

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:

a) Government of Ethiopia (GoE):

Federal level: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoA); Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED); Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCYA); Agriculture Transformation Agency (ATA), Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute, Federal Micro and Small Enterprise Development Agency (FeMSEDA), Association for Micro Finance Institutes (AMFIs), and Federal Cooperative Agency (FCA), Water and Energy Ministry (WEM), Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institutes (EARI), Farmer Training Center (FTC), Academic Institution, and Land Administration Agency.

Regional level: Bureau of Finance and Economic Development (BoFEDs); Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCYAs); Regional Bureaus of Agriculture and Rural Development (BoA); Regional Agricultural Research Institutes, Farmers Training Centers, Cooperative Development Bureaus, Regional Micro and Small Enterprise Development Agency (ReMSEDAs) , and Regional Micro Finance Institutions in Afar and Oromia.

Report submitted by

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III. Financial information

Detailed Financial Report:

 [Ethiopia RWEE JP SDG FR All++++4.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	746,444.69	732,275.11
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	246,016.00	246,016.00	103,240.00	103,240.00
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
World Food Programme (WFP)	298,802.00	298,802.00	278,257.68	278,257.68

Total	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	1,127,942.37	1,113,772.79
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Matching Funds

Name of source	Total approved funds	Total funds Transferred to date	Total funds committed to date	Total funds disbursed to date
Norway and Sweden through MPTF	1,688,256.00	1,688,256.00	1,207,305.45	1,185,931.08

Total	1,688,256.00	1,688,256.00	1,207,305.45	1,185,931.08
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IV. Beneficiaries

Total number of direct beneficiaries to date:

3327

Direct Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers	2,469	2,464	5	Members of the targeted women Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations in Adamitulu District, Oromia Region.
Entrepreneurs	3	3		Women entrepreneurs supported to access trainings and exposure visits to other countries (Israel and Egypt).

Civil servants/government	855	330	525	<p>Experts who participated in the following trainings and workshops to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB); •Gender audit 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	3,327	2,797	530	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments
SMEs		
Cooperatives	10.00	Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations (RUSACCOs) that are being strengthened to provide support (credit/leadership) to 2464 rural women beneficiaries of the project.
Government/municipal organizations	34.00	Government agencies including Federal Ministries - Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR), Federal Cooperative Agency - and 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 Associations, League and Federations.
Private sector		

Community-based organizations	8	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				
Children				
Youth				
Community Members	6,702	4,976.00	1,726.00	Community members addressed through gender awareness campaign and community conversation sessions conducted in four districts of Oromia and Afar regions.
Total	6,702	4,976.00	1,726.00	

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

Any other information regarding JP beneficiaries*:

- 2253 rural women (1793 from Oromia and 460 from Afar) participated in the following trainings: basic business and financial skills, business management, entrepreneurship, saving and credit, and leadership concepts.
- 2464 rural women (1964 from Oromia and 500 from Afar) attended the training on control and management of household food reserves.
- 1957 rural women (1497 rural women in Oromia and 460 from Afar), were trained on cropping, livestock production, small scale irrigation, good nutrition practice including dietary and complementary food preparation and demonstration, shoat fattening, and dairy farming practices.

- 54 members of women associations in both regions (26 from Oromia and 28 from Afar) participated in a sensitization workshop on rights to access and control land and other public services and resources.
- 60 rural women (5 from Afar and 55 from 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 women 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)
- 855 experts (330 female and 525 male), drawn from participating sector offices of both regions, were trained on gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive budgeting (GRB), on results-based management (RBM), and on basic financial, business management, entrepreneurship, saving and credit, and leadership concepts.
- 47 (27 female and 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 and 24 male) from BoANR in Oromia and Afar were trained on cropping, livestock production, small scale irrigation, and 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.
- 107 (74 female and 33 male) government stakeholders from 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 and 97 male) of Afar and Oromia were trained on community conversation facilitation skills 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 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.
- 1227 targeted rural women (893 in Oromia and 334 in Afar) received financial assistance to set up and strengthen their businesses.

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.		

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
JP Output 1.1: Rural women's access and control management over local food household reserve increased	<p>During the period April-September 2017, trainings on household food reserve management, shoat fattening, and dairy farming practices were carried out for 500 rural women in Dubti district of Afar region. As a result, the rural women understand the concepts of control and management of household food and how to avoid post-harvest losses, especially with milk which the community is often collecting from their goats and camels. The training has also familiarized the rural women with dairy farming and shoat fattening practices along with its contributions to food security. The total number of rural women who are supported to access agricultural and nutrition related trainings has thus increased to 2464 (1,964 in Oromia and 500 in Afar).</p>		<p>The planned trainings on household food reserve control and management, nutrition and specific income-generating activities trainings were provided for all the targeted women in both Oromia and Afar regions. As a continuation of this effort, technical support by health and development extension workers will continue to help the targeted women practically apply the knowledge and skills that they gained from the trainings. Additionally, experience sharing exposure visits in post-harvest management and food reserve has also been under preparation hence will be conducted in the next reporting period.</p>
JP Output 1.2: Rural women's and their household's nutritional status improved JP Output 1.2: Rural women's and their household's nutritional status improved	<p>In the period April-September 2017, 460 rural women in Afar were trained on shoat fattening and dairy farming practices. Sixteen experts from Afar participating regional and district level sector bureaus/offices and development agents were trained on the feeding system for fattening, dairy farming, and milk post-harvest technology. These trained experts are expected to technically support the targeted women on cattle fattening and dairy farming activities. In addition, the Afar Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development organised an experience sharing visit for 70 selected rural women from Afar. This experience has helped the participating women to learn from a rural women cooperatives engaged in dairy farming and shoat fattening in Aysaita District. Thus, together with the trainings on cropping, livestock production, small-scale irrigation, and good nutrition practices previously provided to 1,497 rural women in Oromia, the RWEE JP interventions have now benefited a total of 1,939 rural women with technical and livelihood trainings.</p> <p>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 includes teff, maize and wheat and 140 kilograms of vegetable seeds (carrot, cabbage and onion) and 500 apple seedlings and agricultural technologies (maize shellers and water pumps) were procured for the three targeted districts of Oromia region. From these procured inputs, the following were distributed: 30 quintals of improved wheat seeds for 55 rural women and 10 quintals of improved teff seeds for 62 rural women; 500 apple seedlings for 266 rural women; 10 kilograms of carrot and 10 kilograms of cabbage seeds for 500 rural women; 4 water pumps and 2 maize shellers for two targeted women cooperatives. The distribution of these agricultural inputs and technologies were provided considering the timing of the farming season in Ethiopia and specifically for the Oromia region i.e. June and July.</p>		<p>As a continuation of this results, the additional agricultural inputs and technologies under procurement will be distributed to the targeted women. In addition, technical trainings on how to operate, use and manage the provided technologies (water pump, maize sheller will be provided to the targeted women and focal persons of agriculture bureaus in the targeted districts.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Outcome 2: Rural women increase their income to sustain their livelihoods</p>	<p>As per evidence collected so far, 900 rural women diversified their sources of income; 10 rural women successfully reclaimed and returned to their family land; 319 rural women were able to purchase educational materials for their children attending school and 600 rural women were able to open bank accounts and save amounts ranging from 400 Birr (14.61 USD) to 3,000 Birr (109.63USD) considering the current exchange rate. Evidence to show progress on these results and track changes will be collected by the end of this year. For this reporting period, the progress made on the implementation of activities and output level changes were tracked and reported under each output below.</p>	<p>The RWEE JP 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 challenges to accelerate the achievement of results. One of the RWEE JP assumptions is that there is an enabling environment in place in the form of a federal policy and proclamation to grant women access to land and joint land certification process led by government is in place. Even though both conditions are fulfilled, the implementation of these processes on the ground proved to be more difficult and the progress made is slower than expected. To address these factors hindering the RWEE JP implementation, sensitizations and dialogue forums with the relevant government stakeholders will be continued.</p>	
<p>JP Output 2.1: Women's increased capacity to produce goods with diversified access to local markets</p>	<p>In the period April-September 2017, women beneficiaries in Oromia were supported with business development services focused on how to pack their products and store quality products in order to compete on competitive national and international markets. They were also supported to benefit from the local market in their respective areas.</p>	<p>Financial limitation to cover the transport and other accommodation costs for rural women, who are traveling to access markets in Addis Ababa and other neighbouring cities, was a challenge. To resolve this, a discussion was held with the regional cooperative promotion offices and women cooperatives to organize regular market exhibitions in closer vicinity to the targeted women.</p>	<p>The next step is to strengthen the activities of market linkage interventions by both the regional bureaus of women and children affairs (BoWCA) and cooperative promotion agencies (CPA). There is also a plan to increase the number of targeted women benefitting from the federal level market opportunities by further negotiating with the Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency and regional and district CPAs. In the last reporting period, it was reported that only 14 women benefited from this opportunity.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<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>The efforts aimed at increasing the access of rural women to gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services, continued in the period April-September 2017. As a result, 1,227 rural women (893 in Oromia and 334 in Afar) accessed start-up capital/ revolving fund for their income-generating activities (IGAs). This results in an increase in the number of rural women who are able to access finance from 900 to 2,127 rural women (1,793 in Oromia and 334 in Afar). In addition to their individual IGAs, the targeted rural women in Oromia were also supported to reorganized into sub-group businesses like milk processing, cattle fattening, irrigation/grain production. Regrouping the rural women is a strategy to reach additional women with technologies and other agricultural inputs and create economies of scale. Being part of a larger group, the rural women will also have better opportunity to access technologies, land from available government initiatives and other services provided in the area. As part of the consecutive institutional level capacity building activities, the women Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations (RUSACCOS) and the government experts from BoWCAs and CPAS were technically supported to adopt community insurance systems for the RUSACO members, to start different loan terms, group loan systems and loan amounts based on the business plan and IGA types of the rural women.</p>		<p>The upcoming steps will continue: -In supporting targeted women to actively engage in their IGAs and return the revolving fund to their respective RUSACCOS so that more women can benefit from these funds. -In providing technical support to the targeted RUSACCOS on the management of revolving fund and to motivate targeted women to repay the loan and sustainably create access to finance for targeted women and other members of RUSACCOS. -In supporting the newly established sub-groups on their official certification process from Cooperatives Promotion Offices and to access business development, market linkage opportunities and leadership development support.</p>
<p>JP Output 2.3: Rural women increased their knowledge and incorporate acquired skills on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and sustainable agriculture techniques</p>	<p>In the period April-September 2017, a total of 1,353 rural women (893 in Oromia and 460 in Afar) participated in trainings on basic business skills, entrepreneurship, revolving fund management and cooperative principles given by regional pastoralist, women's affairs and regional cooperative experts from the targeted districts of Oromia and Afar. This has increased the number of rural women who accessed basic business and general IGA trainings to 2,253 rural women (1,793 in Oromia and 460 in Afar). These trainings helped the targeted women to enhance their knowledge on basic financial and business management, entrepreneurship, saving and credit management, and leadership concepts. The integrated functional adult literacy (IFAL) programme is the other capacity building intervention implemented to increase the numeracy and literacy skills of targeted women. During the period April-September 2017, a total of 993 rural women from the three targeted districts in Oromia (250 in Yayagulelle, 517 in Adamitullu and 226 in Dodola) actively participated in the IFAL programme. As a result, 178 rural women are now able to identify letters and numbers.</p>	<p>The targeted women's busy schedule at home and in the fields together with the limited awareness of IFAL benefits pose a challenge to their active participation in IFAL programmes which leads to small numbers of women who reached a sufficient level of literacy. To address this, a continuous communication with the district level bureaus of education and women and children affairs offices was made to sensitize the targeted women and initiate a rewarding system for those who attended and performed well.</p>	<p>The next steps will be: -To strengthen the on-going IFAL programme to increase the number of women participating and enable them to read, write and do simple arithmetic calculations for their individual and business IGAs -To conduct the second round IGA package, and business skills trainings by Organization for Women in Employment (WISE) for 1,301 targeted women in both regions (841 in Oromia and 460 in Afar).</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
JP Output 2.4: Rural women have increased access to productive resources (land and agricultural inputs)	<p>During the period April-September 2017, one cooperative with 267 rural women as members, received a tractor to increase the member's agricultural production. The cooperative is from the Dodola district in Oromia region and is called AbdiBoru RUSACCO. In addition to using the tractor for agricultural production, the cooperative can generate income by renting it out to other farmers. In Addition, by owning the means of production (tractor) coupled with having access to finance, the women of this cooperative are empowered and able to hire support labour when needed. During the tractor's hand-over event, the women cooperative chair-person, Mrs. Ajane Dawd, expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the opportunity. She said:</p> <p>"I have no words to express my feelings. I am really very happy. Today is a unique day for our members. I also would like to thank the Woreda administration and sector offices. The responsibility to properly utilize the tractor for the intended use is ours. I promise you we will work very hard and be empowered. Thank you."</p> <p>Thanks to the sensitization initiative on women's right to land, 270 rural women received one hectare of land by the Adamitulu district land administration bureau of the Oromia region. The ownership of the land is granted in the name of the women RUSACCO, called AnenoShisho, and will be used for the construction of cattle fattening sheds that the rural women planned to engage in as a group.</p> <p>An additional workshop on how rural women can benefit from joint land certification and specific land proclamations of Afar and Oromia regional states was conducted with 53 (20 female and 33 male) government experts coming from the participating sector offices. So far, the RWEE JP has reached and sensitized 107 (74 female and 33 male) government experts and members of women associations in Afar and Oromia. They are expected to start implementing their action points, advocate for women's land rights and ensure that the targeted women benefit from the government joint land certification initiative.</p>		<p>As next steps: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Rural women who received tractor, maize sheller and water pump will attend technical trainings on management and maintenance of the technologies. -Once the milk processing technologies are imported, additional rural women will receive the technology together with the other agricultural inputs -To ensure the sustainability of this investment, technical trainings will be provided to the targeted women and the tractor operator to be hired by the women cooperative in order to help with the management of operation and maintenance of the tractor.
JP Outcome 3: Rural women strengthen their voice in decisions that affect their lives	<p>Based on data collected during a monitoring visit from January 3-14, 2017, 499 rural women in 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 gender awareness creation campaign conducted to address both women beneficiaries and their spouses. Activities which could potentially create a critical mass and influence this result are implemented as reported under output 3.1. By the end of 2017, data expected changes will be collected.</p>		

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 3.1: Rural women confidence and leadership skills built to fully participate in rural institutions, cooperatives and unions</p>	<p>During the period April-September 2017, the community conversation (CC) manual, which was adapted from WFP's P4P programme, was translated into the working languages of the two regions (Oromifa and Afar). Having the manuals available in regional languages should overcome the language barrier faced by the local facilitators and community members while conducting CCs. Following this activity, successful CC sessions reaching 3,598 community members (2,177 female and 1,421 male), were conducted to challenge the attitudes towards gender issues and women's empowerment. Other issues were addressed as well, such as harmful traditional practices. Through gender awareness creation, individual leadership and exposure visit activities conducted so far, a total of 6,702 community members (4,976 female and 1,726 male) have been sensitized on key gender issues.</p> <p>In partnership with the Federal cooperative promotion agency, 10 saving and credit cooperatives with a total of 2,433 women members, were targeted for capacity building interventions. The focus was on how to increase the number of women in men dominated cooperatives, as members as well as leaders, on increased leadership skills of the existing cooperative management committees and on how to scale up the best practices of model cooperatives in Oromia and Afar regions. The government has set a target of 35 per cent women in any cooperative leadership. However, the implementation of this target is hampered by the lack of attention given to the process along with negative attitudes on women's ability to lead. To support the process and build the capacity of women for leadership positions in cooperatives, a three-day training workshop was held in Adama Town from 21-23 July 2017. Thirty-two women members of management committees (chairperson, secretary, control committee chair, loan committee chair person) in targeted cooperatives, participated with the expectation that they will work to encourage other women to join their cooperative. To further strengthen the capacity enhancement process, 15 participants (4 female and 11 male) from regional and federal cooperative promotion offices were invited with the expectation that they will support the women's participation and leadership engagement in cooperatives.</p>		<p>As a next step, -CCs will continue in all targeted districts until community level resolutions are passed. CCs will involve both targeted women, their husbands and family members, religious leaders, elderly, and administrators.</p>
<p>JP Outcome 4: Gender responsive policy and institutional environment for women's economic empowerment in place</p>	<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 organizations¹, 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. The 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>Implementation of capacity building, research, advocacy and activities which aimed at influencing the policy and institutional environment of the agriculture sector are continued as reported under output 4.1.</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>During the period April-September 2017, a follow-up training on gender auditing and gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) was carried out for 61 experts and heads of bureaus (BoWCAs, CPAs, Bureau of Education (BoE), BoFECs, BoANR, and Bureaus of Livestock Resources and Fishery Development) (14 female and 47 male) from three targeted districts of Oromia. To date, the number of government experts trained to mainstream gender and provide gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services to rural women, reached 855 (330 female and 525 male).</p> <p>The Ethiopian Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture (ENGEA), which was established during the previous reporting period, has continued to provide discussion forums on gender equality in the agricultural sector. The network bi-annual meeting was held on 31 May 2017 with the theme “Empowering Women in Agriculture: Dialogue on Technology and Female Farmers” and successfully provided a space to share and critically discuss practices on women and technology and factors that contribute to the effective use of technologies by women. A key lesson from this forum was the need to conduct independent research to facilitate a more evidence-based dialogue in discussions around women and technology.</p> <p>The Cost of Gender Gap in Agriculture study, started in the previous reporting period, was completed and validated during a workshop attended by His Excellency Dr. Eyasu Abraha, Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR), Ms. Letty Chiwara, UN Women Representative to Ethiopia, African Union (AU) and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and key development actors that are active members of the ENGEA. As planned, a draft policy brief was developed to be used in the policy dialogue forum on the cost of gender gap in agriculture, which is planned to be conducted in the next reporting period. The following are the major findings of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ conditional gender gap in farm crop productivity in Ethiopia using the 2015-2016 Socioeconomic Survey was 9.8 per cent in value terms - in other words, even accounting for differences in farm size and poorer agro-ecological conditions, female managed plots are less productive □ closing this gender gap in farm crop productivity could result in a one-off increase of gross crop production of 1.18 per cent and this in turn could result in a one-off increase of US\$193.7 million in agricultural gross domestic product (GDP). □ closing the gender gap could also result in a one-off increase of US\$217 million in total GDP and lift 1.12 million individuals out of poverty □ If we close the gender gap, the productivity will increase, that is what the statistics show. Ethiopia being an agricultural country where most of the people depend on that, even a small increase in productivity will have a major impact <p>Why the gap?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ 66 per cent of gender gap in agricultural productivity in Ethiopia is explained by gender-based differences in access to productive inputs - in other words, men and women have different capacities to access land and non-land inputs. <p>During the period April-September 2017, qualitative data was collected for the ongoing baseline study by using the evaluation tool developed by IFPRI: Women Empowerment Agricultural Index (WEAI). As with the other studies, the finding of this study will be used to develop a policy brief for a high-level policy dialogue on rural women’s empowerment in agriculture.</p>		<p>The follow-up activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Finalize report and policy brief on the Cost of Gender Gap in Agriculture study and disseminate the report for further discussions and policy dialogues; □ Finalize the study on budget tracking tool development; -Extract stories of empowered women from the qualitative data collection on WEAI for publication; -Support ENGEA to conduct policy level dialogue linking the discussion with the ongoing Ethiopia’s Agricultural Sector Policy and investment framework (PIF) 2010-2020; -Support MoANR on the establishment of regional (Oromia and Afar) Networks for Gender Equality in Agriculture.

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 RWEE JP, government buy-in and ownership is crucial. The overall multisector institutional capacity building activities carried out to strengthen the capacity of the government sector participating offices, have continued to ensure government's ownership of interventions and results achieved so far. With the active engagement of federal and regional government implementing partners, the RWEE JP has also been introducing multifaceted and integral approaches to address the barriers to rural women's empowerment. This process has created additional capacity for government to either replicate or scale up the RWEE JP and address the needs of more rural women in the country.

To ensure provision of sustainable financial services for both the targeted rural women and other rural women in the same areas, the financial capacity of targeted RUSACCOs has been strengthened and will thus ensure sustainability of the results beyond the RWEE JP implementation period.

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

Continuing from the previous reporting period, the RWEE JP is implementing its integrated interventions to address barriers and promote rural women's economic empowerment and gender equality. As a result, the targeted rural women are able to access skills trainings for their income-generating activities (IGAs) and agricultural productions; access agricultural inputs and technologies to increase their production and to improve household nutrition; access market opportunities to increase their income; and access financial and non-financial services (start-up capital, business development, IFAL) from the participating sector offices and their RUSACCOs. Through this the women beneficiaries are socially and economically empowered and enhanced sustainable livelihoods for their families.

In the period April - September 2017, the community and institutional level interventions, including community conversations, ongoing research studies (cost of gender gap, budget tracking, WEAI) which aimed at informing actions for gender equality in agriculture and the capacity building activities at federal and institutional government sector offices have continued. These efforts have continued as part of the RWEE JP plan to promote rural women's empowerment and gender equality.

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

The partnership with Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs Association is strengthened to facilitate the link between targeted women cooperatives and members of the association. During the period April - September 2017, selected women entrepreneurs from the associations participated in an experience sharing event for Business and Professional Women in Cairo, Egypt. Following this, the participating women entrepreneurs are expected to support the targeted women to become more acquainted with market related activities and branding of their products based on their experiences and the recent exposure from Cairo congress.

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. :

The communications and knowledge management strategy of JP RWEE has continued to be a 'living document' in guiding the advocacy and communication actions of the RWEE JP especially on enhancement of awareness on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through broadly promoting the outcomes and impacts of the RWEE JP. During the period April - September 2017, six success stories were written and shared through various channels to reach a broader audience. These include articles in the UN Women's East and South Africa Regional newsletter, on the UN Women global website, on the women empowerment website, in the Rome-Based UN Agencies success stories publication, in the newsletter of the United Nations Communication Group in Ethiopia as well as knowledge products - 'Unlocking the Potential of Rural Women in Ethiopia' targeting external and internal audiences and 'A Glimpse of Beneficiaries Testimonies' a resource document on the transformation of rural women's livelihoods after being beneficiaries of the RWEE JP. Below are some of the links to the articles.

<https://www.empowerwomen.org/en/community/stories/2017/02/business-skills-training-and-provision-of-loans-unlock-economic-growth-opportunities-for-900-women>

[http://africa.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2017/07/rural-women-in-ethiopia-get-involved-in-income-generating-](http://africa.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2017/07/rural-women-in-ethiopia-get-involved-in-income-generating-activities)

[activities](http://africa.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2017/07/rural-women-in-ethiopia-get-involved-in-income-generating-activities)

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/8/feature-ethiopia-women-entrepreneurs-lead-the-way-from-poverty-to-empowerment>

The publication, 'Unlocking the Potential of Rural Women in Ethiopia' has an emphasis on SDGs 1, 2, 5 and 8 and their relation to the RWEE JP's key results. It highlights the main gaps before the RWEE JP interventions, key results after the interventions started and human-interest stories in form of quotations from beneficiaries. With visual and statistical support, the publication, which is being distributed to various audience, was used as a key tool to help advance the RWEE JP's policy objectives and development outcomes. It is also published on the following MPTF page:

<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/project/00092000>

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

The new knowledge products and success stories produced and shared during the period from April - September 2017, along with the previously distributed informative brochures on the RWEE JP (in Amharic and English) enhanced the visibility of SDG issues broadly and in-depth. Six success stories written in the context of the SDGs were shared through various channels to reach a broader audience. The distribution channels targeting various audiences include the UN Women's East and South Africa Regional newsletter, the UN Women website at headquarters, the women empowerment website at global level, Rome-Based UN Agencies success stories publication, the newsletter of the United Nations Communication Group in Ethiopia as well as SDGs 1, 2, 5 and 8-focused knowledge product 'Unlocking the Potential of Rural Women in Ethiopia' targeting external and internal audiences. In this publication, the use of the SDGs icons along the names was frequently and consistently applied increase the awareness of SDG issues.

Events at various levels have continued to enhance visibility of the SDGs' place in the RWEE JP. Placement of the RWEE JP banner, posters and informative flyers during national and international events as well as

applying the relevant branding guide in producing communications materials are some of the communication efforts to name a few. The rural women market linkage event in Addis Ababa, the first of its kind where rural women participated, was used as a space to inform other exhibitors and visitors on the practical implementation of the SDGs at various levels and its inclusiveness to benefit diverse community members. Posters, photo essays, and a document with beneficiaries' stories, accompanied with photos to highlight the transformation of women's livelihoods as a result of the RWEE JP, were produced and used by the national coordinator at a workshop in Rome, Italy. The document on beneficiaries has also been used to support periodical narrative and financial reports on the RWEE JP. This is part of the RWEE JP's visibility work whereby the SDGs are being promoted at a global level.

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	In this reporting period, no joint procurement was implemented apart from jointly reporting on the financial activities of the JP.
Joint analytical work (studies, publications, etc.) undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	In this reporting period, the four agencies jointly publicise the achievements and human-interest stories of the JP with 'Unlocking the Potential of Rural Women in Ethiopia' knowledge product.
Joint activities undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	The following activities were undertaken jointly: Technical working group and regional level monitoring meeting; validation workshop on the Cost of Gender Gap Study in Ethiopia; consultative meeting on the implementation of the capacity building plan for selected Farmers Training Centres; donor reporting and bilateral meetings; joint monitoring visit; consultation on the regrouping of rural women into business sub-groups; development of selection criteria and distribution modalities of technologies procured for the targeted women and provision of second round loan
Other, please specify:	

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

With the Technical Working Group meetings conducted at national level, decisions on activities which needed close collaboration and integrations of the participating agencies and government implementing partners were made. The decisions to ensure joint delivery were the following: -

- The two regions to conduct regional level review meetings and evaluate their progress in implementing planned activities and addressing challenges. This was not a practice last year and a positive impact on coordinated reporting was seen when the national level programme review meeting was conducted;
- FAO and UN Women have decided to work on a joint plan which could integrate the technologies to be

procured and distributed by each agency. An agreement on the modality of technology distribution was reached to go through the Women RUSACCOs rather than at individual level. Accordingly, except a few agricultural inputs, most of the technologies were provided through the RUSACCOs;

-Selection criteria of the targeted rural women for the second-round loan and procured technologies was jointly agreed among the four agencies, participating sector offices and representatives of the targeted women;

-Request for the No Cost Extension was also decided at the TWG level and bilateral discussions conducted with the heads of agencies of the participating agencies, donor at country level, Residence Coordinator office and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs;

-Endorsement of the Resource Mobilization Concept Note, prepared to guide the fund mobilization and donor relation activities for the RWEJ JP, was made at TWG level. The plan will also be endorsed at PMC level to solicit and ensure high level support for the planned effort.

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	<p>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. These partners have been engaged in the overall policy and institutional level interventions of RWEJ JP where various capacity building, sensitization and dialogue forums, to create gender responsive policy and institutional environment in agriculture sector were conducted activities for the government experts were conducted.</p> <p>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). These partners have been engaged in direct implementation of activities planned to reach the direct beneficiary and community members in the regions.</p>
Private Sector	Fairly involved	Service Provision	Ethiopian Women Entrepreneurs Association to create market linkages and access for rural women.

Partners	Involvement *	Type of involvement	Examples
Civil Society	Fully involved	Service Provision	Society for women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia (SWAA-E) Organization for Women in Self Employment (WISE) are engaged to provide technical services on the procurement and distribution of technologies and provision of income generating package trainings to the targeted women.
Academia			

* 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:

During the period April - September 2017, the CSO SWAA-E has supported the implementation of major activities of the RWEE JP by creating a strong alignment and relationship with the existing governance structure that mainly comprised of the government implementing partners. With SWAA-E support, continuous follow-up on the activities of targeted women RUSACCOs, procurement and handover of time and labour-saving technologies was accomplished. For the technology provision, SWAA-E facilitated the signing of an MoU prepared to set the commitment and responsibilities of participating sector offices and the women RUSACCOs. This commitment will ensure that all the participating government partners are accountable for the technical support and management of the technologies provided to the targeted women.

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

National and regional Steering Committees and Programme Management Committee (PMC) and Technical Working groups have been functional in supporting and ensuring the smooth implementation of the RWEE JP. Both national and regional coordinating structures are comprised of Federal Ministries including the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC), Federal Cooperative Agency and regional bureaus that include BoWCA, BoFEC, BoANR, CPA and Bureaus of Livestock Resources and Fishery Development. These committees which were established by the above-mentioned participating government partners, have been instrumental in addressing the RWEE JP challenges and providing guidance for the RWEE JP's implementation

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 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
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:

The JP RWEE country team is grateful for the approval of the no cost extension provided by the SDG Fund. With additional time, various activities will be conducted to strengthen the ongoing activities and ensure the sustainability of results. Particularly, the final evaluation process will start by engaging a national consultant and commit the fund allocated for this activity. The actual data collection, analysis and reporting is scheduled after the operational closure of the JP RWEE, which is 30 April 2018. Therefore, we kindly request the usual guidance and support from your esteemed office so that we can document the achievements of the RWEE JP effectively.

Attachments

Performance Monitoring Framework *:

 [RWEE-Ethiopia- Performance Monitoring Framework-Updated September 30,2017.pdf](#)

Publications and reports generated by the JP *:

 [RWEE JP Ethiopia Publication \(Sep. 25th \).pdf](#)

Additional documentation:

 [Ethiopian RWEE JP SDG FR UNWOMEN++++4.pdf](#)

 [Ethiopian RWEE JP SDG FR FAO ++++R4.pdf](#)

 [Ethiopian RWEE JP SDG FR WFP++++4.pdf](#)
