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**“ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN”
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2018**

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Toward Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in <i>(Ethiopia)</i> • MPTF Office Project Reference Number:¹ 00092000 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</p> <p><i>(Ethiopia, Federal and Regional and Rural Women Economic Empowerment)</i></p> <p>The strategic result is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of the SDGs.</p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN, WFP 	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <p>Federal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Ministry of Women, Children and Youth (MoWCY);</i> ▪ <i>Ministry of Agriculture (MoA);</i> ▪ <i>Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC) and;</i> ▪ <i>Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency.</i> <p>Regional and District level (Oromia and Afar):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Bureaus of Finance and Economic Cooperation (BoFECs);</i> ▪ <i>Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCAs);</i> ▪ <i>Bureaus of Agriculture (BoA); and</i> ▪ <i>Bureaus of Cooperative Promotion Agencies (BoCPA)</i> <p>Non-Governmental Organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia (SWAA-E).</i>
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p>

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

<p>Total approved budget as per project document: 2,488,256</p> <p>MPTF Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> <p>UN Women 570,536 FAO 658,741 WFP 1,258,979</p> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> <p>Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p>TOTAL: 2,488,256</p>	<p>Overall Duration: 8 years</p> <p>Start Date <i>(15 10 2012)</i></p> <p>End Date <i>(30/06/ 2020)</i></p>
<p>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Etagegnehu Getachew ○ Title: National Programme Coordinator JPRWEE ○ Participating Organization (Lead): UN Women ○ Email address: etagegnehu.getachew@unwomen.org

Acronyms

AWP	Annual Work Plan
BoWCA	Bureau of Women and Children Affairs
CC	Community Conversations
IDPs	Internally Displaced People
JPRWEE	Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment
MWCY	Ministry of Women Children and Youth
PMC	Programme Management Committee
PMF	Performance Monitoring Framework
RUSACCOs	Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations
TWG	Technical Working Group
SWAA-E	Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia
WEAI	Women Empowerment Agricultural Index

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 2018, significant progresses towards accelerating economic empowerment of rural women in Oromia and Afar regions of Ethiopia through the implementation of the Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment (JPRWEE) were achieved. The annual report, covering the progress of the JPRWEE from 1 January – 31 December 2018, shows the progresses and achievements in this period, as shown below:

- JPRWEE is extending to its second phase targeting additional 1200 rural women in addition to the 2500 rural women reached in its first phase. Transition activities to its second phase selection of new beneficiaries, joint preliminary assessment of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and development of partners' Joint Annual Work Plan (AWP) were accomplished.
- A learning opportunity for Ethiopian and Liberian rural women was created in Ethiopia, through the South-South learning exchange conducted from October 22-25, 2018.
- Rural women who were able to double crop production have returned revolving seeds to their Rural Saving and Credit Cooperative Organizations (RUSACCOs). This was based on the revolving seed modality implemented to reach more rural women in the targeted districts;
- The number of rural women who managed to have a diversified and sustainable source of income increased from 1,066 to 2,915 rural women (2,687 in Oromia and 228 in Afar);
- The personal saving of these rural women engaged in diversified and sustainable sources of income has also increased ranging from 14,000 Birr (500 USD) to 80,000 Birr (2,900 USD). In the last reporting period (by the end of 2017), the personal savings of these rural women were between 400 Birr (14 USD) to 14,000 Birr (500 USD);
- During the reporting period, 439 rural women member of RUSACCOS generated income of 130,938.00 Birr (4,710 USD) from the rental of a tractor; they also generated 185,000 Birr (6,852 USD) from the harvest of grain cultivated on their joint land; 10,230 Birr (370.84 USD) was generated by two milk processing groups (with 75 women member each); and cattle fattening group were also able to earn profit of 77, 080 Birr (2794.15 USD) from the two round sales of 25 cattle.
- Through the national and regional level market exposures created by the programme, 1,471 rural women (1,443 in Oromia and 28 in Afar) were able to get market access for their agricultural and value-added products;
- The number of rural women, who have accessed finance/revolving funds for their income generating activities, have increased from 2,127 rural women (from end of 2017) (1,793 in Oromia and 334 in Afar) to 3,064 rural women (2,730 in Oromia and 334 in Afar) during the reporting period.
- The overall implementation of JPRWEE, including its preparation to second phased was affected due to the overall unstable political environment and internal conflicts in the country.

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Joint Programme on Rural Women Economic Empowerment (JPRWEE) is to accelerate the economic empowerment of rural women in seven countries, including Ethiopia. The JPRWEE in Ethiopia aimed at accelerating the economic empowerment of 4,300 rural women, while securing their livelihoods and rights. Since its official commencement, the JP has reached 2,500 rural women in four districts of Oromia and Afar regional states.

Based on the approved JPRWEE Annual Work Plan (AWP) for July 2018 - September 2019, it is planned to benefit additional 1,000 rural women and 15,000 community members (9,000 women, 6,000 men). In this period, 36 institutions (14 federal and regional government institutions, 13 RUSACCOs and 9 reorganized women groups) will also benefit from the institutional interventions of the JPRWEE.

The following outcomes and outputs are expected results of the JPRWEE:

Outcome 1: Rural women improve their food security and nutrition

- Output 1.1: Rural women's and their household's nutritional status improved

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

- Output 2.1 Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products
- Output 2.2 Rural women access to holistic income-generating facilities and to gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services increased
- Output 2.3 Rural women increased access to productive resources (land, agricultural inputs and time and saving technologies)

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

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

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

- Output 4.1. Agriculture key stakeholders, including relevant government bodies, capacity enhanced to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender sensitive indicators and targets in planning and budgeting
- Output 4.2 Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women

II. Results

This annual report mainly focuses on the activities implemented to facilitate the transition of JP RWEE to its second phase that based the latest approved programme intervention for Ethiopia. The report updates activity level performances and results level progress made in 2018. Activity reports from implementing partners and joint and individual agency monitoring visits are the major sources of information used to compile this annual report.

a. JPRWEE transition activities

Selection of new beneficiaries and Joint preliminary assessment of IDPs

The second phase of JPRWEE was initiated following the additional funding globally mobilized from the Government of Sweden and Norway. A joint AWP covering 1st July 2018 to 30th September 2019, with a total budget of 800,000 USD, was approved by the International Steering Committee of JPRWEE on 3rd

July 2018. The country team prepared the joint plan with technical support received from the JP RWEE Global Coordinator. This phase aimed to reach additional 1,200 rural women (1000 from Oromia and 200 from Afar) in addition to the existing 2,500 rural women who have already been benefited from the first phase interventions of JPRWEE. Venerable women (IDPs), as well as women beneficiaries from the first phase who started group businesses on milk processing, cattle fattening, and grain production, will be the primary beneficiaries of the second phase.

In September 2018², consultative meetings (with Afar and Oromia regional and district level Technical Working Groups -TWGs)³ were held to agree on selection criteria of the beneficiaries. Criteria which included widowed women who have the willingness and motivation to thrive, to do monthly saving and engage in group businesses and who were agreed to be considered while targeting new beneficiaries. During these meetings, the implementing partners were advised to use RUSACCOs as entry points to select the new beneficiaries. So far, a new kebele called Debel-Halibeiry is selected to organize 200 agro-pastoral rural women in Dubti district of Afar region.

As part of the new targeting strategy, 800 IDPs women from Galan and Sululta towns of Oromia Region, who were displaced because of internal conflict, were planned to be targeted. To facilitate this, a joint preliminary assessment meeting and visit were conducted through the coordination role of Oromia regional Bureau of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCYA). The meetings were conducted from 25-26 July 2018 with 40 experts from the two towns' administrations and the offices of women, children and youth affairs, agriculture, livestock, education, cooperative and small and micro enterprises. Through these meetings, the feasibility of planned interventions was confirmed to have an expected sustainable impact on the lives of the women. Thus, it was agreed to expand JPRWEE interventions to the two towns by adapting its governance structure to the specific government structural and beneficiaries' context. This is to formally create a communication and reporting channel which will re-enforce program decisions and resolve challenges.

As per the agreed action points, two focal persons from the offices of women, children and youth affairs were assigned to coordinate activities and support the targeted IDPs. The focal person from Sululta town has already facilitated the establishment of two SACCOs namely Afrenkelo and Tokuma with 209 and 312 members respectively and composed by internally displaced women. The process of establishing the two SACCOs is also started with the leadership of the focal person in Galan town. Moreover, beneficiaries' profile from 1000 women was compiled from both towns, by using the format developed for this purpose by the country team. This profile will be used to tailor the planned interventions to the context of the targeted IDPs.

Partners Joint Annual Work Plan (AWP)

The joint partners' AWP⁴, which is used to reflect current context and alignment of the JPRWEE plan with specific government priorities, was developed and approved in November 2018, in consultation with federal and regional implementing partners. In the context of the Ethiopian JPRWEE, the developing partners' joint AWP, with official endorsement of government and participating UN agencies, is a priority to formally kick off programme activities. The joint plans are a formal binding documents for both the participating UN agencies and Government of Ethiopia (GoE), to jointly deliver for rural women.

b. South-South Learning Exchange

² From September 5-8 in Afar and 17-22 in Oromia

³ The Regional and district level TWGs are consists of JP RWEE focal persons from Bureaus of Women and Children Affairs (BoWCA), Cooperative Promotion Agency (CPA), Bureaus of Agriculture and Livestock (BoAL) and Bureaus of Education (BoE).

⁴ Three Joint AWP, one for Oromia one for Afar and the Federal are approved with the official seal and signature of UN Heads of agencies and Minster of Ministry of Women, Children and youth and higher official of relevant directorate from Ministry of Finance.

From October 22-25, 2018, the first “South-South learning exchange visit” between JPRWEE women beneficiaries from Liberia and Ethiopia was conducted. The learning exchange was initiated upon request of mission to Ethiopia from the Liberian national programme coordinator. The main objectives of the exchange visit were to facilitate learning on good practices, challenges and implementing approaches as well as to strengthen networking through the interaction of the beneficiaries from both countries. The process was also materialized through the strong support to south-south exchange notion and active coordination role of the JP RWEE global coordinator with the two countries.

As agreed in the mission ToR, two women from Liberia- Mrs. Kebbeh Monger the National Chairlady, of Liberia National Rural Women Structure and Mrs. Evelyn Karhenye the Chair Lady of Gbarwanken Women Association Gbarwanken Community- visited the rural women in Yayagulele, Adamitulu, and Dodola districts of Oromia Region. The visit was also accompanied by the JPRWEE global coordinator and UN Women country team members of the two countries.

Good Practices Exchanged

According to the Liberian rural women who participated in the visit, the following were the key lessons learnt and good practices observed:

- Engagement of rural women in farm activities mainly on production of crops
- Use of land for agricultural production by women as well as by general public
- Support of district level sector offices for agricultural and saving and credit activities
- Availability of record keeping for financial activities of the women SACCOs
- Use of business plans to facilitate access to loan for women
- Linkage of women RUSACOs to higher level cooperatives like unions;
- Saving culture of children as supported by the targeted women as the children of JP RWEE targeted women are making savings with the support of their families, and
- Availability of government incentives for cooperatives

The Liberian participants shared the following feedbacks based on their observations:

- Appreciated how the JP RWEE started to support the independent decision-making of women
- Suggested that the group milk processing sheds have more facilities (water, processing technologies, and packaging materials) to improve quality of production and increase market opportunities
- More focus on female youth for the future
- To start encouraging women to go beyond their community and to challenge the male dominated activities like using tractors and technologies
- Advise women to prepare visitors list in order to track information of everyone visiting their place
- Capitalize on existing interventions like the community conversations, to teach on reproductive health and Gender Based Violence (GBV) for the communities.

Overall, the learning exchange was successful in creating the intended learning opportunity for women from both countries and continue thriving to their lives and the community. The event has also inspired targeted women and the country team to explore such opportunities for the targeted rural women in Ethiopia so that they can learn from experiences of other rural women in the world.

c. M&E activities of JPRWEE

Monitoring and documentation of results has been an integral part of JPRWEE’s programme management functions. At the outset of the JPRWEE (in 2016), 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 JPRWEE.

In this reporting period, joint and agency-level field visits, in the months of August and September 2018 were conducted with the objective of providing technical support and tracking results on the implementation of first phase JP RWEE activities. During these visits, technical support and direction were provided to address challenges on the electric supply, death of provided cattle and utilization of cleared lands for crop and fodder productions. Clear monitoring templates which were used to collect progresses data on JPRWEE activities were also provided to the focal persons of the programme in both Oromia and Afar regions. As expected, implementing partners have started to collect data on results of the JP activities as updated in the results discussed below.

a. JP RWEE Emerging results

Outcome 1: Rural women improve their food security and nutrition

Because of integrated agricultural services, technical trainings⁵, innovative agricultural inputs⁶ and technologies provided to women, JPRWEE has enabled eighty per cent of the rural women reached (2,500) 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. Eighty-two per cent of the rural women reached (mainly in Oromia region) were able to increase their wheat, maize and teff production by 100 per cent, 125 per cent, and 83 per cent respectively. In this reporting period, results which will contribute to improved food security and nutrition of the targeted women were emerged as discussed under output 1.1 below.

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

From the first-round revolving seed (30 quintals wheat, 5 quintals of maize and 15 quintals of teff), provided, rural women able make seeds repayment to their RUSACCOs. Revolving seed approach was applied to provide improved seeds to targeted women. The arrangement requires women to repay the seeds up on harvest with additional kilos of interest to their RUSACCOs. This approach has also been helpful to reach more rural women to increase agricultural production and improve household nutrition.

By using the modern bee hives which were distributed to 30 rural women, honey was collected during this reporting period. Previous ownership of bees and traditional beehives were the criteria used to distribute the beehives to the rural women.

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

Capacity building trainings on household food reserve and management along with access to innovative agricultural and food processing technologies was one of the interventions implemented to improve agricultural productivity and nutrition status of targeted women. As per the progress so far, 57% of the 2500 rural women reached able to manage their household's food reserve. Access to water pumps and maize shellers, bee hives and milk processing equipment was also created for 375 rural women.

⁵ On Household food reserve and control, agricultural techniques, nutrition and food security

⁶ Improved teff,, wheat, vegetables(apple, cabbage, carrot, onion) seeds, maize sheller, water pump, milk processing technologies

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

The JPRWEE built on existing activities which increased rural women's business, entrepreneurship, leadership and literacy skills. It also created access to market information, gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services, and productive resources (land, time and labour-saving technologies). This has resulted in additional 1,849 rural women (1618 in Oromia and 200 in Afar) having achieved sustainable and diversified sources of income. This has also increased their personal savings ranging from 14,000 Birr (500 USD) to 80,000 Birr (2,900 USD)⁷. In 2017, the personal saving of the rural women was within the range of 400 Birr (14 USD) to 14,000 Birr (508 USD). This achievement extends the impacts of JPRWEE on diversified and sustainable sources of income to 2,915 rural women (2,687 in Oromia and 228 in Afar).

In the reporting year, rural women have also started to generate income from the resources and assets provided for their agricultural and agri-business activities. Sales from onion and the 6 water pumps provided to rural women have also become sources of income when rented to other farmers in the area.

In this year, 439 rural women (members of a RUSACOs in Dodola District of Oromia) have generated income of 130,938.00 Birr (4,710 USD) from the rental of a tractor provided to their RUSACOs in 2017. They also managed to generate 185,000 Birr (6,852 USD) from the harvest of grain cultivated on their joint land using this tractor. Milk processing group in Yayagulele district earned profit of 10,230 Birr (370.84 USD) by paying all the running and utility costs from the 37,869 Birr (1372.75 USD) sales revenue generated so far. The cattle fattening group in Adamitulu district were able to earn profit of 77,080 Birr (2794.15 USD) from the two round sales of 25 cattle.

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

Creating national and regional level market exposure was a strategy to increase access to market opportunities. In this reporting period, 374 rural women from the three districts of Oromia region were linked to Addis Ababa market through nationwide exhibition and bazaar and regional-level pre-Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) ministerial meeting⁸ organized at the African Union Compound. This was achieved through the partnership with the Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency and Society for Women and AIDS in Africa-Ethiopia (SWAA-E). Thus, to date, the ongoing national and district level exposure enabled 1,471 rural women (1,443 in Oromia and 28 in Afar) to get market access for their agricultural value-added products⁹.

From the market linkage exposures, the bazar and market exhibitions were very good opportunities to create linkage between rural women cooperatives and urban women enterprises in addition to sharing of experiences, knowledge, market information and revenue generation at the spot. The platform was also useful for the rural women to voice their challenges on input supply to relevant government stakeholders like the Ethiopian Industrial Input Development Enterprises. To facilitate further market relations and promote RUSACOs' products, business cards have also been issued to rural women participating in the market exposures created at national and district level.

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

⁷ Throughout this report, the current UN exchange rate with 27.5862 Birr per 1 USD was used.

⁸ The pre-CSW 62 ministerial meeting was organised at the AU from 21-23 February 2018. The National Exhibition and Bazaars were organized in May 2-8 and 11-16, 2018.

⁹ Grains, butter, pulses and semi and fully processed grain (locally called Kinche, Kolo, and Chicho).

In this reporting period, the third-round revolving fund was released for 894 rural women in Oromia. These women benefited from the first and second round loan provided by their RUSSACOs. The amount ranged from 5,200 to 10,000 ETB (USD 189 - 363). Thus, to date, 3,064 rural women (2,730 in Oromia and 334 in Afar) has accessed revolving fund for their different group and individual income generating activities.

Output 2.3 Rural women increased access to productive resources (land, agricultural inputs and time saving technologies)

In 2017, 675 rural women were reorganized into nine agro-processing groups (seven in Oromia and two in Afar) to engage in four types of IGAs: cattle and shoat fattening, milk processing, grain production. During 2018, 300 rural women from four agro-processing groups (75 each) have engaged in milk processing, and cattle fattening businesses. To date, 225 rural women in representing the cattle fattening and milk processing groups have accessed land, working premises and facilitates for their production and sales activities. The process to legalize the agro-processing groups in to formal cooperatives is also started in this year.

This year, the cattle fattening groups in Adamitulu and Yayagulele districts of Oromia obtained 1-hectare and 2500 Square Meter of land respectively. The women were also provided with fodder processor machine and solar energy equipment for the generating of electric power. The milk processing and sales shed with electric power supply was also provided to milk processing group in Yayagulele district. The consecutive awareness and consultative meeting conducted with district administration and offices of women and children affairs of the two districts made this result possible.

To facilitate the effective use of milk processing, cattle and shoat-fattening¹⁰ technologies, 239 rural women (164 in Oromia and 75 in Afar) in March and November 2018. Six women representing the 4 agro - processing groups in Oromia have also participated in an experience sharing visit organized on October 4, 2018. From this visit, the women were able to gain practical knowledge on milk processing business from of a woman entrepreneur working in this business in Bishoftu Town of Oromia region. In addition, participants said that the experience sharing has been a good opportunity to learn from a real-life experience of a committed women.

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

Building the confidence and leadership capacity of rural women through specific trainings and experience sharing coupled with gender awareness creation campaigns and Community Conversations (CC) were the major interventions to enhance leadership and agency of rural women. In the last reporting period (2017), these interventions facilitated 53 per cent (1,335) of targeted rural women to jointly decide with their spouse on household resources and matters that involve sale of assets like cattle and rental of land. A weighted average of 15 per cent (368 women; 184 in Oromia and 184 in Afar) of rural women were also able to participate in decision-making in rural institutions including their RUSACCOs and women associations. When the programme started, there were no rural women participating in decision-making processes of rural institutions. Hence, these efforts will continue to increase the impacts of JPRWEE on sustainable social change in communities and within households.

¹⁰ Shot fattening is the technical term used for fattening of goats and sheep

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

Until the end of 2017, the JP RWEE was able to reach 7,990 community members (6,246 female and 1,744 male) through the individual level leadership trainings, exposure visits, CCs and awareness creation campaigns conducted in both regions. In this reporting period, the CC and gender awareness activities were slow due to the transitional activities of the JP to its second phase. The country's political situation has also attributed for communities not to come together for interventions like this one.

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

The JPRWEE aimed at building capacity of government implementing partners, undertaking research and advocacy to influence the policy and institutional environment of the agriculture sector. In this reporting period, notable results on policies was not realized. Establishment of a functional National Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture, engendering Cooperative Strengthening Manual of Federal Cooperatives Agency (FCA) and undertaking of action researches and producing policy brief on “Costing the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia, Budget Tracking of Agriculture Sector from Gender Perspective”, and Women Empowerment Agricultural Index (WEAI) were the major achievements so far.

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

As per the progress made in 2017, 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 improved their capacity to conduct gender analysis, incorporate gender-sensitive indicators and result orientation in their programme planning and management activities.

To date, two evidence-based researches on “Costing the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia” and “Budget Tracking of Agriculture Sector from Gender Perspective”, were conducted to inform policy level dialogues. However, tangible result is not realized beyond bringing relevant stakeholders to a common understanding on gender issues in agriculture sector. As a result, additional dialogues based on the these and new research findings is planned to be conducted in the coming reporting period.

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

Women Empowerment Agricultural Index (WEAI)¹¹ has been the only tool being used to track the progress of rural women targeted by the JP RWEE. To date, reports based on the collected ¹²qualitative and quantitative baseline data were produced. In this reporting period, the process of collecting progress against the quantitative baseline data is started in both Oromia and Afar regions.

¹¹ WEAI is developed by International Food policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

¹² The major finding of the qualitative study is the local definitions of women's empowerment from the perspective of rural women and men in the targeted districts of Oromia region.

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

Challenges

During this reporting period, the overall implementation of JP RWEE including its preparation to transit to second phased was challenged due to the overall political situations of the country. There were travel restrictions and reshuffling of government ministries¹³ and personnel at all level. This delayed the planned technical supports by both government partners and UN agencies and implementation of activities. It also made the planning and fund release process of the new phase lengthy. As a result, the need for additional time has become obvious given the amount of time lapsed to release fund for the new phase.

Lessons Learned and Good Practices:

The following are lessons extracted from the implementation of the JPRWEE

The importance of management involvement for strategic directions and guidance on donor relations and scale-up the programme: The country team realized the importance of engaging senior management for strategic direction and guidance on the fund mobilization of the Joint Programme. Accordingly, a plan to involve senior management members of participating agencies in a bilateral donors meeting is considered.

The potential and opportunities to move rural women up on the ladder of agricultural value chain: The design of the JP RWEE was initially developed without having a specific plan to move rural women up in the ladder of the agricultural value chain. Throughout the programme implementation, the country team has learned the potential of the rural women and their resources to grow in the value chain. Considering this, the new phase has already made value chain development part of its new intervention.

Good Practice on Revolving Seeds through RUSACCOs

During this reporting period, the country team has started to realize the dual benefit of revolving seed approach for rural women. The seeds were distributed through the women RUSACCOs in the form of revolving seed. Hence the first benefit observed is the sense of accountability created to properly utilize the seeds to increase their agricultural production. The accountability comes from the responsibility of the rural women to repay the seeds with additional 2 KGs as additional interest. The second benefit is that the repaid seeds with additional interest were used to reach more women who are members of the RUSACCOs. Thus, the country team has identified the revolving seed approach as a potential good practice for further development.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

The overall achievement of the JP is measured through the independent evaluation and regular monitoring activities of the programme. Based on the regular monitoring of the JP, women beneficiaries witnessed the benefit they have gained from the JP. The following is the words of Mrs Asnaku who a chairwoman of BeklechaBeri SACCOs in Yayagulele District is: -

¹³ Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to Ministry of Women, Children and Youth; Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources to Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation to Ministry of Finance.

“The benefit that we all gained from this programme is enormous. We are now actively engaged in different issues that concern our wellbeing as well as social and economic development. We are now familiar with making business. In a short period of time, we have managed to establish market linkages. Using the revolving fund obtained from the programme, members also engaged in different IGAs. The capacity building provided to us is also instrumental in this process.” At personal level, she also said, she has constructed a new and wider living quarter using corrugated iron sheet in place of the old narrow hut constructed from local material (grass). Even currently plastered the outer wall of her house with cement; she is engaged in backyard poultry production and is benefiting from the production and she also planted 3 Quintals of potato and the yield was 36 quintals.

Among the findings of the JPRWEE evaluation which was conducted from 15 June -30 November 2018 the JP was found relevant in its alignment with both the national and international development plans. It also addressed the needs of rural women farmer and pastoralists through the different programme interventions and approaches/ strategies that was aligned with women’s sustainable livelihoods and economic rights. The collaboration and partnership among implementing partners and UN agencies was an opportunity to build the capacity of both the targeted women, government partners/stakeholders. The JPs effectiveness was also manifested in its contribution to avail empowerment opportunities and platforms for women to thrive for better life and voice on the collective agenda of their human rights and economic empowerment. The JPRWEE also laid the foundation for ensuring sustainable results in both the lives of the targeted women and the government institutions working for women.

Finally, the programme coordination among the three agencies (UN Women, FAO and WFP) has been managed through the TWG and Programme Management Committee (PMC) established involving government partners at national level. The technical working group is comprised of focal persons of the UN agencies and Ministry of Women Children and Youth (MWCY) and Ministry of Finance. The PMC is also comprised of heads of the UN agencies and higher officials of the two ministries. Both governance structures are cochaired by UN Women and MWCY.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets ¹⁴	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1 Rural women improve their food security and nutrition			
<p>Indicator 1.1: Frequency and composition of meals and dietary diversity among targeted women and family members</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia :87.6% eat three times a day;10.2% eat twice a day and 2 % eat once a day Afar :39.9% eat three times a day; 34.1 % eat twice a day; 20.3 % eat once a day</p> <p>Planned Target: 70% of the beneficiaries in Afar will eat three times a day with appropriate dietary diversity 97% of the beneficiaries in Oromia will eat three times a day with appropriate dietary diversity.</p>	<p>80% (90% in Oromia and 35% in Afar) able to feed their household 3 times/day with a diversified diet in their meal i.e. at least 3 or more groups of food served per meal</p>	<p>The percentage is calculated by taking the 2,500 rural women (2,040 in Oromia and 460 in Afar) reached until the end of 2017.</p>	<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.2: % increase in agricultural production of targeted women farmers (targeted households) in a sustainable manner</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: 4.7% Afar: 18.4% declining</p> <p>Planned Target: Average 20% increase</p>	<p>Rural women in Oromia Region harvested 40, 45 and 20 quintal wheats, maize and teff per hector, respectively. This shows a 100% production increase in wheat production while maize and teff productions increased by 125% and 83% respectively.</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar.</p>
Output 1.1. Rural women access and control management over local household reserve increased			
<p>Indicator 1.1.1 Percentage of targeted women leading and managing food household reserves as a result of enhanced capacity</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia 20.6% Afar -None Planned Target: On average 50% of the</p>	<p>57% (weighted average) of rural women able to manage household food reserves (only those who have increased their income)</p>	<p>The percentage is calculated by taking the 2,500 rural women (2,040 in Oromia and 460 in Afar) reached until the end of 2017.</p>	<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar</p>

¹⁴ The achieved indicator targets are disaggregated in the two regions based on the separate baseline data collected and reported for the two regions. This was done by considering the huge contextual differences of the two regions. Results/ specific progresses have also been tracked for both regions for monitoring and management purposes.

targeted women			
Indicator 1.1.2 Number of targeted rural women/households accessing integrated agriculture services and Inputs. Baseline: Oromia: 100 rural women Afar: none Planned Target: 600 of the targeted rural women	1,233 rural women (1,200 in Oromia and 33 in Afar who have farm land) have accessed integrated agricultural nutrition services from the trained DAs and A/HEWs. To date, 883 rural women from Oromia received agricultural inputs and technologies		Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar
Indicator 1.2.2 Number of targeted women utilizing improved production techniques Baseline: Oromia: 46, Afar: none as pastoralist community, women hardly improved production techniques Planned Target: 600 of the targeted women	896 rural women (750 in Oromia and 56 in Afar) are now able to utilize improved production techniques that include row planting, vegetable gardening using their wet land, timely weeding, ploughing three times for Teff plantation, improved techniques for livestock rearing in Afar and following proper timing of fertilizer preparation and application and preparation of feed for cattle fattening.		Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar
Output 1.2 Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves and their production.			
Indicator 1.2.1 Number of targeted women accessing the innovative food processing plan (agriculture technology) Baseline: Oromia: None Afar: none Planned Target: 1000 of the target women	375 rural women (250 in Oromia and 125 in Afar) accessed technologies that include milk processing, maize sheller, water pumps and modern bee hives		Year-end monitoring data collected through the Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Bureau of Pastoral and Agriculture Development in Afar
Outcome 2 Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods.			
Indicator 2.1: Number of women with diversified income sources. Baseline: Oromia: All targeted women (households) have one to two sources of income (agriculture and livestock) Afar: All targeted women (households) have one to two sources of income (agriculture and livestock) And very few (14-16% engage in labour work like Food for work programme and petty trade for subsistence life) Planned Target: 3 to 4 income sources for at least 1,340 women of the target districts depending on the target areas	1,066 (900 in Oromia and 166 in Afar) of the targeted rural women diversified their sources of income	The number of sources of income will also be measured and reported at the end of the JP	Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.

<p>Indicator 2.2: Amount of women /women groups/ cooperatives income generated from their sales (in total) Baseline: 450 USD per Annum Planned Target: 900.00 USD per annum for 70% of the target</p>	<p>The average income of these rural women from the sales generated from their IGAs is increased from 9,460 to 12,000, Birr (435.48USD) per annum.</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Output 2.1 Rural women Enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to increase market for their product.</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.1.1 Number of targeted women getting access to diversified market opportunities (district and regional) markets for their goods /services</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: None; Afar: None</p> <p>Planned Target: At least 1,200 of the target women (2000) to get access to diversified/better market</p>	<p>Federal and Regional level market linkage was created for. 1,471 rural women (1,443 in Oromia and 28 in Afar)</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Output 2.2 Rural women access to holistic income-generating facilities and to gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services increased</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.2.1 Percentage of targeted women in the SACCOS (cooperatives) benefitting from gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: 38.2% of women benefited from financial services The financial services found to be gender insensitive. Afar: None Planned Target: 80% of the number 1 of women targeted in total for both regions</p>	<p>81% (92% in Oromia and 33.2% in Afar) benefitting from gender-sensitive financial and non-financial services</p>	<p>The percentage is calculated by taking the 2,500 rural women (2040 in Oromia and 460 in Afar) reached until the end of 2017.</p>	<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Indicator 2.2.2 Number of women accessing loans</p> <p>Baseline: None Planned Target: 2000 rural women of the targeted women 2000</p>	<p>3,064 rural women (2,730 in Oromia and 334 in Afar) accessed start-up capital/ revolving fund for their individual IGAs</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Indicator 2.2.3 Number of women who repaid total loan distributed</p> <p>Baseline: None Planned Target: 2000 rural women of the targeted women</p>	<p>1793 rural women in Oromia has also repaid their loan to their RUSSACOs 894 rural women received third-round loan</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Output 2.3 Rural women increased their knowledge and incorporate acquired skills on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and sustainable agriculture techniques</p>			

<p>Indicator 2.3.1 Number of targeted women with increased capacity on basic business management skills, functional literacy and entrepreneurship in accessing to BDS services</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia 26 women received entrepreneurship and business skills trainings Received BDS (counselling, coaching, cooperative formation etc.): 280 women Received Functional Adult literacy: 200 women Afar- 68 women received training on entrepreneurship and business skills</p> <p>Planned Target: 1500 of targeted women to have improved capacity on business and entrepreneurship; 600 of the target women to have participate in functional adult literacy</p>	<p>1,943 rural women (1,793 in Oromia and 150 in Afar) strengthened business knowledge and entrepreneurship skills</p> <p>441 rural women in Oromia able to read write</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Indicator 2.3.2 Number of women-initiated self-employment activities (IGAs) with the interventions</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia-None; Afar-None</p> <p>Planned Target 1400 of the target women either initiate business group /individual business</p>	<p>2,915 rural women (2,687 in Oromia and 228 in Afar) initiated and/or strengthened self-employment activities to support their livelihoods</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Output 2.4 Rural women have increased access to productive resources and services (land and agricultural inputs and technologies)</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.4.1 Number of women provided with time and labour saving technologies along with access to necessary capacity building interventions</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: None; Afar: None Planned Target: 1500 women accessing technology and tools</p>	<p>617 rural women (567 in Oromia and 50 in Afar) accessed time and labour saving technologies. The technologies include, one tractor to the RUSACCO, hand operated cream separator, hand operated butter turner, aluminum milk container, deep freezer and fodder processor for cattle fattening.</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>
<p>Indicator 2.4.2 Number of women who succeeded in obtaining joint land certificates and benefiting from it</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: 270; Afar: None Planned Target: 500 of the target women (households on average)</p>	<p>195 rural women reclaimed their land</p> <p>Five women RUSACCOs with 730 rural women members, received 2.5 hectare of land (one hectare to 1 RUSACCOs in Oromia and 1.5 hectare to 4 RUSACCOs in Afar),</p>		<p>Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.</p>

Outcome 3: Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes.			
<p>Indicator 3.1 Percentage of targeted rural women jointly deciding on household resources and matters</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia Almost non-except in their self-help groups /cooperatives (0%) Afar Almost non-except in their self-help groups /cooperatives (0%)</p> <p>Planned Target: 60% of the target women will have equal say on HH resources and matter</p>	53% (63% in Oromia and 11% in Afar) participated in household decision-making involving the sale of assets like cattle and rental of land		Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.
<p>Indicator 3.2: Percentage of targeted rural women participating in decision making in rural institutions and communities</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: only in their self-help groups /women SACCOS</p> <p>Afar-: only in their self-help groups /women SACCOS</p> <p>Planned Target: 10% of the target women will be participating in leadership and decision making in rural institutions including RUSACCOS and community-based organization.</p>	15% (9% in Oromia and 40% in Afar) participated in decision-making at rural institutions and communities (RUSACCOS)		Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.
Output 3.1 Rural women confidence and leadership skills built to fully participate in family matters, rural institutions, cooperatives and unions			
<p>Indicator 3.1.1 Number of institutions and communities advocating for women and girls' economic rights.</p> <p>Baseline: Oromia: 2 women Cooperatives Per District; Afar: 2 women Cooperative Per District</p> <p>Planned Target: At least 3 Cooperative unions, and 16 Cooperatives (both led by women and men) and 50% of the family members of the target women</p>	48 institutions ¹⁵ (38 from Oromia and 7 from Afar) are advocating for women to access and control land and other public services and resources		Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.
<p>Indicator 3.1.2 Number of community members (disaggregated by sex) whose misunderstanding /misconception on gender issues and women's economic rights minimized</p>	7,990 community members (6,246 female and 1,744 male) including targeted women, their spouses, members of the JP TWGs and Steering Committees and members of women associations were addressed.		Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.

¹⁵ These include regional, zonal and district women associations, BoWCAs, Cooperatives, Bureaus of Agriculture and Pastoral Development Bureaus (BoPADs) and community-based associations.

Baseline: There exist a misunderstanding of gender and women right's issues in targeted areas Planned Target: 11,200 of the target community (both male and female)			
Indicator 3.1.3 Number of women with improved leadership, assertiveness and management skills. Baseline: Oromia: 200 of the target women Afar - None Planned Target: 1300 of the target will have better skill and confidence	112 rural women (100 in Oromia and 12 in Afar) working in their RUSACCOs and other community institutions.		Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.
Outcome 4: A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women			
Indicator4.1: Number of new/revised agricultural strategies, regulatory frameworks and standards which mainstreamed gender Baseline: There is one agricultural policy which is gender sensitive at national level Planned Target: three (one gender responsive policy, one gender mainstreaming strategy and one implementation guideline the same cascaded to the target regions)	1 implementation guideline developed, titled "Cooperative Strengthening Manual" There is also an ongoing process to make the Agriculture Sector Policy Framework gender-sensitive.		Programme biannual and annual reports
Indicator 4.2: Number of relevant institutions incorporated gender equality related targets in their policy and programmes Baseline: TBD Planned Target: three sectoral institutions (Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ministry of Education (Integrated functional adult literacy programme and manual) and Federal Cooperative Agency	By the end of 2018, XX institutions incorporated gender equality in their policies. There is an ongoing effort by capacitating 4 regional and district level institutions (Bureaus of Education, Cooperative promotion Agency, Agriculture and Livestock and Fishery) to incorporate gender target in their planning and implementation processes.		Programme Bi annual and annual reports
Output 4.1: Agriculture key stakeholders, including relevant government bodies, capacity enhanced to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender sensitive indicators and targets in planning and budgeting			
Indicator 4.1.1 Number of experts and officials in agriculture cooperative and other institutions whose capacity increased to conduct gender analysis and integrate gender sensitive indicators and targets in planning and budgeting Baseline: TBD Planned Target: 624 experts and government	1,332 (775 female and 557 male) experts of regional and district level BoWCAs, CPAs, BoAs, district and zonal administrations, women associations enhanced their knowledge and skills to respond to the needs of rural women in Afar and Oromia regions through workshops, gender mainstreaming and GRB, and gender and leadership trainings conducted under the Joint Programme		Programme quarter reports of MoWCA, Federal Cooperative Agency, proceeding of the programme review meeting,

officials working in agriculture, cooperative and other government institutions			
Indicator 4.1.2 Availability of evidence-based research and actions to inform policy development/revision, to better integrate gender equality in key sectors strategy and investment framework Baseline: Only national level Preliminary Gender Profile Planned Target: Three policy advocacy-oriented research including comprehensive national gender profile and Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index" (WEAI)	2 evidence-based researches conducted, namely "Costing the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Ethiopia" and "Budget Tracking of Agriculture Sector from Gender Perspective".		Programme Bi annual and annual reports - Soft copy of 2 researches.
Indicator 4.1.3 Number of Gender Responsive centres and financial and non-financial services provided to target women jointly by agricultural offices, cooperative promotion agency and other key sectors Baseline: Oromia -Gender Neutral FTC Centre Afar- Gender Neutral FTC Centre Planned Target: At least three genders responsive functional Service / BDS centres established to provide women with non-financial services	10 RUSACCOs (6 in Oromia and 4 in Afar) and 4 FTCs in Oromia region were capacitated to provide gender-sensitive services.		Year-end monitoring data collected through BoWCAs, and CPAs.
Output 4.2 Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women			
4.2.1 WEAI is piloted	Through the JP RWEE WEAI is piloted in the targeted regions.		

JP RWEE Saves a Family on the Verge of Breakdown



Mulu Eshete is a member of the Bekelcha Beri RUSACCOs, JPRWEE supported cooperative in Yaya Gulele district of North Shewa Zone in Oromia region. She has six family members; 4 children and a husband. She lived under extreme food insecurity and poverty. According to Mulu, they leased out their farming land for obtaining cash but was unable to reclaim due to destitution. As a result, the family was forced to disintegrate, her husband migrated to Addis Ababa in search of opportunities for employment. Besides, she sent her son to extended family to resume his education in the exchange of his labour. After some time, her husband and relative insisted. Mulu to follow her husband to Addis but she resisted and stayed at her village.

Fortunately, Mulu became one of the beneficiaries of JP RWEE with other 150 members in 2016. Since becoming part of a JPRWEE supported RUSACCO, Mulu has learned business skill, developed a business plan and received a startup loan of Birr 6,000 (211.44USD) as 1st round revolving fund. Then, she paid the debt of Birr 4000(141) for reclaiming her land and started farming on her own land again. The rest of the money was used for other complementary petty trade (local beer) which enabled her to join “Ekub” (traditional saving) where she managed to receive Birr 23,000 (USD810.51). Observing this progress, her husband has returned home, and she also brought back her son home to continue his education as she is now able to meet the household’s basic needs. Mulu bought oxen for supporting the farming activity and improved her house (built corrugated iron sheet house that has 3 rooms). After repaid the 1st round loan, she took the 2nd round loan of Birr 10,000 to expand her business. Presently, Mulu is living in good conditions with her family that was in the verge of breakdown.

Women’s cooperatives boost agriculture and savings in rural Ethiopia

Through women’s cooperatives, JPRWEE provides training in agricultural techniques, improved seeds and time-saving machinery, while also granting loans and encouraging saving.

In most parts of the Dodola district, Oromia Region, 300 km south of Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa, slow-moving oxen plowing opens stretches of farmland. But in one field, a red tractor is speedily tilling women’s cooperative owned farmland ahead of the rainy season. For Kamsu Bame, a widowed mother of 12 and owner of 2.5 acres of land, the tractor has saved days of grueling labour.

Bame is among more than 2,000 smallholder women farmers involved in a JPRWEE to boost sustainable agricultural production and rural women’s economic empowerment, through cooperatives.

After Bame joined the women’s cooperative in her village of Wabi Burkitu, she received a 7,000 Birr (259 USD) loan, which she used to start a cart-transport service. Bame uses her daily average income of 400 Birr (15 USD) to support her children, four of whom live independently. Her membership also enables her to cultivate the land using a tractor owned by the cooperative.

“Before the death of my husband, whenever the rainy season came, I remember him spending three to four days ploughing the family’s land with the pair of oxen we owned. Each day, he and the oxen used to come back home exhausted,” she recalls. “Today, it is different, as I am privileged to farm the same land with a tractor and it takes a maximum of three hours.”

The tractor is used to farm the land jointly owned by the cooperative as a team, as well as each member’s own land. The cooperative also rents it out to other farmers in 26 villages across the district, whose population is more than 240,000. Charging up to 1,500 Birr (56 USD) per hectare, the cooperative currently earns over 6,000 Birr (222 USD) per day, on average.



Fourth from left-Bame clears the cooperative’s farmland with some of the members. The cooperative’s tractor is visible behind them. (Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)



Bame takes care of her sheep by her grass-roofed house. Among her long-term plans are to build a new roof with corrugated iron sheets. (Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)



Sado Dube, the head of the village administration, where Bame lives inside the cooperative’s farmland cultivated by their tractor, behind him. He explains the benefits of the tractor to cooperative members and communities. (Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)



Medina Hussein, one of the cooperative members, demonstrates the time and labour-consuming oxen ploughing in her village. (Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)

For Tulule Knife, a 38-year-old member of a cooperative in the Adamitulu district of the Oromia region, the training sessions she received have improved her yields and provided a livelihood for her family of nine.

“My village is known for growing maize in traditional ways, which involves scattering seeds by hand all over the prepared land,” she explains. Last year, equipped with new sustainable farming techniques, Knife sowed wheat seeds, a rarity since it doesn’t yield enough grains using traditional planting methods.

“During last year’s planting season, I sowed 50 kg of improved wheat seeds using a better way of planting I learned from the training known as *line sowing*. I harvested 15 quintals of wheat and sold that to the community for 15,000 Birr (555 USD). With traditional planting, for the same amount of seeds and other inputs, there are times when the yield is not even a quarter of that.”

She says that some members of her community found it so unbelievable, they accused her of witchcraft. But the village administration acknowledged her publicly, awarding her a modern grain storage facility. Knife now trains men and women farmers in these new agricultural techniques and has organized a self-help savings group of 20 members.



Knife explains the seed spacing she used under *line sowing* approach in her farmland. Last year, she grew wheat. This year she has used the same method to plant maize. (Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)



Knife uses the modern grain storage facility known as *metallic silo* that her village administration awarded her for successfully applying the *line sowing* approach to her wheat farm. It also keeps her grain safer. (Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)

The impact of JPRWEE has been profound, says Alima Bakuye, chair of the Abune Gawano cooperative in Adamitulu district. “The support is a turning point in effectively empowering the women and in making it a norm that women are benefiting and owning assets equal to men. For example, children and youth in the community used to refer to assets owned by the family, such as livestock, as ‘my father’s sheep’ and ‘my father’s goats’. Today, they are saying ‘my mother’s sheep’, ‘my mother’s goats’. This leads to a long-term change as it is impacting future generations.”



First from right, Alima Bakuye with some of the members inside the women cooperative’s newly established modern cattle-fattening facility through the support of the joint programme. (Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)



The cashier of the cooperative receives the members’ monthly savings contributions. The savings amount has increased from five Birr (0.18 USD) in a month to 20 Birr (0.74 USD). (Photo: UN Women/Fikerte Abebe)

According to Letty Chiwara, UN Women Representative for Ethiopia, agricultural cooperatives—especially those established by women in rural areas—play a key role in enhancing productivity through sustainable farming practices. “Injecting basic labour and time-saving technologies, along with the relevant knowledge, to smallholder women farmers’ cooperatives are critical elements in the sustainable escalation of the value chain in agriculture. This, in turn, results in quality of life improvements for women farmers and communities at large,” she says.

Launched in the regions of Afar and Oromia in 2014, the five-year programme works with 10 cooperatives, with 48 to 516 members each. Beyond the more than 2,000 direct beneficiaries, 14,000 family members and 32,000 community members are benefiting indirectly.

Related story: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/7/from-where-i-stand-birtukan-fekadu>

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

The end evaluation of JPRWEE was completed this year resulting in the extraction of evidences on the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impacts of the JPRWEE interventions in Ethiopia. The report is now in its final stage by the time this annual report is compiled. It will soon be disseminated to share the achievements, good practices and lessons drawn from the JP.

IV. Resources

UN Agency	Budget Approved and Released (Sweden and Norway)	Expenditure as per MPTF GATEWAY	Percentage %	Remark
WFP	1,258,979.00	780,263.00	61.98%	No additional funding is mobilized at country level.
UN Women	570,536.00	158,855.00	27.84%	
FAO	658,741.00	322,015.00	48.88%	
Total	2,488,256	1,261,134		