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**“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2017**

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in <i>(add country)</i> MPTF Office Project Reference Number:¹ 00092000 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</p> <p><i>(Ethiopia)</i></p> <p>The strategic result is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs.</p> <p><i>Direct Beneficiaries: 2,500 smallholder rural women farmers and agro pastoralists and 1,332 (775 female and 557 male) government experts.</i></p> <p><i>Indirect Beneficiaries: 7,990 community members (6,246 female and 1,744 male)</i></p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN, WFP 	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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 and, Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency.</i> <i>Regional: Oromia and Afar Regional and District Level Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperation (BoFECs); Farmer/Pastoralist Training Centres (F/PTC); Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCAs); Bureaus of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BoANRs); and Bureaus of Cooperative Promotion Agencies</i> <i>Non-Governmental Organizations: Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia (SWAA-E), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Land Administration to Nurture Development (LAND) Project and Organization for Women in Self-employment (WISE)</i>
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p>

¹ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number are as follows: ETHIOPIA: 00092000; GUATEMALA: 00092001; KYRGYZSTAN: 00092002; LIBERIA: 00092003; NEPAL: 00092004; NIGER: 00092005; RWANDA: 00092006

<p>Total approved budget as per project document:</p> <p>MPTF Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> <p><i>UN Women</i> 290,536 <i>FAO</i> 398,741 <i>WFP</i> 998,979</p> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> <p>Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) <i>SDG-Fund</i> 1,500,000</p> <p>TOTAL:</p> <p>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>	<p>Overall Duration 5 YEARS</p> <p>Start Date (<i>15 10 2012</i>)</p> <p>End Date (<i>30 06 2018</i>) <i>New End date for SDG Fund</i> (<i>30/04/2018</i>)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Etagegnehu Getachew ○ Title: National Programme Coordinator RWEE JP ○ Participating Organization (Lead): UN Women ○ Email address: etagegnehu.getachew@unwomen.org
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ACRONYMS

A/HEW	Agriculture and Health Extension Worker
BoANR	Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resources
BoFEC	Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperation
BoWCA	Bureau of Women and Children Affairs
BDS	Business Development Services
CCs	Community Conversations
CPAs	Cooperative Promotion Agencies
DAs	Development Agents
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GRB	Gender-Responsive Budgeting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
LAND	Land Administration to Nurture Development
MoANR	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
MoFEC	Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MPTF	Multi Partners Trust Fund
PIF	Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework
PMC	Programme Management Committee
JP RWEE	Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment
RUSACCOs	Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations
SWAA-E	Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WISE	Organization for Women in Self Employment
WEAI	Women Empowerment Agriculture Index

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 2017, significant progress was made in addressing barriers faced by rural women to enhance their sustainable livelihoods through the Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE). The annual report, covering the achievements of the JP RWEE from January - December 2017, is compiled reflecting on the strategies, processes and approaches employed to bring those results collected through the year-end monitoring and data collection process. As a result of the efforts of all the participating United Nations agencies, and the federal and regional level government implementing partners, the following major results were achieved:

- Eighty per cent (1,997) of rural women reached (2,500) are now able to feed their household three times per day with a diversified diet i.e. at least three or more groups of food served per meal.
- Rural women in Oromia region i.e 82 per cent of the rural women reached, harvested 40 quintals of wheat, 45 quintals of maize and 20 quintals of Teff per hectare. This shows a 100 per cent, 125 per cent, and 83 per cent production increase in productions respectively.
- To date, 1,066 rural women (900 in Oromia and 166 in Afar) achieved sustainable and diversified income sources which allowed them to have personal savings ranging from 400 Birr (14 USD) to 14,000 Birr (508 USD)².
- The average income of rural women from sales generated through their income generating activities (IGAs) is increased from 9,460 -12,000 Birr (343-435 USD) per annum.
- Through the financial capacity gained by the rural women (enabled by the loan scheme under JP RWEE), 195 rural women in Oromia reclaimed their family land and are now using it productively for their own agricultural activities.
- Market linkage opportunities were created for 1,097 rural women (1,069 in Oromia and 28 in Afar) at district level and for 14 rural women from Oromia at federal/national level.
- Due to the enhanced capacity of Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations (RUSACCOs) in providing financial services, 2,127 rural women (1,793 in Oromia and 334 in Afar) gained access to a credit/loan, with a range from 4,000 to 14,000 ETB (ca. 145-508 USD). From the first-round revolving fund provided to 900 rural women, 744 rural women have repaid their loan and have already reclaimed an additional loan for their IGAs.
- Through the skill trainings provided, 1,943 rural women (1,793 in Oromia and 150 in Afar) have strengthened knowledge and capacities on basic financial and business management, entrepreneurship, saving and credit management and leadership concepts.
- Through the sensitization workshops conducted with relevant government partners, five women RUSACCOs, with 680 rural women members, received 2.5 hectare of land (Oromia 1 hectare and Afar 1.5 hectare) from the regional and district land administrations.
- With the direct support of the JP RWEE, 617 rural women (567 in Oromia and 50 in Afar) have access to time and labour-saving technologies (tractor, milk processing), which will support them to grow their agribusinesses and create higher value products.
- Thanks to the specific gender awareness creation campaign conducted, 53 per cent (1,335) of targeted rural women (1,285 in Oromia and 50 in Afar) reported that they are now jointly deciding with their spouse on household resources and matters involving sale of assets like cattle and rental of land.
- Fifteen per cent (368; 184 in Oromia and 184 in Afar) of rural women reached (2,500) are also able to participate in decision-making in rural institutions including their RUSACCOs and women associations.
- As a result of trainings on women's access to and control over agricultural and household resources and leadership, 112 rural women (100 in Oromia and 12 in Afar) enhanced their capacity to better lead their cooperatives, other community, social and economic institutions.

² Throughout this report, the exchange rate as of 8 February 2017 with 27.5557 Birr per 1 USD was used.

- Through the institutional capacity building conducted by the JP RWEE, ten RUSACCOs and four Farmer Training Centres (FTC) in Oromia region were capacitated to provide gender-sensitive services.
- Two evidence-based researches on “Costing the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia”, and “Budget Tracking of Agriculture Sector from Gender Perspective”, which aimed to inform policy development and actions for gender equality, were supported by JP RWEE.

I. Purpose

The Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia (JP RWEE), is being implemented by the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) with the support of the Governments of Sweden and Norway since 27 October 2014. The JP RWEE aims at accelerating the progress towards economic empowerment of rural women (farmers and pastoralists) in two pilot regions (Afar and Oromia) with an overall goal of securing their livelihoods and rights in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in line with Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP I & II).

The JP RWEE has the following four key outcomes each with a set of outputs:

Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security

- Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security.
- Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production.

Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth

- Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products
- Output 2.2 Rural women access to holistic income-generating facilities and to gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services increased
- Output 2.3 Rural women increased their knowledge and incorporate acquired skills on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and sustainable agriculture techniques
- Output 2.4 Rural women have increased access to productive resources and services (land and agricultural inputs)

Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes

- Output 3.1 Rural women confidence and leadership skills built to fully participate in family matters, rural institutions, cooperatives and unions

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

- 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
- Output 4.2. Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women

II. Results

In Ethiopia, the JP RWEE impacted the lives of more than 2,500 rural women and their family members. It employed multisector approaches to address the individual, community-level and institutional barriers faced by the targeted rural women. As a result, concrete changes that can be replicated, scaled up and widely disseminated have been realized together with the anticipated results discussed below:

i) Narrative reporting on results:

The results of JP RWEE have been tracked based on the Annual Work Plan (AWP) and Performance Monitoring Framework (PMF), which have been an integral part of programme management. Regular field visits by implementing United Nations agencies, joint field visits by all the government implementing partners, joint review meetings at both regional and federal level, as well as quarterly and annual reports

from partners were conducted as part of the monitoring and evaluation activities of the JP RWEE. However, the year-end monitoring data collected by all the implementing partners from the local government is used as a main source of information to compile results for 2017.

Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security

In order to improve food and nutrition security of the targeted rural women and their families, capacity building trainings on agricultural production, household food reserve management and control, cattle fattening and rearing were conducted. This was coupled with technical support from development agents (DAs) and agriculture and health extension workers (A/HEWs) and the provision of innovative agricultural inputs and technologies. Based on the progress made so far, 80 per cent (1,997; 1836 in Oromia and 161 in Afar) of the rural women reached (2,500) are now able to feed their households three times per day with a diversified diet i.e. at least three or more groups of food served per meal.

Positive results were achieved with increased harvests through the provision of improved seeds (30 quintals of improved wheat seeds and 10 quintals of improved Teff seeds, 500 apple seedlings, 10 kilograms carrot and 10 kilograms cabbage)³, technical support and cropping techniques implemented. The rural women in Oromia region i.e 82 per cent of the rural women reached, harvested 40 quintals of wheat, 45 quintals of maize and 20 quintals of Teff per hectare. This shows a 100 per cent increase in wheat production, while maize and Teff productions increased by 125 per cent and 83 per cent respectively. In addition, 60 per cent (1,224) of the rural women started diversified agricultural activities, for instance cultivating backyard vegetables and fruits by using different farming techniques and practices.⁴

Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security.

The results that JP RWEE achieved so far show that the targeted women have increased access and control over resources, assets and services, which is reflected in their improved food and nutrition security. With the trainings provided to date on household food reserve control and management and the house-to-house technical support provided by DAs, 57 per cent of rural women reached (2,500) are now able to manage their household food reserve. Currently, these 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, 1,233 rural women who have farm land have accessed integrated agricultural nutrition services from the trained DAs and A/HEWs.

As a result of DAs and A/HEWs support, 896 rural women are able to utilize improved production techniques including row planting, vegetable gardening, timely weeding, improved techniques for livestock rearing in Afar and following proper timing of fertilizer preparation and application.

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

To improve the agricultural productivity and nutrition status of the targeted women and their families, the project supported the access to innovative agricultural and food processing technologies. To date, 375 rural women have access to such innovative technologies, including water pumps and maize shellers, bee hives and milk processing equipment. The distribution of these agricultural technologies was timed to coincide with the farming season specifically for Oromia region (June and July).

Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth

³ The grain seeds are used for income generation while the vegetable mainly used for household consumption.

⁴ The rural pastoralist women in Afar are not engaged in farming activities thus the data is only on Oromia region.

During 2017, activities which increased rural women's business, entrepreneurship, leadership and literacy skills, which created access to market information, gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services, and productive resources (land, time and labour-saving technologies) were implemented. This resulted in significant progress on income generation from their individual IGAs and other performance indicators mentioned below.

Out of the total rural women reached by the JP RWEE (2,500), 1,066 rural women are now able to create sustainable and diversified income sources which helped them to have personal savings ranging from 400 Birr (14 USD) to 14,000 Birr (508 USD). These rural women are engaged in individual IGAs that include small ruminants and oxen fattening, irrigation, livestock and crop production, dairy petty trade, sales of handicraft, textile, food and hot drinks (tea, coffee) and transportation services by using mule/donkey and horse carts. The average income of these rural women generated by the sale from their (IGAs) is increased from 9,460 -12,000 Birr (343-435 USD) per annum.⁵

Unforeseen positive result was also realized due to the interventions of JP RWEE. For instance, with the financial access created, 195 rural women in Oromia reclaimed their family land and are now using it productively for their own agricultural activities. The land was rented out to third parties for small amounts, giving the women limited access to it for agricultural production to support their families. In the rural areas, 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.

Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products

During the reporting period, 1,097 rural women were supported with market information and packaging and benefit from the local market at district level. A federal-level market linkage was also created for 14 rural women representing their six RUSACCOs from three targeted districts of Oromia region. This was achieved through partnership with the Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency and a civil society organization called Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA-E). Through this opportunity, the women were supported to participate in the first round seven days' nationwide exhibition and bazaar organized by the Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency. Through this national bazaar participation, the rural women managed to generate a revenue amount of Birr 12,940 (570.04USD) from the sale of their 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. These rural women also have enhanced entrepreneurship skills through business development services (BDS), which helped them to add value, improve packaging, and promote their products for better market opportunities.

Output 2.2 Rural women access to holistic income-generating facilities and to gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services increased

The efforts aimed at increasing rural women's access to gender sensitive financial and non-financial services have continued in 2017. As a result, 81 per cent of the rural women now benefit from these services. To date, 2,127 rural women accessed start-up capital/revolving fund ranging from 4,000 to 14,000 ETB (ca. 145-508 USD) for their individual IGAs. Out of the first-round of revolving funds provided to 900

⁵ The Birr depreciated against the US Dollar tremendously between 2015 (when the baseline was collected) to end of 2017 (when the annual data was collected); from 21.0234 Birr – 1 USD to 27.5557 Birr – 1 USD. As the baseline was given in USD, there is a distortion of real achievements, as the income reported in Birr from 2015 is shown in a higher USD value than it would be under the current exchange rate. The baseline under the current exchange rate would be 323.32 USD (instead of 450 USD).

rural women, 744 rural women have repaid their loan and have already reclaimed an additional loan from the RUSACCOs in Oromia region.

In addition to their individual IGAs, 675 rural women were also reorganized into nine sub-group businesses (seven in Oromia and two in Afar) to engage in four types of IGAs: cattle and shoa fattening, milk processing, grain production, grinding mills service. Following the regrouping, 45 women leaders have been trained to run the group IGAs. Regrouping the rural women is used as a strategy to reach more women with technologies and other agricultural inputs and create economies of scale. Being in their group businesses, the rural women will also have a better opportunity to access technologies and land through available government initiatives, and other service providers in the area.

The achievement of these results was also due to institutional level capacity building of RUSACCOs and Farmer's Training Centres (FTCs), that were supported with office and training equipment⁶. Sixteen government experts from Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCAs) and Cooperative Promotion Agencies (CPAs) were technically supported to adopt community insurance system for the RUSACCO members' credit, to start different loan terms, group loan system and amount based on the business plan and IGA types of the rural women.

Output 2.3 Rural women increased their knowledge and incorporate acquired skills on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and sustainable agriculture techniques

Great progress has been made in 2017 to increase rural women's knowledge and skills. A total of 2,253 rural women participated in trainings on basic business skill, entrepreneurship, revolving fund management and principles of cooperatives. Out of these rural women, 1,943 strengthened their knowledge and capacities on the basic financial and business management, entrepreneurship, saving and credit management and leadership concepts.

The Integrated Functional Adult Literacy (IFAL) programme has been another capacity building intervention implemented to increase the numeracy and literacy skills of targeted women. During the reporting period, a total of 901 rural women actively participated in the IFAL programme. As a result, 441 rural women can now identify and read letters and numbers. 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.

Output 2.4 Rural women have increased access to productive resources and services (land and agricultural inputs)

The JP RWEE took the approach to sensitize relevant government stakeholders on women's rights to land (as integrated in relevant national laws and proclamations) and their inclusion in the joint land certification process currently being implemented by the GoE. The government's joint land certification initiative is part of the ongoing national efforts to formalize land holdings. It started in 2003 by recognizing the distinctive challenges faced by women to own and control land jointly with their spouses. The aim of this initiative is to capitalize on the positive development effects of empowering women in the country.

In this reporting period, an additional workshop on how the rural women can benefit from joint land certification and specific land proclamations of Afar and Oromia Regions was conducted for 53 (20 female and 33 male) government experts coming from the RWEE JP participating sector offices. So far, the Joint

⁶ The targeted RUSACCOs were supported with office supplies that include 11 file cabinet, 55 chairs, 6 safe boxes and 11 tables. Four FTCs in Oromia Region (Adamitulu and Dodola Districts) were also supported with 30 tables, 8 file shelves, 2 black boards, 20 pickaxes, and 20 hand hoes.

Programme has reached and sensitized 107 (74 female and 33 male) government experts and members of women associations in Afar and Oromia. As a result of the sensitization workshops, five women RUSACCOs, with 680 rural women members, were provided with 2.5 hectare of land (Oromia 1 hectare and Afar 1.5 hectare) from the regional and district land administrations. They also received support to prepare the land and construct sheds for their collective business endeavours, such as cattle fattening, grain production and milk processing.

To increase the production and profitability of the planned group businesses, various time and labour-saving technologies and machines were provided to 617 rural women. These technologies were provided through one women RUSACCO in the Dodola district of the Oromia region and four reorganized business sub-groups (three in Oromia and one in Afar). The technologies include: a tractor to the RUSACCO, a hand operated cream separator, a hand operated butter turner, an aluminium milk container, a deep freezer and fodder processor for cattle fattening the rural women are expected to start using these technologies in the first quarter of 2018. The access to electricity is still the challenge of all districts hence it is raised at higher level (regional president and minister level) to seek a quick solution for the problem.

Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes

The holistic and comprehensive approach of JP RWEE, with a particular focus on sustainable social change in communities and within households, has resulted in 53 per cent (1,335) of targeted rural women report now able to jointly decide with their spouse on household resources and matters that involve sale of assets like cattle and rental of land. Fifteen per cent (368; 184 in Oromia and 184 in Afar) of rural women are also able to participate in decision-making in rural institutions including their RUSACCOs and women associations. These changes are attributed to the gender awareness creation campaign; community conversations (CC) conducted by employing spouses and other community members of the targeted districts. During the specific gender sensitization and CC sessions, both the targeted women and their spouses were engaged to identify issues specific to their relationships at home, to analyse the gender division of labour and its consequences in their livelihoods considering the engagement of women in the RUSACCOs and under the JP RWEE.

Output 3.1 Rural women confidence and leadership skills built to fully participate in family matters, rural institutions, cooperatives and unions

With individual level leadership trainings, exposure visits, CCs and awareness creation campaigns, 7,990 community members (6,246 female and 1,744 male) including targeted rural women, their spouses, and members of the participating government sector offices were sensitized to work towards gender equality, women's rights and economic empowerment.

As a result of trainings on women's access to and control over agricultural and household resources and leadership provided for 24 leaders of cooperatives and women association drawn from RUSACCOs, 112 rural women have increased capacity to better lead their cooperatives, other community, social and economic institutions.

Up to now, the ten RUSACCOs have 2,748 women members, which shows an increase from the originally reported number (2,367 rural women). This has created opportunities for the new members to gain knowledge and inspiration from existing JP RWEE beneficiaries. All members of the RUSACCOs, whether original JP RWEE beneficiaries or not, have benefitted from the financial and gender-sensitive BDS created through these RUSACCOs.

Through the sensitization interventions conducted, 48 institutions (38 in Oromia and 7 in Afar) are advocating for women's rights in their community. These institutions include, regional, zonal and district women associations, BoWCAs, Cooperatives, Bureaus of Agriculture and Pastoral Development Bureaus(BoPADs) and community-based associations.

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

Implementation of capacity building, research, and advocacy activities that aimed at influencing the policy and institutional environment of the agriculture sector has continued in this reporting period.

With the technical support of JP RWEE, the 'Cooperative Strengthening Manual of Federal Cooperatives Agency (FCA)' was made gender-sensitive. This manual aims to strengthen the capacity of cooperatives nationwide and incorporated women specific access indicators, including the tracking of membership in cooperatives at all levels, leadership participation and roles of women, and how women are able to access the services offered by the cooperatives. Under this component of the Joint Programme, experts from FCA who are responsible for the execution of the cooperative strengthening plan, were supported to develop the women specific access indicators, on the one hand to ensure buy-in and better implementation/tracking of indicators and on the other hand, to build a corps of gender experts within the FCA.

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 organizations⁷, 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.

Through the work of the National Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture, the JP RWEE advocated for discussions with decision and policy makers to make the Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF) (2010-2020) gender-sensitive. The discussion was initiated because all four reviews on the implementation of the PIF, commissioned by MoANR, highlighted missing gender indicators and that implementation is not gender-sensitive. Discussions will continue in 2018 and the goal is to influence MoANR to 1) include gender indicators in the PIF and 2) to ensure that the implementation is gender-sensitive.

Through the Women Land Rights Task Force, a national advocacy work is ongoing for the Ethiopian Parliament to endorse the revised Federal Land Proclamation with gender-sensitive articles. The advocacy work is led by the national Women Land Rights Task Force, which was established by MoANR in partnership with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Land Administration to Nurture Development (LAND) project and relevant stakeholders including UN Women through its JP RWEE initiatives.

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

⁷ The international organizations which are members and serving as advisory role in the National Network for Gender Equality: International Livestock Research Institute, International Water Management Institute, Livestock and Irrigation Value Chain for Ethiopian Smallholders Programme, Agriculture Knowledge Learning Documentation and Policy, DFATD/ Global Affairs Canada, Oxfam America, CARE, USAID, GIZ-SLM, Send a Cow, and The Ethiopian Horticulture Producers and Exporters Association.

Through trainings and technical support provided on gender mainstreaming, gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) and results-based monitoring and evaluation, 1,332 (775 female and 557 male) government experts and officials in agriculture, cooperatives and education, livestock and fishery and women and children affairs sectors have now the capacity to conduct gender analysis, incorporate gender-sensitive indicators and incorporate result orientation in their programme planning and management activities.

To date, two evidence-based studies are supported by JP RWEE to inform policy development and actions for gender equality.

The research on “Costing the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia” is a joint initiative by UN Women Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO), UN Women Ethiopia, UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative Africa and MoANR. A policy brief has been developed and will be presented to the management of MoANR. The purpose is to get buy-in and ownership of the line ministry on the national-level policy dialogue planned in 2018, which aims to influence the agriculture sector policies and strategies in the country.

The second research is “Budget Tracking of Agriculture Sector from Gender Perspective”, which aimed at bringing evidence of the financial gaps in resources allocated for policies and programmes in the sector and measure the extent to which the sector’s result contribute to the promotion of gender equality. In this reporting period, an international consultant was hired who consulted with national and local stakeholders and produced a concept note for the study. 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).

Through the institutional capacity building conducted, ten RUSACCOs and four FTCs in Oromia region were capacitated to provide gender-sensitive services that include credit, development of business plan which considers the contexts of rural women to do businesses, and support to purchase cattle for their cattle fattening IGAs. The RUSACCOs received financial and material resources, which they used to provide financial and other BDS for both the initially targeted (2,000 rural women) and newly joining (748) rural women members. As reported above, 2500 rural women are those who are reached with the direct interventions of JP RWEE. The four FTCs were capacitated with office and training equipment and materials to provide space for rural women to attend IFAL classes and demonstrate new agricultural techniques for the farming activities the women are involved in.

Output 4.2: Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women

During this reporting period, qualitative data from the ongoing baseline study was collected using the evaluation tool developed by IFPRI: Women Empowerment Agricultural Index (WEAI). Based on the findings, the local definitions of women’s empowerment from the perspective of rural women and men in two districts⁸ of Ethiopia were articulated. The ability to meet one’s prescribed social roles, participating in income generating activities, having knowledge, and participation in community issues are the empowerment aspects identified in the context of the two districts under analysis. An article capturing these findings, entitled “Using qualitative methods to understand the local meaning of women’s empowerment in Ethiopia”⁹ was written by Dr. Susan Kaaria, Senior Gender Officer at the Food and Agricultural

⁸ The study focused on two project sites, i.e., two *Woredas* (districts) of Adami Tulu and Yaya Gulele districts, in Oromia regional state of Ethiopia.

⁹ The article can be found in these links: <http://gaap.ifpri.info/2017/12/22/using-qualitative-methods-to-understand-the-local-meaning-of-womens-empowerment-in-ethiopia/http://gaap.ifpri.info/files/2017/12/Debevec-et-al-Local-definitions-of-empowerment-in-Ethiopia.pdf>

Organization (FAO) in Rome, and made available to inform wider audiences on the definition of empowerment in the context of rural women in Ethiopia specifically Oromia region.

- **Challenges:**

Operationally, different time frames and approaches of technology provision by the participating United Nations agencies and integrating regional and district level government partners were a challenge. To resolve these challenges, the joint programme created an agreement on integration issues at Technical Working Group (TWG) level, provided technical guidance to participating relevant sector offices and conducted monitoring visits by technical focal persons from participating agencies.

The shortage of foreign exchange, which resulted in delays to import milk processing technologies from overseas, has been a challenge to timely deliver. An attempt was made to integrate the payment process with INGO importing such technologies for women and other rural business groups working on milk harvesting and processing activities. The issue was solved and now the milk processing technologies are provided to the targeted beneficiaries.

The regional contexts of Oromia and Afar have huge differences in terms of social, cultural, economic, geographical factors which constituted the overall situations of the regions. Particularly, the targeted rural women in Afar are pastoralists when those targeted in Oromia are purely agrarian. The minimal infrastructural facilities coupled with the limited human capacity and harsh/hot weather has also been the peculiar features of Afar region when compared to Oromia. To address these regional differences, activities were tailored towards the specific contexts of the two regions in both the planning and implementation phases of JP RWEE. However, as per the actual progresses so far, results continued to be significantly different for the two regions.

Finally, collecting evidence of results achieved by the JP RWEE was a challenging exercise. This was caused by the limited time to develop and utilize scientific data collection tools. For this year, the participating UN agencies developed a simple checklist against the result indicators and utilized it to track the progress. The data collection exercise was implemented with the direct involvement of participating government partners at both the regional and district level.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

Under JP RWEE, the coordination of four UN agencies has been mainly facilitated through the functional TWG and smooth relationships created among the technical focal persons from each agency with the JP RWEE National Programme Coordinator.

The overall achievements seen so far show the impacts of JP RWEE on the lives of targeted rural women and their families. The rural women interviewed by the country team for a video documentary, explained the changes they experience in their agricultural production, income and the intra-household relationships. For instance, Ms. Kebella Gure, one of the beneficiaries in Adamitulu district of Oromia region, witnessed the increase in her family income due to the agricultural and business trainings, access to finance and agricultural inputs provided by JP RWEE. Kebella's husband has also reported how the gender awareness creation activity helped him to realize the importance of his wife's empowerment and started to support her in household and other income generating activities.

In Afar, the women who were shy at the beginning of the programme are now assertive, confident, business-oriented and have visionary ideas for the future. During the baseline survey it was difficult to talk to the women directly unless it was permitted by the clan leaders, this has changed. The story of Maria, included in this report, shows how she was able to develop her business in a sustainable way and thus increasing her income manifold. She also improved her family's life by purchasing a new house and educating her kids. Maria has become an empowered leader of her cooperative and she promised to improve the lives of all the women in her cooperative.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<u>Achieved Indicator Targets</u> ¹⁰	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1 Rural women improve their food security and nutrition			
<p>Indicator 1.1: Frequency and composition of meals and dietary diversity among targeted women and family members</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia :87.6% eat three times a day;10.2% eat twice a day and 2 % eat once a day Afar :39.9% eat three times a day; 34.1 % eat twice a day; 20.3 % eat once a day</p> <p>Planned Target: 70% of the beneficiaries in Afar will eat three times a day with appropriate dietary diversity 97% of the beneficiaries in Oromia will eat three times a day with appropriate dietary diversity.</p>	80% (90% in Oromia and 35% in Afar) able to feed their household 3 times/day with a diversified diet in their meal i.e. at least 3 or more groups of food served per meal	The percentage is calculated by taking the 2,500 rural women (2,040 in Oromia and 460 in Afar) reached until the end of 2017.	Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.
<p>Indicator 1.2: % increase in agricultural production of targeted women farmers (targeted households) in a sustainable manner</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: 4.7% Afar: 18.4% declining</p> <p>Planned Target: Average 20% increase</p>	Rural women in Oromia Region harvested 40, 45 and 20 quintal wheats, maize and teff per hector, respectively. This shows a 100% production increase in wheat production while maize and teff productions increased by 125% and 83% respectively.		Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.
Output 1.1. Rural women access and control management over local household reserve increased			
Indicator 1.1.1 % of targeted women leading and managing food household reserves as a result of enhanced capacity	57% (65% in Oromia and 24% in Afar) able to manage household food reserves (only those	The percentage is calculated by taking the 2,500 rural women (2,040 in Oromia and 460 in Afar) reached	Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and

¹⁰ The achieved indicator targets are disaggregated in the two regions based on the separate baseline data collected and reported for the two regions. This was done by considering the huge contextual differences of the two regions. Results/ specific progresses have also been tracked for both regions for monitoring and management purposes.

Baseline: Oromia 20.6% Afar -None Planned Target: On average 50% of the targeted women	who have increased their income)	until the end of 2017.	Agriculture Development in Afar
Indicator 1.1.2 Number of targeted rural women/households accessing integrated agriculture services and Inputs. Baseline: Oromia: 100 rural women Afar: none Planned Target: 600 of the targeted rural women	1,233 rural women (1,200 in Oromia and 33 in Afar who have farm land) have accessed integrated agricultural nutrition services from the trained DAs and A/HEWs. To date, 883 rural women from Oromia received agricultural inputs and technologies		Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar
Indicator 1.2.2 Number of targeted women utilizing improved production techniques Baseline: Oromia : 46, Afar: none as pastoralist community, women per se hardly improved production techniques Planned Target: 600 of the targeted women	896 rural women (750 in Oromia and 56 in Afar) are now able to utilize improved production techniques that include row planting, vegetable gardening using their wet land, timely weeding, ploughing three times for Teff plantation, improved techniques for livestock rearing in Afar and following proper timing of fertilizer preparation and application and preparation of feed for cattle fattening.		Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar
Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production.			
Indicator 1.2.1 Number of targeted women accessing innovative food processing plan (agriculture technology) Baseline: Oromia: None Afar:none Planned Target: 1000 of the target women	375 rural women (250 in Oromia and 125 in Afar) accessed technologies that include milk processing, maize sheller, water pumps and modern bee hives		Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar
Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.			
Indicator 2.1: Number of women with diversified income sources. Baseline: Oromia: All targeted women (households) have one to two sources of income (agriculture and livestock) Afar:All targeted women (households) have one to	1,066 (900 in Oromia and 166 in Afar) of the targeted rural women diversified their sources of income	The number of sources of income will also be measured and reported at the end of the JP	Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.

<p>two sources of income (agriculture and livestock) And very few (14-16% engage in labour work like Food for work programme and petty trade for subsistence life) Planned Target: 3 to 4 income sources for at least 1,340) of the target districts depending on the target areas</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.2: Variation of Women /women groups/ cooperatives income generated from their sales Baseline: 450 USD per Annum Planned Target: 900.00 USD per annum for 70% of the target</p>	<p>The average income of these rural women from the sales generated from their IGAs is increased from 9,460 to 12,000, Birr (435.48USD) per annum.</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Output 2.1 Rural women Enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to increase market for their product.</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.1.1 Number of targeted Women getting access to diversified market opportunities (district and regional markets for their goods /services Baseline: Oromia: None; Afar: None Planned Target: At least 1,200 of the target women (2000) to get access to diversified/better market</p>	<p>1,097 rural women (1,069 in Oromia and 28 in Afar). Federal level market linkage was also created for 14 rural women representing their 6 RUSACCOs from three targeted districts of Oromia region.</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Output 2.2 Rural women access to holistic income-generating facilities and to gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services increased</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.2.1 Percentage of targeted women in the SACCOS (cooperatives) benefitting from gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services Baseline: Oromia: Women Benefited financial services 38.2%; The financial services found to be gender insensitive. Afar: None Planned Target: 80% of the target women</p>	<p>81% (92% in Oromia and 33.2% in Afar) benefitting from gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services</p>	<p>The percentage is calculated by taking the 2,500 rural women (2040 in Oromia and 460 in Afar) reached until the end of 2017.</p>	<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Indicator 2.2.2 Number of women Accessing Loan Baseline: None Planned Target: 2000 rural women of the targeted women</p>	<p>2,127 rural women (1,793 in Oromia and 334 in Afar) accessed start-up capital/ revolving fund ranging from 4,000 to 14,000 ETB (ca. 145-508 USD) for their individual IGAs</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>

Indicator 2.2.3 Number of women who repaid total loan distributed Baseline: None Planned Target: 2000 rural women of the targeted women	744 out of the 900 women who received the first-round loan)		Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.
Output 2.3 Rural women increased their knowledge and incorporate acquired skills on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and sustainable agriculture techniques			
Indicator 2.3.1 Number of target women with increased capacity on basic business management skills, functional literacy and entrepreneurship in accessing to BDS services Baseline: Oromia- Those who received Entrepreneurship and business skills Trainings: 26) Received BDS (counselling, coaching, cooperative formation etc.): 280 Received Functional Adult literacy: 200 Afar- only 68 received training on Entrepreneurship and business skills Planned Target: 1500 of targeted women to have improved capacity on business and entrepreneurship; 600 of the target women to have participate in functional adult literacy	1,943 rural women (1,793 in Oromia and 150 in Afar) strengthened business knowledge and entrepreneurship skills 441 rural women in Oromia able to read write		Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.
Indicator 2.3.2 Number of women initiated self-employment activities (IGAs) with the interventions Baseline: Oromia-None; Afar-None Planned Target 1400 of the target women either initiate business group /individual business	1,066 rural women (900 in Oromia and 166 in Afar) initiated and/or strengthened self-employment activities to support their livelihoods		Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.
Output 2.4 Rural women have increased access to productive resources and services (land and agricultural inputs and technologies)			
Indicator 2.4.1 Number of women provided with time and labour saving technologies with access to necessary capacity building interventions Baseline: Oromia: None; Afar: None Planned Target: 1500 on accessing technology and tools	617 rural women (567 in Oromia and 50 in Afar). The technologies include, tractor to the RUSACCO, hand operated cream separator, hand operated butter turner, aluminium milk container, deep freezer and fodder processor for cattle fattening.	.	Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.

<p>Indicator 2.4.3 Number of women who succeeded in obtaining joint land certificates and benefiting from it Baseline: Oromia: 270; Afar: None Planned Target: 500 of the target women (households on average)</p>	<p>195 rural women reclaimed their land Five women RUSACCOs with 730 rural women members, received 2.5 hectare of land (one hectare to 1 RUSACCOs in Oromia and 1.5 hectare to 4 RUSACCOs in Afar),</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.1 Percentage of targeted rural women jointly deciding on household resources and matters Baseline: Oromia-Almost non-except in their self-help groups /cooperatives Afar - Almost non-except in their self-help groups /cooperatives Planned Target: 60% of the target women will have equal say on HH resources and matter</p>	<p>53% (63% in Oromia and 11% in Afar) participated in household decision-making involving the sale of assets like cattle and rental of land</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Indicator 3.2: Percentage of targeted rural women participating in decision making in rural institutions and communities Baseline: Oromia: only in their self-help groups /women SACCOs Afar-: only in their self-help groups /women SACCOs Planned Target: 10% of the target women will be participating in leadership and decision making in rural institutions including RUSACCOs and community based organization.</p>	<p>15% (9% in Oromia and 40% in Afar) participated in decision-making at rural institutions and communities.</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Output 3.1 Rural women confidence and leadership skills built to fully participate in family matters, rural institutions, cooperatives and unions</p>			
<p>Indicator 3.1.1 Number of institutions and communities advocating for women and girls' economic rights. Baseline: Oromia: 2 women Cooperative Per District; Afar: 2 women Cooperative Per District Planned Target: At least 3 Cooperative unions, and 16 Cooperatives (both led by women and men) and 50% of the family members of the Target women</p>	<p>48 institutions (38 from Oromia and 7 from Afar) are advocating for women to access and control land and other public services and resources</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>

Indicator 3.1.2 Number of community members (by sex) whose misunderstanding /misconception on gender issues and women's economic rights minimized Baseline: There exist a misunderstanding of gender and women right's issues in targeted areas Planned Target: 11,200 of the target community (both male and female)	7,990 community members (6,246 female and 1,744 male) including targeted women, their spouses, members of the JP TWGs and Steering Committees and members of women associations were addressed.		Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.
Indicator 3.1.3 Number of women with improved leadership, assertiveness and management skills. Baseline: Oromia: 200 of the target women Afar - None Planned Target: 1300 of the target will have better skill and confidence	112 rural women (100 in Oromia and 12 in Afar) working in their RUSACCOs and other community institutions.		Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.
Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women			
Indicator4.1: Number of new/revised agricultural strategies, regulatory frameworks and standards which mainstreamed gender Baseline: There is one agricultural policy which is gender sensitive at national level Planned Target: three (one gender responsive policy, one gender mainstreaming strategy and one implementation guideline the same cascaded to the target regions)	1 (Cooperative Strengthening Manual) This is implementation guideline. There is also an ongoing process to make the Agriculture Sector Policy Framework gender-sensitive.		Programme biannual and annual reports
Indicator 4.2: Number of relevant institutions incorporated gender equality related targets in their policy and programmes Baseline: TBD Planned Target: three sectoral institutions (Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ministry of Education (Integrated functional adult literacy programme and manual) and Federal Cooperative Agency	There is an ongoing effort by capacitating 4 regional and district level institutions (Bureaus of Education, Cooperative promotion Agency, Agriculture and Livestock and Fishery) to incorporate gender target in their planning and implementation processes.		Programme Bi annual and annual reports
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			
Indicator 4.1.1 Number of experts and officials in agriculture cooperative and other institutions whose capacity increased to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender sensitive indicators	1,332 (775 female and 557 male) experts of regional and district level BoWCAs, CPAs, BoAs, district and zonal administrations, women		Programme quarter reports of MoWCA, Federal Cooperative Agency, proceeding of the programme review meeting,

<p>and targets in planning and budgeting Baseline: TBD Planned Target: 624 experts and government officials working in agriculture, cooperative and other government institutions</p>	<p>associations enhanced their knowledge and skills to respond to the needs of rural women in Afar and Oromia regions through workshops, gender mainstreaming and GRB, and gender and leadership trainings conducted under the JP RWEE</p>		
<p>Indicator 4.1.2 Availability of evidence based research and actions to inform policy development/revision, to better integrate gender equality in key sectors strategy and investment framework Baseline: Only national level Preliminary Gender Profile Planned Target: Three policy advocacy oriented research including comprehensive national gender profile and Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index” (WEAI)</p>	<p>2 evidence based researches on “Costing the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia” and Budget Tracking of Agriculture Sector from Gender Perspective”.</p>		<p>Programme Bi annual and annual reports</p>
<p>Indicator 2.4.2 Number of Gender Responsive centres and financial and non-financial services provided to target women jointly by agricultural offices, cooperative promotion agency and other key sectors Baseline: Oromia -Gender Neutral FTC Centre Afar- Gender Neutral FTC Centre Planned Target: At least three gender responsive functional Service / BDS centres established to provide women with non-financial services</p>	<p>10 RUSACCOs (6 in Oromia and 4 in Afar) and 4 FTCs in Oromia region were capacitated to provide gender-sensitive services.</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Output 4.2 Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women</p>			
<p>4.2.1 WEAI is piloted</p>	<p>Through the JP RWEE WEAI is piloted in the targeted regions.</p>		

iii) Specific Case story

From where I stand: Maria Mohammed

I was born and brought up in what is known as one of the hottest places on earth, the Afar region in Ethiopia. I was raised in a traditional pastoralist community and taught to endure the harsh climate. For women, the only possible way of life that we were made to believe was marriage, so I got married when I was only 16 years old. I gave birth to my first child after one year. After I gave birth to my fifth child, my husband who used to work as a security guard at a sugar cane plantation could no longer afford to support the now large family.

For this reason, I moved to Semera town in the same region and started a small business of preparing and selling traditional coffee and milk on the street. Although my daily income was only about 100 Birr (4USD), after a few years, my hard work and quality service started to impress many in the surrounding area. This includes one of the nearby regional government offices, which gave me the opportunity to provide a catering service in the office cafeteria. Having only an informal business I thought it might not work out. Fortunately, at around the same time that offer was made, I also received trainings on basic business skills, cooperative management and leadership, as one of the participants of the joint programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE). These trainings gave me the confidence to accept the offer from the regional government office and were also the turning point for the success in diversifying and sustaining my business.

When I was running my business on the street, the focus was on earning the daily 'hand to mouth' income. Today it is different as I am earning more and can differentiate my profit from the cost. At the cafeteria, together with my other two employees, I provide local food items and bottled drinking water in addition to the coffee and milk. From the service for the staff cafeteria, I earn 200-500 Birr (7.25-18.15USD) daily profit. When I provide catering services during events, I am able to earn as much as 3,000 Birr (108.87USD) per event. The increase in income changed my family's livelihood. I have built a better house in Semera town, purchased and installed a house cooling system to cope with the hot weather as well as started to send the children to school in the same town.

Through JP RWEE, I also received 15,000 Birr (544.35USD) loan, which I used to diversify my business by supplying cold drinking water for schoolchildren. I was able to do this by taking the loan and an additional 3,000 Birr (108.87USD) from my own savings from the cafeteria business to buy a refrigerator I now use the refrigerator to cool and sell water for 1 Birr (0.036USD) per litre at a primary school in town. This contributes to improving the drinking water scarcity, especially by accessing cold drinking water. What pleases me the most about this specific job is not the income but rather the fact that now the kids, including my own, in the community have affordable and better access to water and are able to cope with the heat and to focus on their studies.

I have been the leader of the saving and credit cooperative known as Gandale for the last two years. The cooperative was established in my village through the JP RWEE. One of the benefits of being in the cooperative is the accessibility to the market. Recently, through the JP RWEE, our cooperative received milk collecting and milk processing equipment. Once my cooperative starts fully utilising the equipment, I believe that the cafeteria I manage will be among the potential clients as the demand for milk and milk products is very high and I do not have a sustained supply. The demand is the same in other cafeterias in the town. As the leader of the cooperative, I will make sure that the women put all their effort towards effective use of the equipment and to supply the milk and the milk products to meet the high demand, to increase their income and to improve their lives. My vision for the cooperative is to breed its own milking cows and to supply the milk for processing directly rather than collecting from individuals. As the leader of the cooperative, I participated

in trainings and provided technical support to members after attending various workshops provided through the JP RWEE. Thinking of my start from the scratch and the achievement in developing a successful business, as a women cooperative leader, I believe I am a role model for the women and they will follow my steps towards success.

Maria Mohammed, 30 years old from Ayrolaf village in the Dubti district of the Afar region, Ethiopia, is one of the over 2,000 smallholder rural women farmers and agro-pastoralists beneficiaries of the JP RWEE.



Maria with one of the manual milk processing equipment that her cooperative received through JP RWEE. (Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)



Maria by the bottled waters that she sells at the cafeteria. (Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

There was no assessment or evaluation conducted in this reporting period.

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

The revision being made with some of the indicators and outputs in consultation with the Global Coordinator. An approval of No-Cost Extension until 30 June 2018 is requested from the JP RWEE International Steering Committee.

V. Coordination mechanisms

National and regional Steering Committees and Programme Management Committee (PMC), and TWGs have been functional to support and ensure the smooth implementation of the JP RWEE. Both the national and regional coordinating structures are comprised of the participating United Nations agencies, Federal Ministries including MoWCA, Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC), Federal Cooperative Agency and regional bureaus that include BoWCA, BoFEC, BoANR, CPAs and Bureaus of Livestock Resources and Fishery Development. These committees have been instrumental in addressing the programme challenges and providing guidance for the JP RWEE's implementation.

VI. Resources

The following table shows the total amount spent to date, until 31 December 2017. The remaining fund will be disbursed until June 30, 2018.

UN Agency	Budget Approved and Released (Sweden and Norway)	Budget Spent/Disbursed in USD	Percentage %	Remark
WFP	998,979.00	867,733.08	86.86%	
UN Women	290,536.00	127,211.33	43.79%	
FAO	398,741.00	234,509.00	58.81%	
Total	1,688, 256.00	1,229,453.41		