

Country programme workplan in Nepal
April 2018

Total budget requested

US\$ 800,000

Beneficiaries to be reached with
this contribution

Direct beneficiaries under the MPTF's funding support:
2,330 rural women farmers who have been supported through
the JP RWEE in Sarlahi and Rautahat districts (1,145 in Sarlahi
and 1,185 in Rautahat)

Indirect beneficiaries:

12,349 family members of 2,437 rural women¹ including at least
1,000 men and boys, and 11,650 rural women farmers who are
expected to receive the transfer of knowledge and skills through
direct beneficiaries of the JP RWEE.

Duration of project:

July 2018 – September 2019

1. Background Information

In Nepal, the majority of the population (83 per cent) lives in rural areas, and 43 per cent of them are women.² Rural Nepalese women perform multiple roles as mothers and spouses/partners, as well as farmers, workers, leaders, producers, entrepreneurs and service providers. While the share of women's employment in the non-agricultural sector has increased from 18.9 per cent in 1990 to 44.8 per cent in 2014,³ agriculture is becoming feminized in Nepal due to factors such as the out-migration of men.⁴ About 74.5 per cent of Nepali women engage in agriculture-related occupations, in comparison to 51.8 per cent of men⁵. They play a key role in food production, especially through subsistence farming, ensuring food security and nutrition with themselves and their family. The Agriculture Development Strategy 2015, a 20-year strategy of the Government of Nepal for agricultural development, recognizes contributions of women farmers to the agricultural production and is committed to the inclusion of women, disadvantaged groups and geographically disadvantaged populations in the full cycle of agricultural development such as planning, implementation and monitoring. The vision of the Agriculture Development Strategy is a self-reliant, sustainable, competitive and inclusive agricultural sector that drives economic growth and contributes to improved livelihood and nutrition security.

In 2017, Nepal experienced a positive historic change with the completion of federal, provincial and local elections to meet the Constitutional requirements. With the completion of the elections, women now comprise 41 per cent⁶ (14,353 women representatives) of elected representatives in local bodies, 34.5 per

¹ The average size of a household in Nepal is 5.3 persons per house hold. The number of indirect beneficiaries was calculated by multiplying 3,622 direct beneficiaries by 5.3 and subtracting 3,622.

² Government of Nepal: Central Bureau of Statistics, 2012. National Population and Housing Census 2011. 83 per cent counts those living in administratively designated VDCs as opposed to municipalities (where the urban population is situated).

³ SAHAVAGI (page 118), 2015. Progress of Women in Nepal (1995-2015). Kathmandu: SAHAVAGI, Didibahini, Feminist Dalit Organization, UN Women.

⁴ Ibid. (page 120)

⁵ Central Bureau of Statistics (2016). Annual Household Survey 2014/15.

⁶ International Foundation for Electoral Support, Election Update-14 July 2017



cent (190) in the provincial assemblies and 33.5 per cent (112) in the federal parliament. In preparation for the local elections, the Government established 753 new local government units on March 10, 2017. Categorized as municipalities and rural municipalities, their establishment aimed to restructure old local government structures, namely Village Development Committees and municipalities, and unbundle the federal structure from the local and provincial governments. The Government has delegated full decision-making authorities to the local government bodies. This is a significant breakthrough on women's leadership and participation in the formal decision-making.

As Nepal transitions towards a decentralized federal democracy, new governance structures are being established and newly elected officials have taken the public office. This transitional period offers an unprecedented opportunity for gender aware and socially inclusive interventions to advance leadership of women from diverse groups at the local level. Particularly, this was the first local election in two decades and thus, the lack of prior experience in local governance across all newly elected officials, both men and women, is a significant challenge – and opportunity – in building democracy and establishing inclusive local governance, which can advance Nepali women's empowerment and leadership.

However, despite Nepali women's investments of time and energy in agricultural work and increased representations in formal public decision-making processes, structural factors still limit their productivity, livelihoods, voice and agency in both public and private arenas. Those factors include women's limited mobility due to societal expectation on gender roles and safety concerns, lower literacy rates and social norms that are at the root of the lower education and the devaluation of women's work, and affect women's confidence.⁷ Social norms limit women's engagement in more competitive livelihoods and their ownership over productive assets, especially land ownership,⁸ and access to technology, financial services, information and markets. Women disproportionately share responsibilities of unpaid domestic work and such uneven distribution of responsibilities is a significant constraint on women's economic opportunities and income generation activities.⁹

In this context, the "Accelerating Progress Towards Economic Empowerment of Rural Women" joint programme (JP RWEE), initiated in 2015, with four UN agencies – UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP – aims to advance rural women's empowerment in the context of new federal and local government structures through supporting the Ministry of Agricultural, Land Management and Cooperatives (MoALMC)¹⁰ for the gender responsive implementation of the Agriculture Development Strategy.

Summary of results achieved by 2017:

While the JP RWEE was launched in Nepal in 2015, the start-up of actual implementation was delayed because of the Nepal earthquakes and uncertainty in political situations in the country in 2015. The full-fledged implementation of the JP began at the end of February 2016. The programme was implemented in three districts (Sindhuli, Sarlahi and Rautahat) under the leadership of the former Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD). By the end of 2017, 3,622 rural women farmers (38.49 per cent Janajati, 26.65 per cent Madhesi, 22.19 per cent Brahmin/Chhetri, 7.70 per cent Dalit and 4.97 per cent Muslim) were supported by the JP RWEE. The cumulative results achieved by 2017 include:

- 3,622 rural women in total (25 women added in 2017) enhanced agriculture production skills and knowledge through kitchen gardening and commercial fresh vegetable farming;
- As of 2017, 158 women farmers' groups were formed (one group added in 2017) with the support

⁷ FAO (2017). *Gender Assessment in Agriculture Sector*, forthcoming

⁸ The proportion of households in which women owned land increased from 10.8 per cent in 2001 to 20 per cent in 2011.

⁹ The 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61), 2017, Agreed Conclusions, available at <http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/61/csw-conclusions-61-vcvb.pdf?la=en&vs=5452>

¹⁰ On 23 February 2018, the Government of Nepal announced its decision on the restructuring and repositioning of federal line ministries. The number of ministries was reduced from 31 to 18. The former Ministry of Agricultural Development is now merged with Land Management and Cooperatives, and became the Ministry of Agricultural, Land Management and Cooperatives.



of the JP RWEE;

- A total of 93 rural women's groups (12 groups in 2016 and 81 groups added in 2017), out of 158 formed under the JP RWEE, were registered at the District Agriculture Development Office and now have opportunities to access the Government's support programmes on agricultural development;
- 155 rural women's groups, out of 158 formed, accumulated USD 28,841.63 from group saving schemes in 2017;
- 2,792 rural women earned a total of USD 147,466.11 by selling vegetables in local markets in 2017;
- 1,837 rural women were provided with short-term employments through various cash for assets activities such as construction of irrigation facilities and fish ponds in 2016;
- Three community agriculture extension service centres were constructed in three districts to provide agriculture and livestock related services to rural women and community people in 2016;
- 602 rural women enhanced their knowledge and understanding on women's human rights and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) responsive approaches in 2016; and
- A GESI strategy of the Agriculture Development Strategy was developed in 2016 and endorsed by the former MoAD (now MoALMC) in 2017 with the technical and coordination support of the JP RWEE.

Priorities of the implementation from June 2018-September 2019:

With an analysis of the lesson learnt, results achieved in 2017 and recent new restructuring in the country's governance system, the JP RWEE in Nepal will focus on **"empowerment of rural women in the context of the federalism in Nepal"** during this funding period. The JP RWEE continues to take a holistic and comprehensive approach to collectively work with rural women farmers, building on foundational results achieved through the JP by the end of 2017. During this programme cycle from June 2018 to September 2019, the JP RWEE aims to:

- Provide follow-up/advanced technical and material support to further strengthen the agriculture production capacity of rural women farmers (**Enhancement of technical capacity of rural women including enhanced knowledge on nutrition sensitive activities and disaster preparedness**);
- Establish a way of commercialization of rural women farmers' agricultural production through provision of facilities and technical skills to have access to the markets outlets (**Increased opportunities to access to markets**);
- Strengthen rural women's leadership capacity to participate in and exercise their leadership over decision-making processes at all level, specifically in the context of the new local governance structure (**Leadership capacity of rural women to effectively work with and benefit from the new local government system**); and
- Engage families of the rural women farmers in the change process for a more gender responsive environment in families and communities, utilizing rural women's economic empowerment as an entry point (**Changes in social norms and behaviours**).

More descriptions of proposed interventions are provided in the section 3 on "Description of activities by component" and Annex 1: Work Plan.

2. Project area and target groups

Given a short programme cycle and size of the available funding for this round, the JP RWEE in Nepal will narrow down its geographic focus from the previous three districts (Sindhuli, Sarlahi and Rautahat) to two focused districts (Sarlahi and Rautahat) in Province 2 of the new federal administrative structure. According to the Gender Development Index, these two districts are much behind of other districts in terms of women's empowerment. Occurrence of traditional harmful socio-cultural practices is also still high in the two districts such as child marriage, dowry among others. In addition, the selected two districts are among the topmost districts in Terai region severely affected by a flood in 2017, which accounted for 40 per cent



(equivalent to USD 23 million) of the total loss occurred in the agriculture sector. Planned interventions will directly support 2,330 rural women farmers who are existing JP RWEE participants in the two focused districts, aiming at deepening the impact of results/changes which are envisaged as a result of the RWEE's support. The intervention will ensure both quantitative and qualitative changes in the lives of rural women in Sarlahi and Rautahat districts and engage families of the 2,330 rural women and community members in the change process. It aims to involve and influence a total of 12,349 family members of rural women including 1,000 men and boys. In addition, the design and scope of technical support to rural women farmers will include a strong focus to build their capacity as a trainer or coach who can transfer their knowledge and skills to other rural women farmers who are not direct participants of the JP RWEE. It is estimated that each JP RWEE participant will share their knowledge and skills learned and acquired through the JP RWEE to at least 10 other rural women (the second tier) in their respective communities. The sharing and transfer of knowledge in informal formats such as personal interactions among individuals, have been already observed in some communities in the previous phases, and the JP RWEE will further encourage rural women farmers such knowledge and skills transfer to happen in the field. It will also request district level agricultural offices to provide opportunities for interactions among JP RWEE participants and non-participants through the local government led agriculture development related meetings. The JP RWEE will track the record of the second-tier JP beneficiaries to support, facilitate and monitor the extent of knowledge/technology transfer by the JP RWEE participants.

3. Description of activities by component

Outcome 1: Improved food and nutrition security of rural women farmers

A focus of the planned intervention under Outcome 1 is to further strengthen technical capacity of rural women farmers on agriculture production with enhanced knowledge and skills, and access to technologies, in order to sustain and expand the results achieved by the end of 2017. In line with this, women farmers' groups will be supported to enhance and consolidate their knowledge and skills on kitchen gardening with the provision of agriculture inputs support and establishment of community nurseries. Nutrition education will be also provided to rural women farmers along with information on diversified food consumption patterns and dietary practices in households, by developing and utilizing a nutrition education and nutritive profile of local foods in the two districts. Considering the target districts are disaster prone and the agricultural production and nutrition status can be severely affected by natural disasters, awareness raising events on nutrition as well as disaster preparedness will be also organized with rural women farmers. More importantly, the JP continues its focus to reduce the additional work load of rural women farmers (emerged due to the out-migration of rural youth and men) by providing drudgery reduction farm tools and training with on the use of such tools. Drudgery reduction farm tools will support rural women farmers to reduce their working time spent in farm activities and other unpaid domestic work so that they can invest more time in income generation and entrepreneurial activities.

Programme interventions under Outcome 1 will be implemented by FAO and WFP.

Outcome 2

This Outcome will intensify its intervention towards creating opportunities to generate incomes and support their livelihoods through commercialization of kitchen gardening activities which originally aimed to support subsistence farming for rural women's food security and nutrition. In order to support the commercial vegetable farming, plastic tunnels will be installed for off-season vegetable production to ensure the stable supply of vegetables to the market. The programme will also support for the construction of small and micro irrigation facilities for sustained production and supply of crop commodities. To ensure the sustainable organized production and income generation, interested rural women farmers' groups will be motivated and facilitated to organize themselves into multipurpose cooperatives and their institutional capacity to manage the cooperatives will be enhanced through technical support. In addition, the cooperatives will be registered to and bridged with the local level cooperative institutions for sustained



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support services (Reference to Outcome 3).

In addition, interested 30 members of the women's groups of the two districts will be trained on agro-vet operation and management complying with government requirement. This training will enable trained women farmers to register in the government system and allow them to operate the agro-vet services commercially.

One of the key challenges of small farmers is to have access to the proper market structure where they can bring their surplus produce for sale as well as the lack of knowledge to undertake marketing activities. The proposed activities under Outcome 2 therefore support the establishment of small scale market infrastructure and capacity building with rural women farmers on marketing skills necessary for the vegetable commercialization. Through WFP's Cash for Assets scheme, necessary market infrastructure (a market outlet) will be constructed with relevant technical support to rural women farmers. A total of 300 rural women will get short term wage employment through their engagement in the construction, and once constructed, the market outlet will also provide more sustainable wage employment opportunities to rural women farmers as facility care takers and shop keepers. The asset aims to facilitate close linkages between rural women farmers and available local markets, and ensure more sustainable income generation opportunities with more than 2,000 rural women in two districts.

Through the Cash for Training activities, the 300 rural women will also benefit from a learning opportunity to various skill sets needed for them to start marketing their produce. These training will focus on business literacy, marketing skills and microfinance. Such skill development initiatives through Cash for Training are planned to support women to access markets to sell their vegetable production hence increase their income in a sustainable manner.

The interventions under this Outcome will be implemented by FAO and WFP.

Outcome 3

The proposed support focuses on the development of rural women farmers' individual and collective leadership capacity, which will be a foundational asset to help their participation in decision-making at all levels. The intervention aims to develop leadership competency and confidence within and among rural women farmers' groups and coach them on how to effectively advocate for policy actions to support their empowerment. It will also establish a way to link those women's voice with local government bodies and representatives, and other community-based decision-making bodies to mobilize available public and community resources to address issues of rural women farmers. This support is extremely timely and critical in the context of Nepal's current transition to the new federal and local government structures. While the overall architecture of the new governance system was confirmed and decision-making authorities were delegated to the local and provincial levels, there are still many uncertainties and lack of clarity, especially on how the new governance system actually operates in the field. As part of the restructuring, many line ministries closed, merged or restructured their district-level offices, which used to serve as an window for rural women farmers' to access to information, government's services and resources. The JP RWEE will help rural women farmers improve their understanding on new local governance system, relevant local governance laws, policies and programmes, and develop their capacity to engage in new local decision-making processes. It will also leverage the Government of Nepal's Right to Information (RTI) services to raise awareness among rural women farmers on the importance of the power to have access to information and motivate them to utilize the RTI for women's empowerment and leadership. This can promote and facilitate rural women's awareness and access to the available public services and resources such as local budget allocations, information, programmes and services on agriculture development, nutrition, health among others. Formalization of rural women's groups through their registration in the municipality will continue during this programme period as it was seen effective to allow rural women farmers to receive the public support services and financial schemes.



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In addition to support rural women farmers' participation and leadership in formal and political decision-making processes, the JP RWEE will also work with rural women farmers and their family members to bring about positive behaviour changes from the household level. The main focus will be to analyze and influence power relations among rural women and their families, and to engage family members in the change process, by taking women's economic empowerment as an entry point. This is an innovative household-based approach to deepen the impact and scale of women's empowerment and build support from all family members for sustainability. For this purpose, the JP RWEE in Nepal will adopt IFAD's household methodologies to enable rural women and their family members to work together to improve relations and decision-making, to achieve more equitable workloads and to have an inclusive family vision to strengthen the overall well-being of the household and all its members. The household methodologies inspire new visions for livelihood development, builds creativity, internalizes participatory, listening and leadership skills of women and men, creates new cultural norms, forms new friendship and networks between women and men – all these are crucial in enhancing sustainability and long term impact of the JP RWEE. The household methodologies intervention will have a total outreach of 250 households within the project duration. The targeting process will follow a phased approach with a peer to peer learning scheme. An initial set of 50 rural households living in situation of poverty and food insecurity will be trained as champions. They themselves will reach out and train at least four other peers others in their communities. Given the context of feminization of agriculture, households headed by women and young women will be given a priority.

This component will be implemented by UN Women, IFAD and FAO.

Outcome 4

In order to generate the evidence base for the further policy advocacy to ensure continuous commitments and support from the Government of Nepal for GESI responsive agriculture development, the JP RWEE will conduct an endline survey by measuring the RWEE results with the women's empowerment in agriculture index (WEAI) from March-June 2019. The WEAI is an innovative methodology which allows to measure women's empowerment across different dimensions, comparing it to that of men. The WEAI will contribute to the JP final evaluation by enriching the programme endline information and provide detailed information as to the dimensions of empowerment supported by programme interventions. The process of WEAI will include survey adaptation, field visits, data cleansing and analysis.

Currently, the final shape of the federal government structure (line ministries), its new distribution of responsibilities and operational and administrative procedures to work with new established local government bodies are still in the process of finalization and confirmation. It is expected to take more time to confirm clarity in the new governance system and make it fully operational. Considering such a circumstance, the JP RWEE will not have the direct technical interventions with the federal ministries during this funding period, while maintaining close coordination and communication with the MoALMC and other relevant offices to ensure their engagement and ownership on the strategic direction and positioning of the JP RWEE. The strategy and possible scope of the policy advocacy/advisory support can be determined once the new federal government structure is confirmed.

This component will be implemented by IFAD. In addition, UN Women will lead joint field monitoring, reporting and final evaluation that will take into account the results from the WEAI.

More details of activities is provided in Annex 1 (workplan):

Activity Description	Location	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Activity cost in USD	Lead Agency
Outcome 1: Improved food and nutrition security				

1. Provision of training and technical support on kitchen gardening	Sarlahi and Rautahat	96 groups (2,330 rural women farmers)	9,000	FAO
2. Provision of technical and material support on community nursery establishment		2,330 rural women farmers	35,000	FAO
3. Provision of on-the-spot training on critical steps of crop management		1,000 rural women farmers	5,000	FAO
4. Provision of rural women farmers with nutrition education (incl. development of nutritive profile for local foods, promotion of diversified diet through demonstration of recipe development, development and distribution of behaviors change communication materials, awareness raising events on nutrition including capacity development of rural women on disaster preparedness and response)		96 rural women farmers' groups (200 rural women to be selected for intensive training)	41,000 (FAO: 25,000 WFP: 16,000)	FAO WFP
5. Provision of drudgery reduction farm tools/equipment and training (propelled paddy/wheat harvester 3 sets, corn/zao planter 30 sets, paddy/wheat mini thresher 5 sets, corn thresher 20 sets, and potato planter 2 sets)		50 sets (for 50 rural women farmers' groups)	20,000	FAO
Outcome 2: Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods				
6. Provision of technical support to upgrade 48 rural women's groups engaged in kitchen gardening into commercial farmers	Sarlahi and Rautahat	48 groups (1,165 rural women farmers)	11,500	FAO
7. Establishment of plastic tunnels for off-season vegetable production		48 groups (1,165 rural women farmers)	17,000	FAO
8. Provision of post-harvest management and market linkage training		50 women farmers (selected from 48 rural women's groups)	3,200	FAO
9. Construction of small and micro irrigation schemes		20 units (for 400 rural women farmers)	27,000	FAO
10. Provision of technical assistance for designing and construction of a market outlet		One unit benefiting 2,330 rural women	96,056	WFP
11. Formulation and operationalization of a farmers' market management committees in coordination with respective municipalities and capacity development on operation and management of market outlets		Two committees	8,191	WFP
12. Provision of agro-vet establishment training	30 women farmers	17,000	FAO	
13. Provision of short-term wage employment and training opportunities for rural women under Cash for Assets/Training initiatives	300 rural women for 30 workdays employment	36,809	WFP	
Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes				



14. Provision of leadership development support (training, coaching, facilitation for coalition/network building) to rural women at the local level	Sarlahi and Rautahat	2,330 rural women farmers	74,963	UN Women
15. Provision of awareness raising and sensitization training to relevant local government representatives and officials on issues of GESI in the context of women in agriculture		1,500 rural women farmers	40,000	UN Women
16. Organization of district-level policy dialogues among rural women farmers and local governments		Two events (one in each district)	35,000	UN Women
17. Registration of remaining rural women's groups in local government offices		23 rural women's groups	2,534	FAO
18. Formation and Registration of Multipurpose cooperatives from the existing groups		Two cooperatives	3,000	FAO
19. Roll-out of household methodology to enhance voice and equitable participation of women and men at all levels		250 rural women and their family members	70,000	IFAD
Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women				
20. Conducting project endline survey through Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI), to be included as part of the final evaluation	Sarlahi and Rautahat	TBC	90,000	IFAD
Monitoring and Evaluation				
21. Conducting joint field monitoring visit and final evaluation of the programme	Sarlahi and Rautahat	N/A	50,000	UN Women

4. Implementation approach

In the context of the current federalism structures, the JP RWEE's implementation approach will consider both the federal and local level programme implementation. At the federal level, the JP RWEE team will work in close partnership with the MoALMC. The Programme Steering Committee (PSC), chaired by the Secretary of the MoALMC will be a federal level mechanism responsible for providing the strategic guidance and monitoring for the overall programme implementation. In light of the recently adopted decentralized local governance structure, local programme committees will be formed with key local government representatives, relevant officials of local-level government offices, partners of participating agencies and other local stakeholders. The local programme coordination committees will serve as a platform to maintain the closer engagement of the local governments in the project implementation and field monitoring, ensure the smooth coordination and inter-linkages among similar interventions in the fields and inform issues in the field to the federal-level PSC.

The existing JP RWEE working group (WG) of four UN agencies will hold meeting regularly to provide guidance on programme implementation and to support the PSC. The WG is led by UN Women and meets regularly to discuss progress of the JP RWEE and to discuss and address emerging issues and challenges. As practiced in 2016 and 2017, a full-time Programme Officer, deployed by UN Women, will play a role of National Coordinator and continue to serve as an in-country focal point of the coordination and quality



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assurance of the JP implementation among four participating agencies. The National Coordinator will also function as a main communication window with Global Coordinator and be in charge of smooth interactions and information exchanges such as periodic reporting and inputs to global communication efforts, between the country and global level initiatives. UN Women has committed to explore additional resources from other funding sources to fill a financial gap to cover the human resource expenses of a full-time personnel. In addition, the Programme Specialist/Head of Economic Empowerment Unit of UN Women, will also provide management guidance and support for the quality assurance of the joint implementation.

In the districts, FAO will hire district-level technical experts primarily to support the implementation of the FAO component. In addition, they will also be coordinating the overall field implementation of the JP RWEE assigned to the local implementing partners and service providers. UN Women will provide the sensitization training with district-level technical experts on GESI and major issues of women's economic empowerment in Nepal. A simple field monitoring form will be developed with the support of Monitoring and Evaluation Officers of each agency, for technical experts to help the field data and information collection to track the progress. Technical experts will report the status of field progress to National Coordinator in a monthly basis. They will also ensure that the programme components all four participating agencies are well coordinated and integrated in the programme districts.

5. Justification for the intervention

By the end of March 2018, the JP RWEE supported 3,622 rural women farmers on agriculture production through kitchen gardening, commercial fresh vegetable production, livestock development, construction of community assets and capacity strengthening through the leadership trainings. At the policy level, the JP RWEE also supported the former MoAD in formulation and timely endorsement of a GESI strategy of the Agriculture Development Strategy. These initiatives have brought positive changes in the lives of rural women in the three districts. The women are now economically empowered and confident in earning their livelihoods and raising their voices on their rights at the local level. These changes have also benefitted their families in meeting day-to-day basic needs. The advocacy campaign that was officially launched in January 2018, also contributes to the engagement of the federal and local decision-makers in policy dialogues to look into and address issues and challenges of rural women farmers including discriminatory social norms, such as uneven distribution of unpaid domestic work, which hinder rural women's economic advancement and empowerment. The campaign activities also involve and encourage rural women farmers to record and share their experiences and opinions on issues by mobilizing local media and other ICT tools. This will create a base of knowledge exchange among rural women farmers for their collective learning and advocacy.

Building on the foundational gains in rural women farmers' technical, economic and leadership capacities, the JP RWEE in Nepal, in this funding round (June 2018 to September 2019), will focus to develop self-sustainability with existing RWEE rural women farmers' groups. It will also further strengthen rural women farmers' technical capacity to transfer their knowledge and skills to other women in their communities beyond the framework of the JP. In order to build self-sustainability, commercialization and formalization of agriculture production will play a key role to increase income generation and economic opportunities with rural women farmers for a longer term. For this purpose, the JP RWEE will facilitate rural women farmers' access to local markets and continue to support registration of their farmers' groups in relevant local government bodies. Market outlets to be constructed under the JP RWEE will also add a value to self-sustainability of rural women farmers' economic opportunities not only by providing a venue to sell their products but also by creating long-term employment opportunities for rural women to work at market outlets. Mobilization of locally available public resources such as the budget allocations to rural women's economic and agriculture activities is another strong way to support increased self-sustainability of rural women farmers' economic empowerment through securing financing options beyond the life time of the JP RWEE. As both districts are disaster-prone such as floods, disaster preparedness and response training will enhance rural women's capacity to mitigate risks of negative impacts on their livelihoods in case of natural



disasters. The new decentralized local governance structure has provided the increased decision-making power to the local governments for budget/resource allocations, and, therefore, a window of opportunities for rural women farmers to tap into public resources is widening. In order to seize the momentum, the JP RWEE particularly focuses on building the leadership of rural women farmers and assists to establish a way or mechanism to link their voice to local decision-making processes. Collective leadership will also be built through coalition building, networking, and exchange of their learnings and experiences to strengthen rural women's ability in effective policy advocacy at the local level.

6. Sustainability

The JP RWEE embedded its strategy for self-sustainability of the programme results in a set of proposed activities for this funding round. A combination of commercialization and formalization of rural women's agriculture productions, and their leadership and participation to tap into political commitments, policy support and available public resources for their empowerment will contribute to achievement of deeper programme impact and increased self-sustainability of the rural women's agriculture and economic activities. Please also refer section '5. Justification for the intervention' for more detailed explanation of the proposed strategy. The JP RWEE will continue its support to the same beneficiaries in Sarlahi and Rautahat districts to ensure the sustainability of results achieved in 2016 and 2017 in these districts. The proposed activities will have a strong emphasis on close engagement of the federal and local governments in the planning, implementation and monitoring through their leadership and participation in the PSC at the federal level and local programme committees at the local level. Especially, in view of the new local governance structure where the local governments are given the primary responsibility of local level planning, budgeting and programme implementation, local programme committees will play a key role to align the JP RWEE with priorities of local level agriculture development and women's empowerment programmes. This will also contribute to fostering the sense of ownership among relevant local governments to ensuring long term sustainability of the JP results.

While the programme intervention itself include a strong focus to build self-sustainability for this round, the JP RWEE in Nepal will also intensify in-country resource mobilization efforts to continue the RWEE interventions for a longer term with a wider coverage of geographic locations and/or rural women farmers. For example, with the limited funding available at this moment, the JP RWEE focuses only in two districts (Sarlahi and Rautahat), out of the original three districts (Sindhuli, Sarlahi and Rautahat), as they are more prone to natural disasters, especially floods. However, the shared interest among the JP RWEE team in Nepal is to continue the programme interventions for at least a few agriculture production cycles to ensure sufficient time for rural women farmers to internalize and practice their learnings and prepare them ready to transfer their knowledge to other rural women farmers. For the in-country resource mobilization, at least one round table meeting, chaired by the MoALMC, will be organized in 2018 with potential in-country donors to pitch for the additional funding, which will be followed by bi-lateral discussions with specific donors who show any interests for further discussions. The WG is in a discussion to update key communication materials for in-country donors, in close coordination with respective resource mobilization focal points of each agency. Participating UN agencies will also explore possibilities to allocate the budget from other funding sources to fill the resource gap for the expanded and deeper outreach. The programme implementation will be replicated and expanded in other districts once the resources are mobilized by the JP RWEE team at the country level.

7. Monitoring & Evaluation

The results of the JP RWEE will be monitored against relevant indicators as set in the global programme document and country Performance Monitoring Framework by setting annual milestones and results will be reported in a bi-annual basis. The JP will also conduct scheduled field monitoring visits and quarterly progress reviews. The key findings from field visits, progress reviews will be backed up with data and



Information from technical experts in the field and partners' reports. FAO will hire technical experts in the two programme districts. As practiced in 2017, these experts will directly coordinate with the National Coordinator on data collection, analysis and reporting on the JP progress in the field. A monitoring committee will be formed including the monitoring and evaluation officer from each participating agency. The monitoring committee will work closely with the WG under the JP. The track record of the implementation of IFAD's household methodologies with rural women farmers and their households can be utilized to monitor, collect and record evidence of qualitative changes in rural women's livelihoods development and their leadership capacities, and household level positive changes.

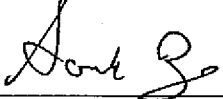

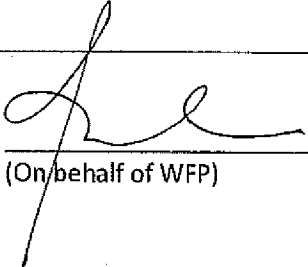

The joint monitoring visits along with the federal government representatives will also be organized by participating agencies in the districts. The local programme coordination committees (described above) will serve as a platform to maintain the closer engagement of the local governments in the programme implementation and field monitoring, ensure the smooth coordination and inter-linkages among similar interventions in the fields and inform issues in the field to the federal-level PSC in a timely manner. The allocation of budget for the monitoring and evaluation in this work plan, will support the JP to maintain robust monitoring mechanism throughout the programme implementation. An independent final evaluation will be carried out in the second quarter of 2019.

Lessons learned from the field and evidence of positive changes (quantitative and qualitative) will be shared with the PSC and local programme coordination committees to help their strategic guidance over the JP implementation. A sharing workshop/meeting to be chaired by the MoALMC will be organized as part of the in-country resource mobilization efforts with potential donors and stakeholders working on rural women's economic empowerment, especially on women in agriculture. Respective UN agencies will also utilize the data, information and other materials to develop communication materials to be utilized their respective corporate communication channels for visibility and knowledge sharing.

8. Budget

PROGRAMME BUDGET BY AGENCY					
CATEGORY	FAO	IFAD	WFP	UN WOMEN	TOTAL
Staff and Other Personnel Cost (up to 10% of the total budget)	25,000	18,000	16,547	20,000	79,547
Supplies, Commodities, Materials	109,034	0	83,240	1,000	193,274
Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
Contractual Services	18,200	142,800	26,000	192,963	379,963
Travel	8,000	14,434	1,960	2,000	26,394
Transfers and Grants Counterparts	0		36,809	0	36,809
General Operating and Other Direct Costs	5,000		11,500	6,000	22,500
Total Programme Costs	175,234	175,234	176,056	221,963	748,487
Indirect Support Costs (max. 7%)	12,266	12,266	11,444 (6.5%)	15,537	51,513
Budget to be covered by the MPTF for 2018-2019	187,500	187,500	187,500	237,500	800,000

9. Names and signatures of participating UN organizations

 <hr/> <p>(On behalf of FAO)</p>	Name: Somsak Pipoppinyo Title: Representative Date: 11 May 2018
 <hr/> <p>(On behalf of IFAD)</p>	Name: Lakshmi Moola Title: County Programme Manager Date: 11 May 2018
 <hr/> <p>(On behalf of WFP)</p>	Name: Pippa Bradford Title: Representative and Country Director Date: 11 May 2018
 <hr/> <p>(On behalf of UN Women)</p>	Name: Wenny Kusuma Title: Representative Date: 11 May 2018



ANNEX I: Workplan

Please fill the below workplan with activities linked to the specific Outputs:

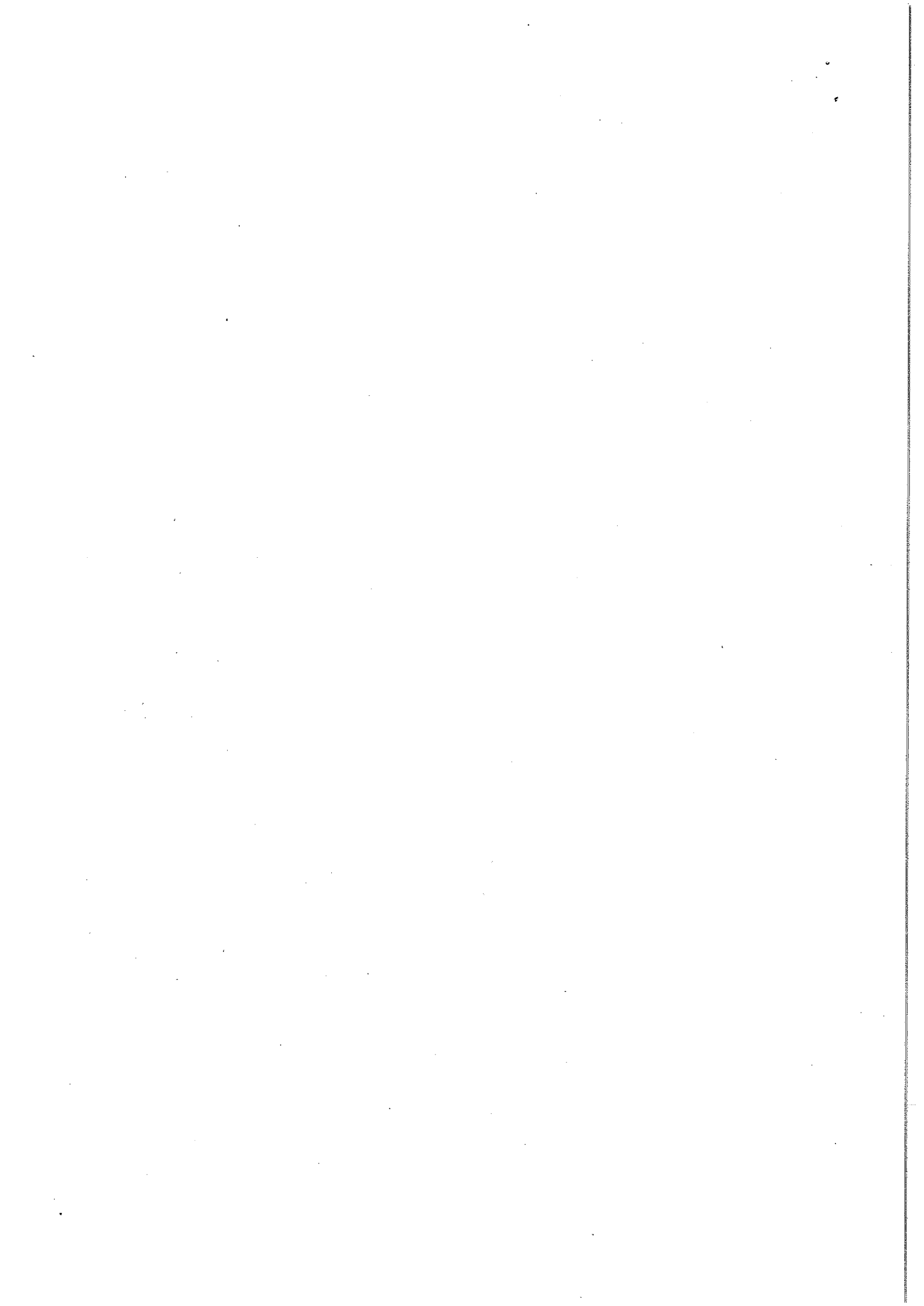
Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
Output 1.1: Rural women have increased access to and control over resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security						
1.1 % of increase in agriculture production of women farmers		2,330 rural women farmers	July 2018 - September 2019	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	N/A
1.2 Increase in rural women's dietary diversity or variety of households food consumption patterns		2,330 rural women farmers and their family members			FAO and WFP	N/A
Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production						
1.1.1 Provision of training and technical support on kitchen gardening	1.1.1 Number of rural women farmers who have access to integrated agriculture/nutrition services	96 groups (2,330 rural women farmers)	July 2018 - August 2019		FAO	9,000
1.1.2 Provision of technical and material support on community nursery establishment		2,330 rural women farmers	July 2018 - August 2019		FAO	35,000
1.1.3 Provision of on-the-spot training on critical steps of crop management		1,000 rural women farmers	July 2018 - August 2019		FAO	5,000
Provision of rural women farmers with nutrition education	1.1.2 Number of rural women farmers who utilize improved agriculture production techniques	96 rural women farmers' groups (200 rural women to be selected for focused interventions by WFP)	November 2018 - April 2019	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO/WFP	41,000 (FAO: 25,000 WFP: 16,000)
Provision of drudgery reduction farm tools/equipment and training	1.1.3 Number of rural women accessing community assets and agriculture infrastructures	50 sets (for 50 rural women farmers' groups)	July 2018 - August 2019		FAO	20,000
Output 1.2: Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production						
No activities are proposed by the JP RWEE in Nepal under Output 1.2.						
Output 2.1: Increase of rural women's income generated from their sales markets and other sources						
2.1 Increase of rural women's income generated from their sales markets and other sources		2,330 rural women farmers	July 2018 - September	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	N/A

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
2.2 Proportion of rural women farmers with empowerment in the income domain of the WEAI (increased control over income) – to be assessed part of the endline survey/Final Evaluation	2.1.1 Number of rural women farmers trained on entrepreneurial and/or vocational skills to have increased access to markets	2,330 rural women farmers	2019		IFAD	N/A
Output 2: Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products						
Provision of technical support to upgrade 48 rural women's groups in kitchen gardening into commercial farmers	2.1.1 Number of rural women farmers trained on entrepreneurial and/or vocational skills to have increased access to markets	48 rural women's groups (1,165 rural women farmers)	July 2018 – August 2019		FAO	11,500
Establishment of plastic tunnels for off-season vegetable production		48 units (1,165 rural women farmers)	July 2018 – August 2019		FAO	17,000
Provision of post-harvest management and market linkage training		50 women farmers (selected from 48 rural women farmers' groups)	July 2018 – August 2019		FAO	3,200
Construction of small and micro irrigation schemes		20 units (for 400 rural women farmers)	July 2018 – August 2019		FAO	27,000
Provision of technical assistance for designing and construction of a market outlet		One unit benefiting 2,330 rural women farmers	November 2018 – January 2019	Sarlahi and Rautahat	WFP	96,056
Formulation and operationalization of a farmers' market management committees in coordination with respective municipalities and capacity development on operation and management of market outlets		Two committees	January- March 2019		WFP	8,191
Provision of training opportunities for rural women under Cash for Training initiatives		300 rural women	December 2018 – January 2019		WFP	Ref. Output 2.2
Output 2.2 Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities						
Provision of agro-vet establishment training	2.2.1 Number of rural women farmers who entered wage employment with the support of the JP RWEE	30 women farmers	November - December 2018		FAO	17,000
Provision of short-term wage employment opportunities for rural women under Cash		300 rural women for 30 workdays employment	December 2018 –	Sarlahi and Rautahat	WFP	36,809

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
for Assets initiatives			January 2019			
Output 3.1 Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions						
3.1 % of rural women elected as representative at local-level/community-level committees		2,330 rural women farmers			UN Women	N/A
3.2 % of producers organizations led by women		2,330 rural women farmers	July 2018 - September 2019	Sarlahi and Rautahat	UN Women	N/A
3.3 Proportion of rural women farmers with empowerment in the leadership domain of the WEAL (increased decision-making) – to be assessed part of the endline survey/Final Evaluation		2,330 rural women farmers			IFAD	N/A
Output 3.1 Rural women, including young women, have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance						
Provision of leadership development support (training, coaching, facilitation for coalition/network building) to rural women at the local level	3.1.1 Number of rural women farmers who participated in the local policy discussions and/or formal decision-making processes	2,330 rural women farmers	August 2018 - August 2019	Sarlahi and Rautahat	UN Women	74,963
Organization of district-level policy dialogues among rural women farmers and local governments – Ref. Output 4.1		100 rural women farmers through two events (one in each district)	TBC		UN Women	35,000
Output 3.2 Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate into POs, cooperatives and unions						
Registration of remaining rural women's groups in local government offices	3.1.1 Number of rural women's groups who join formally registered cooperatives or registered themselves in relevant local government offices	23 rural women's groups	August – December 2018	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	2,534
Formation and Registration of Multipurpose cooperatives from the existing groups		Two cooperatives	August – December 2018	Sarlahi and Rautahat	FAO	3,000
Output 3.3 Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels						
No activities are proposed by the JP RWEE in Nepal under Output 3.3. However, selected rural women farmers can be invited or engaged in a national level public hearing event which will be organized in the second half of 2018 through UN Women's advocacy campaign on women's economic empowerment and leadership.						
Output 3.4 Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment						
Provision of awareness raising and sensitization training to relevant local	3.4.1 Number of rural women are aware of women's	1,500 rural women	August 2018- August 2019	Sarlahi and Rautahat	UN Women	40,000

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
government representatives and officials on issues of GESI in the context of women in agriculture	human rights and GESI responsive approaches					
Roll-out of household methodology to enhance voice and equitable participation of women and men at all levels	3.4.2 Number of families/households mobilized and increased their awareness and support to rural women's economic empowerment	500 rural women and their family members	August 2018- August 2019		IFAD	70,000
Outcome 4: A more gender-responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women						
4.1 % of government budgets and development projects/funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women						
Output 4.1 Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets						
Organization of district-level policy dialogues among rural women farmers and local governments (Ref. Output 3.1)	4.1.1 Number of local government representatives/officials who enhanced their knowledge on issues of rural women farmers	100 rural women farmers through two events (one in each district)	July 2018 - September 2019	Sarlahi and Rautahat	UN Women	N/A
Output 4.2 Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women						
Conduct project endline survey through Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)	4.2.1 Number of countries where the "women's empowerment agriculture index" is piloted	N/A	August 2018- August 2019	Sarlahi and Rautahat	UN Women	Ref. Output 3.1
Output 4.3 An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes						
No activities are proposed by the JP RWEE in Nepal under Output 4.3.						

Activity description	Related indicator	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Timeframe	Place of implementation	Lead Agency	Activity cost
Joint monitoring, coordination and final evaluation						
Conduct joint monitoring visits, coordination meetings and the final evaluation	N/A	N/A	July 2018 - September 2019	Sarlahi and Rautahat	UN Women	50,000
Sub-total: Activity costs						692,253
Sub-total: Direct general programme management and operating costs						56,234
Total programme costs (activity costs + direct general programme management and operating costs)						
Total programme sub-program costs (same as 4)						748,487
Grand Total						51,513
Grand Total						800,000



RWEE MDTF

COUNTRY: Nepal

PROGRAMME BUDGET (amount required this time)					
Category	FAO	IFAD	WFP	UN Women	Total
1. Staff and Other Personnel Cost (max. 10% of the total)	25 000	17 523	16 547	20 000	79 070
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	109 034	0	83 240	1 000	193 274
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	10 000	0	0	0	10 000
4. Contractual Services	18 200	137 711	26 000	192 963	374 874
5. Travel	8 000	20 000	1 960	2 000	31 960
6. Transfers and Grants Counterparts	0	0	36 809	0	36 809
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	5 000	0	11 500	6 000	22 500
Total Programme Costs	175 234	175 234	176 056	221 963	748 487
8. Indirect Support Costs (max. 7%)	12 266	12 266	11 444	15 537	51 514
TOTAL	187 500	187 500	187 500	237 500	800 001

Note: WFP applies 6.5 % of the total programme costs to calculate the indirect support costs. Other three agencies apply 7% to calculate the indirect support costs.

