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**“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”  
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2017**

<p align="center"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>• MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>1</sup> 00092002</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Beneficiaries</b></p> <p align="center"><b>KYRGYZSTAN</b></p> <p>New beneficiaries in 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Direct</i> (women/men) 1,000 (998 women/2 men)</li> <li>• <i>Indirect</i> (women/men) 19,359(10,012 women/9,347 men), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 3,103, including directly 2,027 women participating in JPRWEE, and indirectly 1,076 new beneficiaries (621 men and 455 women) through GALS</li> <li>✓ 12,549, including 6,726 women/5,823 men through social initiatives</li> <li>✓ 5,734, including 2,831 women/2,903 men family members</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Total beneficiaries since the beginning of the Joint Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Direct</i> (women/men) 2731 (2710 women, 21 men)</li> <li>• <i>Indirect</i> (women/men)27,738 (14,179 women/13,559 men)</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Women, FAO, IFAD, WFP</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Labour and Social Development of the Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic</li> <li>• Local self-government administrations</li> <li>• NGO Community Development Alliance</li> <li>• NGO Alliance for Budget Transparency</li> <li>• NGO Chui-Talas Rural Advisory Services</li> <li>• NGO Rural Advisory Service (RAS)</li> <li>• Republican Health Promotion Centre</li> <li>• Village Health Committees</li> <li>• Public Fund Kelechek</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Programme Duration</b></p>

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

Total approved budget as per project document: USD 6,303,012

**MPTF Contribution**

- UN Women: USD 963,321
- UN FAO: USD 688,089
- UN WFP: USD 684,845
- IFAD: USD 202,000

**Agency Contribution**

- UN Women: USD 40,000
- WFP: USD 14,500

**Government Contribution**

*(if applicable)*

**Other Contributions (donors)**

*(if applicable)*

**TOTAL: 2,592,755**

**Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.**

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes  No Date: *June 2017*

Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Overall Duration 5 YEARS

Start Date (*15 10 2012*)

Original End Date (*14 10 217*)

**Report Submitted By**

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## NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- JPRWEE partners have provided a joint assistance to an additional 1,000 participants having mobilized them in self-help groups, and provided agricultural inputs and trainings. Vegetable seeds, 1000 mini plastic tunnel greenhouses and two trainings on vegetable growing and water saving technologies have been delivered to 1,000 beneficiaries. They also received food assistance of 200 kg of flour and 20 liters of oil each. In addition, 1,294 women have for the first time procured seeds through the newly established provincial organizations and cultivated a total of 103 ha of land.
- 125 new self-help groups with 1,000 women, have been established in 28 villages, thus reaching a total of 379 self-help groups, 73 community funds, with total savings fund in 45 villages over 1,5 mln KGS (equiv US\$21,900).
- Agricultural productivity of rural women participants has increased by 32.2% bringing an additional average income of USD488 from growing vegetables on an average land plot of 0.06 ha. The end-year target of the indicator 'Proportion of households with 'poor' or 'borderline' food consumption score' has reached its target and decreased by 88 percent, i.e. from 24 to 3 percent. Dietary diversity score has also increased from 6.1 to 6.6 signifying of improved diet of project participants.
- 12 joint social initiatives of rural women and local governments have been completed by end 2017. These initiatives are aimed at addressing practical gender needs through improved drinking water supply, electricity supply and road conditions, improve child care facilities in communities, and thereby contribute to reduced care burden of rural women, and address strategic needs of rural women through improved access to information, to Internet connection, and IT and resource centres for young women in rural communities. JPRWEE has contributed about US\$24000 in total, which constituted 56.5% of total costs, the rest being funded by local governments, community members, and other partners. A total number of people expected to benefit from these initiatives is 12,549, including 6,726 women.
- JPRWEE continued strengthening organizational capacity of the four women's organizations, providing services to 1,500 members with a total amount of revolving fund exceeding US\$107,000. Four women's organizations have also reviewed, approved and disbursed funds in the amount of 4,890,200 KGS (equiv. US\$71,400) to new women's groups to start a joint business initiative, which will provide better income opportunities for 346 women. Since the start of the project the number of business initiatives supported reached **146**, economically empowering **1,151** women.
- Rural women have lobbied for the introduction of a gender quota in local councils at three high-level events, The First Forum of Women-Members of Local Councils in January 2017, National Women's Forum in March 2017, and the National Rural Women's Day in June 2017. These events have provided a platform for a dialogue of rural women with key Government representatives on the challenges, priorities and recommendations for improving rural women's participation in national development processes.
- IFAD has continued rolling out of the the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology. GALS has been integrated in the communities to support gender-transformative changes within households; women and men have been using participatory planning tools for livelihoods, workload distribution and visioning. A total of 43 champions have rolled out GALS in 45 communities reaching out to 3,103 persons.
- Donor meeting has been conducted in June 2017 with follow-up bilateral meetings with the potential donors. A set of visibility products prepared, including short videos for social media, a brochure with human stories, infographics visualizing programme approach and key results, leaflets summarizing the programme approach under different outcomes.
- JPRWEE has been included in the Country Programme Evaluation of UN Women Country Office and the findings have been shared widely with national partners and donors.

## I. Purpose

The formulation of outcomes in the JPRWEE in Kyrgyzstan have been approved by the National Steering Committee as follows:

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

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

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

JPRWEE is aligned with the UNDAF 2018-2022 Priority Area 1 on Sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industrial, rural and agricultural development, food security and nutrition.

## II. Results

### i) Narrative reporting on results:

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

During 2017, WFP carried out mobilization of 1000 new project participants (998 women, 2 men) through providing Training of Trainers to sub-district social workers in social mobilization. The training included the objectives and principles of social mobilization, formation and development of self-help groups, establishment and use of revolving saving funds and other critical elements of this tool. The trained social workers, in turn, provided training to project participants and created self-help groups in 28 villages of 14 sub-districts. The total number of mobilized self-help groups is 125 united into 28 village-level Associations of self-help groups. Through conducting social mobilization through social workers WFP also aimed at building the capacity of local self-government staff so that they continue consulting community members on the creation and development of self-help groups beyond the life of the RWEE project, so that the interested residents could unite to work together and help each other through this tool and improve their livelihoods.

Following the JPRWEE model revolving funds have been established in the new communities at both levels: the level of groups and the level of community to serve as a safety net, and to support joint economic activities through monthly contributions of the members. Currently, community funds in average have collected from USD 367-588 (KGS 25,000 to 40,000), and groups have savings of USD 88-176 (KGS 6,000 to 12,000). Total amount of the Community Funds in 26 villages amounts to US\$ 9,026 (KGS 613,800). Similarly, all inputs received in the form of vegetable seeds and agricultural equipment are being repaid into their community funds from the income from agricultural activities. These funds will be used for purchasing seeds for the next agricultural season, thereby reducing the burden of high investments during the lean season. Some villages have already identified the most profitable crops they plan to plant next year and received advice from FAO on where to pre-order the seeds. Women in previously established groups have continued using the revolving and savings funds in 2017. 1500 women in 45 villages continue to run 218 SHGs and 45 ASHGs. Up to date, group savings

in these villages make USD 10,733 (729,850 KGS) and community funds make USD 15,257 (1,037,496 KGS).

All of the 1000 new project participants have received vegetable seeds, and have attended four trainings, specifically designed to the needs of the participants. The trainings were focused on promoting organic agricultural practices and included 2-day sessions each on the agricultural technology of growing vegetables, water saving technologies, integrated pest management, and processing of fruit and vegetables in home conditions. To further support the new project participants FAO has provided regular extension consultancy support, and to disseminate knowledge and skills of organic farming FAO has established 14 demonstration plots, on the basis of which 3 field days have been organized, and 14 exchange visits facilitated for practical training and exchange of knowledge. In addition, FAO has provided mini-plastic tunnel greenhouse accessories, 50 knapsack sprayers, drip irrigation equipment in 14 municipalities, and installed fruit drying equipment in 8 localities. As a result of planting vegetables on an average land plot of 0.06 ha, each project participant has harvested on average 24.2 tons of vegetables per ha, which shows 32.2% higher yield compared to the average yield of 18.3 tons per ha as per National Statistics Committee data. Average income of each project participant from agricultural activities in 2017 season was USD 444.8 (30,470 KGS), and an average profit reached USD 330 (22,655 KGS).

JPRWEE continued providing support to 1,731 rural women mobilized in 2015. In the season of 2017 JPRWEE-established four women's cooperatives and associations have independently purchased seeds and provided its 1,500 women-members with quality seeds. By growing quality seeds of vegetables and applying agricultural technologies, 1294 women in rural areas were able to improve the diet of their households by consuming fresh vegetables and also canned vegetables in winter time. This year women were able to increase productivity of the agricultural activities by 78% compared to 2016. When the project started, annual income per person in the families of project participants was USD 17.6 (1200 KGS), in 2016 it increased up to USD 50.7-619.75 (3450-42143 KGS), in 2017 it increased further up to USD 25.7 – 1,261 (1750-85 785 KGS). This tells women have improved their agricultural skills and became more active in the economic life. During the reporting period, project participants planted more than 10 kinds of vegetables on 126,4 hectares and gathered 1,810,465 kilos of crops. 978,040 kilos (54%) were sold and 832,425 kilos (46%) are consumed and/or stored for selling in winter time when prices will be higher. Total amount of income up to date was USD 291,650 (19,832,241 KGS) and USD 225.4 (15,326 KGS) per woman on average. Increase in the amount of land under cultivation and kinds of products they produced can tell the raise of their interest and motivation to do farming.

*Table №1: Crops and income per variety of vegetables*

	land, hc	Total crop, kg	consumed, kg	consumed, %	Sold, kg	average price, KGS	cash income, KGS
<b>Tomato</b>	<b>8,25</b>	<b>212844</b>	<b>73867</b>	<b>34,71</b>	<b>138977</b>	<b>24,0561388</b>	<b>3343250</b>
Naryn	2	13000	8815	67,81	4185		134050
Djalalabad	1,5	139500	32900	23,58	106600		2790000
Osh	4,13	13000	6250	48,08	6750		135000
Chui	0,62	47344	25902	54,71	21442		284200
<b>Cucumber</b>	<b>10,12</b>	<b>201074</b>	<b>61966</b>	<b>30,82</b>	<b>139108</b>	<b>25,7415461</b>	<b>3580855</b>
Naryn	2	22318	11033	49,43	11285		654500
Djalalabad	2	120000	19200	16	100800		2400000
Osh	5,5	33600	19500	58,04	14100		282000
Chui	0,62	25156	12233	48,63	12923		244355

<b>Cabbage</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>53834</b>	<b>17618</b>	<b>32,73</b>	<b>36216</b>	<b>25,809725</b>	<b>934725</b>
Naryn	1	20754	13854	66,75	6900		137000
Djalalabad	3,91	30000	3000	10	27000		750000
Chui	0,09	3080	764	24,81	2316		47725
<b>Carrot</b>	<b>2,76</b>	<b>33337</b>	<b>26712</b>	<b>80,13</b>	<b>6625</b>	<b>21,1116981</b>	<b>139865</b>
Naryn	2	30457	24737	81,22	5720		128050
Chui	0,76	2880	1975	68,58	905		11815
<b>Beet</b>	<b>1,74</b>	<b>27550</b>	<b>16244</b>	<b>58,96</b>	<b>11306</b>	<b>24,4356979</b>	<b>276270</b>
Naryn	1	20440	14920	72,99	5520		160750
Chui	0,72	7110	1324	18,62	5786		115520
<b>Paprika</b>	<b>0,4</b>	<b>3821</b>	<b>3033</b>	<b>79,38</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>32,8375635</b>	<b>25876</b>
Naryn	0,31	1890	1600	84,66	290		4350
Chui	0,09	1931	1433	74,21	498		21526
<b>Corn</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>854510</b>	<b>442310</b>	<b>51,76</b>	<b>412200</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6183000</b>
Naryn	0	360	360	100	0		0
Djalalabad	32	385000	91000	23,64	294000		4410000
Osh	0	454150	336150	74,02	118000		1770000
Chui	1	15000	14800	98,67	200		3000
<b>Watermelon</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>105000</b>	<b>11000</b>	<b>10,48</b>	<b>94000</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>752000</b>
Djalalabad	2	105000	11000	10,48	94000		752000
<b>Cotton</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>95600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>95600</b>	<b>40,8211297</b>	<b>3902500</b>
Djalalabad	28	95600	0	0	95600		3902500
Osh	29,7	0	0	0	0		0
<b>Potato</b>	<b>4,4</b>	<b>218795</b>	<b>177995</b>	<b>81,35</b>	<b>40800</b>	<b>15,0122549</b>	<b>612500</b>
Naryn	0	85000	60000	70,59	25000		375000
Osh	3,4	102550	86850	84,69	15700		235500
Chui	1	31245	31145	99,68	100		2000
<b>Onion</b>	<b>1,03</b>	<b>4100</b>	<b>1680</b>	<b>40,98</b>	<b>2420</b>	<b>33,6363636</b>	<b>81400</b>
Naryn	0,61	1000	780	78	220		4400
Chui	0,42	3100	900	29,03	2200		77000
<b>Total</b>	<b>126,7</b>	<b>1810465</b>	<b>832425</b>	<b>501,28</b>	<b>978040</b>		<b>19832241</b>

Nutrition training was given to the new project participants by the Village Health Committees in cooperation with the Association of Village Health Committees. Under this training leaflets on essential nutrition information were provided to all 1000 project participants and the volunteers of the Village Health Committees in JPRWEE pilot sub-districts in the south have been provided with a special nutrition manual that focuses on the family nutrition, developed by WFP jointly with the Association of Village Health Committees.

During 2017, each of these 1000 project participants received 200 kg of fortified wheat flour and 20 liters of vegetable oil (218.4 MT in total) as an incentive for their participation in training activities conducted under the RWEE project by all partners. The provision of this food assistance will contribute to improving the families' food security and nutritional status.

JPRWEE assistance aimed at improving food and nutrition security of project participants led to a decrease of the share of households with poor or borderline food consumption score to 3% down from 24% baseline. The end-year target of the indicator 'Proportion of households with 'poor' or 'borderline'

food consumption score' has reached its target and decreased by 88 percent, i.e. from 24 to 3 percent. This means that households were able to improve their consumption frequency and food diversity as a result of better crop productivity, more diversity and higher incomes, as well as because of a better ability to spend money which was saved because of the provided food ration to cover the food gap of the food insecure households. The improved food security and food access is also confirmed by beneficiary feedback about project implementation. Thus, agriculture was one of the income sources for 76 percent of households before the project. After the project, 96 percent of households confirmed that they receive income from selling harvested crops. Households assessed that they have earned additional USD 245 (KGS 16,646) on average per family from selling harvested crops in 2017 agricultural season. The perceived income increase among these households is 29%.

(Global outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth)

To further support professional training and employment opportunities outside of agriculture, UN Women partners have supported vocational training courses of 8 women on "Repair of cellular phones" and 10 women on "Computer design". These women will get access to revolving funds to start providing paid services in their communities. Three of them have started providing services: one on repairs of cellphones, and two providing computer services. Additional 35 women are attending trainings on Cooking and baking financed by ADB, and 15 women on Greenhouse operation with funding from the Australian Embassy. Since the start of JPRWEE 71 women (32%) among 220 trained are now running own business start-ups in the area of service provision in demand in the rural areas. 9 of them are providing services in roles non-traditional to women (5 on computer and photo services, 4 on repair of cell phones). In addition to UN Women funds, CDA has raised funds from the Australian Embassy amounting to USD 5,147 (350,000 KGS) and ADB project "Vocational training and skills development fund" in amounting to USD 4,998 (339,834 KGS) for training and providing financial support to start-up businesses.

In the second half of the 2017 WFP provided training to the new 930 project participants on financial literacy and value chain development under piloting the introduction of a state system of short-term courses "Skills, Knowledge and Practice" (SKaP) in these 14 JPRWEE pilot municipalities. As there are no financially accessible state-run extension services in the rural areas of the country that would provide quality information, consultation and training to vulnerable households in a wide range of issues, including agricultural technologies, financial planning, value chain development, etc., WFP had initiated the introduction of a state system of short-term courses "Skills, Knowledge and Practice" in collaboration with six institutions such as Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Processing Industry and Melioration, Ministry of Education and Science, Kyrgyz National Agrarian University, Agency of Primary and Secondary Vocational Education who have signed a Memorandum in 2016 to launch this system.

Under this pilot, 13 local specialists with relevant background have been hired by district-level vocational schools for two months during mid-September to mid-November and underwent Training of Trainers in financial literacy, value-chain development and social mobilization. The trained specialists have conducted training to the project participants in these subjects and worked with the self-help groups to build their capacity through strengthening their knowledge and monitoring their activities. In total 930 participants (928 women and 2 men) underwent training in financial literacy and value chain development. The remaining 70 participants will undergo training during February, as there were delays in contracting the SKaP specialist in one of the RWEE pilot sub-districts.

The aim of piloting this mechanism is to demonstrate the best practices to government on these examples, so that the government further develops the system through equipping these specialists with skills and knowledge in various areas that are in demand in rural areas in order to make these training and consultation services available and accessible in rural areas through vocational schools.

Revolving funds registered with the four formal women's cooperatives and associations have continued operating in 2017 and have reached additional 346 rural women, thereby providing self-employment opportunities to 1,151 women since the project start. These women are running joint micro-businesses in their communities in such areas as: bakeries, sewing shops, handicrafts, greenhouses, producing bricks, dumpling shops, etc. Income per woman on average today is USD 122 (8297 KGS) per month, while income of 1151 women since the start of the programme together makes USD 144,443 (9,550,136 KGS).

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

In 2017 JPRWEE has focused on strengthening institutional and organizational capacity of the four women's organizations established with support from the JP RWEE. Four women's organizations (WOs): Trade and Service Cooperative (TCK) "Kadam" in Jalal-Abad, TCK "Iskra" in Osh, Association of Jamaats (AJ) Bar El and Public Union "Taaji" in Chui at the provincial level are providing services to 1500 rural women to access revolving funds, quality agricultural inputs, extension services, information and do joint processing and marketing. Their organizational capacity is strengthened so that they can effectively deal with management of revolving fund, supporting of the diversification of the livelihoods of the members, ensuring a stable income during the year, coordinating seasonal agricultural activities of the members. This became possible with the help of the trainings, practical work, intensive and regular consultations, mentoring carried out during the reporting period. Mentorship support to link these organization with existing actors in the value chain, assistance to create a database of members and their assets, promoting production and marketing also took place.

During the reporting period the 4 WO's have provided following services to the 1500 women:

- Provision of the revolving funds for women to run Joint social-economic Initiatives (JEIs).

Thus, from the very beginning of the JP 140 JEIs supported with funds where 1146 women employed;

- Coordination and monitoring of the seasonal agricultural activities of the members. WO's assessed needs in seeds, purchased quality seeds for its members and distributed them. If in the beginning women produced only 4-6 types of agricultural products, now they produce more than 10 types. During the reporting period, women collected 1,765,105 kilos of agricultural products, 950,840 kilos of them are sold and made USD 280,577 (19,079,241 KGS).

The following capacity building initiatives have been undertaken:

- Training for the management board (chairmen, accountants, secretaries) of 4 WO on management and organizational development (12 women and 3 men).
- Training "Strategic planning of organization development" (12 women, 4 men)



- Training “Project design and fundraising” (34 women, 11 men)
- Trainings for Accountants of 4 WO and development of internal policies (4 women)
- Study tour to the most active JPRWEE-established cooperative in Jalalabad to learn from their experience (34 women, 11 men)
- Study tour to successful agricultural food processing enterprises in Issyk-Kul oblast (36 women, 11 men) with parallel funding from NGO Fair and Sustainable Development Solutions (FSDS)
- Practical training «New marketing technologies – “i-sales” (36 women, 11 men) with parallel funding from FSDS
- Training «Business plan development» (27 women, 10 men) with parallel funding from FSDS
- Training «Basics of marketing and marketing plan development» (27 women, 10 men) with parallel funding from FSDS

(Total amount of funding from FSDS for the trainings made 25,000 EUR.)

As a result, the four women’s cooperatives and associations have developed their internal policies and regulations, 3-year strategic plans, business and marketing plans for their organizations to guide their work.

To enhance exchange of experience between previous and newly mobilized communities a training and a study tour has been organized for 22 women-leaders of the associations of self-help groups in 14 new municipalities. Study tour was organized to the successfully operating association and the site of tourism business run by the association members in Nookat. This gave the new rural women leaders a chance to learn from seeing and listening to the experience of previous groups, to establish contacts and get inspiration to do more in their communities. A round table organized at the end of the three-day programme where 13 women-members of local councils from the same communities have joined 22 women activists allowed for an in-depth discussion of the need for activization of rural women, collaboration of women's groups with women-members of local councils in order to advocate and lobby for their priorities in local decision-making processes.

Within JPRWEE, 20 target municipalities in the four Regions have been trained on gender-responsive local development planning processes, which are participatory and inclusive. As a result, in 2016 15 municipalities have prepared and validated their development strategies up to 2030. To follow up on the implementation, JPRWEE partners have announced a contest among the target municipalities for small grant funds of 2000-2500 USD per initiative. The proposals were required to be developed jointly with the women's groups and address their specific needs and priorities. A total of 28 applications were received and 12 selected by the selection committee, comprising members of the JPRWEE National Steering Committee, and UN partners. The initiatives have been completed, and several monitoring and presentation missions have been organized to review the results of these initiatives. Members of the National Steering Committee, specifically, the Minister of Labor and Social Development, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Economy have joined the missions. These initiatives are aimed at addressing practical gender needs through improved drinking water supply, electricity supply and road conditions, improve child care facilities in communities, and thereby

contribute to reduced care burden of rural women, and address strategic needs of rural women through improved access to information, to Internet connection, and IT and resource centres for young women in rural communities. JPRWEE has contributed KGS1,659,500 (equiv. to 24,226 USD) in total, which constituted 56.5% of total costs, the rest being funded by local governments, community members, and other partners. A total number of people expected to benefit from these initiatives is 12,549, including 6,726 women.

To further promote transformative change for rural men and women partner of the JPRWEE, IFAD has introduced the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology through a network of 43 community champions. GALS is a participatory process of developing skills and helping people to change power relations within their households and communities. GALS facilitation is based on empowerment of participants and plays a key role in this transformation process, therefore also facilitating JPRWEE beneficiaries to take advantage of programme's opportunities (e.g. develop business proposals for revolving fund).

Through catalyst workshops<sup>2</sup> and continuous follow up, 43 community champions learned selected tools for livelihoods planning and improving intra-household dynamics. In the first stage, the following tools were introduced: Vision, Vision Journey, Happy Family Tree (HFT), Income Increase Tree (IIT). In June, the second stage kicked off with a catalyst workshop aiming at consolidating the use of previous tools and introducing new ones: Gender Balance Tree (Violence), Market mapping (MM), Multilane Vision Journey (MVJ) and Gender Diamond (GD).

<b>GALS tool</b>	<b>Why the tool is selected?</b>	<b>Phase</b>
Vision	to help participants to get motivated and inspired for changing themselves and their lives for better, achieving dreams	I
Vision Journey	To help participants to do strategic planning of actions that help them achieve vision. To promote individual and joint comprehensive planning	I
Happy Family Tree	To catalyze gender roles transformation process and thus promote women's achieving better positions at their households (unpaid care work is respected by other family members, women get more help and support from family members, more balanced gender roles and equity, etc)	I
Income Increase Tree	To help participants to do detailed and gender balanced planning of income and expenses at the households level. In addition, to help women groups doing small business to do increase their income.	I
Gender Balance Tree	To help JPRWEE participants improve quality of life by decreasing and preventing violence at their households.	I
Market mapping	To help women to improve their business and get more income by using simple marketing tools.	I
Multilane Vision Journey	To help women and women groups to do comprehensive and strategic planning of their agricultural activities.	I
Gender Diamond	To assist in analyzing relationships in the household, identify the most wanted relationship and develop a vision journey to improve relationship in the household, that is non-violent and motivating for all of its members.	II

<sup>2</sup> Catalyst workshop is a training workshop for community champions on the tools and facilitation of GALS for them to disseminate the tools to the other people in their communities following a cascade approach.

Following the catalyst workshop and training activities that took place in 2016, a two-phases GALS roll out plan was developed and implemented throughout 2017, consolidating results achieved. Self-help groups (SHG) are used as entry point for GALS delivery. These groups benefit from UN Women's activities and can access a revolving fund to support income-generating activities. Delivering GALS through SHG ensured coordination with the work of other agencies under the JP RWEE, and also mutually strengthened their positive impact by development of synergies. On the one hand, the revolving fund provided an opportunity to immediately apply GALS and its livelihood planning tools such as the income generating tree and the vision journey. On the other hand, GALS helped women to i) identify business opportunities; ii) develop more detailed and realistic business plans for their income generating activities ; iii) take immediate action on their plans with time-bound goals and clear steps; iv) gain support within their households to engage in new economic activities, by reallocating existing workload or catalyzing family savings.

The first phase ran from January to May and reached 3064 people (2443 women, 621 men ), together with the previous 419 engaged in 2016. GALS dissemination process is based on peer-learning approach with a pyramid scheme: each trained champion trains 5 peers, which in return train other additional three. Detailed data on beneficiaries throughout these three levels is provided below.

Province	Champions		1 <sup>st</sup> level participants				2 <sup>nd</sup> level participants				3 <sup>rd</sup> level participants				Total	
			Direct (SHG members)		Indirect		Direct (SHG members)		Indirect		Direct (SHG members)		Indirect			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Chui	0	7	0	35	-	-	0	125	-	-	9	109	-	-	276	9
Naryn	8	8	12	151	-	-	16	289	-	-	18	152	-	-	600	54
Jalalabad	1	9	-	50	-	-	-	146	22	81	-	178	276	302	766	299
Osh	1	9	2	48	-	-	18	232	-	-	238	512	-	-	801	259
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>2443</b>	<b>621</b>

The second phase From June to December 2017 has introduced the new livelihoods planning tools (Gender Diamond and Market Mapping tool) to the beneficiaries, as well as strengthening those introduced during the first phase with the same GALS participants. Gender Diamond is strengthening revision of the gender roles in the households and improve intra-household relationships.

The following results have been achieved through GALS:

- Transform power relations within families and communities. Particularly, it helped to address power relations among women across generations, increasing understanding and equitable cooperation between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law. This presents a particular gender inequality issue in Kyrgyzstan where women of older generations gain power with age and assume the young women should go through the same experience of disempowerment as they have done in their lives, thereby reinforcing the cycle of inequality. Therefore, the tool was aimed at improving gender relations not only between men and women, but also between women of different generations, to improve power balance and empower the young women. GALS was also often shared with children and adolescents who were very open to use drawings. They all felt very stimulated to vision their future and make plans. Two participants were teachers and said that they successfully shared GALS with their students, who were enthusiastic about the visioning exercise and possibility to imagine their future in a constructive way.
- Engage men in programme implementation and get their buy-in to any transformation process regarding gender roles, workload allocation and economic empowerment.

- GALS has helped to further strengthen income generating and livelihoods opportunities by supporting women's groups businesses development.
- GALS enabled participants to question gender-based power dynamics within the household. Particularly, the use of happy family tree has helped in a number of cases to get all family members together to assess contribution of each members to productive and reproductive activities. This made women's workload visible and often empowered them to negotiate better workload allocation among family members.
- Male champions provide also a great opportunity for greater involvement of husbands in taking up the methodology and using the tools.
- Support women to engage in income generating activities, gaining the support of their family members.

Overall, GALS proved to be an excellent methodology to stimulate women's self-confidence and empowerment, strengthen their ability to engage in income-generating activities and question gender-based power dynamics within the household. The implementation of GALS phase one can be considered very beneficial for the JP RWEE.

**Rural women activists across 45 communities continued their social activism** in community, oblast, regional and national levels usually devoted, in honor of or to support such national and global events as National Rural Women's Day (June 18), International Rural Women's Day (October 13), International Women's Day (March 8), End violence against women campaigns (December):

- Different self-initiated entertaining and social events on ASHG, community and regional levels devoted to the rural women's rights: concerts, festivals, fairs, etc.
- Discussions with local stakeholders about rural women's needs, women's activism, rights: round tables, conferences, forums, etc.
- Raising own awareness and distributing knowledge among peers on reproductive health issues of women and family health, financial literacy, zoonotic diseases, first aid.
- Cultural events on community and regional levels: folk music and talent competitions, handicraft competitions and fairs, etc.
- Raising awareness of the community and voicing about rural women's issues via art activism. "4A" art project taught 35 women new skills to voice issues that make women suffer in 5 villages.

In total more than 110 events with more than 1914 people (1785 women, 127 men).

An innovative form of art activism has been piloted in the select JPRWEE communities introducing a new advocacy and social activism tool to rural women.

The project "A4: Woman, Village, Art, Activism" describes the concept of the project which is the act when rural women speak out about the most pertaining local problems through art. It is a social-artistic experiment where rural women tried to speak out in a not very familiar for them language – the language of art. With the help of art they are telling about the social problems that affects life of the whole community: their stories about informal institute of midwives, access to drinking water, political participation of women and many other issues. In some cases they offer resolutions. Taking photos of the process and products of the art-activism and exhibiting them helps to voice about the issues that are affecting negatively lives in rural areas.

The project covered 6 pilot villages of the JPRWEE in Naryn, Chui and Djalalabad oblasts. All project participants of the 6 villages were invited to take part in the project on a voluntary basis and 35 women participated in the project at the end. Art experts conducted 2-hour lectures where they demonstrated examples and models of art-activism from different countries, introduced with the modern art formats (performance, installations, public art, so on). In the next stage women identified the most pertaining local community problems by facilitation of the experts. Then women tried to convert message of the issue into the artistic action or objects. As a result, women started implementing art activism itself. Art products of women were documented with the help of photos and video. The results of the project were presented in the format of art exhibition in the museum of Olga Manuilova in Bishkek on October 30. The exhibition continued until November 2017.

An e-catalogue of the art-activism was produced to share with the issues with the broad audience.

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

Rural women have lobbied for the introduction of a gender quota in local councils at three high-level events, The First Forum of Women-Members of Local Councils in January 2017, National Women's Forum in March 2017, and the National Rural Women's Day in June 2017. These events have provided a platform for a dialogue of rural women with key Government representatives on the challenges, priorities and recommendations for improving rural women's participation in national development processes.

National Rural Women's Day has been celebrated on 19 June 2017 by the Ministry of Labor and Social Development with the support of the JPRWEE. To advocate for rural women's role in the country's development, more than 100 women activists from across Kyrgyzstan met on National Rural Women's Day\* with Members of Parliament (MPs), Vice-Prime-Minister, The Ombudsman, and representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, and other government agencies. Participants discussed systemic barriers rural women face in the economy and decision-making processes. The rural women activists called on Parliament and other government bodies to integrate gender equality into all policy-making and planning processes, recognizing that women's empowerment is a key driver of economic growth and development.

Women are being more recognized by authorities not only on local level but also on rayon, oblast and national levels. They have been awarded with honor testimonials and awards on all levels. This year more women were awarded with testimonials from the Kyrgyz Government such as Ministry of Social Defense and Labour (2 women from Osh oblast in June 2017: Ergesheva Ibadat and Ergesheva Kanpasha) and Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration (4 women in November 2017: Tolonova Domira from Chui, Tuiteeva Mairam from Naryn, Gudkova Natalia from Djalalabad, Ahmedova Manzura from Osh). "Datkaim" Foundation has also awarded 2 women from Osh oblast: Abdygulova Raikan and Akmatova Sairagul.

15 staff members of the Ministry of Agriculture, Melioration and Processing Industry, including 11 women, have attended a three-day training aimed at strengthening their gender sensitivity, understanding of gender aspects of agricultural and rural development policies, and using gender statistics in agriculture in the context of SDGs. Further technical support provided through the Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment led by UN Women and implemented with FAO, IFAD and WFP has resulted in identification of national datasets corresponding to the SDG

indicators and gender-disaggregation of SDG indicators in the agricultural sector. Working group consisting of representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and the National Statistics Committee have finalized analysis of 14 SDG indicators in the agricultural sector, and developed indicator passports for each of them, identifying the formula, sources of information with recommendations for changes in the data collection forms to ensure disaggregation of the data collected. These indicators are: 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 2.5.1, 2.5.2, 2.a.1, 2.a.2, 2.b.1, 2.b.2, 2.c.1, 5.a.1.a, 5.a.1.b, 5.a.2. Indicator passports are used by the National Statistics Committee to define the indicator, identify sources of data, the methodology of calculation, regularity of data collection, in order to ensure consistency and comparability of data over time. The passports are also a requirement for adaptation of SDG indicators.

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

- There were some challenges in the project implementation along with the achievements. Conducting the social mobilization through the social workers, although very important for the sustainability, was challenging due to lack of their capacity. Following the recommendations of the joint monitoring mission by partners, WFP additionally consulted social workers and conducted additional training to Self-help groups by its trained staff and enhanced monitoring of social mobilization activities of Self-help groups.
- Rolling out GALS tools proved to be more time-consuming than expected, particularly because this is the first experience in the Central Asia region. It takes time for trainers, champions and participants to absorb new tools, learn how to use them and make the best out of it to bring about change in their lives. As a lesson learned, introduction of new tools should not be rushed and they should be introduced one at the time with at least one-month interval between two. Frequent monitoring missions and motivating champions to follow up with participant is key for taking up the methodology: the more participants present and share their drawings, the more accurate and realistic they will be thanks to peer support. Participants take pride in showing their drawings and it is an empowering exercise. Close monitoring is also important in ensuring quality at second and third level of sharing. Implementation of the GALS from the onset of the programme with a bigger budget, would have allowed more time to deepen instruments in communities. Yet, even with 1.5 year' timeframe of implementation GALS is yielding very interesting results both in terms of economic empowerment and gender equality.
- Gender issues related to asset ownership gender-based violence and forced marriage are a key issue in the country, which is difficult to tackle in a short time-frame. There is little tradition of open discussion around these topics and additional efforts should be put on training champions / regional coordinators to bring about these topics in GALS meetings in a constructive manner.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

Overall progress of the JPRWEE during January-December 2017 has been on track with key activities continuing in support of 1,000 new beneficiaries, and institutional capacity development for the four women's organizations to continue providing quality services to the previously covered 1,731 beneficiaries. As a result of integrated development assistance the rural women participants have achieved significant improvements across all dimensions of economic empowerment. Agricultural productivity of project participants has increased by 32.2% bringing more income,

improving their food security, and nutrition. The share of households with ‘poor’ or ‘borderline’ Food Consumption Score has decreased from 24% to only 3% of participants. Dietary Diversity Score has improved from 6.1 to 6.6, increasing the diversity of food items consumed by the rural women participants. Rural women also continued using revolving funds at the group, community, and regional levels. The number of women engaged in self-employment has increased by 43% from 805 to 1,151 women running their own micro-businesses. These revolving funds are now operated independently by JPRWEE-established women’s cooperatives and associations. The programme has invested into building the institutional and organizational capacities of these organizations in 2017, resulting in development of strategic, business, and marketing plans to ensure their sustainability beyond programme life. Rural women continued exercising their leadership skills both through community-level awareness and advocacy activities, reaching out to over 1,000 people, but also through further spreading GALS, and using its tools. Anecdotal evidence from GALS shows an improvement in family relations, better planning, and fairer distribution of care work within households, providing for more leisure time for rural women, and ultimately leading to improved quality of life. Transformational effect of the JPRWEE has also been confirmed by the UN Women Country Programme Evaluation in 2017, which also covered JPRWEE. The evaluation findings indicate a high replication effect of about 1 to 5, which increases the impact of the programme beyond direct participants. Finally, the programme continued facilitating dialogues between rural women, and key national government representatives, through provision of platforms, building advocacy skills of the rural women activists, and contributing to improved gender statistics in agriculture.

JPRWEE has substantively increased its coverage of indirect beneficiaries as a result of wider rollout of GALS in the communities and families, as well as resulting from supporting social initiatives in the target municipalities. Thus number of indirect beneficiaries of 12 social initiatives, which included access to Internet, IT training opportunities, computer workshops for women, drinking water supply, improvement of road conditions, and better childcare facilities, has reached 12,549 people, including 6,726 women. Number of people reached by GALS as of June 2017 is 3,103, including 2,476 women.

Partnership with the National Steering Committee has strengthened through monitoring visits and better acquaintance of NSC members with the results in the field. NSC members have actively supported the organization of high-level events, such as National Women’s Forum in March, and National Rural Women’s Day in June, by making sure that key decision makers would attend and listen to the rural women’s addresses, and respond to their questions.

Partnership with several development organizations continued during this period. Specifically, Australian Embassy and Asian Development Bank have supported vocational training of JPRWEE beneficiaries, followed by equipment provided by the Australian Embassy to 11 women in two women’s groups to open bakeries in the communities. Collaboration with NGO Fair and Sustainable Development Solutions has been fruitful in further strengthening the institutional capacity of women’s organizations through a series of trainings planned in July-September 2017.

To implement the project activities WFP is cooperating with various institutions. For delivering the nutrition training WFP is collaborating with the Republican Health Promotion Centre for conducting TOT for local activists in those JPRWEE pilot villages where there are no Village Health Committees, who would be then providing nutrition awareness raising activities to the project participants. WFP is also collaborating with the Association of Village Health Committees and coordinating the conduction of nutrition awareness raising activity through village health committees in order to build their capacity so that these institutions, that are widely represented in the country,

could carry out these activities on a regular basis beyond the live of the project covering a wider public.



**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<b>Outcome 1</b> <b>Rural women have increased income, better livelihoods and food security from enhanced agricultural productivity</b>			
<b>Output 1.1</b> Rural women are equipped with the skills and knowledge to run economic activities			
<b>Indicator 1.1.1</b> Number of rural women mobilized in self-help groups for joint economic activities <b>Baseline:</b> 231 <b>Target by 2017:</b> 4,800 women from vulnerable groups	2,731	Achieved as per funding available	Partner reports
<b>Indicator 1.1.2</b> % of families of SHGs having increased access to diversified diet both during harvest and lean seasons (% of families with improved food consumption indicators) <b>Baseline:</b> 0% <b>Target:</b> at least 95 % of families of SHGs members have increased access to diversified diet both during harvest and lean seasons	FCS: share of households with poor or borderline FCS - 3% in 2017 <b>Baseline:</b> 24% <b>Target</b> 5% Dietary diversity score - 6.6 in 2017 <b>Baseline:</b> 6.1 <b>Target:</b> <6.1	Exceeded target  Reached target	Verification and post-distribution monitoring reports
<b>Indicator 1.1.3</b> Number of women organisations (Community Funds, cooperatives, CBOs) running economic activities <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Target:</b> at least 40 women organizations	73 community funds, 2 cooperatives, 2 associations running economic activities	Exceeded target	Partner reports
<b>Indicator 1.1.4</b> % of increase of the household income among members of self-help groups <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Target:</b> 20 % increase of the household income	32.2%	Target exceeded	FAO report

<p><b>Output 1.2</b> Rural women have increased opportunities for remunerated work at village level</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.1</b> Number of rural women trained on professions in demand at village level through Food for Training activities <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Target:</b> at least 50 women</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.2</b> Percentage of trained women establishing their own enterprise/business, producing agri/livestock/craft. etc. <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Target:</b> at least 50% of trained women get paid for their professional services</p>	<p>220</p> <p>32.2%</p>	<p>Exceeded target</p> <p>Below target. Majority of trained women undertook training in 2017, and are still working to identify possibilities for providing paid services in their communities</p>	<p>Partner reports</p> <p>Partner reports</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2 Rural women have mastered leadership and actively participate in shaping laws, policies and systems of service provision at local and central levels</b></p>			
<p><b>Output 2.1</b> Rural women have mastered leadership skills to participate in and influence decision making at local and central levels</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.1</b> Number of rural women leaders participated in the process of local planning and budgeting <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target: 90</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.2</b> Number of rural women participated in policy lobbying activities at central level <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target: 20</b></p>	<p>60</p> <p>30</p>	<p>Below target . No activities planned under this indicator in 2017</p> <p>Target exceeded</p>	<p>Partner reports</p> <p>Partner reports</p>
<p><b>Output 2.2</b> Local governments have increased capacities to ensuring transparent and gender responsive planning and budgeting system</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.2.1</b> Number of local development plans/budgets developed based on participatory process</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Target achieved</p>	<p>Partner reports</p>

<p><b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target: 15</b>  <b>Indicator 2.2.2</b> Number of joint local government-communities initiatives addressing specific needs of rural women  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Target: 15</b></p>	<p>12, benefitting a total of 12,549 people, including 6,726 women</p>	<p>Below target. Funding for this activity not planned in 2017</p>	<p>Partner reports</p>
<p><b>Output 2.3</b>  Rural women are equipped with the skills and knowledge to participate in and influence decisions of local service providers</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.3.1</b> % of rural women participate in Association of Water Users and Pasture Committees  <b>Baseline: 0%</b>  <b>Planned Target:</b> at least 30%</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.3.2</b> Share of priorities proposed by rural women included in the WUAs / PC development plans  <b>Baseline: 0</b>  <b>Planned Target:</b> at least 10% (in 2015)</p>	<p>18%  21 out of 118 members (baseline 4 out of 123)</p> <p>10%  2 out of 20 institutions accepted recommendations</p>	<p>Not achieved. Challenges discussed in the 2016 report. Indicator removed by NSC decision</p> <p>Partially achieved. Challenges discussed in the 2016 report. Indicator removed by NSC decision</p>	<p>Partner reports</p> <p>Partner reports</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3 A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</b></p>			

<p><b>Output 3.1</b> Policy makers have enhanced capacities to mainstream gender into food, agriculture and rural employment policies, laws and budgets</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1.1.</b> Agricultural Development Strategy integrates gender priorities, including in its Action Plan and budget <b>Baseline:</b> gender neutral <b>Target:</b> Adoption of the Strategy with gender priorities integrated throughout the text, plan and budget</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1.2.</b> Gender priorities integrated in the Employment Policies (rural development) of the Ministry of Economic Development, including its Action Plan and budget <b>Baseline:</b> gender neutral <b>Target:</b> Adoption of the Policy with gender priorities integrated throughout the text, plan and budget</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Activity not undertaken, development of Strategy not planned by Ministry of Agriculture. Gender analysis of agricultural sectoral policies and strategies is ongoing; recommendations were presented in August 2017</p> <p>National long-term strategic planning ongoing, recommendations will be provided to the experts in March 2018</p>	<p>Strategy, report</p> <p>Relevant policies, report</p>
<p><b>Output 3.2</b> Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.2.1.</b> % of recommendations for filling in data gaps in rural gender statistics integrated <b>Baseline:</b> 0% <b>Target:</b> At least 60 % of recommendation integrated</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.2.2.</b> The census and agriculture units of NSC integrate gender-inclusive methodologies in agricultural census and/or surveys on rural populations</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Done</p>	<p>Recommendations for 14 SDG indicators provided, indicator passports developed. Integration of recommendations is subject to approval by NSC</p> <p>Will continue as per NSC requests</p>	<p>Gender statistics reports</p> <p>Survey templates</p>

### iii) A Specific Story

#### **Gulmira Ganybaeva - On the way to my dreams**

#### **Kamyshanovka village, Sokuluk district, Chui oblast**

After completing the full cycle of GALS training, Idoyat Salamova from Kamyshanovka village became a GALS champion. She then organised training on four GALS tools to members of the ASHG Bereke. Gulmira Ganibaeva was one of those members of ASHG Bereke who had participated in the training.

When using the "Dream" tool, Gulmira dreamed of a new house with minimal conditions, health of her family members, success of her children, etc. Her most cherished desire was to buy a dairy cow to provide the family with natural products: milk, kefir, sour cream, etc. According to the GALS «Dream» tool, she started to review steps towards her dream. The main step was financial planning. In March, 2017, six members of the ASHG Bereke wrote a project proposal for increasing their family income through the purchase of dairy cows and submitted it to the PA "TAZHY". The project proposal was approved by the PA "TAZHY" management. Soon after six women-members of ASHG Bereke bought dairy cows, one of them was Gulmira Ganymayeva.

Having bought a cow, Gulmira achieved her goal. However, in order to pay back the value of the cow to the PA "TAZHY" revolving fund, she had to sell the milk to small milk processing plants. Although her husband, Aliyev Shukurbek, worked as a tractor driver and did his best to provide for their family the family lacked money, and almost all other necessities. Gulmira was concerned that she could not provide her children with dairy products as she had dreamed. Nonetheless, she remained optimistic: "I'm half way through my dream. Soon it will be fully fulfilled, and I am sure of this!"

With the support of the champion, "The Tree of a Happy Family" tool helped Gulmira to improve intra-household dynamics. As implementation of the tool was dependent on the participation of all household members, Gulmira asked her husband and sons to get together and analyze their respective contribution to the family's welfare. The analysis revealed that Gulmira took charge of a greater share of the household burden — such as cleaning, cooking and child care as her husband spent much time as well as money on alcohol beverages and his friends. Nonetheless, the tool also revealed that the husband recognized and appreciated the effort his wife, Gulmira, has been putting into family care as well as her dream of having a dairy cow to provide children with milk products. As a result of the joint discussion the husband promised he

would spend less money on alcoholic beverages and devote more attention and time to his family. He has kept his promise and money that was previously spent on his own leisure time remained in the family.

Gulmira recalls with delight the day when her husband said: “Gulmira, do not sell all the milk. Leave more for children. Give some to relatives and neighbors, they need our support as well. I will help you with the payment”. After these words, he began to help Gulmira not only with payment, but also at home. Gulmira is immensely pleased with the changes in her family. Gulmira says that she has never been late on a loan repayment. She admits she would not have been able to keep up with the repayment scheme without the support and help of her husband.

### **III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)**

- JPRWEE has been covered by UN Women Country Programme Evaluation during June-July 2017. Final report has been shared with JPRWEE Technical Advisory Committee. The evaluation has confirmed the evidence of transformative results achieved in the JPRWEE, leading to changing power relations in the households. The multidimensional approach of the programme has helped to address underlying causes of economic disempowerment of rural women. The integrated approach of reaching the same project participants with one package of assistance has placed the JPRWEE as a joint programme best practice. Further, the evaluation has confirmed a strong evidence of replication. Every project participant has shared knowledge with at least five members of their families and neighbours, which also increases the efficiency of the programme.

In addition, a separate evaluation of JPRWEE in Kyrgyzstan has been launched to take place between January and April 2018.

An internal review of GALS rollout was conducted and final report will be available in March 2018.

### **IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)**

- None

### **V. Coordination mechanisms**

- The National Steering Committee of the programme has been established in October 2014 and convenes on a bi-annual basis to review progress and endorse key programmatic decisions. It comprises representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Agency for local self-government and inter-ethnic relations, and representatives of four participating agencies. The Minister of Labour and Social Protection co-chairs the National Steering Committee jointly with the head of one of the participating agencies on a rotational basis. FAO’s Representative in Kyrgyzstan has been elected as co-chair for the year 2017 and will hand over the co-chairing to the next agency in 2018
- The Technical working group comprises the focal points of four agencies participating in the joint programme. It convenes on a monthly basis to share information, coordinate, and discuss any upcoming events and issues. Technical working group develops a joint work plan annually with details

of each agency's activities, schedule and places to facilitate better coordination of individual interventions. Based on the work plan, partners develop a joint monitoring plan to review progress, monitor key activities in the field and start discussions on the effectiveness of the programme's approach. Joint monitoring visits take place on a quarterly basis.

## **VI. Resources**

- Provide any information on financial management, procurement and human resources.
- Indicate if the Programme mobilized any additional resources or interventions from other partners.

No additional funds have been mobilized. Donor meeting has been conducted in June, and a number of visibility and communication products prepared. Donor meeting was organized with an intention to report on the results achieved, approaches used in the JPRWEE, lessons learnt, as well as propose a strategy for scaling up of the best practices developed by the programme. It was attended by 10 representatives of donor organizations, national partners, members of the NSC, women-beneficiaries, and partner UN agencies. Concept note with upscaling strategy has been shared at the donor meeting, and also sent with invitations to all donor organizations in Bishkek. UN agencies are following up with bilateral meetings, and through donor relations units outside the country. A joint proposal was also submitted to PBF Gender Promotion Initiative, but was not selected for funding.