

**SDG Fund Joint Programme
Final Narrative Report**

Report Formatting Instructions:

- Number all sections and paragraphs as indicated below.
- Format the entire document using the following font: 12point _ Gill Sans MT.

Participating UN Organization(s)	Targeted SDGs
<p>UN Women -Lead Agency WFP FAO</p> <p>Focal Points and Contact Details Resident Coordinator Name: Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie E-mail: ahunna.eziakonwa@one.un.org</p> <p>UNCT contact person for implementation Name: Annett Richter Agency: UN Resident Coordinator's Office Title: Development Effectiveness Specialist E-mail: annett.richter@one.un.org Address: ECA Old Building, 7th Floor, Africa Hall, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</p> <p>Technical team contacts Joint programme coordinator Name: Etagegnehu Getachew Agency: UN Women Title: National Programme Coordinator RWEE JP Email: Etagegnehu.getachew@unwomen.org Phone: +251911678457 Address: UN Women, 2nd Floor, UNDP Regional Service Centre Building, Olympia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</p> <p>JP communications and advocacy focal point Name: Fikirte Abebe Agency: UN Women Title: Communication Knowledge Management Specialist Email: fikerte.abebe@unwomen.org Phone: +251-913-135430 Address: UN Women, 2nd Floor, UNDP Regional Service Centre Building, Olympia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</p>	<p>Please indicate relevant SDGs, indicators and targets</p> <p>Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate technology and financial services, including microfinance <p>Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year around ▪ By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment <p>Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life ▪ Enhance the use of enabling technology, information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

Agency contact points
Contact 1

Name: Ms. Letty Chiwara

Agency: UN Women

Title: Representative to Ethiopia, Africa Union (AU) and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Email: letty.chiwara@unwomen.org

Phone: +251-118-695004

Address: UN Women, 2nd Floor, UNDP Regional Service Centre Building, Olympia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Contact 2

Name: Ms. Fatouma Seid

Agency: FAO

Title: FAO Representative to Ethiopia

Email: fatouma.seid@fao.org

Address: CMC road, Bole Sub City, Kebele12/13, Addis Ababa,

Contact 3

Name: Mr. Steven Were Omamo

Agency: WFP

Title: Representative and Country Director to WFP

Phone: +251 115 515188

Address: Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Final Joint Programme Evaluation

Final Evaluation Completed Yes No

Evaluation Report Attached Yes No

Date of delivery of final report May 30,2018

Joint Programme Timeline

Start date (3 June 2015)

Actual end date (30 April 2018)

Participating national and local partners, private sector and CSOs organisations

- **Federal:** Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA); Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL); Federal Cooperatives Agency, Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC); Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency, Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA), Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute, Farmer Training Centre (FTC), Academic Institution, and Land Administration Agency
- **Regional:** Oromia and Afar Regional and District Level Bureau of Finance and Economic Cooperation (BoFECs); Farmer/Pastoralist Training Centres (F/PTC); Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCAs); Bureaus of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BoANRs); and Bureaus of Cooperative Promotion Agencies and Bureaus of Education,
- **Non-Governmental Organizations:** Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia (SWAA-E) and Organization for Women in Self-employment (WISE)

<p align="center">Joint Programme Title</p> <p>Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment – Rural Women Economic Empowerment Component</p>	<p align="center">Joint Programme Number</p> <p>00091511</p>
<p align="center">Joint Programme Budget</p> <p>SDG Fund Contribution: US\$ 1,500,000</p> <p>Matching Funds Contribution I: US\$ 1,688,256.00</p> <p>TOTAL: US\$ 3,188,256.00</p>	<p align="center">Joint Programme [Location]</p> <p>Country: Ethiopia</p> <p>Region(s): Oromia and Afar Regions</p> <p>District(s): Adamitulu, Jidokombolcha, Dodola, Yayagulele of Oromia and Dubti of Afar.</p>

Acronyms

ATA	Agriculture Transformation Agency
BoWCA	Bureau of Women and Children Affairs
BBS	Basic Business Skills
BDS	Business Development Services
CCs	Community Conversations
CPAs	Cooperative Promotion Agencies
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAs	Development Agents
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCA	Federal Cooperatives Agency
F/PTC	Farmers/Pastoralist Training Centres
IFAL	Functional Adult Literacy
GRB	Gender-Responsive Budgeting
GAAP2	Gender Agriculture and Asset Project
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
HEWs	Health Extension Workers
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
LMP	Livestock master plan
MoAL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MoANR	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
MoFEC	Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation ¹
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NAIF	National Agriculture Investment Framework development
NNP	National Nutrition Programme
P4P	Purchase for Progress
PIF	Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework
PMF	Performance Monitoring Framework
JP RWEE	Joint Program on Rural Women Economic Empowerment
RUSACCOs	Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SWAA-E	Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistant Framework
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WEAI	Women Empowerment Agricultural Index
WISE	Organization for Women in Self-Employment

¹ The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is now changed to Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation.

I. PURPOSE

1. Give an overview of the socio-economical context and the development problems addressed by the programme.

Ethiopia is the second-most populous country in Sub-Saharan Africa with a population of above 94 million with 50 per cent women. Recently, Ethiopia has achieved substantial economic and social progress, with considerable improvements in average incomes, health, and education. The Government of Ethiopia is committed to achieve the middle-income country status by 2025. The second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) (2015/16-2019/20) has set a clear road map, which predominantly focused on export-led industrial development – with agriculture playing a pivotal role.

Despite the many efforts made and visible progress, there are still challenges to tackle to ensure an inclusive development for Ethiopia. Women have not been able to benefit equally from the development growth; Results of the growth have often not been disaggregated by gender, but all indicators still show that women have less access to opportunities in economic empowerment, education and skills development. As a result, they remain the poorest. Cultural, social, and structural challenges for women continue to exist at individual, community, institutional and policy levels hindering women to access gender-responsive services and get empowered in all social, economic and political domains.

The rural parts of Ethiopia, where women form half of the rural population of 75 million, has enormous potential for agricultural development. Only about 25 per cent of its arable land is currently cultivated, mostly by subsistence rain-fed farming along with few inputs and technology resulting in low productivity. Most farmers are smallholder dependent on subsistence agriculture and extremely vulnerable to external shocks such as drought and other natural disasters. Rural women are especially vulnerable as they have limited access to various skills trainings, formal education, innovative agricultural inputs, and finance coupled with limited ownership and control over productive assets and technologies.

With regards to formal education, the overall literacy rate in 2015 was 49.13 per cent and the rate for women was 41.1 per cent. Rural women take the major share of the illiterate women in the country as the available formal education is relatively limited as compared to urban areas. This has affected the capacity of rural women to seize opportunities for growing and diversifying their source of income in addition to the little income they generate from their subsistence agricultural activities.

In Ethiopia, rural women farmers perform on average up to 75 per cent of farm labour but they only own 18.7 per cent of agricultural land and head 20.1 per cent of rural households. Their farms are smaller than men's (0.9 Ha in comparison to 1.03 Ha) and produce 35 per cent less per hectare due to lower levels of input use and less access to extension services. Despite the recent policy initiatives to strengthen the position of women, rural women still have restricted access to agricultural inputs, fertilizers, finance, credit, extension services, technology and information that limit their contribution to household food security and improved income. Inability to build resilience by diversifying their work and build assets to deal with droughts and other shocks due to climate change are among the obstacles that rural women face to lead resilient and sustainable livelihoods.

Evidence suggests that rural women still face individual, community, and institutional barriers to fully exercise their rights. These are further compounded by women limited decision-making power within households, and low levels of formal education. The gender division of labour in the farming system makes women's contribution invisible. Women's labour contribution on farm activities and their reproductive roles that support the farming system are not fairly considered, rather it makes them the secondary earners of the household income. This is due to the customary laws and cultural

practices that are engrained and governed by the social and economic activities of the community. Furthermore, the involvement of rural women in decision-making process related to household income is limited, which aggravates their dependency on their husbands.

The other challenge for women's empowerment are the weak institutional structures, including cooperatives, micro-finance institutions, government bureaus, that results in a limited response to the needs of rural women in Ethiopia. Because of this limited capacity, these institutions are not able to appropriately integrate gender into planning and implementation of activities to support rural women, and a low number of women are available in leadership of such institutions.

In a nutshell, the Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment (JP RWEE) addressed the following major challenges of rural women in Afar and Oromia region by considering the above mentioned socio-economic situation of the country.

- Rural women farmers/pastoralists are ranked lower in society because of patriarchal norms that view women as less than men;
- Rural women have limited access to skills, information, technology, financing and other productive resources (land etc.);
- Rural women face an inability to build resilience by diversifying work and build assets to deal with droughts due to climate change;
- Institutional structures to support women are weak – cooperatives, micro-finance institutions, federal and regional government bureaus are not able to appropriately integrate gender into planning and implementation of policies and programmes to support women, and there are low numbers of women in the leadership of such institutions.

2. List joint programme outcomes and related outputs as per the final approved version of the joint programme document or last agreed revision.

JP Outcome 1: Rural women improve their food security and nutrition

- **JP Output 1.1:** Rural women's access and control management over local food household reserve increased
- **JP Output 1.2:** Rural women's and their household's nutritional status improved

JP Outcome 2: Rural women increase their income to sustain their livelihoods

- **JP Output 2.1:** Women's increased capacity to produce goods with diversified access to local markets
- **JP Output 2.2:** Rural women access to holistic income-generating facilities and to gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services increased
- **JP Output 2.3:** Rural women increased their knowledge and incorporate acquired skills on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and sustainable agriculture techniques
- **Output 2.4:** Rural women have increased access to productive resources (land and agricultural inputs)

JP Outcome 3: Rural women strengthen their voice in decisions that affect their lives

- **JP Output 3.1:** Rural women confidence and leadership skills built to fully participate in rural institutions, cooperatives and unions

JP Outcome 4: Gender responsive policy and institutional environment for women's economic empowerment in place

- **JP Output 4.1.** Agriculture key stakeholders, including relevant government bodies, capacity enhanced to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender sensitive indicators and targets in planning and budgeting

3. Explain the overall contribution of the joint programme to national plans and priorities

JP RWEE was formulated in response to the challenges faced by rural women and the context of Ethiopia's GTP II (2015/16-2019/20). Specific to the agriculture sector's areas of focus, the JP RWEE has contributed to the promotion and adoption of improved agricultural technologies and inputs by smallholder farmers by providing the targeted women with maize sheller, tractor, water pumps, modern beehives and milk processing equipment. Through skills trainings and provision of improved teff, wheat, maize and vegetable seeds, the JP RWEE has also contributed towards increased agricultural production and ensuring food security and nutrition for rural women and their families.

The JP RWEE has also contributed to the specific women sector plan developed by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), which promotes equal participation and benefit of women in the economic, political and social spheres of the country. Through the increased participation and benefit of rural women in income generating activities, leadership committees of their Rural Saving and Credit Cooperatives (RUSACCOs) and household and community level decision making processes.

4. Describe and assess how the programme development partners have jointly contributed to achieve development results

The United Nations agencies (UN Women, FAO and WFP) have jointly contributed towards the realization of JP RWEE results by supporting the JP RWEE with their comparative advantages and experiences in programmes which empowered women in Ethiopia.

FAO has brought its experience in agricultural research, promoting agricultural production, food security, enabling production of a significant amount of quality seed of different crops to improve JP RWEE's interventions on food security and nutrition. Its experience on identification and provision of innovative agricultural inputs and technologies coupled with its rich technical expertise on household food reserve management and control have also contributed in addressing the resource and knowledge gaps of the targeted rural women to increase agricultural production and minimize post-harvest losses.

UN Women has brought its technical expertise on gender mainstreaming in all interventions, including planning, and supporting community mobilization on women's rights through community of practice platforms and coordination mechanism. Its extensive experience on enhancing women's economic and leadership development through business development services, market linkage, provision of time and labour-saving technologies and creating gender-sensitive policies and institutions coupled with its coordination role of the JP RWEE are the contribution of UN Women in making the programme a success.

WFP has brought its rich experience in enhancing the income and social capital of rural women through women cooperatives and women associations and access to income generating and revolving fund schemes. Particularly its experience on P4P (Purchase for Progress) programme in Ethiopia was value adding in strengthening the JP RWEE's intervention on creating access to finance, capacitating women RUSACCOs and social mobilization activities through the Community Conversation (CC) manual adopted from the P4P programme.

The local CSOs, Organization for Women in Self Employment (WISE) and Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia (SWAA-E) were also the development partners for effective implementation of JP RWEE. Specifically, the expertise and good track records of WISE in providing lively and interactive Income Generating Activities (IGAs) package and Basic Business Skills (BBS) trainings has helped the programme to address the skills and knowledge gaps of the targeted women in the area.

The partnership with SWAA-E has also contributed to effectively roll out the JP RWEE's plans to provide time and labour-saving technologies and increase the capacity of government partners for gender-sensitive financial and nonfinancial services for rural women.

Finally, the financial contributions of the Governments of Spain, Sweden and Norway have enabled the JP RWEE to create effective collaboration with government partners and bring all the participating development actors together for rural women's economic empowerment in Ethiopia.

II. ASSESSMENT OF JOINT PROGRAMME RESULTS

1. *What were the key outcomes of the programme? Explain any variance in achieved versus planned results*

Throughout the programme period, covering from 3 June 2015 to 30 April 2018, significant progress was made in realizing the key outcomes of JP RWEE as discussed below.

Outcome 1: Rural women have improved food and nutrition security

In order to improve food and nutrition security of the targeted rural women and their families, capacity building trainings on agricultural production, households' food reserve management and control, cattle fattening, and rearing were conducted. This was coupled with technical support from Development Agents (DAs) and Agriculture and Health Extension Workers (A/HEWs) and the provision of innovative agricultural inputs and technologies. Based on the actual progress made, 80 per cent (1,997; 1,836 in Oromia and 161 in Afar) of the rural women reached (2,500) are now able to feed their households three times per day with a diversified diet i.e. at least three or more groups of food served per meal. Based on the baseline data collected, this result shows an increase considering the average target set for both Oromia and Afar Regions.

Outcome 2: Rural women increased their income to secure their livelihoods

The JP RWEE built on activities which increased rural women's business, entrepreneurship, leadership and literacy skills, created access to market information, gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services, and productive resources (land, time and labour-saving technologies). This resulted in significant progress on income generation from the rural women's IGAs and other livelihood related performance indicators mentioned below.

Out of the total rural women reached by the JP RWEE (2,500), 1,066 rural women (900 in Oromia and 166 in Afar) are now able to create sustainable and diversified income sources which helped them to have personal savings ranging from 400 Birr (14 USD) to 14,000 Birr (508 USD).² These rural women are engaged in individual IGAs that include small ruminants and oxen fattening, irrigation, livestock and crop production, dairy petty trade, sales of handicraft, textile, food and hot drinks (tea, coffee) and transportation services by using mule/donkey and horse carts. The average income of these rural women generated by the sale from their IGAs is reported at 12,000 Birr (435.48 USD) per annum that shows a tremendous increase from the baseline of 9,460.53 Birr (450USD).

Outcome 3: Rural women strengthen their voice in decisions that affect their lives

The holistic and comprehensive approach of JP RWEE, with a particular focus on sustainable social change in communities and within households, has resulted in 53 per cent (1,335) of targeted rural women now able to jointly decide with their spouse on household resources and matters that involve sale of assets like cattle and rental of land. Fifteen per cent (368; 184 in Oromia and 184 in Afar) of rural women to participate in decision-making in rural institutions including their RUSACCOs and

² The exchange rate used for this calculation is 27.5590

women associations. When the programme started, there were no rural women participating in decision-making processes of rural institutions. Hence, the contribution of JP RWEE is significant as compared to the situation of rural women at the start of the programme.

Outcome 4: Gender responsive policy and institutional environment for women's economic empowerment in place

The JP RWEE aimed at building capacity, undertaking research and advocacy in order to influence the policy and institutional environment of the agriculture sector.

Based on the progress made to date in relation to outcome 4, collaborative efforts of the Gender Directorate of Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR)³, the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA), MoWCA and other international organizations⁴, a National Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture was created. The Network is a functioning and enabling structure dedicated to creating gender-responsive agricultural sector policies, strategies and programmes. Through the work of the National Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture, the JP RWEE advocated for discussions with decision and policy makers to make the Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF) (2010-2020) gender-sensitive. The discussion was initiated because all four reviews on the implementation of the PIF, highlighted missing gender indicators and that implementation is not gender-sensitive. In addition, the midterm review (conducted in 2015) found significant gaps, including weak linkage to sub-sector strategies and programmes, such as the Livestock master plan (LMP), the National Nutrition Programme (NNP), Sustainable land management programmes, as well as a weak awareness creation and a failure to properly address “emerging issues”, such as nutrition and climate. These findings resulted in a recommendation to move towards a National Agriculture Investment Framework development (NAIF), which is currently in process as this report is being compiled.

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

2. In what way did the capacities developed during the implementation of the joint programme contribute to the achievement of the outcomes?

Capacity building interventions which aimed at filling the knowledge, skill and system gaps of the targeted rural women, their institutions and those of the government implementing partners were implemented to ensure the empowerment of rural women.

The capacities that the rural women developed on agricultural activities, household food reserve management and control and nutrition enable them to have increased production of their crops (teff, maize, wheat), have an improved household food reserve management practice, improved household dietary intake, which in turn contributed to improved food security and nutrition. The specific capacity building trainings and experience sharing exposures on BBS/entrepreneurship, leadership, saving and

³ We used this name at this paragraph though currently the Ministry of changed to Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

⁴ The international organizations which are members and serving as advisory role in the National Network for Gender Equality: International Livestock Research Institute, International Water Management Institute, Livestock and Irrigation Value Chain for Ethiopian Smallholders Programme, Agriculture Knowledge Learning Documentation and Policy, DFATD/ Global Affairs Canada, Oxfam America, CARE, USAID, GIZ-SLM, Send a Cow, and The Ethiopian Horticulture Producers and Exporters Association.

credit, financial management and Integrated Functional Adult Literacy (IFAL) has also increased the capacity of rural women to have diversified sources of income, increase their average annual income to 12,000 Birr (435.48 USD) per annum from a baseline of 9,460.53 Birr (450USD) and increase their confidence to participate in households decision-making, that involve rental and sales of valuable assets like land and cattle, and in their RUSACCOs leadership committees.

The capacity building on the targeted women RUSACCOs has also increased access to finance for rural women to easily get seed money for their individual and group IGAs. This has also strengthened their social capital for strong bonding and voices in the process of government planning and policy formation. Access to government incentives and opportunities available to encourage and promote group-based businesses is also the other benefit that the targeted women could enjoy through the capacitated RUSACCOs and their social groups.

The increased capacities of government partners and their institutions on gender mainstreaming, gender-responsive budgeting, result-based programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, revolving fund management, agriculture and nutrition have also contributed to effective delivery of programme results and gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services to the targeted rural women. This has also promoted the capacities of governments experts to jointly plan and respond to the needs of rural women.

3. How have outputs contributed to the achievement of the outcomes based on performance indicators and explain any variance in actual versus planned contributions of these outputs. Highlight any institutional and/ or behavioural changes, including capacity development, amongst beneficiaries/right holders.

In order to improve food security and nutrition of the targeted rural women (**Outcome 1**), two programme outputs contributing to increasing access to agricultural services and increase capacity on household food reserve management and nutritious dietary intake were accomplished as discussed below.

Output 1.1: Rural women's control and management over local food household reserves increased

The results that JP RWEE achieved show that the targeted women have increased access and control over resources, assets and services, which is reflected in their improved food and nutrition security. With the trainings provided on household food reserve control and management and the house-to-house technical support provided by DAs, 57 per cent (1,436; 1,326 in Oromia and 110 in Afar) of rural women reached (2,500) are now able to control and manage their household food reserve. Currently, these women are able to plan and sort their current harvest for sale (to generate income for household expenses), consumption and reserve for emergency until the next harvest.

As a result of the trainings provided on pre- and post-harvest management, techniques of crop production, livestock development (dairy production, fattening and breeding of small shoaat animals, farm record and book keeping and importance of farmer cooperatives, 896 rural women (750 in Oromia and 146 in Afar) are further able to utilize improved production techniques including row planting, vegetable gardening, timely weeding, improved techniques for livestock rearing in Afar and following proper timing of fertilizer preparation and application.

In addition, 99 per cent of 2,500 rural women reached (1,964 in Oromia and 500 in Afar) accessed agricultural and health trainings, as well as individualized and group-based agricultural nutrition services from the trained DAs and A/HEWs. This is a very favourable result for the JP RWEE as the initial target was to create access to only 30 per cent of rural women targeted in both regions.

Output 1.2 Rural women's and their household's nutritional status improved

To improve the agricultural productivity and nutrition status of the targeted women and their families, the project supported the access to innovative agricultural inputs and food processing technologies. Until the end of the JP RWEE, 375 rural women have access to such innovative technologies, including water pumps and maize shellers, bee hives and milk processing equipment. All the targeted women in Oromia and Afar were also provided with 45 quintals grain seeds (teff, maize and wheat) and 140 kilograms of vegetable seeds (carrot, cabbage and onion) and 500 apple seedlings. In addition, to diversify their livelihood for food and nutrition security, 16 heifers, 990 fattening goats and 602 sheep were provided to both the 2,500 rural women reached in Afar and Oromia Regions.

Creating access to market (Output 1), to gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services (Output 2), increasing knowledge and skills of rural women (Output 3), and increasing access to productive assets (Land, technology) (Output 4) were the results designed to increase the income of targeted women for sustainable livelihood. Based on the progress made, favourable results which ultimately resulted in increase in the annual average income of targeted women were achieved as discussed below.

Output 2.1 Women's increased capacity to produce goods with diversified access to local markets

Through the various district level efforts, market linkages were created for 1,097 rural women (1,069 in Oromia and 28 in Afar). National and regional level market exposures were also created for 23 rural women from the three targeted districts of Oromia region. This was achieved through the partnership with the Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency and SWAA-E. These women were able to sell their products at both the national exhibition and bazar organized in Addis Ababa⁵ and regional-level pre-Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) ministerial meeting⁶ organized at the African Union compound.

The rural women have also enhanced entrepreneurship skills through business development services (BDS), which helped them to add value, improve packaging, and promote their products for better market opportunities.

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

The efforts aimed at increasing rural women's access to gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services have resulted in 81 per cent of the rural women to benefit from these services. Until the end of the programme, 2,170 rural women (1,836 in Oromia and 334 in Afar) accessed start-up capital/revolving fund ranging from 4,000 to 14,000 ETB (ca. 145-508 USD) for their individual IGAs. From the first-round revolving fund provided to 900 rural women, all of them have repaid their loan and have already reclaimed an additional loan from the RUSACCOs in Oromia region.

The achievement of these results was also due to institutional level capacity building of RUSACCOs and Farmer's Training Centres (FTCs) that were supported with office and training equipment⁷. The government experts from Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCAs) and Cooperative Promotion Agencies (CPAs) were also technically supported to adopt community insurance system for the RUSACCO members' credit, to start different loan terms, group loan system and amount based on the business plan and IGA types of the rural women.

⁵ The first round 7 days' nationwide exhibition and bazaar was organized by the Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency from March 3- March 9, 2017.

⁶ The pre-CSW 62 ministerial meeting was organized at the AU from 21-23 February 2018.

⁷ The targeted RUSACCOs were supported with office supplies that include 11 file cabinet, 55 chairs, 6 safe boxes and 11 tables. Four FTCs in Oromia Region (Adamitulu and Dodola Districts) were also supported with 30 tables, 8 file shelves, 2 black boards, 20 pickaxes, and 20 hand hoes.

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

Through the capacity building interventions of the JP RWEE, great progress has been made to increase rural women's knowledge and skills. A total of 2,253 rural women (1,793 in Oromia and 460 in Afar) participated in trainings on basic business skill, entrepreneurship, revolving fund management and principles of cooperatives. Out of these rural women, 1,943 (1,793 in Oromia and 150 in Afar) additionally strengthened their knowledge and capacities on basic financial and business management, entrepreneurship, saving and credit management and leadership concepts. As a result of the IFAL programme, a total of 901 rural women (864 in Oromia and 37 in Afar) actively participated and out of whom 441 rural women can now identify and read letters and numbers.

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

The JP RWEE took the approach to sensitize relevant government stakeholders on women's rights to land (as integrated in relevant national laws and proclamations) and their inclusion in the joint land certification process currently being implemented by the Government of Ethiopia. However, it was challenging for the JP RWEE to succeed in including the targeted rural women in the joint land certification process. This was due to the conflicting priorities of government with other regions to specifically benefit those women targeted under the JP RWEE. The government's joint land certification initiative is part of the ongoing national efforts to formalize land holdings. It was started in 2003 by recognizing the distinctive challenges faced by women to own and control land jointly with their spouses. The aim of this initiative is to capitalize on the positive development effects of empowering women in the country.

However, the sensitization workshops conducted with relevant government partners coupled with the continuous lobbying and advocacy on women's land right issues, resulted in five women RUSACCOs, with 680 rural women members, being provided with 2.5 hectare of land (Oromia 1 hectare and Afar 1.5 hectare) from the regional and district land administrations. The JP RWEE has also constructed 3 cattle fattening and dairy production shades (1 in Oromia for cattle fattening and 2 in Afar for dairy and cattle fattening) in addition the support they received to prepare the land for their collective business endeavours, such as cattle fattening, grain production and milk processing.

To increase the production and profitability of the planned group businesses, various time and labour-saving technologies and machines were also provided to 617 rural women. These technologies were provided through one women RUSACCO in the Dodola district of the Oromia region and four reorganized business sub-groups (three in Oromia and one in Afar). The technologies include: a tractor to the RUSACCO, a hand operated cream separator, a hand operated butter turner, an aluminium milk container, a deep freezer and fodder processor for cattle fattening.

The women cooperative from Dodola district in Oromia who received a tractor in 2017, has also started to generate revenue from the use of the tractor including cultivating their land and renting the tractor to other farmers. In a period of only four months, the rural women made a net profit of 78,900.00 ETB equivalent to 2,863 USD. In order to facilitate the effective use of the technologies, skills trainings on how to use the milk processing technologies (tools), shoat fattening and on the marketing of dairy products and fattened shoats were also conducted for 180 rural women (in Oromia 60 and Afar 120).

The access to electricity is still the challenge of all districts hence it is raised at higher level (regional president and minister level) to seek a quick solution for the problem. The cost of technologies was also a challenge to reach the targeted 1,500 rural women with this intervention.

Building the confidence and leadership capacity of rural women (output 3.1) through specific leadership trainings and experience sharing exposures coupled with gender awareness creation campaign, and Community Conversations (CC) were the major interventions implemented to enhance leadership

and agency of rural women (Outcome 3). Engagement of men was also the major strategy employed to increase household and community level leadership participation of rural women. The results achieved through these interventions are discussed below.

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

As a result of trainings on women's access to and control over agricultural and household resources and leadership provided for 24 leaders of cooperatives and 54 leaders of other women associations, 112 rural women have increased capacity to better lead their cooperatives, other community, social and economic institutions.

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

These efforts have all contributed to the results on Outcome level, with 53 per cent (1,335) of targeted rural women reporting that they are now able to jointly decide with their spouse on household resources and matters that involve the sale of assets and 15 per cent (368; 184 in Oromia and 184 in Afar) being able to participate in decision-making in rural institutions.

Increasing the capacity of key government stakeholders (Output 4.1) for gender-responsive policy formulation, programme planning and implementation was a major result designed to contribute to gender-responsive institutional and policy environment in agricultural sector (Outcome 4). Researches and assessments were also conducted to inform dialogues for gender-sensitive policy and institutional environment. Accordingly, the following presents the results achieved to contribute to Outcome 4.

Output 4.1. Agriculture key stakeholders, including relevant government bodies, capacity enhanced to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender sensitive indicators and targets in planning and budgeting

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

Through the institutional capacity building conducted, ten RUSACCOs and four FTCs in Oromia region were capacitated to provide gender-sensitive services that include credit, development of business plan which considers the contexts of rural women to do businesses, and support to purchase cattle for their cattle fattening IGAs. The RUSACCOs received financial and material resources, which they used to provide financial and other BDS for both the initially targeted (2,000 rural women) and newly joining (748) rural women members. As reported above, 2,500 rural women are those who are reached with the direct interventions of JP RWEE. The four FTCs were also capacitated with office and training equipment and materials to provide space for rural women to attend IFAL classes and demonstrate new agricultural techniques for the farming activities the women are involved in.

Two ongoing and one completed evidence-based researches were also conducted by JP RWEE to inform policy development and actions for gender equality.

The study on "Costing the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia⁸" was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL), formerly called Ministry of

⁸ The study was a joint initiative of UN Women Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO), UN Women Ethiopia, UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative Africa and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, formerly called Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR)

Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR)⁹. This study, which was validated with the presence of the then Minister of the former MoANR, resulted in development of a policy brief used to inform a dialogue conducted on 19 April 2018. A total of 55 invited participants coming from donor organizations, international non-governmental organizations, regional bureaus of agriculture, the Central Statistical Agency and universities, held discussions in break-out groups and in plenary and voiced appreciations, questions, concerns as well as recommendations for ways forward. The study was extensively admired for addressing an important topic in the agriculture sector of Ethiopia and for putting a number to the cost of the gender gap in the sector.

The second research is “Budget Tracking of Agriculture Sector from Gender Perspective”, which aimed at bringing evidence of the financial gaps in resources allocated for policies and programmes in the sector and measure the extent to which the sector’s result contribute to the promotion of gender equality. By the end of the JP RWEE, a draft report on the framework for budget tracking, spending on gender equality and women’s empowerment has been produced in the context of Ethiopian Federal and Regional Budget. Based on this proposed framework, a policy dialogue to lobby for improved allocation of specific resources will be conducted.

The third study is an impact evaluation of JP RWEE led by FAO and IFAD.¹⁰ The evaluation adopted a tool developed by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)–Gender Agriculture and Asset Project (GAAP2) named: Women Empowerment Agricultural Index (WEAI). Until the end of the JP RWEE, a baseline quantitative and qualitative data was collected and has been analysed to serve as a benchmark for the final impact evaluation to be conducted after the official completion of the JP RWEE. Based on the findings from qualitative data, the local definitions of women’s empowerment from the perspective of rural women and men of two Oromia districts¹¹ were articulated. The ability to meet one’s prescribed social roles, participating in income generating activities, having knowledge, and participation in community issues are the empowerment aspects identified in the context of the two districts under analysis. An article capturing these findings, entitled “Using qualitative methods to understand the local meaning of women’s empowerment in Ethiopia”¹² was written by Dr. Susan Kaaria, Senior Gender Officer at FAO in Rome, and made available to inform wider audiences on the definition of empowerment in the context of rural women in Ethiopia, specifically Oromia region.

4. Who are and how have the direct beneficiaries/rights holders been engaged in the joint programme implementation? Please disaggregate by relevant category as appropriate for your specific joint programme (e.g. gender, age, etc)

Rural Women: 2,500 rural women and agro-pastoralist from Afar and Oromia were the direct beneficiaries reached by the JP RWEE. Representatives of targeted women who were leaders of the targeted ten RUSACCOs were engaged in the planning, launching and programme monitoring processes of the JP RWEE. Then throughout the programme implementation, the 2,500 women were engaged in the various individual and community-level interventions (capacity building, revolving fund scheme, provision of technologies, facilitation of access to land, gender sensitization and community conversation) that the JP RWEE has designed to change their lives.

Women Institutions: Through the institutional capacity building interventions, ten RUSACCOs and four FTCs in Oromia region were engaged to support them provide gender-sensitive services that include credit, development of business plan, and procurement and provision of time and labour-saving technologies and agricultural inputs.

⁹ Following the appointment of the new Ethiopian Prime Minister and his cabinet’s decision, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources is Merged with Ministry of Livestock and Fishery have become Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. The names of regional counterparts are reported as is as there was no announcement of changes until this report is compiled.

¹⁰ The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) is financially and technically supporting the impact evaluation led by FAO and IFAD

¹¹ The study focused on two project sites, i.e., two Woredas (districts) of Adami Tulu and Yaya Gulele districts, in Oromia regional state of Ethiopia.

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

Community: 7,990 community members (6,246 female and 1,744 male) including targeted rural women, their spouses, and members of the participating government sector offices were engaged through individual level leadership trainings, exposure visits, CCs and awareness creation campaigns.

Government implementing partners: 1,332 (775 female and 557 male) government experts and officials in agriculture, cooperatives, education, livestock and fishery and women and children affairs sectors have been engaged in the capacity building interventions designed to address the capacity gaps in conducting gender analysis, incorporate gender-sensitive indicators and incorporate result orientation in their programme planning and management activities. In addition, through the federal and regional programme governance structures of the programme, Technical Working Group (TWGs) mainly, representatives of government partners have participated in the planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation activities of the programme.

5. How did the joint programme and its development partners contribute to the achievement of the SDGs?

The JP RWEE was designed to accelerate the economic empowerment of rural women in the context of the national development plan (Growth and Transformational Plan (I&2) which was aligned with the SDGs. In its implementation, the JP RWEE has contributed towards Goal 1, 2, and 5 as the table below shows.

SDGs	Targets that the JP contributed to	Direct contribution of JP to the selected targets
Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources , as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate technology and financial services, including microfinance	<p>The Joint programme has created access to basic services like Integrated Functional Adult Literacy Programme to increase the numeracy and literacy skills of 900 rural women.</p> <p>Through the various sensitization and consultation conducted with government stakeholders five women RUSACCOs, with 680 rural women members, were provided with 2.5 hectare of land (Oromia 1 hectare and Afar 1.5 hectare) from the regional and district land administrations.</p> <p>Access to agricultural technologies like modern beehives, water pumps, maize sheller, tractor, milk processing machines was created to increase agricultural production and productivity of rural women and their households.</p> <p>Through the capacitated RUSACCOs, 2,170 rural women (1,836 in Oromia and 334 in Afar) accessed start-up</p>

		capital / revolving fund ranging from 4,000 to 14,000 ETB (ca. 145-508 USD) for their individual IGAs.
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year around	As a result of technical support from development agents and agriculture and health extension workers and the provision of innovative agricultural inputs and technologies, 1,997 rural women (1,836 in Oromia and 161 in Afar) are able to feed their households three times per day with a diversified diet i.e. at least three or more groups of food served per meal.
	By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, women , indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment	The average income of the targeted rural women generated from sales from their IGAs is reported at 12,000 Birr (435.48 USD) per annum. That shows a tremendous increase from the baseline at 9,460.53 Birr (450USD).
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life	108 rural women (96 in Oromia and 12 in Afar) are working as leaders assuming positions in the administration, audit, control and loan committees of their RUSACCOs.
		1,335 are now able to jointly decide with their spouse on household resources and matters that involve the sale of assets. 368 (184 in Oromia and 184 in Afar) of rural women are participating in decision-making in rural institutions including their RUSACCOs and women associations.
		112 rural women have increased capacity to better

		lead their cooperatives, other community, social and economic institutions.
	Enhance the use of enabling technology, information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	In order to facilitate the effective use of the technologies provided, skills trainings on how to use milk processing technologies (tools), shoat fattening and on the marketing of dairy products and fattened shoats were also conducted for rural women.

6. What was the impact of the matching funds in programme design, management and implementation?

The contributions of the governments of Norway and Sweden, through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund were used as a matching fund for the JP RWEE. The JP RWEE in Ethiopia was initially designed and launched in 2014 with the contribution of these matching funds. Throughout implementation of the JP RWEE the provision of start-up capital, which was not a priority for SDG fund, has been covered by the matching funds. This has contributed to the credit base of targeted RUSACCOs and in turn created sustainable source of finance for the targeted rural women and those who have become members during the implementation period. It is also through these matching funds that the JP RWEE has started to replicate and continue its interventions in other kebelles¹³ of the four targeted districts of Oromia and Afar.

7. What were the programme's achievements in terms of its contribution to the targeted cross-cutting issues?

a. Gender equality and women's empowerment

At individual level: The JP RWEE has implemented its integrated interventions to address the barriers of rural women's economic empowerment and gender equality. This has resulted in increased access to skills trainings, agricultural inputs and technologies, market opportunities; and financial and non-financial services (start-up capital, business development, IFAL) for rural women economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods.

At household level: JP RWEE has employed male engagement as its main strategy to address the individual and community-levels social and cultural barriers and to ensure the support and active engagement of men for gender equality and women's empowerment. The involvement of men has helped the targeted women to have a space to assertively express their concerns and work together with their spouses to identify mutual interests; and it has also contributed significantly to bringing the family perspectives to the centre of attention and triggering discussions at household and community levels which ultimately contributed to gender equality.

At community, policy and institutional level: The community and institutional-level interventions, including community conversations, gender awareness creation and sensitization campaigns, institutional and individual capacity building interventions of government stakeholders and data generated through evidence-based researches has contributed to the ongoing promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment at federal, regional and district levels.

¹³ A kebele (Amharic: ቀበሌ, qäbäle, "neighborhood") is the smallest administrative unit of Ethiopia, similar to a ward, a neighborhood or a localized and delimited group of people.

The contribution of the JP RWEE towards women's economic empowerment and gender equality are further illustrated in section II (Question 1 &3) of this report.

b. Public-private partnerships

Partnerships with private institutions were created during implementation of JP RWEE. For example, a partnership with Ethiopia Climate Innovative Centre (ECIC), which gave insight to identify climate resilience and innovative post-harvest and other production technologies. The partnership created with Ethiopian Women Exporters Association and Oromia Women Entrepreneurs Association was also the other platform which the JP RWEE used to provide experience sharing exposures on market linkage and opportunities for the targeted women.

c. Sustainability of results

The Ethiopian JP RWEE was formulated by incorporating sustainability strategies. The formulation process was mainly guided by the SDG Fund Terms of Reference (ToR) and was later substantiated by the comprehensive practical experiences and knowledge basis of the participating United Nations agencies in Ethiopia. The JP RWEE has also implemented the following relevant strategies which will ensure individual, institutional and community support for the long-term sustainability of JP RWEE's results: -

- Creating alignment with existing government development priorities and plans;
- Increasing ownership of JP RWEE through participation of government partners;
- Designing and institutionalization of programme components in government structure;
- Using RUSACCOs as entry point to target beneficiaries;
- Incorporating multi-sectoral approach;
- Capacity building of government partners to deliver for JP RWEE;
- Male engagement;
- Establishing JP RWEE regional and district-level governance structure;
- Involving local CSOs in the direct implementation of JP RWEE;
- Designing and implementing monitoring and evaluation systems;
- Development and implementation of knowledge management and communication plans and strategies.

The sustainability and scale-up strategy of JP RWEE is attached with this report containing the detailed description of the above implementation and post-implementation strategies.

8. Describe the extent of the contribution of the joint programme to the following categories of results:

- Principles of the **Paris Declaration**, i.e. leadership of national and local governmental institutions, involvement of CSO and citizens, alignment and harmonization, and innovative elements in mutual accountability (justify why these elements are innovative)

The Ethiopian JP RWEE has been implemented with the direct engagement and leadership of the government of Ethiopia. At federal level, MoWCA, MoAL and FCA and their regional and district level counterparts have been engaged in the direct implementation of various programme interventions designed under the JP RWEE. Particularly, MoWCA has taken the lead in coordinating the JP RWEE with the UN Women Ethiopia Country Office. At regional level, the overall coordination was led by the regional Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCAs) which are mainly responsible to

coordinate development programmes with the objective of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Throughout the JP RWEE's implementation, the involvement of two CSOs called SWAA-E and WISE was visible in direct programme implementation and technical support provided to direct beneficiaries.

The commitments of donor funds as well as the support by participating United Nations is provided in the framework of government national development plans (GTP I & II), strategies and the United Nations Development Assistant Framework (UNDAF) designed to accelerate the country's development. The financial support has also addressed the institutional and individual capacity development needs of government partners engaged in the coordination and direct implementation of the JP RWEE.

- **Delivering as One**, i.e. Role of Resident Coordinator Office and synergies with other ongoing development interventions in related areas, innovative elements in harmonization of procedures and managerial practices (justify why these elements are innovative), joint United Nations formulation, planning and management

The Residence Coordinator Office (RCO) provided high-level direction and guidance to the JP RWEE while dealing with programme challenges that include the fund transfer issues of IFAD and JP RWEE's financial reporting challenges to SDG Fund. Together with the UN Women Ethiopia Country Office, RCO has also facilitated a platform where the participating United Agencies involve in the high-level programme update planned by the lead Agency. The synergy of the programme with the Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (JP GEWE) was also assured at the outset of the JP RWEE by the involvement of government and other United Nations agencies.

With the leadership and coordination role of MoWCA and UN Women, the TWG has also provided timely and relevant technical support for all the participating government sector offices while implementing the JP RWEE's activities. It also conducted its meeting and identified critical issues that need to be resolved timely and those which should be escalated to the attention of the Steering Committee.

9. *Indicate which of the planned activities were not implemented, which unplanned activities (in any) were implemented and, in each case, for what reasons and with what impact*

There were no activities which were not implemented to completion by the JP RWEE. Likewise, there were no unplanned activities implemented by the JP RWEE except those directly financed by the matching funds and which were not part of the agreed plan with SDG Fund.

III. GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT

10. *Describe key lessons learnt and best practices that would be relevant to the design and implementation of future joint programmes in this area*

The following concrete lessons that can be used to design and implement/replicate future programmes are distilled from the experience over the past three years.

- The critical contribution of investment on skills of rural women to create sustainable livelihood;
- The significance of creating exposures and experience sharing visits for rural women in inspiring rural women to strive for improved lives;
- The importance of creating ownership of all partners for the JP RWEE to accelerate the implementation of activities;
- Importance of creating functional governance and coordination mechanisms to bring different actors to jointly deliver/provide services for women;

- The need for updated and tailored manuals, guidelines and standards to provide trainings and implement activities with partners;
- In-depth analysis of activity changes on programme integration, cost, scope and quality;
- Clear allocation of responsibilities of monitoring and evaluation based on the programme management processes and results;
- The importance of management involvement for strategic directions and guidance on donor relations and scale-up the programme;
- The remaining interventions to move rural women up on the ladder of agricultural value chain;
- The values of engaging donors from the outset and throughout the programme implementation and;
- The importance of creating standard communication and reporting mechanisms when dealing with different donors at a time.

Male engagement in the community mobilization and gender sensitization approaches is the major good practice which has been distilled from the experiences of JP RWEE in Ethiopia. The activities that seek to ensure the meaningful engagement of men in the JP RWEE are carried out at the individual, community and institutional-levels as key part of the JP RWEE's sustainability strategy. The engagement of men and boys helps to create an environment that is conducive to the implementation of the JP RWEE in addition to the following tangible results discussed below.

The involvement of men and boys in gender awareness activities has given women the opportunity to express their concerns assertively and work together with their spouses to identify mutual interests. These include family life and social institutions such as *idirs*¹⁴ and *ekubs*¹⁵, funerals, weddings, functional adult literacy classes and other meetings organized by local government offices and their associations.

Husbands have the opportunity to learn the purpose of the development initiatives carried out in their communities, including the JP RWEE, including why women are invited to meetings and training sessions and how their engagement in income-generating activities benefits the livelihood of the entire family.

The sessions were helpful in providing both men and women with information about services available for women and how women and men can benefit from women's economic and social empowerment. Male engagement in the efforts to achieve gender equality has helped focus attention on family perspectives and has triggered discussions within households and communities. Now gender equality and women's empowerment are not seen solely as women's issues. Instead, men are being engaged as actors to bring about social change.

The various sessions helped women to share their concerns with their husbands by explaining the impact of male dominance on their empowerment. The sessions also helped men understand the situations their wives were in and the benefits of men's support for their families' livelihoods.

11. Report on any new innovative approaches which were delivered in the course of joint programme implementation

The JP RWEE innovative approaches are related with the male engagement strategy discussed above. Accordingly, the JP RWEE has been effective because it has worked on various aspects of male engagement through awareness-raising campaigns, interactive workshops and community conversations. As a result, it can be considered an example of a good practice for women's

¹⁴ Ethiopian idir is a social gathering where neighbors create a kind of grassroots life insurance during family losses and to provide solace in grieving.

¹⁵ Ekub is an Ethiopian traditional financial group where members of the 'Ekub' would save a certain amount of money every day, week or month and the collected money will be given to a member who win the lottery and the process continues till every member gets its share.

empowerment and for stimulating changes in gender relations because of the following innovative approaches employed:

- Gender awareness activities were designed based on lessons learned from previous gender equality and women's empowerment programmes that showed that men can feel threatened by their wives' financial independence, resulting, in some cases, in increased domestic violence;
- All the sessions were organized during weekends or low agricultural seasons to ensure that both women and men could attend;
- RUSACCOs were used as entry points for the various awareness activities, helping to mobilize participants and creating a link with government institutions. This contributed to the formalization of the process and created ownership of the agenda, as the women and their spouses recognized the women's institutions;
- The capacity-building initiatives targeting government bodies (gender and women affairs directorates in ministries and regional and district-level women and children affairs and other relevant offices) have changed attitudes and perceptions regarding gender issues, which are now recognized as being of concern to both men and women.

12. Indicate key constraints including delays (if any) during programme implementation

a. Internal to the joint programme

- The different operational and implementation modalities of participating United Nations agencies coupled with the different organizational structures and internal processes of implementing partners was also a challenge to the joint implementation of the Joint Programme. Consecutive sensitization and awareness creation workshops which targeted the high officials and experts of the participating government partners were conducted to address the challenges emanating from the partner's system.
- Financial limitation to cover the transport and other accommodation costs for rural women, who were traveling to access markets in Addis Ababa and other neighbouring cities, was a challenge. To resolve this, regional cooperative promotion offices and women cooperatives were given technical support and guidance through the local CSO (SWAA-E) working on the JP RWEE. This has resulted in a regional level market opportunity for 1,097 rural women.
- The involvement of different sector offices (agriculture, livestock, education, cooperative promotion) with limited gender orientation other than the gender machineries i.e. bureaus of Women and Children Affairs, was the main challenge which affected the coordination of the programme. The gender mainstreaming trainings and sensitization workshops were able to increase the gender orientation of the participating government partners and in turn brought them to provide services in an integrated manner. The specific JP RWEE Partner's Implementers' Guide also set the coordination roles of the gender machineries and gives clear direction on the programme coordination, communication, implementing, monitoring and reporting activities of the programme at all levels.
- The limited result-based management and reporting capacities of the participating government partners was another challenge to fully track and depict the results achieved under the Joint Programme. The result-based management training which was provided to the experts of government partners was able to minimize the initial challenge we had in this regard.

b. External to the joint programme

- The 2015 major drought that affected the target areas hindered the implementation of initiatives based on agricultural activities (due to lack of rainfall). This was one of the difficulties faced to fully realise the results under Outcome I. However, to mitigate the effects of the drought, a high-level discussion was held between federal, regional, and district level officials to curb anticipated challenges on implementation of the activities. The discussion resulted in a common

understanding of the solution provided, particularly in setting priorities and addressing beneficiaries with the programme interventions.

- The Joint Programme has been working to create access to and control of land for targeted women. However, the complex and sensitive nature of land issues in Ethiopia in general and the lingering traditional attitudes opposing women's right to land, pose difficulty to accelerate the realization of the result. The JP RWEE was planned on the assumption that there is an enabling environment in place in the form of a federal policy and proclamation to grant women access to land and there is the joint land certification process led by government. Even though both these conditions were fulfilled, the implementation of these processes on the ground proved to be more difficult and the progress made to benefit women from the joint land certification was not as anticipated by the JP RWEE. To address the factors hindering this result, dialogue forums were conducted to sensitize and motivate all the relevant federal and regional stakeholders. This ultimately secured buy-in from actors that are crucial in advancing the processes to grant women access to land.
- Given the limited time and complexity of policy level interventions, the JP RWEE was constrained to achieve policy-level impact by fully utilizing the findings of researches conducted by the JP RWEE. To resolve this, further policy level interventions are planned as part of the new JP RWEE intervention covering July 2018-September 2019, and which is beyond the SDG Fund programme closing dates. The new plan is developed as a result of the additional funding secured from the governments of Sweden and Norway.

13. Describe and assess how the monitoring and evaluation function has contributed to the Improvement in programme management and the attainment of development results; Improvement in transparency and mutual accountability; and Increasing national capacities and procedures in M&E and data.

Monitoring and documentation of results has been the integral part of JP RWEE's programme management functions. At the outset of the JP RWEE, a baseline data was made available for both Oromia and Afar Regions. The data was used to develop the Performance Monitoring Framework (PMF) and served as a benchmark to regularly measure progress against the baseline data collected for the performance indicators of the JP RWEE. Joint and agency-level biannual and annual field visits by the United Nations and implementing agencies, as well as regional and federal-level biannual and annual review meetings and progress reports by the implementing government partners, CSOs (SWAA-E and WISE) were also used to track progress of the JP RWEE.

The above-mentioned monitoring and evaluation functions has helped all concerned stakeholders to track both the physical and financial progress towards the target set for the performances indicators of expected results. The actual progress of the JP RWEE was also used to inform the regular meetings of the TWG and Programme Management Unit (PMU), which were conducted to recognize positive results as well as agree on corrective actions and recommendations for the negative results and challenges identified through the monitoring and evaluation functions conducted at all level.

The monitoring and evaluation functions were also used to track, analyse and report the results of the JP RWEE based on the specific donor's reporting requirements and templates. This has contributed to maintain the transparency of the JP RWEE through its regular progress updates made to all key stakeholders. Government partners have also been actively engaged in the process of data collecting and reporting against the performance indicators set in the PMF. This process coupled with the result-based M&E training provided has helped the government partners to regularly track progress beyond activity level achievements.

14. Describe and assess how the communication and advocacy functions have contributed to the improve the sustainability of the joint programme; improve the opportunities for scaling up or replication of the joint programme and; providing information to beneficiaries' rights holders

At the beginning of the JP RWEE, a comprehensive and inclusive communication and knowledge management strategy was developed by the communications and knowledge management specialist hired for the JP RWEE. This as the foundation, and implementation of the communications and knowledge management activities based on the strategy have effectively contributed in improving the sustainability of the JP RWEE and its opportunity for scaling not only at national level but also at the regional and global levels. The above-mentioned knowledge management approach also enabled timely and consistent information sharing to the beneficiaries, for instant, through follow-ups.

According to the purpose of the communication and the targeted audience various communication products are produced to create awareness about the JP RWEE and to show impacts/results of the JP RWEE on the direct and indirect beneficiaries. Communication and knowledge management products produced and used include brochures, success stories, publications, video, policy briefs, banners, research documents, photos essay and similar promotional materials. Both print and electronic channels as well as high-level events at national, regional and global levels were used to periodically keep informed the stakeholders at various levels including donors, the government and United Nations agencies about the results of the JP RWEE in improving the livelihoods of the beneficiaries. Some of the key global events used to channel effective results of the JP RWEE include commemoration of International Women's Day at various levels, the Africa Union Summits, the pre CSW 62 at the African Union and the actual CSW62 in New York, the JP RWEE coordinators meeting in Italy, trainings, workshops and exhibitions.

In November 2016, for instance, the JP RWEE promotional materials were displayed at an exhibition booth during the gender and resilience regional share faire in Nairobi, Kenya. The JP RWEE and its relation to SDGs was promoted to over 200 participants of the share fair in general and those from the region. The booth was visited by the participants with diverse backgrounds and experiences on gender and resilience. This enabled the JP RWEE to be promoted and networked through distribution of informative materials, placement of banners and by addressing enquires from the booth's visitors as well as videographers, who were documenting the event. An article written on the experience gained from the share faire has also been used as support programmatic documents as well as posted in the empower women website.

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

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

Below are some of the links where articles on the JP RWEE got posted.

http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Ethiopia_Womenempowerment.pdf

<http://www.sdgfund.org/joint-programme-gender-equality-and-women-empowerment-rural-women-economic-empowerment-component>

<http://www.sdgfund.org/struggle-gender-equality-through-five-women-five-sdg-fund-programs>

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

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

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

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

<https://unwomen.sharepoint.com/Intergovernmental-Support/Communications/Communication>

<http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017-b/11/unlocking-the-potential-of-rural-women-in-ethiopia>

<https://unwomen.sharepoint.com/sites/roesa/SitePages/e%20knowledge%20series.aspx>

In addition to the above, results focused publications, video documentation and consistent photography and effective use played a prominent role in creating awareness and in enhancing visibility of the JP RWEE at various levels. These opened the way for potential resource mobilization and for more stakeholders to get involved. These in turn contributed to advance the sustainability of the JP RWEE as well as to improve the opportunities for scaling up.

Starting from the designing of the Communications and Knowledge Management strategy, the role of the beneficiaries as the primary source of information and the importance of involving them was highlighted. Accordingly, specific women (beneficiaries), with a potential to be the voice for other women, were selected as case studies, and periodically followed up to document on the changes that they experience due of the intervention. Besides giving a general information about the JP RWEE and the purpose of gathering information from them, their willingness to provide information and for the information including their photos to be used in various channels are agreed filling forms and signing. Through the focal persons at village levels, especially printed publication and promotional materials were also shared. Various trainings, workshops and meetings were also among the forums used to keep the beneficiaries informed.

15. Report on the scalability of the joint programme and/or any of its components: To what extent has the joint programme assessed and systematized development results with the intention to use as evidence for replication or scaling up the joint programme or any of its components? Describe example, if any, of replication or scaling up that are being undertaken;

Since JP RWEE's official start, a positive impact on the lives of more than 2,500 rural women and their family members has been realized through the multisector approaches employed to address the individual, institutional and community-level barriers of the targeted rural women. Concrete results that can be replicated, scaled up and widely disseminated have also been distilled from the experience over the past three years. The GoE has also shown strong demand to scale-up the JP RWEE to other regions. Accordingly, a JP RWEE scale-up strategy was developed to guide the expansion and replication of JP RWEE in other regions. Following this strategy, additional funding from the governments of Sweden and Norway was secured to increase the participation of and benefits for existing rural women from the agricultural value chain as well as to reach new and vulnerable rural women from one additional kebele of Afar in Dubti District and two additional towns of Oromia region from the vicinity of Addis Ababa.

IV. FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE JOINT PROGRAMME

a. Provide a final financial status of the joint programme in the following categories:

SDG Fund Allocation

1. Total SDG Fund allocation US\$: 1,500,000

1. Total budget transferred US\$: 1,500,000

2. Total budget committed US\$: 1,494,742.51

WFP.....297,301.63

FAO.....243,258.00
 UN Women.....954,182.88

3. Total budget disbursed US\$: 1,492,619.17

WFP.....297,301.63
 FAO.....243,258.00
 UN Women.....952,059.54

Matching Funds Allocation

2. Total matching funds allocation US\$: 1,688,256

1. Total budget transferred US\$: 1,688,256

2. Total budget committed US\$: 1,375,066.90

UN Women..... 223,861.30
 WFP..... 868,007.65
 FAO..... 283,197.95

3. Total budget disbursed US\$: 1,355,245.06

UN Women.....204,311.46
 FAO.....282,925.95
 WFP..... 868,007.65

b. Explain any outstanding balances or variances with the original budget

The outstanding balances for SDG Fund is as follows. The balances are not equivalent to official and certified financial reports as the official financial reports will only be released at HQ level. *The outstanding balances are estimated current balance. The figures are subject to changes on submission of the final financial report.







Agency	Budget Allocated (A)	Committed (B)	Disbursed (C)	Outstanding Variance(A-C)
UN Women	955,182.00	954,182.88	952,059.54	*3,122.46
FAO	246,016.00	243,258.00	243,258.00	*2,758.00
WFP	298,802.00	297,301.63	297,301.63	*1,500.37
Total	1,500,000.00	1,494,742.51	1,492,619.17	*7,380.83

V. OTHER COMMENTS AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Ethiopian Country team is grateful for the financial and technical support provided by the SDG fund. This has contributed to accelerating the economic empowerment of rural women in Ethiopia. The only comment is on the reporting duplication between the SDG Fund reporting system and the MPTF reporting template that the country team have been struggling to coup to. We hope this will be taken in to consideration by SDG Fund secretariat when future funding opportunities are granted to the Ethiopian JP RWEE and other Joint programmes to be designed for the realization of 2030 agenda(SDGs).

VI. CERTIFICATION ON OPERATIONAL CLOSURE OF THE PROJECT

By signing, Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNO) certify that the project has been operationally completed.

PUNO	NAME	TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE
UN Women	Ms. Letty Chiwara	Representative to Ethiopia, Africa Union (AU) and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	 	11/10/18
WFP	Mr. Steven Were Omamo	Country Director and Representative	 	07/11/18
FAO	Ms. Fatouma Seid	Representative to Ethiopia	 	08/11/18

VII. ANNEXES

1. List of all document/studies produced by the joint programme
 - JP RWEE Baseline Study Report for Afar and Oromia Region
 - JP RWEE Partner's Implementers' Guide
 - JP RWEE Sustainability and Scale-up Strategy
 - Economic Empowerment of Rural Women: Qualitative study for the UNJP in Adami Tulu and Yaya Gulele Woredas
 - local definition of Empowerment in Ethiopia-Oromia Region
 - Assessment on Women Friendly Agricultural Products, Technologies and Income Generating Activities and Market Opportunities; Afar and Oromia Region
 - Cost of gender gap in Agriculture productivity in Ethiopia study and policy brief
 - Farmers Training Centers Capacity Assessment Report
 - JP RWEE Community Conversation Manual
2. List all communication products created by the joint programme
 - Good practice information sheet Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women Engaging men for programme success in Ethiopia
 - Amharic and English Brochures, Success stories, Articles, Publications, Video, Photos essay
3. Minutes of the final review meeting of the Programme Management Committee and National Steering Committee
4. Final evaluation report
 - Will be submitted on the deadline given by SDG Fund.
5. M&E framework with update final values of indicators
 - Updated and is uploaded with the report.