrated Functional Adult Literacy (IFAL) programme in all the targeted districts by further providing training of facilitators at regional level; and implementing the specific capacity building plan developed based on the gap assessment of the Farmers/pastoral Training Centres in the targeted districts of both regions.</p>
<p>JP Output 2.4: Rural women have increased access to productive resources (land and agricultural inputs)</p>	<p>In this reporting period, various activities which served as foundation for creating access to productive assets were implemented. The first task was the agreement reached between BoWCA and the Dubti district administration office of the Afar region to provide 413 targeted rural women with land for their agricultural activities. As a follow-up action, separate bilateral meetings were conducted with the two organizations. Both reaffirmed the previous agreement and named bureaucracy and new resettlement of the region as challenges to accelerate the provision of land for the target women. Currently, the region is implementing a resettlement programme to create common access to public infrastructures for pastoral communities.</p> <p>The second activity was the provision of a sensitization training to 54 members of women associations in both regions (26 Oromia and 28 Afar). The training was to sensitize the targeted women in the regions on the rights they have to access and control of land and other public services and resources. These trained women are also expected to lobby the relevant government bureaus so that women can benefit from government development initiatives particularly the nationwide joint land certification initiative. As a result, the trainees have developed an action plan to execute the sensitization and lobbying activities in the next reporting year.</p> <p>Third, a study aimed at identifying feasible time and labour saving technologies for the targeted women was completed. Accordingly, based on the specific findings of Yayagulele district of Oromia, the procurement of 4 Electrum Hand Operated Butter Turner and Electrum Hand Operated Cream Separator is started from a local supplier. These technologies then will be provided to selected women who will be reorganized into milk business cooperatives in the district.</p>		<p>Specific on women land rights issue, the trained women from the women associations will engage in lobbying of the relevant government bureaus so that women can benefit from government development initiatives particularly the nationwide joint land certification initiative. This effort will also be accompanied by a federal level sensitization workshop, which will address all the federal, regional and district level relevant stakeholders working on land issues. Particularly, a follow-up meeting will be conducted with Afar, Dubti district Land Administration Bureau, BoWCA and Kebelle administration so that provision of the promised land will be accelerated as planned.</p> <p>Finally, based on the feasibility study conducted, the validation and procurement of identified time and labour saving technologies for all the four programme districts will be completed. Then, based on criteria to be set by the relevant government stakeholders and the women RUSACOS, selected rural women, who will be reorganized into agricultural cooperatives will be provided with the time and labour saving technologies and trainings on how to utilize and maintain the technologies.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
JP Outcome 3: Rural women strengthen their voice in decisions that affect their lives	<p>In this reporting period, 21 per cent (499) of rural women in the Oromia region have participated in household decision-making involving the sale of assets like cattle and rental of land. This change is attributed to the aforementioned specific gender awareness creation campaign conducted to address both the targeted women and their spouses.</p>	<p>The Joint Programme has faced difficulty to conduct regular Community Conversations (CCs) and awareness creation campaigns to create the critical mass required to influence the gender bias at community level. The restricting effects of seasonal agricultural activities and other social engagements of the community on the participation in those CCs was stronger than anticipated. The challenge has been recognised and was brought to the attention of the Implementing Partners leading these activities, to ensure that they plan upcoming activities according to those particular community engagements and schedules.</p>	
JP Output 3.1: Rural women confidence and leadership skills built to fully participate in rural institutions, cooperatives and unions	<p>With the Joint Programme's individual level leadership trainings, exposure visits, Community Conversations (CCs) and awareness creation campaigns, 3,104 community members (female 2,779 and male 375), including the targeted women, their spouses, members of the Joint Programme Technical Working Group (TWGs) and Steering Committees and members of women associations, were addressed to change their attitudes towards gender issues and work for women's rights and economic empowerment.</p> <p>In addition, trainings on women's access to and control over agricultural and household resources and leadership have been conducted with 24 RUSACO leaders comprised from three intervention districts of Oromia. A similar training has also been organized for women association leaders drawn from Dubti district in the Afar regional state and four RUSACO leaders. Twenty-eight participants attended the training. The training has enhanced the capacity of selected cooperatives leaders to better lead their cooperatives, transfer knowledge to others and to enable the members to gain access to and control over agricultural and household resources.</p> <p>The ten targeted women members of RUSACOs were also provided with financial support to strengthen their lending capacity, and trainings on financial and loan management. As a result, the targeted women are able to organize and participate in decision-making processes concerning their cooperatives and communities through these RUSACOs. Moreover, 108 rural women (Oromia 96 and Afar 12) are working as leaders assuming positions in the administration, audit, control and loan committees of their cooperatives.</p> <p>Finally, a Training of Trainers (ToT), aimed at strengthening CC facilitations skills, was provided for 63 (female 31 and male 32) government experts and community representatives from both Oromia and Afar regions. The ToT was provided based on the CC manual adopted from WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) programme. The purpose is to help improve the performances of the upcoming CC sessions in changing the communities' attitudes towards gender equality and economic empowerment.</p>		<p>As a next step, the started consecutive community dialogue sessions and CCs in both regions will continue through the community facilitators trained in this reporting period. As anticipated, the CC will involve both targeted women, their husbands and family members, religious leaders, elderly, and administrators. Moreover, the efforts started to increase the membership and leadership engagements of rural women in male dominant cooperatives will continue in the next reporting period.</p>
JP Outcome 4: Gender responsive policy and institutional environment for women's economic empowerment in place	<p>Based on the progress made to date in relation to outcome 4 and collaborative efforts of the Gender Directorate of MoANR, the Agricultural Transformation Agency, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) and other international organizations, a National Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture was created. The Network is a functioning and enabling structure dedicated to creating gender-responsive agricultural sector policies, strategies and programmes. In addition, a Gender Equality Strategy for the Agricultural Sector was developed under the leadership of the Gender Directorate of MoANR. The Directorate will be supported to popularize the strategy once it is finalized and endorsed by the management of MoANR. These efforts, coupled with the regional and district level planned initiatives, are expected to create a responsive policy and institutional environment for women economic empowerment in the agricultural sector.</p>	<p>Given the remaining time for the programme and complexity of policy level interventions, the programme may get constrained to fully utilize the findings of research, which is currently being conducted, as expected. Nevertheless, as part of the sustainability strategy of the programme efforts will be made to ensure that the findings of research are used to inform policy level dialogues.</p>	

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 4.1. Agriculture key stakeholders, including relevant government bodies, capacity enhanced to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender sensitive indicators and targets in planning and budgeting</p>	<p>To date, the five-day gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) training, which was conducted for 125 experts (45 female and 80 male) from Oromia and Afar regions, capacitated the experts to review their respective service provision from a gender perspective and identify issues and interventions to be inculcated in their respective sector plan. The issues and interventions identified by the experts were also concretized by regional, zonal and district level higher officials through an action-oriented workshop. The workshop also served as a major forum where the participants developed sector specific action plans with strategies and tracking modalities as a way forward to put their plan into action.</p> <p>The five-day training on gender and leadership, which was provided for 51 (female 18 and 33 male) regional and district experts and management members of Federal Cooperative Agency, enhanced their knowledge and understandings on gender and leadership. As a result, participants developed a framework for identifying gender-sensitive services to increase the membership and leadership engagements of women in agricultural and other types of cooperatives.</p> <p>In this reporting period, the programme has also started to support two evidence-based researches, which aimed to inform policy development in the agricultural sector. The first undergoing research namely, "Assessment of Data Availability and Methodology for Costing the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia and Rwanda" is a joint initiative by UN Women Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO) in collaboration with the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative Africa. The 'Costing Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity' study was conducted in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda in 2015. The study found to be helpful in providing a unique quantification of the costs in terms of lost growth opportunities and an estimate of what societies, economies and communities would gain if done otherwise. Thus, based on the learnings drawn from this study the study is extended to Ethiopia and Rwanda where the RWEE JP joined hands with ESARO and UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative Africa to support the research going on in Ethiopia. When completed, the research will provide a policy recommendation which is believed to inform the relevant government policy makers in the agricultural sector of Ethiopia.</p> <p>The second research namely "Budget Tracking of Agriculture Sector from Gender Perspective", which aimed at bringing evidence on the financial gaps allocated for policies and programmes in the sector and which will measure the extent to which results of the sector contribute to the promotion of gender equality, is initiated. The evidence from this study will be used for policy dialogues to lobby for improved allocation of specific resources in the sector in favour of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE). Additionally, the tracking exercise together with the capacity building of the sectoral experts on the tools is also expected to enable the Government of Ethiopia to establish a budget tracking system in the agriculture sector which will contribute to establishing a gender-responsive planning and budgeting system in the sector.</p> <p>Finally, an impact evaluation of the RWEE JP in Ethiopia led by FAO and IFAD is in progress. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is financially and technically supporting the impact evaluation led by FAO and IFAD in collaboration with the government of Ethiopia. The evaluation adopted a tool developed by IFPRI - Gender Agriculture and Asset Project (GAAP2) named: Women Empowerment Agricultural Index (WEAI). Currently, in collaboration with Economics Department of Addis Ababa University through its associate, Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Instituted (AEMFI), the baseline quantitative data collection has been finalized. The baseline data collection was carried out in Oromia on a total of 700 treatment households and 678 control households; with a total of 1,378 individuals. While in Afar, 95 beneficiaries and 150 control households were interviewed. Currently, a research report on the collected data is in progress. The study will soon be followed up with qualitative data collection and other mid - term and end evaluations.</p>		<p>As a follow-up activity on the endorsement and popularization of the Gender Equality Strategy for Agricultural Sector, the acceleration of the two studies on Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia and Budget Tracking of Agriculture Sector from Gender Perspective and the finalization of the baseline report and qualitative study using WEAI will be conducted.</p>

Cross-cutting issues

How has the JP addressed during the reporting period (please provide concrete actions):

1) The **sustainability** of the JP work. (200 words)

To ensure sustainability of the JP, government buy-in and ownership is crucial. Thus, efforts started in the last reporting period, such as the holistic multisector capacity building activities, which have been

addressing the federal and regional state government structures, were continued. Specifically, regional and district Bureaus of Education (BoE) and Livestock and Fishery development are brought on board to ensure the sustainability of specific interventions that include IFAL and technical capacity created on agricultural and livestock activities.

The capacity building interventions for women associations and the women RUSSACOs is also the other activity implemented to create the sustainability and scalability of the programme results in Afar and Oromia regions. Specifically, the extensive efforts of the JP to create full access to innovative agricultural inputs, productive time and labour saving technologies and land will be the other leveraging activity to help the targeted women increase their productions, add value to their agricultural products and engage in sustainable income generating activities (IGAs).

Under the JP it was also planned to create gender-responsive farmers training centres, development agents and agricultural extension workers. The implementation of these efforts has started and will directly contribute to the sustainability of the programme results.

2) The promotion of **women's empowerment and gender equality**. (200 words)

During the reporting period, the institutional, community and individual level interventions, which were started in the last reporting period, were continued. Particularly, members of women's associations are brought on board to do lobbying and advocacy work for women's economic empowerment and rights over resources.

At community level, inclusion of spouses of targeted women and in general male engagement has been employed as the main strategy to ensure women's empowerment and gender equality. This resulted in some collaborative husbands in Oromia who allowed their wives to go to meetings and trainings whenever they are invited to attend. As the targeted women also witnessed, their spouses and the community seem to have relatively better awareness of their rights though they are not seen to fully change their practices. In practice, male spouses are sceptical of their wives when they attempt to go to public gatherings and trainings by considering this as a threat to their patriarchal influence and control in the household.

Finally, to address policy and institutional gaps on gender equality, the joint programme has joined hands with UN Women ESARO and UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative Africa and initiated here at country level two evidence-based researches (Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia and Budget Tracking of Agriculture Sector from Gender Perspective) aimed to inform policy development in the agricultural sector. The partnership between IFAD, FAO and IFPRI on the Impact evaluation using WEAI is also the other effort, which will produce a report to inform policy development for rural women economic empowerments in the agriculture sector.

3) The engagement in **public-private partnerships**. (200 words)

During the reporting period, a partnership with Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs Association and Oromia Women Entrepreneurs Association was created to create access to market information and exposures for

the targeted women. This partnership brought the regional BoWCAs, Federal Cooperative Agency and the local CSO SWAA-E together with the associations to specifically work on market linkages for the targeted women. The two-day annual conference, which brought 60 rural women together for market information and experience exchange, is the result of this partnership accomplished in this reporting period. As a way forward, the quality accreditation process of the traditional Chiko (barley flour with butter) is planned to be accelerated so that the targeted women can start supplying this food product to supermarkets in Addis Ababa.

Communication and Advocacy

Has the JP articulated an advocacy & communication actions that helps advance its policy objectives and development outcomes?:

Yes

Please describe communication activities developed as part of the JP. :

Based on the Communications and Knowledge Management strategy developed for the RWEE JP, communications activities have continued to be applied to enhance awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through promoting the programme, which is based on the context of the SDGs. This was by using relevant communications tools per the targeted audience. During this reporting period, the Amharic version of the brochure on the programme was produced and distributed at national and local levels. In some cases, both the Amharic and English versions have been distributed, for instance, when national and international audiences attend relevant events together like the African Union Summit 2017 in Addis Ababa.

In November 2016, the RWEE JP's communications and knowledge management specialist together with the national coordinator organized an exhibition booth at the gender and resilience regional share faire in Nairobi, Kenya. The event discussed existing and new knowledge regarding gender equality and resilience including evidence that women's empowerment is a critical strategy to building resilience and is crucial to the achievement of the SDGs. The programme and its relation to SDGs was promoted to over 200 participants of the share fair in general and those from the region. RWEE JP's booth was visited by the participants with diverse backgrounds and experiences on gender and resilience. This enabled the programme to be promoted and networked through distribution of informative materials, placement of banners and by addressing enquires from the booth 's visitors as well as videographers, who were documenting the event. An article written on the experience gained from the share faire has been used as support of programmatic documents as well as posted in the empower women website.

<https://www.empowerwomen.org/en/community/stories/2017/02/rwee-jp-in-ethiopia-partook-at-the-regional-share-fair-on-gender-and-resilience>

The website for the empower women: www.empowerwomen.org

Please provide concrete gains on how the the JP communication and advocacy efforts have increased awareness on SDGs.:

Progress on the targeted women and their families as a result of the JP continued to be updated and shared with the targeted audiences. This included information related to Goal 5 and other goals; Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

Regarding the targeted communities, for instance, producing and distributing the informative brochure on SDG related joint program in the national language; Amharic and distributing at local and national levels has enabled the awareness level to increase compared when the English brochure alone was used. A total of 1,000 Amharic brochures are printed and being distributed in Addition to the 1,500 English copies.

Among the communications materials developed and shared during this reporting period are; the Amharic informative brochure of RWEE JP as well as articles featured in print and electronic media, for instance, through a local periodical magazine known as 'Women of Excellence' and empower women website.

JP website URL:

business-skills-training-and-provision-of-loans-unlock-economic-growth-opportunities-for-900-women, rwee-jp-in-ethiopia-partook-at-the-regional--share-fair-on-gender-and-resilience

JP website URL:

business-skills-training-and-provision-of-loans-unlock-economic-growth-opportunities-for-900-women, rwee-jp-in-ethiopia-partook-at-the-regional--share-fair-on-gender-and-resilience

JP twitter handle:

@

Other social media channels managed by joint programme (Instagram, Google+, You Tube...):

One UN Coordination and Delivering as One

The SDG-F is based on the principles of effective development cooperation, inclusion and participation and One UN coordination.

Actions	Description
Managerial practices (financial, procurement, etc.) implemented jointly by the UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	A procurement process was started to buy the time and labour saving technologies. The procurement of agricultural grains, vegetables, and technologies, that include maize sheller, beehives, water pumps, was also implemented jointly.
Joint analytical work (studies, publications, etc.) undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	To date the following documents /publications were produced by the Joint Programme; -The market assessment is completed, validated and the final report produced as a joint publication of the four participating United Nations agencies. -The brochure and the RWEE JP Partners' Guide are also another publication produced jointly by the four agencies. -The Gap Assessment on the Capacities of Farmers/Pastoralist Training Centres (F/PTCs) -The Community Conversations Manual Adopted from WFP's P4P project

Actions	Description
Joint activities undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	To date, the annual programme review meeting and planning workshop for the 2009 Ethiopian Fiscal year, technical working group meetings, validation workshop of the market assessment, validation workshop on F/PTC gap assessment and endorsement of the CC manual, donor reporting, joint monitoring visit, recruitment of UNV for Oromia region were jointly conducted.
Other, please specify:	The three agencies (UN Women, WFP and FAO) have provided a coordinated leadership that has helped strengthen the relationship with the national implementing partners. All agencies are very clear on their roles and responsibilities, and play a facilitative role to the programme

What types of coordination mechanisms and decisions have been taken to ensure joint delivery? :

The Joint Programme brought different sector offices together as implementing partners or as part of the programme management units regardless of their line of responsibilities in their respective offices and regional administrations. However, the attempt which was made to bring all as one, through the federal level governance structures was not a success. Thus, the country team realized the importance of additional regional governance structures. Accordingly, the same regional and district level functional governance structures (Regional and District Steering Committees and TWGs), which practically facilitated the coordination, joint delivery and partnership of the regional participating government offices were created.

One focal person and an alternate of RWEE JP have also been assigned by each participating regional and district bureaus. These focal persons have been following up with the programme activities and represent their bureaus in all the events and activities of the joint programme. This in turn has helped the programme to have a consistent and smooth communication at all levels. In addition, the specific RWEE Partner’s Implementers’ Guide set the coordination roles of the gender machineries and gives clear direction on the programme coordination, communication, implementing, monitoring and reporting of activities of the programme at all levels.

National Ownership: Paris, Accra and Busan Commitments

The SDG-F strengthens the UN system’s ability to deliver results in an integrated and multi-dimensional manner by supporting the Joint Programme modality and by bringing together United Nations Agencies and national counterparts in a collective effort to ensure ownership and sustainability of results of JPs and advance towards the SDGs.

Partners	Involvement *	Type of involvement	Examples
Government (specify national/local)	Fully involved	Policy-decision making Service Provision	Federal: Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA); Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR); Federal Cooperatives Agency, Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC); Ministry of Education (Department of Functional Adult Literacy); Land Administration Agency. Regional: Oromia and Afar Regional and District Level Bureau of Finance and Economic Development (BoFEDs); Farmer/Pastoralist Training Centres (F/PTC); Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCAs); Bureaus of Agriculture (BoAs); and Bureaus of Cooperative Promotion Agencies (BoCPA)
Private Sector	Fairly involved	Service Provision Other	Private consultants who have conducted the Baseline Survey, Market Assessment, Gap Assessment of Farmers Training centres, Feasibility study of Time and Labour Saving Technologies and who have adopted the Community Conversation Manual of P4P The new partnership with the Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs Association to create market linkages and access for rural women.
Civil Society	Fully involved	Service Provision	Society for women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia (SWAA-E) Organization for Women in Self Employment (WISE)
Academia	Slightly involved	Service Provision	Ethiopia Climate Innovation Centre, hosted by the Horn of Africa-Regional Environment Centre and Network, Addis Ababa University

* Implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs

Please briefly describe the current situation of the government, private sector and civil society on regards of ownership, align:

The Joint Programme has brought United Nations agencies, government, private sector and civil society organizations to jointly work for rural women’s economic empowerment. The United Nations agencies, UN Women, FAO, WFP and IFAD have been engaged in providing technical and financial support for the federal, regional and district participating government offices in Afar and Oromia Regions. The alignment and mutual accountability for the joint programme has been demonstrated through the annual work plans signed by all the participating agencies and the representatives of the two regional Bureaus of Finance and Economic Development and MoFEC and MoWCA.

The national programme governance structure especially the Programme Management Committee and the TWG, both co-chaired by the Minister of MoWCA and UN Women in its role as the lead agency has been active in resolving the implementation and reporting challenges of the joint programme. This has helped the joint programme to continuously respond to the needs of all concerned bodies and demonstrate its accountability through its regular narrative and financial reports.

The local CSOs (SWAA-E and WISE) and private consultants have been contracted to provide services and technical support to the government implementing partners and to directly implement activities with them. The engagement of these entities is based on the contractual agreement signed with the contracting agency. These agreements are usually based on the joint programme document that all the participating agencies and government counterparts agreed on. Therefore, throughout the planning and execution processes of these contracts, the involvement of all agencies and participating government offices is active to ensure the alignment of the services with the intention of the joint programme.

Please briefly provide an overall assessment of the governance and managerial structures :

To date, the Residence Coordinator Office (RCO) provided high-level direction and guidance to the JP coordination team. The fund transfer issues of IFAD and the financial reporting challenges to the SDG-Fund were dealt with the help of RCO. Together with UN Women Country Office, it also organized a meeting among the participating Heads of Agencies (HoAs) where the update on the JP’s progress has been shared and the challenges were dealt with. In this reporting period, an active communication between a focal person from RCO and the National programme Coordinator of the JP is started to discuss on reporting of the Joint Programme and issues related on delivering as one.

With the leadership and coordination role of MoWCA and UN Women, the TWG has also been involved in providing timely and relevant technical support for all the participating government sector offices while implementing the JPs activities. It also conducted its meeting and identified critical issues that need to be resolved timely and those which should be escalated to the attentions of the Steering Committee.

VI. Joint Programme contribution to the SDGs

SDG #	JP Contribution
Goal 1	<p>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> <p>Targets to contribute to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance •By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
Goal 2	<p>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture</p> <p>Targets to contribute to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year around •By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

SDG #	JP Contribution
Goal 5	<p>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <p>Targets to contribute to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life •Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws •Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women •Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
Goal 8	<p>Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all</p> <p>Target to contribute to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

VII. Additional Information

Additional Comments:

In this year, additional fund is secured from the Government of Sweden, which will be used to fill the remaining matching fund gap for the SDG Fund. Though this has been considered as an opportunity for the joint programme, considering the programme end date for the SDG fund, October 2017, we are anticipating a challenge to fully commit, utilize and report the additional budget within the implementation period of the SDG Fund. In addition, the time difference may also create a challenge to the planned end evaluation of the JP results, since all JP activities (funded by different donors) should ideally be finalized in order to provide a complete picture for the evaluators. This is therefore to kindly bring the anticipated concern to the attention of the SDG Secretariat so that solutions can be sought and provided in advance.

Attachments

Programme baseline study *:

 [Ethiopia- RWEE - JP Baseline Report- Oromia Final ++.pdf](#)

Performance Monitoring Framework *:

 [RWEE-Ethiopia- Performance Monitoring Framework-Updated April 10 2017.pdf](#)

Publications and reports generated by the JP *:

 [Article on Basic Business Skills Training and loans to Rural Women.pdf](#)

 [Case Stories RWEE JP Ethiopia +++Glimpse .pdf](#)

 [F-PTC Capacity Assesement report -RWEE JP Ethiopia.pdf](#)

 [The article on Sharefair 2016 \(January 2017\).pdf](#)

 [Market Assesement Report -Afar +++ .pdf](#)

 [Market Assesement REport Oromia-+++ .pdf](#)

