Programme Title & Project Number
- Programme Title: Accelerating Progress Towards Economic Empowerment of Rural Women
- MPTF Office Project Reference Number: 00092000-6

Participating Organizations
- FAO
- IFAD
- WFP
- UN Women

Programme/Project Cost (US$)
Total approved budget as per project document:
US$35,000,000

MPTF Contribution:
- FAO: US$5,369,597
- IFAD: US$1,922,271
- UN Women: US$6,818,660
- WFP: US$7,181,183
TOTAL: US$21,291,711

Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results

The strategic result is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development and the SDGs

Implementing Partners
Government Ministries, NGOs/CSOs, private sector, and other UN Agencies and International Organizations

Reporting period
1 January - 31 December 2018

Programme Duration
Overall Duration: 60 months (as per programme document)

Start Date 15/10/2012
Original End Date 14/10/2017
Current End Date 30/06/2020

Report Submitted by
Azzurra Chiarini
JP RWEE Global Coordinator
azzurra.chiarini@wfp.org

Contributing Donors
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sweden
OUTCOME 1. Rural women have improved food and nutrition security
OUTCOME 2. Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products
OUTCOME 3. Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions
OUTCOME 4. A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women
Delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & good practices
Qualitative assessment of the JP’s implementation
Governance arrangements
Knowledge management

INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

A SPECIFIC STORY: KYRGYZSTAN, WHERE A BAG OF FLOUR ON LOAN GOES A LONG WAY

OTHER ASSESSMENTS OR EVALUATIONS

PROGRAMMATIC REVISION

RESOURCES

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

SOURCES AND USE OF FUNDS

PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

INTEREST EARNED

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

TRANSFER BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT

EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY CATEGORY

COST RECOVERY

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

DIRECT COSTS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Administrative Agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFS</td>
<td>Committee on World Food Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGR</td>
<td>Community Grain Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSW</td>
<td>Commission on the Status of Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFS</td>
<td>Farmer Field School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GALA</td>
<td>Gender Action Learning System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFPRI</td>
<td>International Food Policy Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGA</td>
<td>Income Generating Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>Implementing Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISC</td>
<td>International Steering Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JP</td>
<td>Joint Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPTFO</td>
<td>Multi Partner Trust Fund Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSC</td>
<td>National Steering Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P4P</td>
<td>Purchase for Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO</td>
<td>Producer Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHHS</td>
<td>Post-Harvest Handling and Storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUNOs</td>
<td>Participating UN Organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBAs</td>
<td>Rome-Based Agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSACCO</td>
<td>Rural Savings and Credit Cooperatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RWEE</td>
<td>Rural Women's Economic Empowerment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHG</td>
<td>Self-Help Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sida</td>
<td>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGBV</td>
<td>Sexual and Gender-Based Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRH</td>
<td>Sexual and Reproductive Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAC</td>
<td>Technical Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ToT</td>
<td>Training of Trainers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TF</td>
<td>Trust Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWG</td>
<td>Technical Working Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDG</td>
<td>United Nations Development Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Women</td>
<td>United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSLA</td>
<td>Village Savings and Loan Associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEAI</td>
<td>Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**DEFINITIONS**

**Allocation**
Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme.

**Approved Project/Programme**
A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.

**Contributor Commitment**
Amount(s) committed by a donor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

**Contributor Deposit**
Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement.

**Delivery Rate**
The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization against the ‘net funded amount’.

**Indirect Support Costs**
A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. UNDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmable costs. As of 2018, WFP applies a fixed indirect cost rate of 6.5%.

**Net Funded Amount**
Amount transferred to a Participating Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organization.

**Participating Organization**
A UN Organization or other inter-governmental Organization that is an implementing partner in a Fund, as represented by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.

**Project Expenditure**
The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Participating Organization follows for donor reporting.

**Project Financial Closure**
A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.

**Project Operational Closure**
A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all programmatic activities for which Participating Organization(s) received funding have been completed.

**Project Start Date**
Date of transfer of first instalment from the MPTF Office to the Participating Organization.

**Total Approved Budget**
This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.

**US Dollar Amount**
The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.
The Joint Programme “Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women” (JP RWEE) is a global initiative whose overarching goal is to secure rural women’s livelihoods and rights in the context of sustainable development. Jointly implemented by FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, and Rwanda, the JP RWEE builds on each Agency’s comparative advantage and strengths to improve the status of women in rural areas.

In 2018, US$6,038,143 was received in the JP RWEE Trust Fund (TF), of which US$5,106,736 was allocated during the International Steering Committee (ISC) meeting of 3 July 2018 and US$800,000 during a virtual ISC held on 28 September 2018. A total of US$5,600,000 was disbursed to the seven countries of implementation (US$800,000 each), based on a competitive process. The workplans were assessed against a compliance checklist, which included the following criteria: outreach to new beneficiaries, monitoring plan, synergies and complementarities among the Participating UN Organisations (PUNOs), and sustainability at different, yet closely interconnected levels: individual, community, and institutional.

During 2018 all participating countries experienced several months’ gap in the execution of JP RWEE activities between the finalisation of the previous phase (March/April 2018) and the disbursement of the new funds (September 2018). Despite the efforts from Country Teams to ensure continuity of operations, this has affected achievement of some of the results, especially under the outcome areas that require a more long-term engagement (for instance, outcome 4 on more gender-responsive policy environments for rural women in agriculture). However, more progress is expected over the course of 2019.

Notwithstanding the unpredictability of funding, which has been a constant feature of the JP since its launch, initial country evaluations, like the one completed in Kyrgyzstan, seem to confirm that the holistic approach to women’s economic empowerment, along with the strong focus of the JP RWEE on partnerships and country ownership, is leading to sustainable results and has the potential to be replicated and scaled up.

A more in-depth analysis of country reports shows that since its implementation started, the Joint Programme has reached 61,736 beneficiaries (49,089 women and 12,647 men) directly, and an estimated 315,688 household members indirectly.

Notwithstanding the unpredictability of funding, which has been a constant feature of the JP since its launch, initial country evaluations, like the one completed in Kyrgyzstan, seem to confirm that the holistic approach to women’s economic empowerment, along with the strong focus of the JP RWEE on partnerships and country ownership, is leading to sustainable results and has the potential to be replicated and scaled up.

A breakdown by country, including the corresponding percentages over the total, is presented in Table 1 and Figure 1.

### Table 1. Breakdown of JP RWEE Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries by Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Total Beneficiaries per Country</th>
<th>Average Household Size</th>
<th>Total Household Member Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>16,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>4,559</td>
<td>1,273</td>
<td>5,832</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>27,994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>6,480</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>7,456</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>38,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>7,003</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>7,963</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>42,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>3,622</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,622</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>17,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>14,300</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>94,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>9,625</td>
<td>7,738</td>
<td>17,363</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>78,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>49,089</td>
<td>12,647</td>
<td><strong>61,736</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>315,688</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 See para III – Other assessments or evaluations.
2 The number of household members has been calculated based on the average household size in the seven countries.
Main results for 2018 include:

- 34.1% average increase in the agricultural production of participating rural women as compared to 2017;³
- US$785,192 generated from sales at the individual and group levels, raising the aggregated amount for the past three years to US$1.8 million;
- 81.6% of POs supported by the JP led by women or with women holding key leadership positions;
- 16,503 beneficiaries (16,087 women and 416 men) organised in saving groups with approximately US$617,250 saved;
- 7,480 cooperatives and POs members (5,990 women and 1,490 men) with strengthened organisational capacities;
- 3,588 rural women with improved skills on business and financial management, value chains, marketing and negotiation;
- 9,002 rural women engaged in self-employment / income-generating activities, in both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors;
- 110 newly established women’s groups joined formally registered POs;
- 400 additional government staff trained on gender mainstreaming and rural women’s empowerment.

These outcomes in participating countries have been fostered by an even greater engagement at the global level, with the organisation of several advocacy events (for instance, at CFS 45 and CSW 62) where the JP was presented as a good practice and a source of lessons learned to ensure the full and equal participation of rural women in economic, political, and social life.

The above achievements are mostly due to a governance mechanism that continues to be a model also for other joint programmes, and to the dedication of Agencies’ Focal Points, Country Offices and National Coordinators who are using the JP as a platform for learning and exchanging, and are building solid partnerships with local institutions, private sector, civil society organisations, and other UN Agencies. This important learning experience will be, during the next phase of implementation, scaled up and analysed in order to make its contribution to women’s empowerment and overall implementation of the Agenda 2030 more sustainable.

This report is presented in two parts: the narrative report and the financial performance report.⁴ It consolidates the data, information and examples presented in the individual country reports and Performance Monitoring Frameworks. The report has been approved by the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the JP RWEE, which is composed of high-level representatives of the four agencies, the participating countries, the Global Coordinator, the Administrative Agent of the JP RWEE Trust Fund (the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office), and the Programme’s donors (Sweden and Norway).

³ As per programme document and PMF, the JP RWEE has always only measured the production, and not productivity of women beneficiaries.

⁴ The annual narrative country reports were prepared and validated by the respective National Steering Committees and are available in each country’s dedicated page on the MPTFO website.
There is increasing evidence that an integrated approach to women’s empowerment in development programmes has multiplying effects, enhancing the impact and sustainability of programme outcomes. There are two reasons for this. First, women often have more to gain than men from approaches that incorporate life skills such as nutrition education, literacy training, financial education, entrepreneurship and social empowerment. Second, integrated programmes tend to be more efficient, either using a single extension system and support network to deliver training and other inputs, or affecting several aspects of community life through a single intervention.

Based on this premise, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) established a five-year results-oriented joint programme for rural women titled “Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women” (JP RWEE). The Joint Programme, implemented since 2014 in seven countries (Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Niger, and Rwanda), aims to respond to the diversity of issues that rural women face in their daily lives, which collectively go beyond the mandate of any individual UN entity.
NARRATIVE REPORTING ON RESULTS

The JP RWEE adopts a multi-track strategy aiming to achieve short-, medium- and long-term results. In the short term, the focus is on ensuring rural women’s increased production and access to income. The medium- and long-term work focuses on promoting gender-responsive policy and legal environments for rural women’s economic empowerment, and on ensuring their full access to productive resources, assets and inputs. In terms of beneficiaries, in 2018 all countries have continued to work with two main groups of rural women, based on criteria agreed with the national governments and after conducting baseline assessments.

These groups are:

1. the most vulnerable, poorest and illiterate women, who are often bypassed by conventional economic empowerment programmes; and
2. women entrepreneurs already organized in Producer Organisations (POs), including cooperatives with the potential to grow their businesses and contribute to economic revitalization and growth in their communities.

This double targeting has allowed the JP to work on a few “empowerment accelerators” with women who had already received some kind of external support, who had basic literacy, numeracy, and business skills and/or had already organized themselves into groups, while at the same time responding to the principle of “Leaving No-One Behind”, reaching out to the women who for multiple reasons (e.g., ethnicity, single parenthood, precarious occupations, ultra-poverty, etc.) suffer from social stigma and have had, through the JP RWEE, an opportunity to become an active part of their communities.

OUTCOME 1. Rural women have improved food and nutrition security

Outcome 1 focuses on increasing the productive potential of women smallholder farmers through ensuring their access to and control over productive resources and services critical to food security and nutrition.

In 2018, data collected from five countries\(^5\) showed a further average increase in agricultural production of 34.1%. The highest increase was reported in Ethiopia, where it totalled 103% for wheat, maize and teff crops. Likewise, positive results have been observed in nutrition security of beneficiaries: for instance, in Niger, the Dietary Diversity Score\(^6\) of targeted households in Djirataoua has increased from 2.42 to 3.73. This can be directly linked to the fact that the reported production increase (39.8% for this country) was for both vegetables and animals, two of the food groups that are mostly absent in poor diets and constitute an important source of vitamins and protein. In Ethiopia, 80% of the targeted rural women were able to feed their household 3 times a day with a diversified diet in their meal.\(^7\) Similarly, in Liberia 43.7% of rural women.

---

5 Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia, Nepal, and Niger.
6 The Dietary Diversity Score is a proxy indicator of household food access and food security. It measures the number of individual foods or food groups consumed over a seven-day recall period.
7 The disaggregated data shows how this corresponds to 97% in Oromia and 70% in Afar. According to the baseline, before the JP started, in Oromia 87.6% ate 3 times, 10.2% twice & 2% once a day. In Afar 39.9% ate 3 times, 34.1% eat twice & 20.3% eat once.
headed-households reported to consume a balanced diet of carbohydrates and vegetables.

The JP RWEE Evaluation in Kyrgyzstan also proved how the proportion of households with “poor” or “borderline” food consumption score dropped in target areas from 24% in 2014 to 9% in 2017, with an increase in the frequency of fruit consumption from an average of 1.2 days per week to 4.3 days per week, as it’s shown in figure 2.

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

This output looks at strategies to facilitate rural women’s access to and ownership of different resources that are fundamental for food security, including the provision of improved seeds, capacity building on different sustainable cropping techniques, and access to technologies. In 2018 only, 1,743 rural women gained access to labour-saving technologies with good results on time saved.

A recent study in Niger using a multiple-choice questionnaire estimated that in target areas, 47% of women saved approximately four hours per day compared to their typical day before the JP RWEE started, 33% between two and four hours, 15% two hours, and 5% one hour per day (see figure 3).

Interestingly, when asked about how they were using this additional time, 53% of them mentioned income-generating activities, 46% improving household harmony, 42% hygiene practices, and 39% health centres attendance.

Figure 2. AVERAGE FREQUENCY OF FOOD CONSUMPTION BY TYPE (DAYS PER WEEK) BEFORE AND AFTER THE JP RWEE IN KYRGYZSTAN

Figure 3. ESTIMATED TIME SAVED DUE TO THE LABOUR-SAVING COMPONENT OF THE JP RWEE IN NIGER

8 While measuring improvement in the nutritional status of beneficiaries in the seven countries, a major limitation was observed as there is no consensus on which indicators should be used. However, countries share a similar rationale of the pathway between a more diverse food production and improved food consumption habits (therefore implying better micronutrient intake through dietary diversity and frequency).

9 Source: Final evaluation of the Kyrgyzstan Joint UN Women/ FAO/ IFAD/ WFP Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women, Kyrgyzstan 2018.

10 In Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, and Niger.

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

A total of 3,747 rural women and 18,735 household members benefitted from kitchen gardens in Rwanda and Nepal in the course of 2018, helping them access nutritious and diverse foods, but also generate additional income by selling their surplus production. In Liberia, 4,375 women and their families are now using grain reserves to protect themselves from grain production shortfalls, thus contributing to the stabilization of grain prices at the community and district levels.

In the framework of the JP RWEE, processing technologies contributed to the reduction of post-harvest losses (11% in Guatemala only) and value addition, and are now available for 17,392 rural women beneficiaries in the seven countries. The distribution of these assets is always accompanied by trainings on their use and maintenance, which in some cases is still ongoing: for example, in Ethiopia and Rwanda, 2,567 women had their capacities strengthened on Post-Harvest Handling and Storage (PHHS) in the course of 2018.

Nutrition services have also continued to be at the core of the work done under this output and included capacity building activities to guarantee the best utilization of food (including topics like preparation of a healthy meal, and good health and hygiene practices) and nutrition services for 4,458 women beneficiaries in three countries. This has also entailed, in some cases, the provision of technologies that facilitate the adoption of these practices: in Guatemala for instance, 260 households received handcrafted filters for water purification, as well as training on their use and maintenance.

12 Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia, Nepal, and Niger.
**OUTCOME 2. Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods and create wealth**

This outcome area focuses on creating, supporting and developing rural women-led enterprises, supporting women’s role along value chains, enhancing their income opportunities and promoting their linkages to high value markets. Over the course of the past twelve months, data collected from six countries show that a total of US$785,192 was generated from sales at the individual and group levels, raising the aggregate amount for the last three years, when sales started, up to US$1.8 million. 

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

As for past years, access to credit has been one of the main strategies of the JP RWEE to support rural women’s entrepreneurial capacities and enhance their market competitiveness and has also been at the center of the first South-South learning exchange organized in the framework of the Programme. 

All countries have introduced specific methodologies to create or strengthen saving and loans groups that now include a total of 16,503 beneficiaries (16,087 women and 416 men) in Village Saving and Loans Associations (in Guatemala, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, and Rwanda), Self-Help Groups (Kyrgyzstan), and Rural Saving and Credit Cooperatives (Ethiopia). These various groups were able to generate a total of approximately US$617,250 in savings, which have been reinvested in education and health, and used either as safety net, or to initiate and/or strengthen individual/group income-generating activities.

The continuous reinforcement of these groups was also coupled by capacity development to strengthen the entrepreneurial skills of a total of 24,138 rural women to date. In 2018 only, 3,588 women beneficiaries from four countries received training (either through workshops or ToT) on business and financial management, value chains, marketing and negotiation skills, and other topics essential for fostering their successful participation in markets.

Strategies to bolster market exposure and to create market linkages were also used to increase market opportunities for women: in Ethiopia and Rwanda, 1,961 programme participants (1,830 women and 131 men) gained market access as a result of their participation in national fairs and are now either selling directly to consumers or to businesses, including hotels and companies like Africa Improved Foods. As for market linkages, the main channel to date has been “Purchase for Progress” (P4P), which is also having a positive impact on the selling prices farmers (and particularly women) are getting for their produce: in Niger, the surplus earned by selling to the WFP instead to regular markets was US$5,439 in 2018, of which US$3,535 was earned by women and US$1,904 by men.

---

15. See para h. Knowledge management.
16. In Ethiopia for instance, the number of rural women who accessed these revolving funds (894) increased by 44% compared to 2017, while the average size of the loan ranged from 5,200 to 10,000 ETB (US$189 - 363).
17. Ethiopia, Guatemala, Niger and Rwanda.
18. Africa Improved Foods (AIF) is a public-private partnership involving DSM – a company specialized in Nutrition, the Government of Rwanda, and others. AIF provides a scalable and sustainable solution to malnutrition via local production of highly nutritious foods.
19. P4P-like models are used in Guatemala, Liberia, Niger, and Rwanda.
OUTPUT 2.2. Rural women have increased access to decent wage employment opportunities

The JP RWEE is working simultaneously on different drivers that have the potential to promote access to decent work for individual participants, and mostly focus on removing structural barriers to women’s engagement in economic activities. This includes the promotion of women’s equal participation, the provision of technology for increased production, the use of household methodologies for a fairer distribution of unpaid care work, the establishment of revolving funds for access to capital, and increased awareness around land rights.

Data available from five countries indicates that during 2018, a total of 9,002 rural women initiated and/or strengthened self-employment / income-generating activities, in both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors which range from more “traditional” businesses like tomato and milk processing, production of handicrafts, bakeries, to more innovative activities like repairing of mobile phones and photo studios. Seed capital provided by the JP was fundamental for allowing women start their own businesses and income-generating activities.

For instance, in Guatemala, the available start-up capital was used for setting up ten health stores for the sales of hygiene equipment in rural schools, providing an income opportunity to 497 rural women while at the same time making sure that 1,166 children from these schools accessed affordable hygiene products. Similarly, in Liberia, 35 women received the equipment and training to become “Mobile Money” agents for Orange Telecom.

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

Actions under this area promote rural women’s participation and leadership in POs and local governance systems, and leverage rural women’s voice and influence in key policy processes. Some good progress has been recorded under this outcome despite the implementation gap mentioned throughout this report. For instance, in countries working with mixed groups (Niger, Rwanda, and Guatemala), the percentage of mixed Producer Organisations (POs) led by women or with women in leadership positions has increased from 68.5% to 81.6% in 2018.

A similar improvement was reflected in women’s decision-making at the household level, with rural women in Liberia reporting to be able to control an average of around LD$ 4,800 (approx. US$30) per week, which are mostly used to cover the costs of food items, school tuition, medication and other basic needs. This amount is 53% higher than what rural women were able to access and control in 2015.

The participation of JP RWEE beneficiaries in land committees was also promoted as one of the strategies to respond to the challenge posed by rural women’s limited ownership of and access to land, which is undermining the profitability of agriculture as a commercial activity and limiting the potential for agricultural land use in achieving food security and nutrition.

A total of 3,233 women from Liberia and Niger participated in land committees to make sure their specific needs were heard: in Niger for example, women representatives shared how access is not an issue (according to a recent survey, 98% of women have a piece of land to cultivate), but ownership is still limited with only 9% (88) of sampled women owning the land they are cultivating in the framework of the JP, as shown by figure 4.

---

20 As a reminder, the JP RWEE uses FAO’s definition of rural women’s empowerment through decent work: “Empowerment of rural women through decent work is a process of inter-dependent and mutually-reinforcing components: social and economic advancement, power and agency, and dignity and value. It addresses women’s specific needs within the ‘world of work’ and ultimately leads to gender equality”.

21 Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda.

22 Orange Money is the mobile money service of Orange, available in most of the group’s affiliates in Africa. Its users can deposit money into an account linked to their mobile phone number, and then access a range of services, in particular transferring money domestically and internationally, paying bills and buying airtime top-up.

23 The average was obtained from percentages reported in 2018 from Guatemala and Niger, and under the assumption that the percentage reported by Rwanda in 2017 remained stable since no changes were reported.

24 See para e. Delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & good practices.

25 Data collected by the NGO Diko on a sample of 676 women in Guidan Amoumoune.
OUTPUT 3.1. Rural women, including young women, have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to take an active part in local governance systems

Over the past twelve months, specific capacity building activities for enhancing self-confidence and leadership skills of 1,808 new beneficiaries took place in Ethiopia and Guatemala, while over 2,000 rural women in Guatemala and Niger strengthened their literacy and numeracy skills through the organisation of adult literacy courses and the support provided to those interested in enrolling in formal schooling. These have proven to be two key activities of the work to increase rural women's opportunities to participate in local governance, as proven by the number of women beneficiaries who are already holding leadership positions in JP RWEE countries:

- in Kyrgyzstan, 33 women leaders participated in the process of planning and budgeting in local institutions;
- in Rwanda, 129 women are now holding key positions in village committees and National Women's Councils;
- in Niger, 160 women leaders continued to reinforce the capacities of the 2,400 women members of the Dimitra Clubs established in the framework of the JP; and
- in Guatemala, 4 indigenous women beneficiaries were elected for the first time in rural councils, contributing to the overall work that the Programme is undertaking to recognize and value the indigenous culture.

It is also important to highlight how the JP has broadened its scope to also include in its awareness-raising and capacity development activities issues like family planning, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). For example, in Liberia, the affirmative action conducted by 387 rural women volunteers who shared information on the available SGBV referral pathway led to improved reporting of violence at the community level (1,039 reported cases). In Guatemala, a women's march was organized in Cobán on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November), with the participation of over 200 women representing local civil society.

---

26 Guatemala, Liberia and Niger.
27 COCODES (Consejos Comunitarios de Desarrollo Urbano y Rural) and COMUDES (Consejos Municipales) are part of the local governance system in Guatemala.
28 In Alta Verapaz, target region of the JP in Guatemala, over 90% of the population is indigenous.
29 These 200 women are not counted as direct beneficiaries of the JP RWEE.
OUTPUT 3.2. Rural women have greater organizational capacities to form, sustain and participate in POs, cooperatives and unions

Data collected by four countries\textsuperscript{30} in 2018 indicates that a total of 110 newly established women’s groups joined formally registered POs, and therefore are able to benefit from possibilities coming from national government, banks, and the private sector; their registration also allows them to participate in P4P,\textsuperscript{31} as is the case in Niger and Liberia. Among the already registered POs, a total of 44 in Guatemala, Niger and Rwanda adopted gender policies and guidelines to improve women’s participation in leadership and decision-making positions. In Niger and Rwanda, 177 mixed POs with 7,480 members (5,990 women and 1,490 men) had their organizational capacities strengthened, with a focus on inclusive governance for cooperatives.

\textsuperscript{30} Guatemala, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda.
\textsuperscript{31} See output 2.1.

OUTPUT 3.3. Rural women, including young women, have increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels

In 2018, several activities took place to provide targeted rural women with market exposure and advocacy opportunities:

- \textbf{Contribution to national and regional dialogues:} in Kyrgyzstan, rural women had two different opportunities to influence national processes: through a roundtable between 23 programme participants (20 women and 3 men) and members of the Parliament, during which a series of concerns were raised, including the inclusiveness of the national programme “2018 Year of Rural Development”; and a meeting of 20 selected beneficiaries (19 women and 1 man) with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, during which participants exchanged on the priorities of the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment National Action Plan for 2018-2020, and the implementation of the social protection policy at the local level. In Nepal, two policy dialogues,
with a total of 110 participants, (62 women and 48 men), were organized in Kathmandu, focusing on opportunities for rural women in the new local development policies. In Niger, two workshops were organized between 40 young leaders (20 girls and 20 boys) and local authorities, to share ideas and identify opportunities for the entire communities to benefit from the support received from the JP and promote the sustainability of its results.

- **Trade shows:** In Ethiopia, thanks to the partnership with the Federal Urban Job Creation and Food Security Agency, 374 rural women attended a nationwide exhibition and bazaar organized in Addis Ababa in the framework of the preparatory ministerial meeting for the 2018 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). In Rwanda, 58 rural women (16% more than in 2017) from 10 cooperatives participated in the national Agricultural Show, where they were connected to other exhibitors.

- **Annual celebrations:** As in previous years, in Niger the International Day of Rural Women (15 October) was organized by the Ministry of Women’s Promotion and Child Protection with financial and technical support from the JP RWEE. Main issues presented by rural women to national and local authorities included the need to: i) reduce their workload; ii) recover degraded land; and, iii) promote access to markets, including in remote communities. A total of 1,200 participants from all over the country attended the event.
OUTPUT 3.4. Rural women, including young women, have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment

In order to support the achievement of this outcome, in 2018 the Joint Programme continued to engage at both the household and community levels to complement the work done to enhance the confidence and raise the awareness on their rights of individual women beneficiaries. This was achieved by using both innovative methodologies and/or existing good practices of Participating UN Organisations.

- **At the household level**, the JP continued to promote the Gender Action Learning System (GALS), a community-led empowerment methodology working to promote more equitable gender relations and a fairer distribution of workload between women and men. The GALS has now been implemented since 2015 in Rwanda and Kyrgyzstan, reaching over 5,000 people through peer-to-peer learning, thereby demonstrating a potential to also contribute to the overall sustainability of the JP by promoting the principles of self-reliance and visioning for a better future. Because of its success, the JP introduced the GALS methodology in Guatemala in 2018, for the first time in South America, and plans to implement it in Nepal during 2019.

At the community level, different initiatives were carried out in 2018:

- **Community Listeners Clubs (Dimitra Clubs)**, the JP’s entry point in Niger, continued to bring together the 3,600 members (2,400 women and 1,200 men) who are benefitting from the JP, finding a common ground for issues like: i) the reduction or elimination of dowry as a pre-condition of marriage; ii) strategies to reduce drug use among the youth; iii) the promotion of girls’ school attendance; and iv) the elimination of harmful practices and beliefs, like the one preventing widows to remarry. The extent to which these discussions have made an impact on women’s lives is well-synthesized in this testimony:

> (in our Club) We often discuss domestic violence, family planning, forced and early marriage, girls’ school attendance, and the need to regularly go to health centres. We even set fines for members who are not following our common resolutions: from FCFA 5,000 (approx. US$8.5) to FCFA 20,000 (approx. US$35) if there is a refusal to adopt family planning practices even if the husband or wife agrees; and FCFA 2,000 (approx. US$3.5) for each parent who refuses to educate his child. (Young Women’s Club, Malam Koirà).

- **Advocacy campaigns**: In Nepal, the action-oriented Sahi Ho! (“This is right!”) advocacy campaign was launched in January 2018 to enhance community awareness on the importance of the economic contribution and leadership of rural women farmers. Around 11 million individuals were reached through the campaign’s activities and media contents, out of which around 11,629 community members were directly engaged and mobilized through the community-based activities, which included multi-format community dialogues, Public Service Announcements (PSAs), and policy dialogues in the three JP RWEE districts and Kathmandu. The campaign was designed to create a supportive and enabling environment for women through advocacy, policy influencing and interactions with communities to address and challenge prevailing adverse gender norms and beliefs, whilst advocating for changes to the policy environment that reinforces them. A short video produced on the multi-format community dialogue held in Rautahat, one of the JP RWEE’s target districts, can be viewed here.

OUTCOME 4. A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women

Outcome 4 catalyses legislative and policy reforms: this has entailed, for instance, work for the effective enforcement of rural women’s land rights and their access to decent wage employment, social protection, and infrastructure. It involves advocating with governments, parliaments and other relevant stakeholders to deliver greater development outcomes to rural women, including in the framework of the Agenda 2030. This includes, among other things, the creation of evidence on current challenges and priority areas for interventions aimed at enforcing rural women’s rights to land, resources, social protection and infrastructure.

Unlike other years, the work done under this area has not been particularly significant, as a direct consequence of the implementation gap mentioned before, and of the unpredictability of funding which made it difficult for Country Teams to engage in new, long-term collaborations with national ministries and local institutions as required by this outcome.

OUTPUT 4.1. Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets

In 2018, Country Teams mainly continued to accompany the dissemination and implementation of new gender policies/strategies developed in previous years with support from the JP RWEE (Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia, Nepal, and Niger). Additional activities concentrated on:

- advocacy for land reform in Liberia as a contribution to the enactment of the Liberia Land Rights Act (2018), which protects women and minority land rights in Customary Land Tenure;
- gender analysis of sectoral policy documents like the Food Security and Nutrition Programme in Kyrgyzstan;
- capacity development of local officers on gender and rural women’s empowerment, with approximately 400 additional government staff trained in 2018 in Guatemala and Kyrgyzstan.

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

Over the years, the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) has become an important part of the JP RWEE implementation for three primary reasons:

1) the WEAI was a key component of programme design, as it gave an opportunity to identify needs in some of the participating countries through the baseline assessment;
2) the survey represents the only rigorous tool through which women’s empowerment in agriculture can be measured, going beyond quantitative indicators that only look at specific aspects of the Programme, for instance food security. This has also helped compare and consolidate results among the seven pilot countries, an exercise otherwise quite difficult due to the different contexts the JP is operating in.
3) the index also supports the work that the Programme is doing at the policy level with the Ministries of Agriculture of participating countries, as one area of engagement is the provision of evidence-based studies to inform policy development and, when relevant, the development or revision of national gender policies for the agricultural sector.

Some progress has been reported, especially under output 4.3, which is more linked to the use of the evidence generated by the JP RWEE to advocate for a better consideration of rural women’s needs in global fora (like the Commission on the Status of Women in New York and the Committee on World Food Security in Rome), and other policy processes.

33 See also para e. Delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & good practices for a more detailed explanation of the reasons behind this gap.

34 Ethiopia, Guatemala, Niger, and Kyrgyzstan.
For the above-mentioned reasons, six out of the seven countries have included endline WEAI in their 2018-2019 workplans, showing how both Country Teams and local institutions recognise its added value; as an example, in Rwanda, the Director of Planning of the Ministry of Agriculture has decided to take the lead in coordinating the efforts toward a nation-wide WEAI, which will be supported financially and technically by JP RWEE staff.

**OUTPUT 4.3. An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional and global policy processes**

As mentioned in other parts of the report, the JP RWEE is becoming an important advocacy tool to raise awareness around the relevance and importance of rural women's human rights. Part of this sensitization work is done through the participation of the programme in global fora that help identifying actions to be taken to facilitate the redistribution of power, wealth, resources between men and women, and provide the necessary opportunities to advance those rights. Among the events that took place in 2018 to this effect we can mention:


- The **side event organised for the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, held in New York on 13 March 2018. Co-organised with Niger, the event was attended by high-level participants, including the Minister of Women's Promotion and Child Protection of Niger, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, and IFAD's Vice-President. Importantly, the event was the opportunity for both Sweden and Norway to announce a new contribution to the JP RWEE of approx. US$5 million and 1.2 million, respectively. A read-out of the event is available [here](#).

- The **side event organised during the 45th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**, held in Rome on 19 October 2018 and co-organised with Sweden and Norway, featuring opening remarks of the Director-General of Sida and closing remarks by the Deputy Executive Director of WFP. The main themes discussed during the interactive panel discussion, titled “Women's empowerment for food security and nutrition for all: evidence from joint UN work” were the successful results achieved to eliminate hunger and malnutrition through the provision of a layered, integrated approach for women's economic empowerment. Emerging lessons from both the programmatic and coordination aspects of the JP were presented, including innovative methodologies, such as the WEAI and the GALS, that support and measure women's empowerment in agriculture. An article and recording of the event are available [here](#).

As the priority theme of the 2018 CSW was “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”, the JP RWEE benefitted from additional exposure through the joint statement of the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) during the opening ceremony of the Commission, during which the JP was presented as a successful example of partnership.

- The participation of the Global Coordinator as a panellist during the **Pro-WEAI Outreach Event** co-organised by FAO and IFPRI on 27 April 2018, which brought together policymakers, government and civil society representatives interested in measuring the impacts of their policies and programs on women's empowerment.

- The **side event organised during the 45th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**, held in Rome on 19 October 2018 and co-organised with Sweden and Norway, featuring opening remarks of the Director-General of Sida and closing remarks by the Deputy Executive Director of WFP. The main themes discussed during the interactive panel discussion, titled “Women’s empowerment for food security and nutrition for all: evidence from joint UN work” were the successful results achieved to eliminate hunger and malnutrition through the provision of a layered, integrated approach for women's economic empowerment. Emerging lessons from both the programmatic and coordination aspects of the JP were presented, including innovative methodologies, such as the WEAI and the GALS, that support and measure women's empowerment in agriculture. An article and recording of the event are available [here](#).

The participation of the Global Coordinator as a panellist during a side-event organised by Spain on 28 November 2018 on the side-lines of WFP Executive Board, focusing on the contribution of the JP to the fight against SGBV, leading to an article published on the Spanish press.

A seminar on “A holistic, integrated approach to accelerate rural women’s empowerment: the case of the Joint Programme RWEE” held by the Global Coordinator at La Sapienza University of Rome, department of Statistics on 17 December 2018 and organised by Minerva - Laboratory on Gender Diversity and Gender Inequality.

Thanks to the evidence-based approach adopted by the JP RWEE to present lessons learned and good practices, these events played a major role in raising awareness around the importance of rural women’s empowerment for the achievement of Agenda 2030, and will continue to be used to ensure the full and equal participation of rural women in the identification and implementation of policies and programmes on poverty eradication.

Delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned and good practices

The year 2018 was crucial to reap the fruits of the increased attention to knowledge generation and cross-fertilization among the different levels of implementation of the JP RWEE. This resulted in a body of knowledge that – while still needing some “fine-tuning” as for systematization and analysis – is showing results in terms of lessons learned, good practices, and challenges concerning both operations/processes and activities.

As for lessons learned, the main ones that keep arising in evaluations, country reports, monitoring missions and other exchanges are:

- Joint programming might take a relatively long time to set up as compared to individual Agencies’ programmes, as it requires the pooling of resources and expertise. Nonetheless, in the long-term the results seem to be more sustainable.

- The alignment of the JP with national and global level policies and standards that promote and protect women’s economic rights is a key aspect of a programme’s success and ownership by participating countries.

- The availability of programmatic tools, such as a common M&E framework, reporting templates, quality assurance checklists, and an operational guidance note, is necessary to ensure that the partnership is efficient.

- The role of dedicated staff (Global and National Coordinators) of the JP is essential to ensure sound performance, good progress towards the expected results, and effective collection and analysis of data and other relevant information on the programme.

- Despite the JP RWEE focus on the economic dimension, women’s empowerment is a multidimensional process with socio-cultural, familial, legal, political, psychological and environmental aspects, which all have to be addressed to achieve the expected results.

- Good planning and sequencing are key for the provision of the comprehensive “package” of interventions used by the JP RWEE, to avoid

---

37 As an example, in Nepal the JP RWEE has been selected as one of the pilot initiatives for the implementation of the new Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) 2015-2035.
beneficiaries' fatigue and making sure there is sufficient time for them to absorb, use and pass onto others their new knowledge.

- **Working with groups**, either women-only or mixed with women in key decision-making positions, facilitates the establishment of support networks and the development of participants' communication and leadership skills;

- The **provision of technologies** has a proven impact on agricultural productivity and value addition, but its distribution must follow a thorough needs assessment, taking into account issues like: surplus availability, market demand, and – most importantly – the fact that technologies are not gender neutral and conditions should be created to make sure they can and will be used by women.

Some of the **good practices** developed as a result of the above lessons were summarised in a leaflet prepared for CSW 62 – **JP RWEE good practices** – which presents three good practices of the programme, namely:

i. **A holistic, integrated approach to accelerate women’s empowerment**: outlining how the JP RWEE offers a comprehensive package of strategically sequenced interventions to support women’s economic and social empowerment, combining direct implementation and coordination with other community-level programming.

ii. **Engaging men for programme success in Ethiopia**: similar to other countries, in Ethiopia gender roles and relationships influence how work is divided, how resources are used and how the benefits of production are shared between women and men. Under the JP RWEE, activities have been carried out at the individual and community levels using community mobilization and gender sensitization approaches that involve men and ensure their support and engagement for women’s economic empowerment and gender equality.

iii. **Use of revolving funds for sustainable financing for women in Kyrgyzstan**: revolving funds have been established through the JP RWEE to enable women to start businesses and secure sufficient, predictable capital for purchasing high-quality agricultural inputs and tools and to expand livelihood alternatives in non-farm sectors. The funds were established both within women’s Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as saving schemes, and at the community level, with the objective of sustaining programme activities and enabling women without collateral to obtain loans in their communities.

Part of the learning journey of what remains a unique partnership[^38] is also looking at the challenges encountered during implementation and the solutions to overcome them.

From an **operational perspective** there are three distinct challenges.

- The unpredictability of funding remains the biggest threat, with the potential to hamper implementation and the quality of results. Despite the renewed commitment of both Sweden and Norway leading to an extension of the Trust Fund,[^39] all participating countries experienced several months’ gap in the execution of JP RWEE activities in 2018. The implementation gaps occurred between the finalisation of the previous phase (approximately March/April 2018) and the disbursement of the new funds to Country Offices (September 2018). Several weeks were then required for procurement and logistical processes.

[^38]: The JP RWEE is, to date, the only joint programme where the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) are working with UN Women.

[^39]: See para g. Governance arrangements.
The implementation gaps were partly addressed thanks to the commitment of Country Offices of the Participating UN Organisations, which made available some resources to at least continue monitoring ongoing activities and maintain the established governance systems. The absence of a long-term funding perspective meant, however, that it was not possible to continue to work with and support the JP RWEE beneficiaries fully.

Several measures have been taken to strengthen Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) of the JP RWEE, including increased technical support from the Global Coordinator to the countries, the inclusion of a specific paragraph on planned monitoring activities in the 2018-2019 workplans, and the preparation of a Performance Monitoring Framework (PMF) with a set of (mostly quantitative) indicators, at both the outcome and output levels. The indicators were selected following two main criteria: they had to be (i) based on data which were already collected by the four Agencies, so as to not create parallel systems and to build on the existing expertise of the Country Offices; and (ii) applicable to activities implemented in all the countries.

Moreover, the JP RWEE has used the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) as baseline in four of the seven countries of implementation, and will soon expand to two others to track progress over time, as it has been recognised as a fundamental part of the JP RWEE evidence creation and monitoring system.

Nonetheless, M&E remains in part problematic due to several factors, including the different monitoring systems applied by the UN Agencies, and limited local capacities to devise indicators measuring non-tangible or “soft” components of the JP, including qualitative changes in the lives of women, as experienced individually and collectively; efforts will continue in the next implementation phase to overcome such challenges.

- **Political instability and transition**. changes in governments, staff turnover and travel restrictions delayed, in some cases, provision of planned technical support by both institutional partners and UN Organisations, as well as required additional time for National Coordinators to brief the new focal points as governments changed.

At the level of activities, results from monitoring missions and the analysis of documentation showed some common features across the countries.

- **Certain conditions are required to access markets** which can be difficult for individual women and women’s groups to meet, such as collective bank accounts, quality control certificates, and other official documentation required to become providers of processed food to either government institutions (school canteens) or the private sector (restaurants, hotels, etc.). Efforts have been made to create virtuous circles that support women’s production, productivity and profit-making.

- **Leadership development** is a long-term process that requires working with all women beneficiaries so that they could be accompanied in the process of transformative leadership. The Joint Programme works at different levels – individual, community, institutional – to support women in having their voices heard. It cannot be assumed, however, that all women are equally able to express their needs and ideas or have access to forums where what they have to say will be heard.

- **Access to and control over land** is posing a challenge to rural women beneficiaries as their agricultural production continue to increase while the availability of individual or communal land remains unchanged. The Programme has worked extensively to raise awareness around land rights with local institutions to increase / improve inclusion of women’s needs and rights in land policies. In Ethiopia and Rwanda, local authorities conceded additional land to women’s groups established in the framework of the JP, which also helped promoting joint land ownership of women and men. In Liberia, representatives of rural women beneficiaries are actively participating in Land Committees.

---

40 Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, and Niger.
41 Nepal and Rwanda.
42 See para 4.2, Greater availability of tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women.
43 Soft outcomes are outcomes from training, support or guidance interventions, which unlike hard outcomes, cannot be measured directly or tangibly. Soft outcomes may include achievements relating to: interpersonal skills, for example: social skills and coping with authority, and personal skills, for example: insight, motivation, confidence, reliability and health awareness.
44 For instance, both Ethiopia and Liberia went through presidential elections in 2018.
45 Niger is an interesting case of partnership where women’s groups formed by FAO and supported to get surplus production were then linked to cooperatives from which WFP is buying for its school feeding programme, which is promoting an increase in girls’ attendance in primary and secondary schools.
Creation of decent rural employment largely depends on a strong commitment from policymakers to promote inclusive social protection mechanisms and safe occupational practices across the agricultural sector. The JP RWEE focuses on producing sound evidence to inform policy and provides timely and country-specific technical support, but the improvements ultimately rely on the national governments’ political will.

In addition to the aforementioned measures, a current initiative of the JP RWEE is to establish an evidence base that will facilitate systematic integration of empowerment dimensions into the work of relevant ministries of participating countries, as well as of the participating UN organizations and other practitioners.

Qualitative assessment of the JP’s implementation

The adoption of a comprehensive cross-sectorial approach that is capitalizing upon the normative and operational mandates of the four Participating UN Agencies has been crucial to tackle the underlying causes that prevent rural women from achieving economic, social, and political empowerment.

Solid partnerships have been developed with a wide array of stakeholders to implement this approach: from national government institutions and civil society organizations, to other United Nations agencies, donors and the private sector. The JP RWEE solid governance mechanism\(^\text{47}\) has ensured the ownership and accountability of these diverse stakeholders. These collaborations have also presented an invaluable opportunity to build capacities to mainstream gender and identify and develop gender-transformative approaches\(^\text{48}\) for rural women in agriculture at the household, community, and institutional levels, including those of national and local authorities, staff of Participating UN Agencies, Implementing Partners, and direct beneficiaries.

To have a more complete picture of the level of achievement of the JP from a qualitative point of view, the analysis of the successful elements of the partnership is combined with individual stories of change that help define “empowerment” in the local communities where the Programme is working.

These stories illustrate the transformational journey that rural women participating in the JP RWEE have experienced by accessing the tools and skills needed for enhancing food security and the diversification of their livelihoods. Furthermore, the stories reveal that the JP RWEE provided women with the opportunity to challenge discriminatory practices, to learn their rights, and to take decision-making roles within both their homes and communities. Across the seven countries, rural women have openly expressed their views regarding these changes, as it is shown by some of the testimonies below:

\[\text{“The benefit that we all gained from this Programme is enormous. We are now actively engaged in discussing different issues that concern our wellbeing as well as social and economic development.”} \quad \text{Asnaku from Ethiopia}\]

\[\text{“The life of the (DIMITRA) clubs has brought us a great change and relief, as we have understood many things that improve our health. Even the women who are not part of the club enjoy its benefits because they are aware of everything that others do, see the change in other women and get inspired.”} \quad \text{Malam Koira from Niger}\]

\[\text{“The support I received from the JP RWEE has impacted my life positively. Now, I feel stronger and more committed to my community and family; I also know that my opinion is valid and should be taken into account.”} \quad \text{Olga from Guatemala}\]

Nevertheless, the conceptualization of empowerment remains a challenge due to its complexity and subjectivity. The qualitative assessment combined with the results of the WEAI in Ethiopia\(^\text{49}\) has allowed to untangle some of these concepts, confirming that empowerment is a combination of the ability to make a choice, and to feel respected and trustworthy at both household and community levels, but a lot remains to be done to identify the local definitions of empowerment.

\(^{46}\) See para h. Knowledge management.
\(^{47}\) See para g. Governance Arrangements.
\(^{48}\) Gender-transformative is defined as the attempt to re-define women and men’s gender roles and relations. The degree of integration of a gender perspective in any given project can be seen as a continuum, with gender transformative aiming at “transforming unequal gender relations to promote shared power, control of resources, decision-making, and support for women’s empowerment”.
\(^{49}\) Nigussie et al., Economic Empowerment of Rural Women: Qualitative study for the UNJP in Adami Tulu and Yaya Gulele Woredas - Qualitative research study report, November 2017.
Governance arrangements

A governance mechanism based on strong ownership of the participating countries (both at the government and civil society levels) has continued to be one of the key reasons of the JP’s success and an important element of its implementation.

At the global level, the annual meeting of the International Steering Committee (ISC), which brought together the seven participating countries, donors, participating UN Organisations, and the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) as Administrative Agent, took place on 3 July 2018, chaired by UN Women.

During the meeting, the new country proposals for 2018-2019 were discussed and approved,50 and the Trust Fund (TF) of the programme extended from 31 December 2018 to 30 June 2020 to have sufficient time to implement the new activities, mobilise additional resources and/or close the TF operationally and financially in the event that no further resources are mobilized.

To perform its oversight and guidance function, the ISC is assisted by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), formed by the focal points of the four Agencies and the Global Coordinator. In 2018, the TAC met approximately every month to discuss technical aspects of the JP and approve relevant documentation. TAC meetings were also an opportunity to cross-fertilize ideas and approaches about effective ways to mainstream women’s economic empowerment in the regular work of the Agencies, paving the way for a potential phase two of the JP which could expand to more countries or simply offer a “package” to replicate the model in different contexts.

At the country level, a similar structure exists with a National Steering Committee (NSC) usually chaired by a high-level official of the Ministry of Agriculture and the participation of other relevant ministries (Ministry of Women’s Affairs/Gender, Labor, Youth, Finance, just to name a few), the UN Resident Coordinator, civil society organisations, and representatives of women’s beneficiaries. The NSC is assisted by a Technical Working Group (TWG) and a Country Coordinator.

Interestingly, Implementing Partners (IPs) have in some cases organized a separate coordination group which has helped them to:

- coordinate activities on the ground;
- present issues or suggestions to the NSC/TWG with one voice;
- have a platform for exchange and learning from each other’s work.

The role of the Resident Coordinator has also become more prominent over the course of the past 12 months, given their increasing interest in joint programming and the need to identify good practices which could lead to financing some of the JP RWE activities in-country through the Resident Coordinator System Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF).51

At the very heart of this system remains the work of the Global and National Coordinators who, despite being the only dedicated staff of the JP, managed to lead in-country and global activities, ensure timely delivery of activities and reporting, visibility, and overcome the daily challenges arising from a system that, despite the continuous efforts of the UN community, has not harmonized procedures guiding development assistance and the implementation of joint programmes. To this end, HQ support and monitoring missions52 have proven to be an effective tool to identify bottlenecks and possible ways to overcome them.

---

50 See para IV – Programmatic Revision for more details on the allocation process.
51 The SPTF, a specific fund housed within the UN Secretariat, has been established to receive, consolidate, manage and account for all contributions and financial transactions of the new Resident Coordinator system.
52 In 2018, the Global Coordinator visited Kyrgyzstan, Ethiopia, and Rwanda.
Knowledge management

The efforts to improve the knowledge management of this unique partnership continued over the course of 2018. This also materialised in the development and approval of the “Indicative Framework for Strengthening Knowledge Management and Communication in managing the Joint Programme RWEE”, approved in July 2018, whose main objective is to facilitate and strengthen the management, development, documentation, dissemination, and use of knowledge emerging from the implementation of the JP, in order to inform project performance, improve delivery, and scale up good practices and innovations. Main activities envisaged by the framework are:

1. **Conducting a comprehensive review** of the JP RWEE through the country evaluations that have already been carried out as well as country annual and biannual reports to assess performance vis-a-vis the strategy and determine the underlying impact factors in relation to different outcomes, such as local context, staff capacities, targeting strategy etc.

2. **Documenting good practices**, innovations and successful approaches in each JP RWEE country, which could be utilised by other development initiatives focusing on women's economic empowerment,

3. **Implementing a “learning route”** in one of the JP countries, where participants would visit project sites and engage with different stakeholders. The aim would be to foster exchange and mutual learning, and strengthen the existing community of practice.

4. **Organising a consolidation workshop** to draw major lessons from the learning pillar of the JP RWEE, contributing towards a research and capacity strengthening agenda on a holistic approach to women's economic empowerment.

While the bulk of activities will take place in 2019, the process of systematization already started in 2018, with several learning products developed, including the JP RWEE Good Practices publication.53

The JP RWEE Youtube channel was also integrated with other videos produced by Country Teams, and individual stories of successes of programme beneficiaries continued to be shared through different websites and newsletters, including in the Photo Essay “Rural Women, Human Rights” showcased in the UN HQ building during the sixty-second session of the CSW and available online on UN Women website, featuring the story of Maria Quej San de Moran from Guatemala.

The year 2018 also saw the organisation of the first South-South exchange among JP RWEE countries with the Learning Visit to Ethiopia (22-26 October), during which two beneficiaries, one UN Women Liberia staff and the Global Coordinator had an opportunity to interact with rural women beneficiaries, government representatives, and JP RWEE focal points from participating UN Agencies in Ethiopia. Main objectives of the exchange were to:

- Facilitate participants' learning from the successes and challenges of the JP RWEE in both Liberia and Ethiopia, to identify possible ways of doing things differently in their respective country programmes; and

- Establish networking among the JP RWEE beneficiaries in both countries to support the process of facilitating independent information exchange.

53 See para: “Delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned and good practices”.


Key results of the visit included:

- Learning of new and improved methods of conducting saving and loan activities, including the value of establishing “children saving accounts” within the cooperatives to enable women to support their children outside their main saving accounts;

- Exchanges on how to promote decision-making and participation of women in community meetings;

- Knowledge-sharing on the importance young women and adolescent girls’ participation in programme activities and to raise their awareness on sexual and reproductive health.

The need to focus even more on the learning and systematization around the JP was also shared with Country Teams, who were asked to:

- Develop a dedicated paragraph on monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management in their workplans for 2018-2019;

- Fill two separate templates (one on Monitoring & Evaluation and one on Knowledge Management) which were then compiled in a consolidated file at the global level to have a clear idea of which processes will take place at country level, which products will be developed, and the kind of backstopping support they will need;

- Set aside resources for mid-term evaluations of the JP where necessary.54

The solid evidence generated through the above documentation, meetings, and other activities has further contributed to making the JP RWEE a success story, and a good practice in terms of UN collaboration, which is a key aspect of the UN Reform. This is why during the upcoming implementation phase, there will be additional focus on gathering and systematizing the experience of the seven pilot countries, defining critical elements for UN Agencies’ cooperation that could inform not only the next steps of the initiative, but also the future development of joint programmes focusing on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

54 See para III – Other assessments or evaluations.
### Achieved Indicator Targets

**Quant.: Increase of agricultural production of women farmers**

- **Ethiopia**
  - 100% increase in rural women’s wheat production.
  - 125% increase in rural women’s maize production.
  - 83% increase in rural women’s teff (local crop) production.

- **Guatemala**
  - 10% increase in rural women’s maize production.
  - 17% increase in rural women’s beans production.

- **Liberia**
  - 1.5% increase in rural women’s agricultural production of rural women

- **Nepal**
  - 13% increase in rural women’s agricultural production.

- **Niger**
  - 30% increase in rural women’s vegetable production
  - 49.61% increase in rural women’s animal production.

**Qual.: Evidence of improvement of rural women dietary diversity and consumption patterns**

- **Ethiopia**
  - 80% of rural women were able to feed their household 3 times a day with a diversified diet in their meal i.e. at least 3 or more groups of food served per meal.

- **Liberia**
  - 43.7% of rural women headed-households reported to consume a balanced diet of carbohydrates, proteins, and vitamins.

- **Niger**
  - Dietary diversity score of targeted households in Djirataoua increased from 2.42 to 3.73.

### Output 1.1

**Rural women have increased access to resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security**

- **Ethiopia**
  - 30 rural women received modern beehives for honey collection.

- **Guatemala**
  - 857 rural women accessed improved agricultural production inputs, including seeds and labour-saving technologies.

- **Kyrgyzstan**
  - 300 (283 women and 17 men) rural farmers accessed technology inputs and training for poultry farming.

- **Nepal**
  - 3,622 rural women accessed improved agriculture production techniques.

- **Niger**
  - 330 (220 women and 110 men) rural farmers in three districts started using shared labour-saving technologies.
  - 665 rural women gained access to land.

- **Rwanda**
  - 1,088 rural women accessed extension services.
  - 1,149 (909 women and 240 men) rural farmers had better knowledge and understanding on the laws governing land, matrimonial regimes and succession in Rwanda.

(Continued...)
### Achieved Indicator Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Output 1.2</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ethiopia</strong></th>
<th><strong>Guatemala</strong></th>
<th><strong>Liberia</strong></th>
<th><strong>Nepal</strong></th>
<th><strong>Niger</strong></th>
<th><strong>Rwanda</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural women have greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves</td>
<td>- 375 rural women accessed processing technologies that (milk processing and maize sheller)</td>
<td>• 11% of reduction of post-harvest farm and storage losses achieved.</td>
<td>- 800 rural women accessed technical assistance to productive harvest and post-harvest technologies.</td>
<td><strong>Output 1.2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Guatemala</strong></td>
<td><strong>Liberia</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 1,425 rural women able to manage their household's food reserve.</td>
<td>- 1,577 rural women had their capacity strengthened on ways to enhance their food security.</td>
<td>- 1,048 rural women had their capacity strengthened on ways to enhance their nutrition and proper use of food.</td>
<td><strong>Liberia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nepal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rwanda</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethiopia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Guatemala</strong></td>
<td><strong>Liberia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nepal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Niger</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rwanda</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 3,622 rural women benefitted from kitchen gardening and commercial fresh vegetable production.</td>
<td><strong>Guatemala</strong></td>
<td><strong>Liberia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nepal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Niger</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rwanda</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural women have increased income to secure their livelihoods</td>
<td><strong>Ethiopia</strong></td>
<td>• 3,622 rural women benefitted from kitchen gardening and commercial fresh vegetable production.</td>
<td><strong>Guatemala</strong></td>
<td><strong>Liberia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nepal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Niger</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• US$11,018 income generated from sales by rural women.</td>
<td>• US$65,207 net income generated from sales by rural women.</td>
<td>• US$291,650 (32.2% average income increase) generated from sales by rural women cooperatives.</td>
<td><strong>Kyrgyzstan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Liberia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nepal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Average income of rural women from their IGAs increased to US$424 (Birr 12,000) per annum, representing a 26.5% growth.</td>
<td>• US$46,841 generated by community savings and credit groups.</td>
<td>• US$144,443 generated from sales by rural women's individual businesses.</td>
<td><strong>Kyrgyzstan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Liberia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nepal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kyrgyzstan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Liberia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nepal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Niger</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rwanda</strong></td>
<td><strong>... Continued</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

55 According to the UN Operational Rate of Exchange for December 31, 2018 (1 US$= 28.275 Birr).

56 According to the UN Operational Rate of Exchange for December 31, 2018 (1 US$ = 112.56 NPR).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output 2.1</th>
<th>Achieved Indicator Targets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rural women have enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets for their products</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Ethiopia** | • 1,471 rural women had access to diversified market opportunities.  
• 3,064 rural women accessed start-up capital for their individual IGAs.  
• 894 rural women received a loan.  
• 1,943 rural women strengthened their knowledge on basic business knowledge and entrepreneurship skills. |
| **Guatemala** | • 1,578 rural women strengthened their knowledge on effective negotiation and marketing, value chains and associative marketing, financial management. |
| **Liberia** | • 5 new established Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) with 125 new women members.  
• 700 existing rural women beneficiaries accessed rural credit from 28 other active VSLAs. |
| **Nepal** | • 3,622 rural women had better market access.  
• 3,544 rural women accessed credit through group savings. |
| **Niger** | • 3,839 rural women from 6 POs (with women in decision-making positions) participated in WFP’s procurement programs.  
• 30 (19 women and 11 men) community members had their capacity developed on agricultural entrepreneurship.  
• 2,800 rural women have access to credit through VSLAs. |
| **Rwanda** | • 57 rural women strengthened their entrepreneurial skills through training on financial management.  
• 8 women’s groups linked to markets to sell agricultural production.  
• 473 (63% increase over) individual rural women and 909 rural women in cooperatives (79% increase) accessed credit through VSLAs. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achieved Indicator Targets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural women have enhanced leadership and participation in their communities and in rural institutions, and in shaping laws, policies and programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proportion of rural women who are members of land committees</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 3,197 rural women participated in land committees at county level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 36 (20%) of rural women participated in Land Commissions across 20 villages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proportion of POs led by women</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 27 POs led by rural women (100%).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 130 (77.4%) POs led by rural women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence of rural women’s empowerment in intra-household decision making</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 53% of rural women participated in household decision-making involving the sale of assets like cattle and rental of land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 3.1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural women, including young women have enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rural women have been supported to gain access to literacy skills and basic education</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 178 rural women enrolled in literacy courses in collaboration with the National Literacy Committee - CONALFA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1,830 community members (1159 women and 671 men) enrolled in literacy courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rural women have strengthened their self-confidence and leadership skills</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 112 rural women working in RUSACCOs and other community institutions had strengthened their leadership, assertiveness and management skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1,577 rural women participated in decision-making at community, district and national organizational level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rural women have increased their participation in Local Governance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 375 (15%) rural women participated in decision-making at rural institutions and communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1,109 rural women reported cases of SGBV at the community level for survivors’ access to justice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 387 rural women were active in sharing knowledge on the revised SGBV referral pathway through awareness raising exercises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 129 rural women in targeted areas took leadership positions in village committees.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Achieved Indicator Targets

#### Output 3.2

**Guatemala**
- 3 informal groups joined formally registered POs, cooperatives and unions.
- 40% of POs implemented gender policies.
- 28 organizations recognized by the Municipal Women’s Departments.

**Nepal**
- 20 new rural women’s groups registered at the local government offices (rural municipality).

**Niger**
- 167 POs with 5,397 members (4277 women and 1120 men) had their organizational capacities strengthened.
- 80 informal groups joined formally registered POs.
- 11 POs, cooperatives and unions with 454 members (with 270 women and 275 men) adopted gender policies and guidelines to promote women’s leadership and decision-making.

**Rwanda**
- 7 informal groups joined formally registered POs, cooperatives and unions.
- 22 POs, cooperatives and unions adopted gender policies and guidelines in leadership and decision-making.
- 150 community members (109 women and 41 men) had their capacities on cooperative governance improved.

#### Output 3.3

**Ethiopia**
- 48 institutions advocated for women to access and control land and other public services and resources.

**Guatemala**
- 2 rural women became representatives of the Community Development Council (COCODES) and 2 rural women of the Municipal Development Council (COMUDES).
- 375 rural women participated in the commemoration of International Women’s Day.

**Kyrgyzstan**
- 20 community members (19 women and 1 man) participated in policy lobbying activities at central level.
- 23 community members (20 women and 3 men) participated in a roundtable with Members of the Parliament to discuss issues affecting rural women.

**Nepal**
- 2 policy dialogues, with a total of 110 participants, (62 women and 48 men) were organized in Kathmandu, focusing on policy interventions and opportunities for rural women.

**Niger**
- Rural Women’s Day with participation from technical ministries (Agriculture and Women’s Promotion) organised.
- 17 local/departamental/regional dialogue mechanisms involving rural women on agriculture, rural development, and land organised.

**Rwanda**
- 58 rural women from 10 cooperatives participated in the Agri-Show and exchanged ideas with other exhibitors.

(Continued...)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output 3.4</th>
<th>Achieved Indicator Targets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rural women, including young women</strong> have enhanced awareness on their rights in a more supportive community/local environment</td>
<td><strong>Nepal</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 11,629 community members were directly engaged and mobilized through community-based activities as part of the SahiHo! Campaign to raise awareness on rural women’s rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Niger</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 3,600 community members (2,400 women and 1,200 men) participated in DIMITRA clubs to learn and exchange about their rights.&lt;br&gt;• 2 new networks of DIMITRA Clubs members set up.</td>
<td><strong>Rwanda</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 135 GALS participants participated in an exchange visit with field staff of the Ministry of Agriculture.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>OUTCOME 4</strong></th>
<th><strong>A more gender responsive policy environment is secured for the economic empowerment of rural women</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government Institutions developing work plans and budgets ensuring rural women inclusion on resource distribution</strong></td>
<td><strong>Kyrgyzstan</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 15 local development work plans/budgets developed following an inclusive and participatory process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liberia</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 2 Ministries (Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection) developed annual work plans, budgets and implementation strategies for ensuring the equal distribution of resources between both women and men in rural areas.</td>
<td><strong>Proportion of government budgets and donor funding allocated to programmes benefitting rural women</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nepal</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 38.65 % of the government budget for the fiscal year 2018/2019 allocated for women’s empowerment.</td>
<td><strong>Niger</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 15% % of council’s budget allocated to programmes benefitting rural women in target areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Output 4.1</strong></th>
<th><strong>Policy makers and parliamentarians have enhanced capacities to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guatemala</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 384 Public officers trained on the limitations and opportunities of rural women’s empowerment. &lt;br&gt;• Technical board for rural development of Gender and Indigenous peoples fully operational.</td>
<td><strong>Kyrgyzstan</strong>&lt;br&gt;• 10 policy-makers participated in advocacy events on rural women’s empowerment. &lt;br&gt;• Gender analysis of 3 sectoral policy documents completed: Forestry Development Strategic Plan – 2040, Programme on Fishery and Aquaculture Development 2027; and State Programme on Food Security and Nutrition 2019-2023.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rwanda</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Support provided to develop the Gender Strategy of the new Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTA4) and the relaunching of the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Output 4.3</strong></th>
<th><strong>An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women’s priorities in regional and global policy processes</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Two side events organized at global fora as part of the awareness-raising work around rural women’s issues and priorities:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• One during the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), held in New York City in March 2018;&lt;br&gt;• One during the 45th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), held in Rome in October 2018.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A SPECIFIC STORY: KYRGYZSTAN, WHERE A BAG OF FLOUR ON LOAN GOES A LONG WAY

Women are at the centre of the work of the JP RWEE. Their stories of success tell us a lot about how far an investment on their empowerment can go into reducing extreme poverty and achieving sustainable development in their families and communities. This year we feature the story of Mavliuda from Kyrgyzstan, among the many others we have heard and recorded. Other stories can be found here.

One woman’s unconventional business plan helped her start a business, the success of which is beyond her dreams

Tossing lavash, a traditional flat bread in Kyrgyzstan, over a saj, a Turkish-style oven located in the corner of her home-based bakery, Mavliuda recalls her first business experience. She was overcome with fear of failure mixed with the determination to save her seven children from hunger and despair.

Mavliuda’s intuitive business plan

In 2016, Mavliuda and several other women in Blagoveschenka, one of the Kyrgyz Republic’s remote communities, formed a self-help group and joined the JP RWEE. Through the programme, they learnt about business planning, market analysis and leadership, among other skills.

“...My business plan was really simple. I went to a local shop and begged a vendor to lend me 5 kg of wheat flour in order to start a home-based bakery. I wouldn’t dare to ask such a favour if I were alone, but I felt the encouragement of my friends who accompanied me there for support.

“...My heart was broken as my children were watching me bake the lavash, and I had to tell them they can only eat it the next day.

The following day, Mavliuda sold her lavash, repaid her debt to the shop owner and again requested more wheat flour as a loan. By working hard day after day, she was able to build a successful baking business that now produces 1,500 to 2,000 lavash each day.
Mavliuda’s lavash going far and beyond

What began with a loan of 5 kg of wheat flour and tears of fear and desperation has now turned into a growing family business as Mavliuda’s lavash are sold far beyond her own community, in Suzak, Jalal-Abad, Osh, Toktogul and beyond. She is now buying over 2,500 kg wheat flour per month to keep up with demand.

Based on her initial success, the local cooperative of the JP RWEE was able to support Mavliuda with a small grant to purchase another oven.

Mavliuda and her oldest daughter cook all the lavash in their family’s bakery late in the night so that Mavliuda’s husband can start selling it by as early as 5 am. By 8 am, all the products are usually sold out.

“I bake normal lavash and cheese lavash. Food vendors buy my lavash for their wraps and shawarma,” she says.

New business, new life, new plans

When community members look at a now energetic and self-confident Mavliuda negotiating with vendors or running to call her self-help group for a meeting, they no longer see the desperate mother of seven from two years ago.

“We used to think that only men can support the family while women only saw their role as keeping the household and raising children. So, when your husband cannot earn anything for the family, the whole family suffers.”

The economics of Mavliuda’s traditional family situation are changing as she develops her leadership and business skills.

“We are now thinking about baking cakes, pastries and opening a confectionery shop and café. We also plan to construct a parking space for four vehicles for the comfort of our visitors. I learnt that any business must be simple, sustainable and client-oriented for success and stability. I learnt all of this in order to support my family.”
In the framework of the increased efforts to generate knowledge from the implementation of the JP, and cross-fertilize the work of the Participating UN Agencies, all the countries have set aside some resources from either the 2017 or the 2018 tranche of funding received to carry out a country mid-term evaluation or a mid-term review (depending on the available amount). It is worth noting that, while the bulk of the funding came from the JP RWEE Trust Fund (TF), all Agencies contributed with core funds to this important undertaking.

While all these evaluation processes are ongoing and are benefitting from backstopping support from the Global Coordination, the one from Kyrgyzstan (covering the period from November 2014 until March 2018) was completed in July 2018.

The evaluation focused on capturing the lessons learned during implementation and assessing the achievement of the results at output and outcome levels, and used a forward-looking approach assessing the applicability of the results. The final report presented the following conclusions based on four out of the five DAC Criteria for Evaluating Development Assistance:

1. Relevance: Complementarity of mandates of partner UN agencies involved in the joint delivery of the programme and the JP RWEE focus on engaging women in income generating activities makes the programme highly relevant to national strategic priorities and needs of rural women.

2. Effectiveness: Programme effectiveness in achieving better livelihoods, increased income, food security and leadership role of participating women is facilitated by the promotion of solidarity economic models like Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and group economic initiatives, providing access to training and interest-free commodity and cash loans. The negative side of this programme model is that most vulnerable women are not able to join the programme as participation in these groups require a lot of time and effort, and participating women are at risk of losing leisure time. The latter unintended negative effect is mitigated by Household Methodologies, which aim at promoting more equitable gender relations within households.

3. Sustainability: The JP RWEE established several mechanisms to ensure sustainability of its results, including the creation of village associations of SHGs and regional POs. But these mechanisms are not yet fully self-sustainable.

4. Efficiency: Relying on shared processes increases efficiency of joint delivery. The JP RWEE could benefit if this approach was used in the next programme phases in a more conscious way.

Importantly, the evaluation also highlighted the contribution of the JP to the Agenda 2030 and several Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 1 - “No poverty”, SDG 2 – “End Hunger”, SDG 5 - “Gender Equality”, SDG 8 – “Decent Work and Economic Growth”, and SDG 17 – “Partnership for the Goals”.

It is relevant to note that even the Ethiopia Country Team, which had a fully-fledged evaluation scheduled as part of the SDG-F programme, decided to include the matching funds received from the JP RWEE TF in the Terms of Reference of the exercise.

---

57 The evaluation methodology followed a Theory of Change approach and employed mixed methods including semi-structures interviews, focus groups and phone survey as well as analytical approaches to account for complexity of gender relations and to ensure participatory and inclusive processes. A total of 173 beneficiaries (143 women and 30 men) were interviewed. Impact was not included.

58 As a reminder, in 2015 Ethiopia was able to mobilise an additional US$1.5 million from the Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG-F), funded by Spain, for complementary activities to be implemented with the same beneficiaries of the JP RWEE. The programme finished in June 2018.
While the final report is yet to be finalized, initial observations seem to confirm the JP’s alignment with national priorities and its effectiveness in availing empowerment opportunities for beneficiary women.

According to the evaluation team, the JP modality also allowed to achieve results above the original plan with the same resources thanks to its cost-effectiveness. Importantly: i) changes observed in the lives of beneficiaries and their families, ii) enhanced capacity of institutions to bring about women’s economic empowerment, iii) the use of existing systems and structures, iv) the design of the JP aligned with national and global policies and standards, as well as v) the partnership created from global to local levels, are said to ensure the sustainability of the JP outcomes as well as lay the ground for longer-term impacts.

Both evaluations seem to point towards a successful outcome of the Joint Programme both in terms of change in rural women’s lives and joint delivery, which is becoming an even more important demonstration of development work with the UN reform process, as it was reiterated in resolution 71/243 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), calling the UN to become more strategic, accountable, transparent, collaborative, efficient, effective and results-oriented.

Interestingly, both documents shared similar recommendations around the way forward, with two main points:

• the importance of including a solid, explicit exit strategy at the beginning of the programme to enhance sustainability of the JP RWEE results; and

• the need to develop and test a strategy for replication of the “JP RWEE model” in other areas of participating countries and in other interested countries.

The other evaluation exercises which are going to be completed over the course of 2019 will add new evidence to these emerging findings and constitute a key element for the definition of next steps of the initiative.
Following the additional contributions approved by both Sida (SEK 40 million, corresponding to approx. US$4.8 million) and Norway (NOK 10 million, corresponding to approx. US$1.2 million), all JP RWEE Country Teams were requested to develop a workplan for a total budget of US$800,000 to extend activities for the period July 2018 – September 2019. The workplan template distributed to this effect looked at eight components, namely:

i. Background information (results achieved so far);
ii. Project areas and target groups (including new beneficiaries);
iii. Description of activities by component;
iv. Implementation approach (with a focus on the synergies between the four UN Agencies in the country);
v. Justification for the intervention (which should have elaborated on the main lessons learned from programme implementation and on the responses to recommendations emanated from HQ support and monitoring missions);
vi. Sustainability (including partnership with government entities, fundraising, etc.);
vii. Monitoring & Evaluation; and
viii. Budget (with a threshold of 10% for Staff and other personnel costs).

The workplans were assessed against a compliance checklist composed of five eligibility criteria:

1. **Relevance**: The project proposal is consistent with the JP RWEE programme objectives;
2. **Added value**: JP RWEE added value is demonstrated by synergies and complementarities among the mandates of participating agencies;
3. **Sustainability**: Project activities are sustainable at the individual, community and institutional levels;
4. **Budget**: The budget is relevant, appropriate, balanced and consistent in itself and with the specific objectives of the project;
5. **Monitoring and Evaluation**: The monitoring and evaluation plan is adequate and includes measures to collect qualitative information.

The minimum rate for approval was set at 75 out of 100 available points (20 for each criterion). During a meeting held on 28 May 2018, the TAC decided that six (Ethiopia, Niger, Nepal, Liberia, Kyrgyzstan and Rwanda) out of seven countries will be recommended to the ISC for an allocation under the available funding; it was also agreed that Guatemala, which didn’t meet the threshold during this assessment phase, would be assisted in improving the proposal so that their workplan could be approved at a later stage.
In 2018, a total of US$6,038,143 was transferred to the JP RWEE TF following the signature of an Addendum to the Standard Administrative Agreements (SAAs) with Sida and Norway. It is important to note that, in the case of Norway, from 2018 the management of the funds allocated in the framework of the JP RWEE has passed from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) to make sure there is alignment with their development policy concerning gender equality in food security and nutrition.

During the annual meeting of the ISC held on 3 July 2018, six proposals validated through the assessment process presented in the previous paragraph were approved, for a total amount of US$4,800,000. The seventh and last proposal from Guatemala for a total budget of US$800,000 was approved electronically on 28 September 2018, increasing the amount allocated for country activities to US$5,600,000.

These resources were complemented by an allocation of US$306,736 for global coordination, including the recruitment, as of 2019, of a junior consultant whose responsibility would be to support the process of strengthening knowledge management and communication of the JP.

**RESOURCE MOBILISATION**

Resource mobilisation continued to be driven by HQs of the four Participating UN Organisation and the Global Coordinator in particular, with several events held to raise the interest of new donors in joining the partnership; among them, the CFS and the CSW side events were of particular importance to attract perspective resource partners. This strategy has followed a three-pronged approach:

1. Asking current donors to become “JP RWEE advocates” by participating actively in the different meeting/events organised, and explaining why it is important to fund initiatives such as the JP RWEE;

2. Identify “JP RWEE champions” in the senior leadership of the four Participating UN Organisation and the Resident Coordinators of the seven countries, so to include the Programme in their official speeches, meetings with donors, and field visits. As an example, Amir Abdulla, WFP Deputy Executive Director, has mentioned several times the importance of the JP in WFP Executive Board’s official and informal meetings, highlighting the value of not only its gender aspect, but also of the partnership, the nexus between humanitarian and development work, and the focus on resilience building. Furthermore, UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, has included the Joint Programme in its briefing to donors during a recent fundraising tour.

3. Organise individual meetings/presentations for potential resource partners who have been introduced to the JP in various ways, from workshops to events to other documentation shared by the different communication channels utilised. Meetings in 2018 included Canada, Italy, and Finland, which have not led to securing additional resources so far.

At the country level, while the bulk of fundraising activities is expected to take place in 2019 as foreseen in the dedicated paragraph included in the 2018-2019 workplans, some of the partnerships established led to promising results. For instance, in Rwanda, joint advocacy of Implementing Partners of the JP RWEE made it possible for beneficiaries there to acquire 11.5 ha of common land and other agricultural inputs of a total value of approx. US$90,000. Moreover, in the same country a joint proposal of US$4,248,246 prepared by the four UN Organisations was accepted into the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II) 2018-2023 and will possibly be funded through the newly established Sustainable Development Fund (SDF-UNDAP II).
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the Rural Women Economic Empowerment Fund using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December 2018. It is prepared by the MPTF Office in fulfilment of its obligations as Administrative Agent. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY. The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.

SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December 2018, 2 contributors deposited US$21,563,902 in contributions and US$49,785 was earned in interest. The cumulative source of funds was US$21,613,779. Of this amount, US$21,287,350 has been net funded to 4 Participating Organizations, of which US$15,585,887 has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US$215,639. Table 2 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the Rural Women Economic Empowerment Fund as of 31 December 2018.

Table 2. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN US DOLLARS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of Funds</th>
<th>Annual 2017</th>
<th>Annual 2018</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from donors</td>
<td>3,050,595</td>
<td>6,038,143</td>
<td>21,563,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income</td>
<td>2,369</td>
<td>32,731</td>
<td>49,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income received from Participating Orgs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refunds by Administrative Agent to Contributors</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balance transferred to another MDTF</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total: Sources of Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,052,964</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,070,966</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,613,779</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use of Funds</th>
<th>Annual 2017</th>
<th>Annual 2018</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfers to Participating Organizations</td>
<td>2,800,000</td>
<td>5,600,000</td>
<td>20,797,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refunds received from Participating Organizations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Funded Amount</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,800,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,600,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,357,307</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Agent Fees</td>
<td>30,506</td>
<td>60,381</td>
<td>215,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Costs: (Steering Committee, Secretariat...)</td>
<td>247,907</td>
<td>302,375</td>
<td>930,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Charges</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Charges</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total: Uses of Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,078,461</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,962,938</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,503,412</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent | (25,497) | 108,028 | 110,367      |
| Opening Fund balance (1 January)                    | 27,836     | 2,340    | -            |
| Closing Fund balance (31 December)                  | 2,340      | 110,367  | 110,367      |
| Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)            | 3,047,907  | 5,902,375 | 21,287,350   |
| Participating Organizations' Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost) | 4,682,251 | 3,016,980 | 15,585,887   |

| Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations | 110,367 |
Table 3 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this Fund as of 31 December 2018. The Rural Women Economic Empowerment Fund is currently being financed by 2 contributors, as listed in the table below, which includes commitments made up to 31 December 2018 through signed Standard Administrative Agreements (SAAs), and deposits made through 2018. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributors</th>
<th>Total Commitments</th>
<th>Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2017 Deposits</th>
<th>Current Year Jan-Dec-2018 Deposits</th>
<th>Total Deposits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government of Norway</td>
<td>2,841,379</td>
<td>1,624,168</td>
<td>1,217,211</td>
<td>2,841,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish International Development Cooperation</td>
<td>18,722,523</td>
<td>13,901,592</td>
<td>4,820,932</td>
<td>18,722,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,563,902</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,525,759</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,038,143</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,563,902</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA. As of 31 December 2018, Fund earned interest amounts to **US$49,785**. Details are provided in the table below.

### Table 4. SOURCES OF INTEREST AND INVESTMENT INCOME, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN US DOLLARS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interest Earned</th>
<th>Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2017</th>
<th>Current Year Jan-Dec-2018</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative Agent</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income</td>
<td>17,054</td>
<td>32,731</td>
<td>49,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total: Fund Earned Interest</strong></td>
<td>17,054</td>
<td>32,731</td>
<td>49,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participating Organization</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total: Agency earned interest</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>17,054</td>
<td>32,731</td>
<td>49,785</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December 2018, the AA has transferred US$20,797,076 to 4 Participating Organizations (see list below).

Table 5 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

**Table 5. TRANSFER, REFUND, AND NET FUNDED AMOUNT BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN US DOLLARS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participating Organization</th>
<th>Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2017</th>
<th>Current Year Jan-Dec-2018</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transfers</td>
<td>Refunds</td>
<td>Net Funded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>3,783,253</td>
<td>3,783,253</td>
<td>1,546,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFAD</td>
<td>1,534,260</td>
<td>(439,769)</td>
<td>1,094,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNWOMEN</td>
<td>5,177,816</td>
<td>5,177,816</td>
<td>1,640,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>4,701,747</td>
<td>4,701,747</td>
<td>1,585,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>15,197,076</td>
<td>(439,769)</td>
<td>14,757,307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All final expenditures reported for the year 2018 were submitted by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office. Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The reported expenditures were submitted via the MPTF Office’s online expenditure reporting tool. The 2018 expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY.

**EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION**

In 2018, US$5,600,000 was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US$2,810,927 was reported in expenditure. As shown in table 6 below, the cumulative net funded amount is US$20,357,307 and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US$15,008,261. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of 74%.

**Table 6. NET FUNDED AMOUNT, REPORTED EXPENDITURE, AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN US DOLLARS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participating Organization</th>
<th>Approved Amount</th>
<th>Net Funded Amount</th>
<th>Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2017</th>
<th>Current Year Jan-Dec-2018</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
<th>Delivery Rate %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>5,329,597</td>
<td>5,329,597</td>
<td>3,030,688</td>
<td>808,376</td>
<td>3,839,065</td>
<td>72.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFAD</td>
<td>1,922,271</td>
<td>1,922,271</td>
<td>938,828</td>
<td>205,984</td>
<td>1,144,812</td>
<td>59.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNWOMEN</td>
<td>6,818,660</td>
<td>6,818,660</td>
<td>4,559,076</td>
<td>729,484</td>
<td>5,288,560</td>
<td>77.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>6,286,779</td>
<td>6,286,779</td>
<td>3,668,742</td>
<td>1,067,082</td>
<td>4,735,825</td>
<td>75.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,357,307</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,357,307</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,197,335</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,810,927</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,008,261</strong></td>
<td><strong>73.72</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT

Table 7 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Country and Participating Organization.

### Table 7. EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT WITHIN COUNTRY, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN US DOLLARS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country / Project No. and Project Title</th>
<th>Participating Organization</th>
<th>Approved Amount</th>
<th>Net Funded Amount</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Delivery Rate %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethiopia</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092000 RWEE Ethiopia</td>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>658,741</td>
<td>658,741</td>
<td>340,119</td>
<td>51.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092000 RWEE Ethiopia</td>
<td>UNWOMEN</td>
<td>570,536</td>
<td>570,536</td>
<td>242,929</td>
<td>42.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092000 RWEE Ethiopia</td>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>1,258,979</td>
<td>1,258,979</td>
<td>998,979</td>
<td>79.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethiopia Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,488,256</td>
<td>2,488,256</td>
<td>1,582,028</td>
<td>63.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guatemala</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092001 RWEE Guatemala</td>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>770,688</td>
<td>770,688</td>
<td>585,477</td>
<td>75.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092001 RWEE Guatemala</td>
<td>IFAD</td>
<td>125,500</td>
<td>125,500</td>
<td>8,210</td>
<td>6.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092001 RWEE Guatemala</td>
<td>UNWOMEN</td>
<td>1,087,774</td>
<td>1,087,774</td>
<td>900,568</td>
<td>82.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092001 RWEE Guatemala</td>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>1,304,292</td>
<td>1,304,292</td>
<td>1,065,521</td>
<td>81.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guatemala Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,288,254</td>
<td>3,288,254</td>
<td>2,559,776</td>
<td>77.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kyrgyzstan</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092002 RWEE Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>868,089</td>
<td>868,089</td>
<td>686,426</td>
<td>79.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092002 RWEE Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>IFAD</td>
<td>382,000</td>
<td>382,000</td>
<td>231,164</td>
<td>60.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092002 RWEE Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>UNWOMEN</td>
<td>1,223,321</td>
<td>1,223,321</td>
<td>985,843</td>
<td>80.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092002 RWEE Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>864,845</td>
<td>864,845</td>
<td>713,760</td>
<td>82.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kyrgyzstan Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,338,255</td>
<td>3,338,255</td>
<td>2,617,193</td>
<td>78.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liberia</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092003 RWEE Liberia</td>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>630,953</td>
<td>630,953</td>
<td>385,951</td>
<td>61.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092003 RWEE Liberia</td>
<td>UNWOMEN</td>
<td>1,737,794</td>
<td>1,737,794</td>
<td>1,495,389</td>
<td>86.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092003 RWEE Liberia</td>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>819,508</td>
<td>819,508</td>
<td>553,442</td>
<td>67.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liberia Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,188,255</td>
<td>3,188,255</td>
<td>2,434,782</td>
<td>76.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nepal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092004 RWEE Nepal</td>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>620,566</td>
<td>620,566</td>
<td>464,814</td>
<td>74.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092004 RWEE Nepal</td>
<td>IFAD</td>
<td>187,500</td>
<td>187,500</td>
<td>12,266</td>
<td>6.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092004 RWEE Nepal</td>
<td>UNWOMEN</td>
<td>938,730</td>
<td>938,730</td>
<td>728,567</td>
<td>77.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00092004 RWEE Nepal</td>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>630,978</td>
<td>630,978</td>
<td>443,478</td>
<td>70.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nepal Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,377,774</td>
<td>2,377,774</td>
<td>1,649,126</td>
<td>69.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued...)
EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY CATEGORY

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting.

**Table 8. EXPENDITURE BY UNDG BUDGET CATEGORY, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN US DOLLARS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure Category</th>
<th>Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2017</th>
<th>Current Year Jan-Dec-2018</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Programme Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff and personnel costs</td>
<td>1,521,225</td>
<td>561,089</td>
<td>2,082,315</td>
<td>15.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies, commodities and materials</td>
<td>1,521,663</td>
<td>276,105</td>
<td>1,797,768</td>
<td>12.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation</td>
<td>539,493</td>
<td>109,133</td>
<td>648,626</td>
<td>4.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual Services</td>
<td>2,806,755</td>
<td>497,346</td>
<td>3,304,101</td>
<td>23.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>705,330</td>
<td>154,101</td>
<td>859,431</td>
<td>6.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers and Grants</td>
<td>2,366,819</td>
<td>515,998</td>
<td>2,882,817</td>
<td>20.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Operating</td>
<td>1,887,711</td>
<td>413,182</td>
<td>2,300,893</td>
<td>16.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Programme Costs Total** | **11,348,995** | **2,526,955** | **13,875,950** | **100.00**

**Indirect Support Costs Total** | 848,339 | 283,972 | 1,132,311 | 8.16

**Total** | 12,197,335 | 2,810,927 | 15,008,261 | 8.16

*Indirect Support Costs charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.
Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG. The policies in place, as of 31 December 2018, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee**: 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period US$60,381 was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2018, US$215,639 has been charged in AA-fees.

- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations**: Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US$283,972 was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US$1,132,311 as of 31 December 2018.
DIRECT COSTS

The Fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Participating Organization to cover costs associated with Secretariat services and overall coordination, as well as Fund level reviews and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as ‘direct costs’. In the reporting period, direct costs charged to the fund amounted to **US$302,375**. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2018, **US$930,043** has been charged as Direct Costs.

**Table 9. DIRECT COSTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participating Organization</th>
<th>Net Funded Amount</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Delivery Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>35,639</td>
<td>35,639</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>894,404</td>
<td>541,987</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>930,043</strong></td>
<td><strong>577,626</strong></td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This publication presents the main results of the Joint Programme “Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women” (JP RWEE), for 2018, in the seven participating countries: Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda.

The publication highlights how an integrated approach to rural women’s empowerment can accelerate progress towards food security and nutrition, sustainable and sufficient livelihoods and gender-responsive policies, making substantive contributions to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

For additional information, please visit:
http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/RWF00